

FILE

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of Ohio-)
American Water Company to Increase Its) Case No. 11-4161-WS-AIR
Rates for Water and Sewer Service.)

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

Ohio-American Water Company ("OAW"), in accordance with the Attorney Examiner's
Entry dated February 13, 2012, has published the required notices and hereby files proof of
publication as follows:

Star Beacon (Ashtabula County) – February 21 and 28
The Columbus Dispatch (Franklin County) – February 21 and 28, March 6 and 13
The Ironton Tribune (Lawrence County) – March 5 and 12
The Marion Star (Marion County) – March 6 and 13
The Morrow County Sentinel (Morrow County) – March 7 and 14
The Pike County News Watchman (Pike County) – March 7 and 14
Record-Courier (Portage County) – February 21 and 28
The Register-Herald (Preble County) – February 22 and 29
Mansfield News Journal (Richland County) – March 6 and 13
The Advertiser-Tribune (Seneca County) – February 27 and March 5

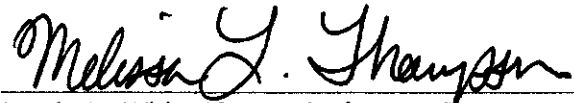
Copies of the affidavits and tear sheets are attached collectively as Exhibit A.

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Dated: March 22, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Melissa L. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Mark A. Whitt (Counsel of Record)

Melissa L. Thompson

WHITT STURTEVANT LLP

PNC Plaza, Suite 2020

155 East Broad Street

Columbus, Ohio 43215

(614) 224-3911 (Telephone)

(614) 224-3960 (Facsimile)

whitt@whitt-sturtevant.com

thompson@whitt-sturtevant.com

COUNSEL FOR OHIO-AMERICAN
WATER COMPANY

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

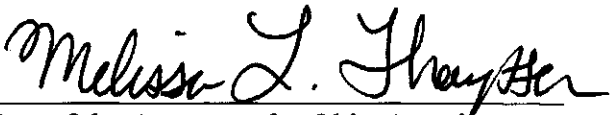
I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Proof of Publication was served by electronic mail to the following persons on this 22nd day of March, 2012:

Melissa Yost
Kyle Kern
Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel
10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485
yost@occ.state.oh.us
kern@occ.state.oh.us

Mark D. Russell
Law Director – City of Marion, Ohio
233 West Center Street
Marion, Ohio 43302
law@marionohio.org

Thomas Lindgren
Devin Parram
Ohio Attorney General
Public Utilities Section
180 East Broad Street, 6th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
thomas.lindgren@puc.state.oh.us
devin.parram@puc.state.oh.us

Peter N. Griggs
Loveland & Brosius, LLC
50 West Broad Street, Suite 3300
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5917
pgriggs@lblaw.net



One of the Attorneys for Ohio-American
Water Company

EXHIBIT A

Affidavit and Tearsheets



An affiliate of the Ohio Newspaper Association

Proof of Publication

I, Walter Dozier, do hereby attest that Ohio American Water Legal Notice did appear in the following newspapers as ordered:

Ashtabula Star Beacon	2/21/12 and 2/28/12
Columbus Dispatch	2/21/12, 2/28/12, 3/6/12 and 3/13/12
Eaton Register Herald	2/22/12 and 2/29/12
Ironton Tribune	3/5/12 and 3/12/12
Kent Ravenna Record Courier	2/21/12 and 2/28/12
Mansfield News Journal	3/6/12 and 3/13/12
Marion Star	3/6/12 and 3/13/12
Morrow County Sentinel	3/7/12 and 3/14/12
Tiffin Advertiser Tribune	2/27/12 and 3/5/12
Waverly News Watchman	3/7/12 and 3/14/12


Walter Dozier


Date

State of Ohio
County of Franklin

On this day, the 22nd of March, 2012 before me, Patricia A. Conkle, the undersigned Notary Public, personally appeared Walter Dozier, proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person whose name was subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he executed it.

Witness my hand and official seal.





Patricia A. Conkle
Notary Public, State of Ohio
My Commission Expires 06-17-2014

son.

The shooting occurred at 7:38 a.m. at Chardon High School. By 9:50 a.m., North Street was packed in both directions as parents tried to reconnect with their children.

Warm embraces could be seen on every street corner as parents found their children and tried to recover from the stressful situation.

Some children were crying with parents comforting them. Many parents were also crying and talking with friends as they tried to make sense of the situation.

One woman talked with a young boy while leaving

By 10:28 a.m. most of the students had been picked up and media were preparing for the first of three press conferences held in front of the Chardon Area Board of Education offices, near Chardon Middle School.

Television news satellite trucks ringed the front drive of the middle school as reporters accosted parents and students as they left the building.

While many parents were shocked by the scene, Mary Franklin disagreed. She arrived at the school to pick up her grandson.

"Things happen anywhere," she said.

principals and told them to make sure all of our safety procedures were in place. We are on heightened alert, no need to panic or do anything out of the norm," Donatone said.

School staff and students have already begun ALICE training or Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuation.

"We are implementing ALICE training in all of our schools, our resource officers Terry Tulino of the Ashtabula City Police

sees a problem.

"The big problem is how do you prevent a student from walking in with a gun? We would have to have metal detectors at all buildings with all entrances with trained personnel watching them at each entrance. We cannot afford that, and I don't really think that's the solution. The solution is trying to be proactive and training the staff and student how to react appropriately if a situation like this occurs," he said.

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Pam Blum

LEGAL NOTICE

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By its application, Ohio American Water Company (Applicant) seeks a rate increase which would generate additional base revenues of approximately \$6,491,606 or 22.12 percent over current revenues for the company's Water A division in the Ashtabula, Lake White, Lawrence County, Mansfield, Marion, and Tiffin Districts; \$1,274,308 or 23.03 percent over current revenues for the company's Water C division in the Franklin and Portage County Districts; and \$506,256 or 12.33 percent over current revenues for the company's wastewater operations in the Franklin County District.


The staff of the Commission recommends a revenue increase between \$3,902,913 and \$4,503,686 or between 13.28 percent and 15.33 percent over current revenues for the company's Water A division; an increase of \$573,738 and \$676,555 or 10.34 percent to 12.20 percent over current revenues for the company's Water C division; and an increase of \$290,434 to \$368,449 or 7.07 percent to 8.97 percent over current revenues for wastewater operations in Franklin County.

The major issues raised in this case are:

- The appropriate rate base;
- The determination of test-year revenues and operating expenses or costs of service including management fees, taxes, depreciation, pensions, uncollectible, and rate case expenses;
- The appropriate rate of return; and
- Quality of water and service, unaccounted-for-water levels, and resolution of issues or compliance with commitments from prior rate cases.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793, the Commission's hotline at 1-800-886-7826, or the PUCO website at <http://www.puco.state.oh.us>.

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Toll rises as shells fall on Syrian cities

Activists say 8,000 have been killed; West calls Assad's referendum a farce

By Ben Hubbard
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIRUT — A Syrian activist group said yesterday that 144 people had been killed across the country, scenes of them in the embattled opposition stronghold of Homs by security forces as they tried to flee. A team from the Syrian arm of the Red Cross delivered aid to one of the city's most dangerous neighborhoods after days of trying to reach the area.

The activist group did not say whether all 144 died yesterday or over the past few days. Many of the casualties were believed to be from the rebel-controlled Baba Amr neighborhood of Homs, which the Syrian Arab Red Crescent entered late yesterday. Also in the neighborhood are two wounded foreign journalists, along with the bodies of two of their colleagues, who were killed last week.

European and American diplomats and aid workers have been trying desperately to find a way to evacuate them, but Red Cross spokeswoman Carla Haddad said late yesterday that the Red Crescent had not managed to get them out. She did not

know whether the group had stopped trying for the evening.

Homs has emerged as the center of the 11-month-old uprising seeking to oust authoritarian President Bashar Assad and has borne the brunt of his regime's bloody crackdown on dissent. Parts of the city have been surrounded for weeks, making it impossible for rescue workers to reach the wounded and for families to take their dead and injured to the hospital.

Reports by numerous activists that more than 60 bodies were taken to the hospital, all of whom appeared to have died in one incident, reflect the spreading carnage.

The high death toll reported by the Local Coordination Committees activist group is sure to add to the growing international pressure on Assad to give up power. But so far, his regime has shown no signs that it is ready to leave peacefully.

Syrian officials announced the results of a referendum on a new constitution held Sunday that Syrian authorities lauded as a step toward political reform.

The referendum allows at



Residents of towns under attack by Syrian forces are unable to leave, leading to a rise in casualties. A report says that troops killed 64 people trying to flee the town of Homs.

least in theory for opening the country's political system. It approves a new constitution, which allows for a multiparty system in Syria, which has been ruled by the Baath party since it took power in a coup in 1963.

Assad's father, Hafez, took power in another coup in 1970. It also imposes a limit of two seven-year terms on the president, meaning Assad could remain legally in power through 2028.

The U.S. and its allies dismissed the vote as a "farce" meant to justify the regime's bloody crackdown on dissent. Syria's main opposition groups boycotted the vote, and violence elsewhere prevented polling.

Syrian state TV said 89 percent of eligible voters approved the new document, while 9 percent rejected it. It put turnout at 57 percent of Syria's 14.9 million eligible voters.

Representatives of more

than 60 countries met in Tunisia last week to forge a unified strategy to push Assad from power and began planning a civilian peacekeeping mission to deploy after the regime falls. Yesterday, the European Union imposed new sanctions.

Syria has been able to count on allies China and Russia to protect it from condemnation by the U.N. Security Council. Both staunchly opposed any interference in Syria's affairs. Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin warned yesterday against military intervention in Syria and blasted the West, saying it had backed the Arab Spring to advance its interests in the region.

In Damascus, a Syrian opposition group was trying to help return the country for its own gain and warned that militarizing the opposition is a big mistake that will backfire.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Jihad Makdissi said in a rare interview that dialogue among all parties is the only way to end the conflict.

The West took advantage of the awakening of the Syrian street. Instead of helping Syria to overcome this painful crisis, they are using this to hit the stability of Syria for other geopolitical reasons," he said.

Activist groups said yesterday that the death toll for 11 months of unrest has now surpassed 8,000 people.

The Local Coordination Committees said 64 of those reported dead yesterday were fleeing shelling in the Baba Amr neighborhood of Homs when security forces stopped them at a checkpoint in the city's Abil area and killed them.

Polish diplomats were trying to help return the bodies of journalists Marie Colvin of the U.S. and Remi Ochlik of France, who were killed in an attack on Homs.

BAILOUT FOR GREECE

Germany votes for rescue package

By Nicholas Kulich
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany kept her strategy for attacking Greece's debt problems on track with a victory in Parliament yesterday but won the vote only with the help of opposition parties.

Without votes from the Social Democrats and the Green Party, Merkel would not have received the backing she needed from the Bundestag to sign off on the \$175 billion Greek rescue package when she travels to Brussels for the summit of European leaders Thursday and Friday.

The vote passed with 496 in favor, 90 against and five abstentions. Although she won by a large margin, Merkel failed to reach the so-called chancellor's majority — a simple majority from the ranks of the ruling coalition parties.

The defections from her ranks were the clearest sign of how much doubts are growing here that Greece's finances can be stabilized in the long run. Over the weekend, a cabinet member for the first time broke ranks with Merkel and said Greece should leave the euro.

European finance ministers reached a deal last week after leaders in Athens agreed to deeper cuts in public spending.

German approval was an important step toward finalizing the bailout, but only one of many. The Dutch and Finnish parliaments are also expected to vote this week on the aid package, and the agreement to write down private-sector holdings of Greek debt has yet to be completed.

While Merkel won this round, the German public is increasingly fed up with bailouts and rescue funds, for Greece in particular, and there are questions about how well that support will hold up.

Many conservative politicians and financial experts oppose the Greek bailout on a matter of principle. But a growing number of politicians, economists and the public have begun to express doubts about the feasibility of the rescue plan.

The Greek economy keeps shrinking faster than expected, shrinking tax revenue and making the deficits all that much harder to close, and there are few signs of recovery in sight.



An Afghan police officer inspects a vehicle damaged in a suicide attack at the gate of an airport in Jalalabad.

U.S. says it's staying with Afghan plan

By Anne Gearan
and Robert Burns
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration is sticking determinedly to its stay-the-course message in Afghanistan despite a week of anti-American riots, the point-blank killing of U.S. military advisers and growing election-year demands to bring the troops home.

In an echo of the Bush administration on continuing the unpopular war in Iraq, the White House and Pentagon insisted yesterday that the wave of violence against Americans will not derail the war strategy in Afghanistan or speed up the calendar for bringing American forces home.

"We work alongside thousands of Afghans every single day to ensure a better future for the Afghan people. And nothing that has happened over the past week is going to deter us from that goal," Pentagon spokesman George Little said. "We're making progress."

Administration spokesmen were at pains to answer the larger question of whether to keep fighting a war that has lost support not only in the United States but also among the people the U.S. has pledged to protect. Under current strategy, tens of thousands of U.S. forces will remain in Afghanistan at least through the end of this year, and Afghan forces would have full control of the country's security by the end of 2014. Both Democrats and Republicans have said the timetable should move up.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said the violence will not mean faster troop

withdrawal.

"The No. 1 priority, the reason why U.S. troops are in Afghanistan in the first place, is to disrupt, dismantle and, ultimately defeat al-Qaida," Carney said.

Administration officials said they believe Afghan President Hamid Karzai's fragile government could collapse and the Taliban would regain power if the U.S. were to walk away. Their argument recalls the Bush administration insistence at the height of violence in Iraq that the war was in U.S. national-security interests and that abandoning a commitment to stabilize the country would squander painful U.S. sacrifices.

But even in Iraq, cases of supposedly friendly forces turning their guns on American troops were very rare.

As with Iraq, voters in the U.S. are questioning the wisdom of a long-running conflict they once largely supported. This time, with the U.S. election campaign well under way, discontent with the war in Afghanistan is compounded by its high monetary cost at a time of tightening budgets.

A Pew Research Center poll indicates that more than half, 56 percent, of Americans want troops removed from Afghanistan as soon as possible.

More than 30 people have died in clashes since it became known last week that copies of the Quran, the Muslim holy book, and other religious materials were thrown into a fire pit used to burn garbage at a U.S. base near Kabul.

President Barack Obama has apologized for what he said was a mistake.

ER dental-care visits on rise

By Lindsey Tanner
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — More Americans are turning to the emergency room for routine dental problems, a choice that often costs 10 times as much as preventive care and offers far fewer treatment options than a dentist's office, according to an analysis of government data and dental research.

Most of those emergency visits involve trouble such as toothaches that could have been avoided with regular checkups but went untreated, in many cases because of a shortage of dentists, particularly those willing to treat Medicaid patients, the analysis said.

The number of ER visits nationwide for dental problems increased 16 percent from 2006 to 2009, and the report released today by the Pew Center on the States suggests the trend is continuing.

In Florida, for example, there were more than 115,000 ER dental visits in 2010, resulting in more than \$68 million in charges. That

included more than 40,000 Medicaid patients, a 40 percent increase from 2008.

Many ER dental visits involve the same patients seeking additional care. In Minnesota, nearly 20 percent of all dental-related ER visits are return trips, the analysis said.

That's because emergency rooms generally are not staffed by dentists. ER staffs can offer pain relief and medicine for infected gums but not much more for dental patients. And many patients are unable to find or afford follow-up treatment, so they end up back in the emergency room.

"If people are showing up in the ER for dental care, then we've got big holes in the delivery of care," said Shelly Gehshan, director of Pew's children's dental campaign.

"It's the wrong service, in

the wrong setting, at the wrong time," she said.

Pew researchers analyzed hospital information from 24 states, data from the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and studies on dental care.

Not all states collect data on ER visits for dental care, but those that do reveal the trend, Gehshan said.

In 2008 alone, 51.6 percent of Medicaid-enrolled children nationwide received no dental care.

South Carolina ER visits for dental-related problems increased nearly 60 percent from four years earlier.

Tennessee hospitals had more than \$5,000 dental-related ER visits — five times as many as for burns.

Preventive dental care such as routine teeth cleaning can cost \$50 to \$100, versus \$1,000 for emergency room treatment that may include painkillers for aching cavities and antibiotics from resulting infections, said Dr. Frank Catalano, a professor at the University of Florida's College of Dentistry who reviewed the report.

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Flash of light across Phoenix skies a mystery

PHOENIX (AP) — A large, fleeting flash of light that appeared in the darkened skies over the northwestern edge of metropolitan Phoenix remains a mystery.

The ball of light that looked like an explosion was captured by a traffic camera on Interstate 17 around 4:45 a.m. Thursday and happened to be broadcast by KSAZ-TV when the station showed footage of the roadway during a report on the morning's commute.

The two electric utilities that serve metro Phoenix say they didn't have any reports of electric transformer explosions that might explain the flash.

Damon Gross, a spokesman for Arizona Public Service, says a blown fuse on a transformer can produce a flash, but he said the utility had no such report Thursday morning.

"It's a mystery to us as well. I can't even offer a guess," said Doug Nintzel, a spokesman for the Arizona Department of Transportation.

Charlotte Dewey, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Phoenix, said there was no weather activity that might explain the flash.

Messages left for officials at nearby Luke Air Force Base weren't immediately returned Friday afternoon.

KSAZ is asking viewers to come forward if they have any information about the mysterious flash.

In 1997, dozens of people saw lights in a V-formation over Phoenix, a mystery that was captured on videotape and spurred calls for a government investigation.

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Mild winter saves Ohio gov't millions of dollars

COLUMBUS (AP) — Ohio's mild winter saved the state's transportation department tens of millions of dollars in weather-related costs this year.

The Ohio Department of Transportation saved \$43 million this winter after spending \$80 million last year for winter-weather expenses from snow and ice, WCMH-TV in Columbus reported (<http://bit.ly/wTrasV>).

The savings can be used for other projects including road improvements such as resurfacing roadways and repairing guardrails, department spokes-

man Steve Faulkner said. Ohio has about \$2 billion worth of projects that need funding.

Several central Ohio communities also say they have saved thousands of dollars on road salt, overtime and other winter-weather costs.

Rick Tilton, with the city of Columbus, said Columbus paid only \$332,000 for 5,681 tons of salt, compared with more than \$1.6 million it spent last year for nearly 28,000 tons of salt.

"Not only does it save us money right now, it saves us money next winter," Tilton said. "That salt that we have in

the barn now - we just leave it there 'til next winter."

Operations Manager Greg Hintz of Lancaster, about 30 miles southeast of Columbus, said his city has saved about \$40,000 in salt costs alone this winter. Lancaster only had to buy a little less than 1,900 tons at a cost of \$117,300. Last winter, it purchased about 2,500 tons of salt for \$158,000.

The city is still determining where to apply the savings, Hintz said.

The Columbus suburb of Hilliard says it saved approximately \$125,000 in costs associ-

ated with road salt, overtime and other winter expenses.

Another benefit for the public is that government workers have more time to spend on other projects, such as repairing potholes.

That's good news to Columbus resident Sean Smith. He said extra money to fix potholes will be a big help to drivers in that city.

Smith said that while many people have insurance to cover damage caused to their vehicles by potholes, "I'm sure a lot of people are paying this out of their pocket."

Obama strikes back at GOP critics on gas prices

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is hitting back at Republican criticism of his energy policies and his role in controlling gasoline prices.

Obama used his weekly radio and Internet address Saturday to underscore his administration's work to develop alternative energy sources and increase fuel efficiency.

"I'm going to keep doing everything I can to help you save money on gas, both right now and in the future," Obama said. "I hope politicians from both sides of the aisle join me."

He accused Republicans of a "bumper sticker" approach to solving the nation's energy problems.

It's a familiar theme - Obama stuck many of the same chords during two out-of-town trips this week and during a White House news conference on Wednesday.

"We can't just drill our way to lower gas prices - not when we consume 20 percent of the world's oil," Obama said in the address, recorded during a visit Friday to a Virginia jet engine component plant.

In the Republican weekly address, North Dakota Gov. Jack

Dairymple accused the Obama administration of blocking projects and technology that would allow greater energy production. He singled out the Keystone XL pipeline project, which Obama deferred.

"We cannot effectively market our crude oil domestically without a large north-south pipeline," Dairymple said. "North Dakota oil producers were scheduled to feed the Keystone pipeline with 100,000 barrels of crude oil per day."

Obama said there wasn't enough time to properly study the project ahead of the

deadline forced upon him by Republican congressional lawmakers. On Thursday, the Democratic-controlled Senate blocked another Republican bid to speed approval of the pipeline, which would stretch from Canada to refineries on the Texas Gulf Coast.

Also Thursday, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney said Obama is partly to blame for higher prices at the pump.

Gasoline prices paused this week in their march toward \$4 per gallon.

After 39 straight days of increases, prices fell

nearly a penny from him by Thursday and held steady on Friday at \$3.758 per gallon for the national average. The lull won't last long, and gas is still nearly 50 cents higher than it was at the beginning of the year.

Despite Romney's assertions, economists say there's not much a president of either party could do about gasoline prices. The current increases at the pump have been driven by fears of a war with oil-rich Iran and by higher demand in the U.S. as well as in China, India and other growing nations.

Verrilli: Point man in looming health care battle

WASHINGTON (AP) — In 16 appearances before the Supreme Court, Donald Verrilli has advocated for the rights of death row inmates and has successfully argued fine points of telecommunications law in cases with billions of dollars in the balance.

Now as the Obama administration's solicitor general, Verrilli faces what for any lawyer would be the challenge of a lifetime: persuading at least five Supreme Court justices to uphold the president's overhaul of the nation's health care system.

Verrilli is known as a zealous advocate with an intense work ethic, yet with an open, engaging manner in court and a calm demeanor. His style may be just the right touch in a politically charged case that represents a wild card tossed into the middle of a presidential campaign.

The 54-year-old one-time Supreme Court clerk, who became solicitor general last June, "comes across as a very straight shooter; there's a conversational feeling when he stands up there; he's completely honest and straightforward," says Washington attorney

Theodore B. Olson, who has argued 56 cases before the justices and served as solicitor general under President George W. Bush.

Verrilli has always been "just as gracious and friendly when he was your opponent in court as when he was your ally," recalls Washington lawyer Peter Keiser, who was both in the 1990s when he and Verrilli represented separate telecom companies that were sometimes at war and sometimes allies slugging it out with competitors.

The son of a lawyer, Verrilli grew up in Connecticut, received his bachelor's degree in history, with honors, from Yale University in 1979 and his law degree in 1983 from Columbia Law School, where he was editor-in-chief of the Columbia Law Review.

He clerked for Supreme Court Justice William Brennan.

In 1994, as special counsel to President Bill Clinton, he assisted in the confirmation process for Stephen Breyer, one of the justices who will hear Verrilli's argument in the health care case in late March. Verrilli's varied clients have included the House Democratic leadership.

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144th Ironton-Lawrence County Memorial Day Parade Entry Form

Parade Theme: "For God and Country"

★ I (We) will participate in the 144th Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 28, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Participant Information: _____

(Important: To Be Used By Media - Use Back of Form, If Needed)

Type of Entry: ☐ Float ☐ Marching Unit ☐ Band

☐ Truck ☐ Musical Unit

☐ Other: _____

★ I (We) cannot participate in the 144th Memorial Day Parade, but wish to donate \$ _____ to benefit the cause.

PARADE RULES:

- All floats (and/or bands) must be loaded from the parade in sequence. Objects may not be thrown by parade participants. Violators of this rule will be sent back to the rear of the parade.
- Floats and all vehicles must display the parade theme.
- No political or controversial groups, organizations or advertisements permitted.
- Parade units are required to display the flag of the United States of America.
- No alcohol permitted.
- No ATVs, mopeds, and/or dirt bikes will be permitted, unless specifically authorized.
- Participants shall dress in a manner befitting the dignity of our nation and parade.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail response to:

Ironton-Lawrence County Memorial Day Parade Committee
P.O. Box 721, Ironton, Ohio 45638

Entry forms must be received by May 4, 2012

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Couple should talk about name change

DEAR ABBY: Like "Standing My Ground in New Jersey" (Jan. 9), I had decided at a young age I had no interest in changing my last name if I were ever to be married. For me, the decision had nothing to do with an established career or a fear of losing myself. I simply never saw the point.



Jeanne Phillips
Universal Press
Syndicate

Would you believe that I fell in love with and married a man who asked me how I felt about him taking MY last name? When he first mentioned the idea, I told him that he should think it through because a name change shouldn't be taken lightly. Like "Standing," my husband also had no father figure. He's happy to now have a last name that finally "means something" to him. — ERIN IN EL CAJON, CALIF.

DEAR ERIN: That column produced a wide variety of responses from both men and women. However, most of my readers agree that "Standing" and her fiancé have an important decision to make, and they should both step back and examine the options together. Their comments: DEAR ABBY: Most women around the world retain their names after marriage, and children take their mother's name as their middle name and their father's name as their last. It's only in English-speaking countries that the tradition exists for women to take their husband's last name. It originated from the time when wives were considered property. — JANE IN FRANKLIN, TENN.

DEAR ABBY: The decision to keep or change one's name is a personal one. In my experience as a judge, I often see women ask for their maiden name to be restored to them upon a divorce. I also saw one case in which the husband in the divorce requested that his former name be restored to him. That couple had used the wife's name as their family name when they married.

I agree with your response to postpone the decision until both of them have discussed during their two-year courtship will be unveiled Friday at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum as part of an exhibit celebrating the 100th birthday of the woman Nixon playfully called his "Irish gypsy."

In Nixon's letters, he recalls their first meeting in flowery prose, daydreams about their future together and waxes poetic about the first time his "dearest heart" agreed to take a drive with him.

"Every day and every night I want to see you and be with you. Yet I have no feeling of selfish ownership or jealousy," he writes in one undated letter. "Let's go for a long ride Sunday; let's go to the mountains weekends; let's read books in front of fire; most of all, let's really grow together and find the happiness we know is ours."

Eighteen years after his death, the correspondence offers a tiny window into a fiercely private side of Nixon that almost no one ever saw and represents a love letter of sorts to fans of the 37th president, who were infatuated when the National Archives took over the museum and overhauled it to include a detailed chronicle of Watergate.

Love letters reveal Nixon's sensitive side

By Gillian Flaccus
Associated Press

YORBA LINDA, Calif. — Long before Richard Nixon rose to power and fell from grace, he was just another man in love.

Decades before he became known to some as "Tricky Dick," Nixon was the one penning nicknames (sweet ones) to his future bride in gushy love notes that reveal a surprisingly soft and romantic side of the man taken down by Watergate. Nixon shared the stage with Patricia Ryan in a community theater production and six of the dozens of letters they exchanged during their two-year courtship will be unveiled Friday at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum as part of an exhibit celebrating the 100th birthday of the woman Nixon playfully called his "Irish gypsy."

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"These letters are fabulous. It's a totally different perspective from the Watergate tapes that people know. President Nixon started out as an idealistic young man



In this 1960 photo, former President Richard Nixon and his wife Pat pose for photos. Six love letters between the 37th president and his wife will go on display Friday at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum. AP

ready to conquer the world and with Pat Ryan he knew he could do it. There's a lot of hope, there's a lot of tenderness and it's very poetic," said Olivia Anastasiadis, supervisory museum curator.

"He loved her, he was absolutely enthralled by her and that's all he thought about."

The letters stand in stark contrast to the grim-faced leader forced to resign in 1974, disgraced.

Instead, Nixon comes across as an ardent and persistent suitor in the letters, which date from 1938 to just before the couple's marriage in June 1940.

The two met while auditioning for "The Dark Tower" in the Southern California town of Whittier and dated for two years until Nixon proposed to his sweetheart on the south Orange County cliffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean. He later delivered her en-

gagement ring in a small basket overflowing with mayflowers. They were married in a small ceremony on June 21, 1940.

The romantic touch and chivalry that Nixon brought to his seaside proposal comes through in the letters, as well.

In two of the handwritten notes, Nixon — raised a Quaker — uses "thee" instead of "you" to refer to his future bride, a pronoun that signals a special closeness in the Quaker tradition. He

also writes about himself in the third person, referring to himself as a "prosaic person" whose heart was nonetheless "filled with that grand poetic music" upon knowing her.

"Somehow on Tuesday there was something electric in the usually almost stifling air in Whittier. And now I know. An Irish gypsy who radiates all that is happy and beautiful was there. She left behind her a note addressed to a struggling barrister who looks from a window and dreams. And in that note he (ound sunshine and flowers, and a great spirit which only great ladies can inspire," Nixon wrote. "Someday let me see you again? In September? Maybe?"

A much more practical — and somewhat less impulsive — Pat Ryan replies in one short note: "In case I don't see you before why don't you come early Wednesday (6) — and I'll see if I can burn a hamburger for you." The object of Nixon's affection was slower to come around, but eventually was just as smitten with Nixon as he was with her, said Ed Nixon, Nixon's youngest brother, in a phone interview from his Seattle home.

"She was quite an independent young lady and she was very cautious about anyone she met and if they couldn't smile, she wouldn't want to do too much unless she could make them smile. That captured Dick's imagination," the younger Nixon said. "She was challenging. She challenged me and I think she challenged Dick."

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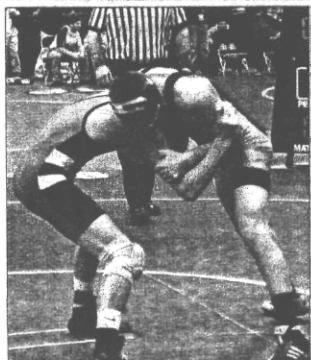
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Continued from page 1-B



Northmor's Colin Visconti (7) grapples with his first-round opponent at the state wrestling meet before dropping two to be eliminated.

In the 36-7 senior's again," said McClenathan. "It didn't work the first time, so it wasn't going to work. His coach, Tony Watson, noted that with it being the state meet, it was a pretty much went out there not caring and

McClenathan just took what his opponent gave him and controlled him for the win. "I think that in a normal match, we'd kick him out and try for a couple more takedowns, but here, because he's a strong guy and going to stay in control, we did that." Unfortunately, for McClenathan, on Friday, he came out on the wrong end of a pair of tight decisions. Against eventual state runner-up Armani Robinson of Jamestown Greenview, he took an early 1-0 lead on a penalty point, but gave up an escape and taken down in the second period to fall behind 3-1.

Robinson would maintain that advantage throughout the third period to send the Cardington wrestler to the consolation. There, he suffered a 2-0 loss to Bobby Sunderhaus of Lima Central, noted that with it being the state meet, it was a pretty much went out there not caring and

Reed also went out in the second round of consolation, but took a different path to get to that point. In the first round, the junior, who finished his season, with a 14-6 record, was pinned in the first period by Brookville's Aaron Wilbanks. However, he recovered to earn a win by pinfall, as he dispatched of West Salem's Derek Gregan in 1:52. "I pretty much went out there not caring and

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Showman of Attica Seneca East defeated him 9-5.

Northmor's Visconti had a tough draw, drawing eventual fifth-place winner Jared Mattin of Delta in the first round. Mattin would top Visconti (35-12) by technical fall to send him to the consolation round. There, the junior would lose by 18-10 major decision to Sean Szilas of Orwell Grand Valley to see his season end.



Adam Reed of Cardington picked up one win while competing in the 120-pound division of the Division III state wrestling meet last week.

KNIGHTS

minutes to play. However, after the Spartans got a basket by McDaniel to open up a 19-point edge, the Knights came roaring back.

Senior Charlie Burggraf scored the next 10 points for his team to get them with a 52-38 margin. James Donner followed with a three-pointer and Aaron Williams scored from two-point range to make the score 52-43 with four minutes to play.

Burggraf would get Northmor even closer, as after a Brady Whiting free throw, he added two baskets and a free throw to get his team within five with 2:58 to play. "Charlie Burggraf just put us on his shoulders and gave us 20 in the second half," said Ruth of his senior's play.

Unfortunately for the

Knights, after a Spartan basket, Burggraf would get called for a charge — his fifth foul of the night — and had to leave the game.

With him on the bench the rest of the way, the Knights watched Pleasant get their lead back up to nine points. While the locals were able to get within five again on two separate occasions down the stretch, they wouldn't be able to get over that hump as their season ended with an 11-10 record.

Ruth noted that his senior players played a huge role in the team improving to a better-than-500 team the past two years, as they bought into his system.

"I'll tell you what — these guys don't give up," he said. "We may be the smallest team, but we don't give up. We're (the coaches) selling

and they're (the players) called. Burggraf would get buying and that's a good thing."

Ruth noted that of his players, Wiseman led the Mid-Ohio Athletic Conference in assists, while Burggraf and Taylor Butler were second in scoring and rebounding, respectively.

Burggraf finished with a game-high 27 points, while both Wiseman and Donner scored 10. After the game, Ruth noted that having a two-and-a-half week break between their final regular season game and their tournament outing may have hurt, but that they had good practices during that time.

"The lay-off hurt, but that was the best two-and-a-half weeks of practice we've ever had," he said. "This team isn't a team — it's a family."

The history of the constellation Leo

By Tom Burns, Ohio Wesleyan University's Perkins Observatory

Here at the Perkins Observatory, we often get calls from folks who want to come to one of our public programs because they are interested in "astrology," by which they mean "astronomy," or at least I hope so.

We do not believe that the position of the stars and planets influence the course of our lives in some mystical way. They do indeed influence my life. If somebody wants to see the rings of Saturn, they're going to have to wait until April to see them.

However, the astrological significance of any given constellation reveals much about our emotional makeup as humans, and no constellation does so more than Leo, the Lion.

Leo resembles its namesake more than most constellations. But don't take my word for it. Just after dark, the Lion is rising in the southeast about half way up to the top of the sky. Look for a backward question mark of stars, called the Sickle, that form the head and front paw of the lion. We now know that they all pass through Leo because the planets, Earth included, are in orbit around the sun along the same plane.

The ancient Greeks believed that the planets were gods. Their presence in a constellation at the time of a person's birth thus supposedly influenced the course of that person's life.

All of this gets a little strange in Leo's case. At the base of the question mark is the brightest star in the constellation, Regulus, the "little king."

Our forebears sometimes called it Cor Leonis, the "heart of the lion."

the cavern, Leo ran out the back door. After a few repetitions, the whole thing began to look like an old Three Stooges skit.

So Hercules blocked off one of the entrances, entered the cave and dispatched the animal Tarzan-style — with his bare hands. He locked his arm around the lion's neck until the breath of the mighty beast was stifled.

Recognizing the fearful nature of the lion, Hercules decided to become one. Henceforth, he wore the lion's skin around himself as a cloak. As he approached his enemies, they would see the lion's gaping, dead mouth bobbing above his head. Hercules looked even more formidable than he had already, but afterward he wasn't

invited to many parties. "Hi. You must be Hercules. Would you like a drink? Can I take your lion?"

Leo lies upon the path that the sun, moon, and planets travel as they move across the sky. We now know that they all pass through Leo because the planets, Earth included, are in orbit around the sun along the same plane.

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MOAC Boys' Basketball

2011-12

Team	Red Division		Overall	Pct.
	MOAC	Pct.		
Buckeye Valley	11-2	.846	14-7	.667
North Union	9-4	.692	14-8	.636
River Valley	8-5	.615	12-9	.571
Elgin	6-7	.462	9-12	.429
Highland	1-12	.077	3-18	.143

Team	Blue Division		Overall	Pct.
	MOAC	Pct.		
Mount Gilead	12-1	.923	18-3	.857
Pleasant	6-7	.462	10-11	.476
Northmor	5-8	.385	11-10	.524
Cardington	4-9	.308	7-14	.333
Ridgedale	3-10	.231	3-18	.143

This week's results:

Wednesday, Feb. 29
Bishop Brady 53, Mount Gilead 42

Friday, March 2
North Union 72, Johnstown 61 Pleasant 67, Northmor 58

MOAC Girls' Basketball

2011-12

Team	Red Division		Overall	Pct.
	MOAC	Pct.		
North Union	13-0	1.000	21-3	.875
Elgin	8-5	.615	10-11	.476
Highland	6-7	.462	9-12	.429
River Valley	6-7	.462	9-12	.429
Buckeye Valley	3-10	.231	7-14	.333

Team	Blue Division		Overall	Pct.
	MOAC	Pct.		
Pleasant	10-3	.769	13-8	.619
Ridgedale	10-3	.769	13-9	.591
Mount Gilead	6-7	.462	12-11	.522
Cardington	3-10	.231	4-17	.190
Northmor	0-13	.000	1-20	.048

This week's results:

Tuesday, Feb. 28
Aircentric 73, Mount Gilead 37

North Union 48, Liberty Union 32

Wednesday, Feb. 29
Shekinah Christian 50, Ridgedale 32

Saturday, March 3
Centerburg 50, North Union 47

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tion; Heather Ison, 2nd Place, Fundamental Spreadsheet Applications; Morgan Miller, 6th Place, Fundamental Word Processing; Audrey Risner, 5th Place, Fundamental Word Processing, 2nd Place, Administrative Support Team; Jade Morris, 1st Place, Fundamental Word Processing and 2nd Place, Administrative Support Team; Victoria Chaney, 4th Place, Fundamental Word Processing. All pictured students are part of the Administrative & Professional Support Program taught by Burnette Brown.



The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has scheduled local public hearings in Case No. 11-1161-W3-AIR, in *The Matter of the Application of Ohio American Water Company to Increase its Rates for Water and Sewer Service*. These local hearings are scheduled for the purpose of providing an opportunity to interested members of the public to testify in these proceedings. The local hearings will be held at the following times and locations: March 5, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., at Harvest Assembly of God, 8075 Dellinger Road, Gallaway, Ohio 43119; March 7, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., at Ashtabula Township Office, Meeting Room, 2718 North Delling Road, Ashtabula, Ohio 44004; March 12, 2012, 6:00 p.m., at Tiffin Municipal Building, Courtroom 5, 51 East Market Street, Tiffin, Ohio 44883; March 19, 2012, 6:00 p.m., at Eastland Career Center, Multipurpose Room, 4465 South Hamilton Road, Groveport, Ohio 43125; March 21, 2012, 6:00 p.m., at Marion City Council, 233 West Center Street, Marion, Ohio 43301.

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1 left to right: Rickey Myhand, MD, Ganapathy Krishnan, MD, Ralph Roach, MD, Debbie Bihl, CNP

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**er PAC supporting
grich raises \$11M**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ASHINGTON — A "super" political
nittee backing Newt Gingrich's
or the White House raised more
\$11 million last month.

arly all of Winning Our Future's
came from Sheldon Adelson
his wife, Miriam. Both gave \$5
n each to the super PAC as it
d keep Gingrich's struggling
tain alive.

elson, a Las Vegas casino mag-
is a staunch supporter of Israel
a friend of Gingrich's.

inning Our Future's fundraising
put it ahead of rival Restore Our
e's \$6.6 million in contributions
month.

**ama to raise cash,
h agenda in Fla.**

ASHINGTON — President Barack
na plans to raise money in Flor-
this week, including a \$30,000
rson event at the Windermere,
home of Dallas Mavericks guard
e Carter. He also will promote his
romic agenda in a speech at the
ersity of Miami.

avid basketball fan, Obama will
nd a dinner Thursday at Carter's
e just three days before the NBA's
lar Game in nearby Orlando.

so Thursday, Obama will not only
k at the University of Miami, he
also attend a fundraising recep-
at the Biltmore Hotel and at the
if Gables home of lawyer Chris
je, a top fundraiser for Hillary
nam Clinton's 2008 presiden-
campaign.

**., Mexico agree to
perate on energy**

JS CABOS, Mexico — The Uni-
ates and Mexico agreed Mon-
to work together when drilling
il and gas below their maritime
er in the Gulf of Mexico.

ecretary of State Hillary Rodham
on and Mexico's foreign minis-
igned the deal at a ceremony
Mexican resort of Los Cabos
lexican President Felipe Calde-
and U.S. Interior Secretary Ken
zar looked on.

he cooperation stems from an
standing that President Barack
ma and Calderon reached in 2010
hare in the profits and work to-
er to avoid spills.

**dge tosses Neb.
y's immigration plan**

federal judge has thrown out
it of a Nebraska city's contra-
l ordinance that sought to ban
ig illegal immigrants or renting
erty to them.

S. District Court Judge Laurie
h Camp issued her ruling Mon-
in a lawsuit the Mexican Amer-
Legal Defense & Educational
and American Civil Liberties
n filed challenging Fremont's
ordinance.

orney Shirley Mora James, who
ad with MALDEF, says the judge
tively gutted the ordinance. The
has been on hold while the law-
were decided.



The blades are removed from the remains of a helicopter Monday near Antioch, Calif. A helicopter and a small plane were forced into emergency landings Sunday after they clipped each other, leaving the two pilots with minor injuries.

Plane, helicopter collide in midair

By TERRY COLLINS | ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — The
owner of a helicopter flight
school whose student was
involved in a mid-air colli-
sion said Monday the pil-
ot narrowly escaped what
could have been a dead-
ly crash after the chopper
was hit from behind by a
small plane.

Instead, the pilots of
both the Robinson R22
helicopter and Beech-
craft Bonanza plane es-
caped with minor injuries
after making rough emer-
gency landings Sunday
evening just north of An-
tioch, about halfway be-

tween Oakland and Sac-
ramento.

The chopper pilot, a 29-
year-old woman, is an ex-
perienced commercial air-
plane pilot who was logging
night-flying hours alone to-
ward a helicopter license,
said Wayne Prodder, own-
er of Vertical CFI Helicopt-
ers in Hayward.

The woman told Prodder,
she briefly saw the plane
behind her around 7 p.m.
The next thing she knew,
it struck the chopper's skids
and she was falling to the
ground, Prodder said.

"A few feet higher, it
would've been catastrophic
because the plane would've

crashed right into the cop-
ter," he said.

Prodder declined to pro-
vide his student's name,
saying she's still shaken up
from the incident.

There are about 12 mid-
air collisions each year in
the United States, accord-
ing to the Federal Aviation
Administration.

While infrequent, the mis-
haps are often deadly, said
Peter Lefse, a Los Angeles-
based aviation accident in-
vestigator.

"Both pilots are exceed-
ingly lucky to be alive," he
said of the weekend colli-
sion. "They can count their
blessings."

Syrian tanks and troops mass near rebel stronghold

By BRIAN MURPHY AND ZEINA KARAM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIRUT — Syrian tanks
and troops massed Mon-
day outside the resistance
stronghold of Homs for a
possible ground assault that
one activist warned could
unleash a new round of fierce
and bloody urban combat
even as the Red Cross tried
to broker a cease-fire to al-
low emergency aid in.

A flood of military rein-
forcements has been a pre-
lude to previous offensives by
President Bashar Assad's re-
gime, which has tried to use
its overwhelming firepower
to crush an opposition that
has been bolstered by de-
fecting soldiers and hard-
ened by 11 months of street
battles.

"The human loss is go-
ing to be huge if they retake
Baba Amr," said Rami Ab-
dul-Rahman, who heads the
Britain-based activist group
Syrian Observatory for Hu-
man Rights.

The central city of Homs —
and in particular the oppo-
sition district known as Baba
Amr — has become a critical
ground for both sides.

The opposition has lionized

it as "Syria's Misrata" after
the Libyan city where rebels
fought off a brutal govern-
ment siege. Assad's regime
wants desperately to erase
the embarrassing defiance in
Syria's third-largest city after
weeks of shelling, including a
barrage of mortars that killed
up to 200 people earlier this
month. At least nine people
were killed in shelling Mon-
day, activists said.

Another massive death
toll would only bring fur-
ther international isolation
on Assad from Western and
Arab leaders.

"The massacre in Syria
goes on," said U.S. Sen. John
McCain during a visit to Cal-
ro, where he urged Washing-
ton and its allies to find way
to help arm and equip Syri-
an rebels.

McCain, a senior member
of the Senate Armed Service
Committee, said he did not
support direct U.S. weapons
supplies to Syrian opposition
forces, but has suggested the
Arab League or others could
help bolster the fighting pow-
er of the anti-Assad groups.
The U.S., he said, could as-
sist with equipment such as
medical supplies or global
positioning devices.

Evangelicals want Obama birth control rules reversed

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A
group of evangelical pas-
tors on Monday joined Ro-
man Catholic clergy who
oppose an Obama admin-
istration requirement that
employees of religiously af-
filiated businesses receive
birth control coverage.

Speaking at the Nation-
al Religious Broadcasters

convention in Nashville,
Family Research Coun-
cil President Tony Perkins
said more than 2,500 pas-
tors and evangelical leaders
have signed a letter to Pres-
ident Obama asking him to
reverse the mandate.

While most Protestants
do not oppose contracep-
tion per se, the letter calls
the mandate a violation of
religious freedoms.

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DEMOCRAT FOR COMMISSIONER

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Girls' basketball

CCC All-Conference girls announced

The Cross County Conference recently announced its annual All-Conference team for the girls' basketball season. Four Preble County players made the cut on the first and second

teams, and three more were named to the Special Mention team. Honored for their performances this season were:

First team:

Makayla Ahner, senior, National Trail

Megan Johnson, junior, Tri-County North
Second team:
 Paige Thompson, junior, National Trail
 Kindra Mullins, senior, Tri-County North

Special mention team:
 Sarah Drew, senior, National Trail
 Kelly Schriever, junior, Tri-County North
 Katie Straszheim, junior, Twin Valley South

Sports beat

Spring SAY sign-ups

The Eaton-Preble County SAY Soccer Club will be holding sign-ups for the spring season Wednesday, Feb. 22 from 6-7:30 p.m. at The Register-Herald, 200 Eaton-Lewisburg Rd., Eaton. Registration is open to all boys and girls ages 4-14 years of age. Three-year-olds are allowed to play as long as they will be 4 by Aug. 1. Cost is \$50 per child, \$10 for three children and \$10 for each additional child after three. The spring season will begin the weekend of April 7 and run through May 26. Spring season will be weekends only

with limited number of practices. Games will be played on fields appropriate for team sizes. Teams will be short-staffed. There will be no games played on Easter or Mother's Day. For more information contact Kyle Smith at kyle.smith45320@yahoo.com or Eddie Mowen Jr. at emowen@webtv.com.

Eldorado Booster sign ups
 Sign ups for NT Eldorado Booster summer tee-ball, baseball and softball for ages 4-15 are scheduled for Feb. 18 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturdays, Feb. 18 and Feb. 25, in the Eldorado Council Room. Visit

www.eldoradoboosters.com for a registration form and more information. Cost is \$45 per child, \$25 for each additional. Contact Scott Glander, 678-4082, Anna Slade, 678-4430 or Tonya Clark, 273-4000 with questions.
NT boys' sectional tickets
 National Trail boys' basketball sectional pre-sale tickets are now on sale for the National Trail/Versailles game on Saturday, Feb. 25, at Tucsmech High School. Tickets are \$6 pre-sale and \$7 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at the athletic secretary's office from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

daily.
NT spring coach needed
 National Trail still has a coaching vacancy for an Assistant Varsity Track position. If interested, contact Athletic Director Mick Dimer at mdimer@emburgmail.com, or (937) 437-3333 ext. 1203.

NT football seeking coordinator
 National Trail High School is searching for a varsity defensive coordinator for the fall of 2012. Contact Head Coach Tony Soncini if interested. Email: tsoncini@aol.com

EATON

From page 1

"I believed they also performed above their own expectations, setting a new school record (as well as qualifying to state). I knew they could do it, but how much time they could drop (to qualify) had yet to be seen. The boys did a superb job."

The relay team will be in first-round action at the state meet on Thursday at the C.T. Brann Natatorium in Canton at 5 p.m.

In other district action, Drew Pool was 22nd in the 200 freestyle in 1:56.09.

John Koutsopatriy tied for eighth in the 50 freestyle in a school-record 22.71.

Koutsopatriy was also 14th in the 100 freestyle 51.30. Zack Pool was 11th in the 100 butterfly in 54.93, setting a new school record. Pool was also seventh in the 100 backstroke in 56.90.

Pieper was 12th in the 100 breaststroke in a school-record 1:03.21.

The 400 freestyle relay of Koutsopatriy, McCargish, Drew Pool and Zack Pool also set a school record with a finish in 3:31.05. They were 10th in the event.

Drew Pool, David Taxter and David Price were disqualified in the 200 freestyle.

TITLES

From page 1

Columbus. He's very aware that it's his senior year and of what needs to be done, so he'll work hard in practice this week and be ready for action on Friday and Saturday."

Trail did not qualify any other wrestlers to the district, but does have two alternates in Jarred Feust (160) and Nathan Cochran (195). Both were fifth-place finishers.

Zach Denny was sixth at 145, and Josh Heindl was sixth at 220 for Trail.

In all, Trail placed six of their seven wrestlers.

"Last year we had two qualifiers and a sixth place. This year, we had two qualifiers, two alternates, and two sixth-places. We've shown a lot of improvement this year and have several boys coming back next season, so boys who are really chomping at the bit and want to show how tough they can be," Eyer said.

"I'm proud of the improvements my team has made this year, but I still think we can be better. We're looking to train during the off-season, improve our strength and conditioning, and come back next year with more qualifiers and, as a team, a much higher level of competition. Now we've got to focus on the two boys getting ready to wrestle, as well as keeping our alternates ready in hopes that they get a chance."

Tri-County qualified four wrestlers to the district meet this weekend.

Jacob Schlatter was second at 182, losing to Troy Christian's BJ Toal in the finals by 8-3 decision. Schlatter beat Catholic Central's Troy Nave 11-4 in

the first round, pinned West Liberty-Salem's Layne Bowman in 2:14 in the quarters, and pinned Brian Olson of Covington in 3:50 in the semis.

Schlatter is now 39-2 on the season.

Michael Olinger also claimed second place for TCN, at 195 Olinger pinned Ely Stapleton of Mechanicsburg in 5:08 in the quarters; won an 11-6 decision over Trail's Cochran in the semis; and lost to Versailles' Kyle Dieringer in the finals by 6-5 decision.

"I felt (Jacob and Michael) wrestled the best they had all season," TCN coach Brad Stitzer said.

TCN's other two qualifiers were Cole Salsbury, fourth at 113, and Brian Hutchinson, fourth at 120.

Joe Wagoner is an alternate for TCN, after taking fifth at 285.

TCN's Colyn Brower (126), Dylan Hemp (152) and JJ MacPherson (170) were sixth.

TCN was eighth overall, with 90 points.

"I feel that our team was in the mix to finish higher than we did, but a couple of the swing matches just didn't go in our favor over the weekend," Stitzer said.

"However, it is that time of the year that anything can happen and those that are moving on have to realize that they can have their day on that weekend."

Division III district wrestling is at Kettering Fairmont. First- and second-round action begins Friday at 3 p.m., and continues Saturday at 10 a.m. with semifinal and second-round consolation matches.

DISTRICT

From page 1

different than a regular tournament. It felt a lot like last week at league when semifinals kicked up. All of a sudden, coaches aren't talking to each other, players aren't chatting. It was kind of an eerie feeling of competition that some kids hadn't felt."

Beside Randolph, the Panthers had three other wrestlers place in the sectionals. In the 126-lb. class, James Pemberton pinned Drew Forkner of Madison in 3:29 in the final round for a

fifth-place spot. Dustin McKee fell by an 18-16 decision in the final round for a sixth place finish in the 195-lb. class. J.T. Robbins pinned Wayneville's Anthony Dener in 2:09 to earn a fifth place spot in the heavyweight division.

For Shawnee's district qualifiers, the opening round will begin at Kettering Fairmont's Trent Arena on Friday, Feb. 24 at 3 p.m. The wrestling will continue Saturday at 10 a.m.

OHSAA discusses issues

The Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors met Thursday, Feb. 16 in Columbus for its regularly scheduled February meeting. The following are highlights from the meeting. The complete set of meeting minutes will be posted at OHSAA.org in the coming weeks.

The board was presented with the list of 2010-11 Ohio Section 2 (midwest states) coaches of the year, which were nominated by each coaches association to the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) for recognition. Six of Ohio's 23 coaches of the year also received Section 2 honors from the NFHS.

The Ohio High School Football Coaches Association/OHSAA Football Tournament Committee reviewed its recent meeting, which resulted in several proposals to present to the Board of Directors. First, the Board not adopt any expansion of the current tournament format. (Of note, an OHSAA-appointed Division I Committee has been studying

possible changes to the football tournament format stemming from enrollment disparities between the smallest and largest Division I schools.)

Second, that the Board give the OHSAA a / OHSAA A Tournament Committee until July 1 to develop a reclassification concept (in football only) that could move a team up a division(s) if the majority of its regular-season schedule is in divisions in higher divisions. And third, that beginning in 2013, Harbin computer points only be earned by defeating schools that are members of the OHSAA or one of the other 50 state associations under the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

The board approved the OHSAA Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Committee's selection of Chris Spielman as the OHSAA 2012 Ethics and Integrity Award winner. Mr. Spielman will be honored at the OHSAA's annual scholar-athlete banquet in June.

Twelve member schools were recently penalized for committing infractions of

OHSAA bylaws or regulations. The list of infractions and penalties will be included in the complete set of meeting minutes posted at OHSAA.org, but media members may request the list sooner from Tim Stated, OHSAA Director of Information Services.

The board approved several additional referendum items that will be voted on by member school principals in May during the annual referendum voting process. The new items will be posted on the OHSAA website.

The board reviewed the financial reports from the fall tournaments, with the exception of football and field hockey, which will be presented in April. In cross country, because there are no gate receipts from the four regional tournaments and expenses were higher at the state tournament due to construction of the new course at National Trail, the resulting net loss was higher than in recent years.

Despite a crowd of 11,367 at the state cross country finals, which marked the second-highest attendance in the 85-

year history of the tournament, the overall net loss from the regional and state tournaments was \$49,708. The golf state tournaments resulted in a net loss of \$9,645, while the girls tennis state tournament resulted in a \$5,388 loss. The soccer regional and state tournaments, which included a record crowd of 12,059 at the finals, turned a combined profit of \$117,251. The volleyball regional and state tournaments combined to produce a profit of \$78,640. Of note, approximately 80 percent of the OHSAA's operating budget comes from ticket receipts at regional and state tournaments.

The Ohio High School Soccer Coaches Association made a proposal that all fall sports be permitted to begin practice annually on Aug. 1 (unless Aug. 1 is a Sunday, in which case practice would begin Aug. 2). Currently, fall sports except football may begin practice on the first Monday of August, which is Aug. 6 in 2012, thus resulting in nearly a full week of lost practice time prior to the first contest.

School staff for their handling of the situation. "Let's face it, this weekend was full of more than just wrestling challenges on the mat and all eight of these guys showed a great deal of maturity in how they handled the situation," Silvers said. "I am proud to say that I was their coach. I also want to recognize and thank the rest of the

staff in how they handled the day. It wasn't easy for anyone. Now we have an opportunity to advance on to the district tournament in Goshen this Friday and Saturday."

The district tournament will begin Friday, Feb. 24 at 2 p.m. at Goshen High School, and wrestling will continue on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 10 a.m.

Tucumseh High School at 5 p.m.

"Hopefully we can put up a good fight against them," Bradley said. "They pressure you, try to speed you up and get in transition and go with it. We have to take care of the ball, because they have three guys who can really score on you and shoot the ball extremely well."

Trail, meanwhile, will meet top-seeded Versailles in sectional play on Saturday at

EAGLE

From page 1

was also 3-1, and he pinned Thurgood Marshall's Lorenzo Mann in 4:14 in the final round for third place.

Bauner Chafin placed fourth in the 126-lb. weight class, and Levi Gilbert also qualified to districts with a fourth-place finish in the 145-lb. class.

As a team, the Eagles finished in third place overall

with 169.5 total points. Ross won the sectional tournament with 199.5 points, and Franklin was second with 184.5 points.

The success of the Eagle wrestlers was somewhat hit-or-miss for Silvers, who learned at the tournament on Saturday of his father's death. Afterward, he thanked his team and the Eaton High

thing for us to really build on. Everything we worked on all year came together. It was an excellent team effort."

TCN was without starters Cole Williams and Tyler Rees due to injury. They'll also miss the Panthers' tournament game on Friday against top-seeded Dayton Jefferson.

"Obviously being down two key guys hurts, but we

won't go away from what we do well," Jackson said. "We have to be very disciplined, have to utilize our size and quickness, and take care of the ball and hit our shots when we get them."

Tip-off is scheduled for 8 p.m. in Troy.

Trail, meanwhile, will meet top-seeded Versailles in sectional play on Saturday at

NORTH

From page 1

Give credit to Trail. They fought hard," Jackson said. "It was one of those games that could have went either way. Trail did some good things, we had a few turnovers that let them back in, but we were more disciplined and wanted it more in the end."

"It's a huge win for our program in terms of momentum for the tournament. It's some-

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College

Continued from Page 1A

the degree programs they are looking for could exist as close as across the parking lot," Gavazzi said.

Plotts said students are showing interest in Preferred Pathway programs.

"I really do think we are going to see gradual growth in interest, and it is going to benefit both colleges," he said.

Marketing departments from NCSC and OSU-M are collaborating to promote the initiative, which is designed to bring the two colleges closer together. Gavazzi and Plotts said the Preferred Pathway agreement will lead to further collaboration.

"We're talking on the business side to discuss how we can provide wider and better Internet services," Plotts said. "We're looking at other areas, too. If we can do shared busi-

ness models, we can save dollars and spend more dollars in the classroom."

Gavazzi said the partnership will extend to the development of curriculum, and each institution will look to the other to create complimentary programs that respond to community needs. The initiative, he said, will help Richland County raise its baccalaureate degree completion rate, which is 10 percent below the state average.

"This is an opportunity in which we can partner and help the entire county," Gavazzi said.

Plotts said education and economic development go hand-in-hand.

"If we can get students to start here, stay here and work here, then I think we're going to start to improve our economic situation," he said.

bjballock@gannett.com
419-521-7205

Amish

Continued from Page 1A

attacks in September, October and November by forcibly cutting the beards and hair of Amish men and women and then taking photos to shame them, authorities said.

Amish believe the Bible instructs women to let their hair grow long and men to grow beards and stop shaving once they marry.

Mullet told The Associated Press in October that he didn't order the hair-cutting but didn't stop his sons and others from carrying it out. He said the goal was to send a message to other Amish that they should be ashamed of

themselves for the way they were treating Mullet and his community.

In addition to Mullet, the indictment also charges four of his children, a son-in-law, three nephews, the spouses of a niece and nephew and a member of the Mullet community in Bergholz in eastern Ohio near Steubenville.

Authorities said previously that some Amish refused to press charges, following their practice of avoiding involvement of the courts.

Ohio has an estimated Amish population of just under 61,000 — second only to Pennsylvania — with most living in rural counties south and east of Cleveland.

Schools

Continued from Page 1A

district in Richland County. Madison was rated excellent last school year — its highest grade ever — but it would drop two notches to a C under the new standards.

Nearly every other district and community school in the county would drop a single notch on the new scale. Mansfield City Schools would have its grade sink from continuous improvement to a D. Clear Fork, Crestview, Lexington and Ontario all would be downgraded to a B, and Lucas would be dropped to a C.

Plymouth-Shiloh and Shelby would earn a B, the equivalent of the effective rating they received last school year.

Community schools Interactive Media & Construction and Richland Academy School of Excellence would see their ratings fall to an F, making them the lowest rated charter schools in the county.

"In most cases, this is a far more rigorous system than the one currently used, and in general, grades will be 'lower' by one or even two levels from the counterpart ratings that we have been using in our current accountability system," State Superintendent Stan Heffner wrote in an email to district superintendents

last week.

The new system evaluates districts and schools using four measures, and averaging them into one overall grade:

• **Percent of Indicators Met:** This measures how well students performed on state tests, attendance and graduation rate, based on 26 indicators.

• **Performance Index:** This measures student test scores on a 120-point scale, and assigns a grade based on a standard scale of 90 percent for an A, 80 percent for a B, and so on. Districts must score a 108 on Performance Index for an A, up from 100 previously.

• **Value-added:** Measures student growth from one year to the next, regardless of achievement level, in grades four through eight.

• **Proficiency Gap:** Designed to evaluate how well districts are doing in narrowing gaps in achievement between student subgroups.

The Ohio Department of Education believes the new system will provide a more accurate picture of where schools stand in terms of preparing students for college.

"We are moving to a system that is going to no longer be based on students meeting the minimum competencies and one that truly is preparing them for college and careers after high school," Gallaway said.

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Dogs

Continued from Page 1A

arrest and disorderly conduct. Mansfield Municipal Court Judge Jerry Ault told Studer she could not own any animals.

Studer was found not guilty of 13 other misdemeanor charges; the 22 dogs are tied to those counts. Studer, who appealed the case, wants to recover them and make other arrangements for their care.

In the meantime, the dogs are in limbo. Eighteen are housed at the humane society. The other four are in foster homes.

Houghton wants to place the other dogs in rescues or foster care, too, much to Studer's chagrin.

"They're not supposed to be doing anything with any of the animals," Studer said. "The case is on appeal."

She said her attorney filed a motion to block the transfer of any of the dogs.

"They can't go out and do whatever they want," Studer said.

Houghton said Studer's dogs need individual attention that is difficult to give at a shelter, pointing out kennel workers normally have 25 to 35 other dogs to feed, water and exercise. Still, she said, Studer's animals have improved during their time at the humane society.

"Some of them, the turnaround has been amazing," Houghton said. "They have actually learned to walk on leashes. They wag their tails."

"They've shown more improvement than I could have hoped for."

Houghton got a couple of dogs out of their cages. Mickey Blue Eyes is a friendly mixed breed. Mini Dud is a lab-terrier mix described by one of the kennel workers as being the shape of a football.

"She's been around kids



Sophie and Dorothy are looking for a good foster home through the Humane Society of Richland County. Dorothy is blind. DAVE POLYNEWS JOURNAL

She doesn't mind anything," Houghton said of Mini Dud. "She's very low-key." Sophie and Dorothy are two other mixed breeds. Dorothy is blind, with Sophie acting as her

protector.

"We'd really like to get these guys to rescues. It's a win-win," she said. "A lot of people don't realize they're still in limbo." Anyone who would like

to foster a dog can call the Humane Society of Richland County at 419-774-4795.

mcasidil@mccogannett.com
419-521-7219

Agreement reached in Cincinnati Occupy disputes

CINCINNATI (AP) — The city dismissed hundreds of charges against Occupy protesters Monday in return for them dropping a federal lawsuit against it.

More than a dozen Occupy Cincinnati members gathered on the steps of City Hall to announce the settle-

ment, which also establishes a 24-hour public space in Platt Park. Protesters were cited at the park and two other locations last year on charges of trespassing and failure to leave after closing hours. Members of Occupy Cincinnati filed a lawsuit claiming the city had violat-

ed their First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and assembly and asking that the city be prevented from enforcing the rules.

The protesters, who are part of a movement that started about six months ago on Wall Street against what demonstrators call eco-

nomics inequality, cheered the settlement.

Occupancy member Aaron Roco called it a "victory for our constitutional rights and for the people of Cincinnati." But he said the goal "has been and will continue to be ending corporate control of our government."

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LEGAL NOTICE

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By its application, Ohio American Water Company (Applicant) seeks a rate increase which would generate additional base revenues of approximately \$6,491,606 or 22.12 percent over current revenues for the company's Water A division in the Ashtabula, Lake White, Lawrence County, Mansfield, Marion, and Tiffin Districts; \$1,274,308 or 23.03 percent over current revenues for the company's Water C division in the Franklin and Portage County Districts; and \$506,256 or 12.33 percent over current revenues for the company's wastewater operations in the Franklin County District.

The staff of the Commission recommends a revenue increase between \$3,902,913 and \$4,503,686 or between 13.28 percent and 15.33 percent over current revenues for the company's Water A division; an increase of \$573,738 and \$676,555 or 10.34 percent to 12.20 percent over current revenues for the company's Water C division; and an increase of \$290,434 to \$368,449 or 7.07 percent to 8.97 percent over current revenues for wastewater operations in Franklin County.

The major issues raised in this case are:

- The appropriate rate base;
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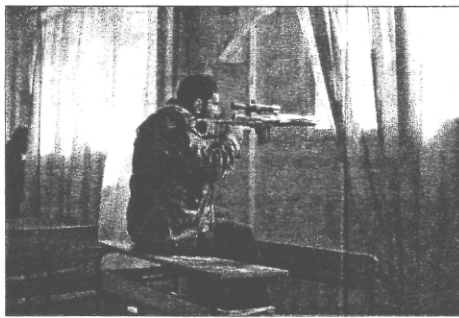
West calls ballot on constitution a 'farce'

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — The U.S. and its allies dismissed the Syrian regime's referendum on a new constitution Sunday as a "farce" meant to justify the bloody crackdown on dissent.

But voters in government strongholds suggested why some Syrians have not joined the uprising against President Bashar Assad: Loyalty, distrust of the opposition and fear his fall will ignite a civil war.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called the poll "a cynical ploy" and urged Syrians who still support Assad to turn against him. A "farce" and a "sham vote" was how German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle described it.

"It's a phony referendum and it is going to be used by Assad to justify what he's doing to other Syrian citizens," Clinton said in an interview with CBS News in Rabat, Mo-



A Syrian rebel aims his rifle out a classroom window at a school in Homs province, Syria, last week.

rocco.

"The longer you support the regime's campaign of violence against your brothers and sisters, the more it will stain your honor," she added, addressing Assad supporters, especially the military. "If you refuse, however, to prop up the regime or take part in attacks ... your countrymen and women will hail you as heroes."

While casting his vote at the state broadcasting headquarters, Assad showed no signs of giving

in on international demands to end his crackdown. And as he has done in the past, he tried to deflect blame in other directions. He said Syria was under a "media attack."

"They may be stronger on the airwaves but we are stronger on the ground, and we aspire to win both on the ground and on the airwaves," he said in footage broadcast on state TV.

The U.S. and its European and Arab allies met Friday at a major international conference on the

Syrian crisis in Tunisia, trying to forge a unified strategy to push Assad from power. They began planning a civilian peacekeeping mission to deploy after the regime falls.

The new constitution allows — at least in theory — for the formation of competing political parties and limits the president to two seven-year terms. Such change was unthinkable a year ago. Syria has been ruled by the Baath party since it seized power in a coup in 1963.

3 dead in train derailment

BURLINGTON, Ontario (AP) — A Canadian Via Rail passenger train derailed west of Toronto Sunday, killing three railroad employees and injuring dozens of passengers, officials said.

Via Rail spokeswoman Michelle Lamarche said the three people killed were riding in the locomotive at the front of the train when it derailed in Burlington, Ontario.

Lamarche said no passengers died but 45 were injured. She said 75 people were on board the train traveling from Niagara Falls to Toronto when it derailed Sunday afternoon near Aldershot station.

Three passengers were airlifted to hospitals, one with a heart attack, another with a broken leg and the third with a back injury. Forty-two other passengers suffered less-serious injuries and were either treated at the scene or sent to local hospitals.

The locomotive and one passenger car flipped onto their sides and crashed into a small trackside building. At least two passengers car

behind it were driven off the tracks into a L-shape. All six cars derailed, Via officials said.

"There's no question it's very tragic. We're a relatively small company, we're a family, we know everyone by name," Via chief operating officer John Marginson said at the scene.

"We certainly feel for the families of the colleagues that we lost."

Deanna Villola of Welland, Ontario, said she felt a slight bump before the train jumped off the tracks, sending people and luggage flying.

The crash lasted about 10 seconds but felt like forever, she said.

Burlington Mayor Rick Goldring also confirmed that three died. Goldring said the crash caused minor damage to nearby buildings.

Police haven't released any details about the accident.

The Transportation Safety Board of Canada is sending a crew of investigators to the scene. Lamarche said they will examine the date recorder on board.

'Artist,' Streep, Dujardin land top Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "The Artist" won five Academy Awards Sunday including best picture, becoming the first silent film to triumph at Hollywood's highest honors since the original Oscar ceremony 83 years ago.

Among other prizes for the black-and-white comic melodrama were best actor for Jean Dujardin and director for Michel Hazanavicius.

The other top Oscars went to Meryl Streep as best actress for "The Iron Lady," Octavia Spencer as supporting actress for "The Help" and Christopher Plummer as supporting actor for "Beginners."

"The Artist" is the first silent winner since the World War I saga "Wings" was named outstanding picture at the first Oscars in 1929.

"I am the happiest director in the world," Hazanavicius said, thanking the cast, crew and canine co-star Uggie. "I also want to thank the financier, the crazy person who put money in the movie."

The win was Streep's first Oscar in 29 years, since she won best actress for "Sophie's Choice." She had lost 13 times in a row since then. Streep also has a supporting-actress Oscar for 1979's "Kramer vs. Kramer."

"When they called my name, I had this feeling I could hear half of America go, 'Oh, no, why her



Billy Crystal performs during the 84th Academy Awards Sunday in Hollywood.

again?" But whatever, Streep said, laughing.

"I really understand I'll never be up here again. I really want to thank all my colleagues, my friends. I look out here and I see my life before my eyes, my old friends, my new friends. Really, this is such a great honor but the thing that counts the most with me is the friendship and the love and the sheer job we've shared making moves together."

Streep is only the fifth performer to receive three Oscars. Jack Nicholson, In-

grid Bergman and Walter Brennan all earned three, while Katharine Hepburn won four.

The 82-year-old Plummer became the oldest acting winner ever for his role as an elderly widower who comes out as gay in "Beginners."

"You're only two years older than me, darling," Plummer said, addressing his Oscar statue in this 84th year of the awards. "Where have you been all my life? I have a confession to make. When I first emerged from my mother's womb, I was already rehearsing my Oscar speech."

The previous oldest winner was best-actress recipient Jessica Tandy for "Driving Miss Daisy," at age 80.

Completing an awards-season blitz that took her from Hollywood bit player to star, Spencer won for her role in "The Help" as a headstrong black maid whose willful ways continually land her in trouble with white employers in 1960s Mississippi.

Spencer went through-out her breathless speech, in which she apologized between laughing and crying for running a bit long on her time limit.

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"Thank you, academy, for putting me with the hottest guy in the room," Spencer said, referring to last year's supporting-actor winner Christian Bale, who presented her Oscar.

Dujardin became the first Frenchman to win an acting Oscar. French actresses have won before, including Marion Cotillard and Juliette Binoche.

"Oh, thank you. Oui. I love my country!" said Dujardin.

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