

## Board of education hears update

Continued from page 1  
 planning for our future, Perrysburg Schools must inform and educate our community about financial operations," said the treasurer as she explained the finance pillar. "We need to develop a plan for a healthy fiscal future and educate the community about that plan. We need to continuously measure the success of the plan and research new opportunities for financial diversification and cost savings and encourage advocacy for ongoing levy support."

**Objective 1**  
 •The plan for a healthy fiscal future is to be able to maintain a "true-days" cash flow of 90 to 120 days at fiscal year end. The vehicle to measure this is the district financial forecast.

•Educate the community by translating the five-year forecast into a user-friendly format that also will explain expenses related to growth.

**Objective 2**  
 •Research new opportunities for cost saving measures to help reduce expenditures and maximize resources.

•The district's development department seeks private support to enhance programs through a private-public partnership.

•Continue to work on more efficient ways to ensure all students achieve their greatest potential.

**Objective 3**  
 •Provide financial data to be included in the biannual

newsletter.  
 •Continue to offer and encourage participation in the district's Finance 101 classes offered throughout the year. Ensure this strategy is an effective communication tool for keeping the public educated and up-to-date about school finances and some of the current challenges.

Along with Mrs. Harrington, members of the Finance Pillar committee include staff members Jeff Abke, Dave Duhamel, Anne Spence and Rachel Zickar, and community members Nick Camp, Missy Madigan, Colin McHugh and Chris Vogel.

Mrs. Harrington told board members that the committee will continue to meet through May to create the next steps. Then in the summer, the board will be updated on the plan.

**Other Business**  
 In other business, the board:

•Heard a second reading on policy revisions, deletions and new policies.

•Approved the following supplemental contracts: high school—Chelsea Massaro, interact club, volunteer; junior high school—Troy Opperman, head girls track coach, 25 percent split, \$1,000, and head boys track coach, split, \$1,000; Hull Prairie—Jason Hunsinger and Joshua Roach, student council, 50 percent split, \$800 each;

•Rescheduled the board retreat to Saturday, February 17, 8:30 a.m., at Hilton Garden Inn.

The next board work session is scheduled for Tuesday, February 6, 7:30 a.m. The next board of education meeting is Tuesday, February 20, 5:30 p.m. Meetings are held in the Commodore Building and are open to the public.

Jennifer Budnick and Julia Whalen, activity coordinator, student council assistant, 50 percent split, \$600 each; Chris Harper, Nicole Wagner, Cori Sanford, Anna Kelly and Kelly Hibber, kindness club, 20 percent split, \$480 each, and Kay Bock, Traci Morgan and Julia Whalen, homework club, 33 percent split, \$396 each.

•Approved the following certified substitutes: Michael Becker and Kaela Bilski.

•Approved the following stipends: Joshua Roach, Julie Jagodzinski and Sherry Shaffer, junior high camp director, 33 percent split, \$396 each; and Jeff Beck, Sherry Shaffer and Jason Hubbard, Hull Prairie building leadership team members, \$2,801 each.

•Approved Kari Keith as a classified substitute.

•Approved the following fund-raiser: Class of 2020 pancake breakfast at Perrysburg High School, February 7.

•Rescheduled the board retreat to Saturday, February 17, 8:30 a.m., at Hilton Garden Inn.

## American Legion Post 28 changes monthly meeting time

American Legion Post 28 has changed the time for its meetings, which are held on the second Monday of each month. Meetings will be held at 9 a.m., at the Schaller Memorial Building.

The morning time offers an easier commute for members driving to and from the meetings.

Members will enjoy coffee, cake and good fellowship.

In the event of inclement weather, watch local TV stations for information. If Perrysburg Schools are delayed or closed, there will be no meeting.

For more information, call Commander Gary Nordahl at 419-205-3737.

## Valentine cookie class offered at Way

Cake and cookie decorating expert Wendy Bach will present a hands-on class to learn to decorate Valentine's Day cookies at Way Library.

The cookies will be decorated with royal icing flooding techniques, then placed in a cute package ready to give to someone special.

Participants can choose to attend on Saturday, February 10, or Monday, February 12. The class will meet from 10 a.m. to noon.

The cost of \$10 is payable at registration at the library information desk. All supplies will be provided.

For more information, visit waylibrary.info or call 419-874-3135, extension 119.

## PERRYSBURG Community Calendar

To include your organization's activities in this calendar, mail or drop off the details to the Messenger Journal, 130 Louisiana Avenue, PO Box 267, Perrysburg, Ohio 43552. Or send an e-mail, with the date, time and location, to dianaw@perrysburg.com. The deadline for the weekly calendar is Friday at noon.

- Thursday, February 1**  
 9:15 a.m. Wood County Commissioners on the fifth floor of the Wood County Office Building, One Courthouse Square, Bowling Green.  
 12:00 p.m. Perrysburg Noontime Women's AA Group, open discussion at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 871 East Boundary. Open to the public.  
 6:00 p.m. National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Wood County-peer and family support group at Way Public Library, 101 East Indiana Avenue, until 7 p.m. Visit www.namiwoodcounty.org.  
 6:00 p.m. CedarCreek's South Toledo Campus hosts the "Community Care Free Medical Clinic" at 2150 South Byrne Road, Toledo, until 8 p.m. Call 419-482-8127.
- Friday, February 2**  
 9:30 a.m. St. Tim's Clothesline, free clothing offered at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 871 East Boundary. Open until 11:30 a.m.  
 11:45 a.m. Perrysburg Rotary at the Carranor Club, 502 East Second Street.  
 5:00 p.m. All-you-can-eat pollock, perch, clam strips, chicken, and steaks, at Maumee Eagles, 2301 Detroit Avenue.  
 5:00 p.m. Northwood VFW Fish Fry Fridays until 7:45 p.m., at 102 West Andrus Road, Northwood. All-you-can-eat fish. Steak, shrimp and chicken served also.
- Saturday, February 3**  
 12:00 p.m. Perrysburg Noontime Women's AA Group, open discussion at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 871 East Boundary. Open to the public.  
 8:00 p.m. AlAnon and Alcoholics Anonymous at First United Methodist Church, 200 West Second Street.
- Sunday, February 4**  
 9:00 a.m. Northwood VFW breakfast until noon, at 102 West Andrus Road, Northwood.  
 6:30 p.m. Alcoholics Anonymous at Schaller Memorial Building, 130 West Indiana Avenue.
- Monday, February 5**  
 6:30 p.m. Perrysburg Lions Club at Charlies Restaurant, near Walt Churchill's Market. For information, call Craig Gauger at 419-350-4345.  
 6:30 p.m. Nar-Anon, support group for those with family or friends with chemical addiction, until 7:30 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, 200 East Broadway, Maumee. Call Candy at 419-290-3827 for information.  
 7:00 p.m. There is a Solution AA Group, closed meeting, at Lutheran Church of the Master, 28744 Simmons Road, Perrysburg.
- Tuesday, February 6**  
 7:30 a.m. Perrysburg Board of Education work session in the Cafeteria of the Commodore Building, 140 East Indiana Avenue, Perrysburg.  
 9:15 a.m. Wood County Commissioners on the fifth floor of the Wood County Office Building, One Courthouse Square, Bowling Green.  
 9:30 a.m. Free bingo at McDonald's restaurant, 10163 Fremont Pike, Perrysburg.  
 12:00 p.m. AlAnon at CedarCreek Church, 29129 Lime City Road. Free baby-sitting.  
 6:30 p.m. Perrysburg City Council at the Municipal Building, 201 West Indiana Avenue.
- Wednesday, February 7**  
 7:30 a.m. Perrysburg Kiwanis Club in the lower level of Way Public Library, 101 East Indiana Avenue, until 8:30 a.m. Open to the public.  
 10:00 a.m. Low Vision Support Group at Heatherdowns Library, 3265 Glanzman Road, Toledo. See www.frogtownvision.org or call 419-877-8007 for details.  
 6:00 p.m. Perrysburg Township Board of Trustees at the township hall, 26609 Lime City Road.  
 7:00 p.m. AlAnon at First Presbyterian Church, 200 East Second Street.

## 'COOL' Characters exhibit at Levis Commons Feb. 2-25

A new character exhibit is coming to Levis Commons on Friday, February 2. COOL Characters was custom created by Michael McDonald, an artist from the Detroit area who is best known for his whimsical skeleton displays that grace the scenes of various high visibility fall festivals in Michigan.

The exhibit will feature eight different character scenes throughout the streets of Levis Commons.

Each character is created

from gigantic synthetic ice cubes that are so COOL, they won't melt.

The adult sized characters stand more than six feet tall and will be accompanied by child characters, babies, dogs and other supporting props.

Each scene will have a unique and trendy theme and encourage onlookers to join the COOL fun with places for photo ops and selfies.

The characters will be on display through February 25, during all shopping center hours.

"We are really excited for this very unique exhibit" said Allison Schroeder, Levis Commons marketing director.

"We are offering this free to the community to help cure the cabin fever that sets in this time of year."

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## Perrysburg Rotary Auction to benefit Cherry Street Missions

Cherry Street Missions will be the beneficiary for a portion of the proceeds from the Perrysburg Rotary Club's 34th annual charity auction.

Funds will be used to support programming at Cherry Street Mission's Life Revitalization Center. Proceeds also will benefit the Perrysburg Rotary Service Foundation to support community and international humanitarian projects.

"We received written applications from five different organizations that wanted to be considered as a beneficiary for this year's auction," said Alison Frye, event co-chair. "It was a difficult decision to make—all were worthy of consideration. Our auction committee spent a good deal of time vetting and discussing the applicants before choosing Cherry Street Missions."

Cherry Street Missions will be the beneficiary of the "Gifts from the Heart" paddle-up portion of the Rotary club's live auction. The organization plans to use the funds to support programming for its Life Revitalization Center, located in the former Macomber High School, a 242,000-square-foot facility. Two years ago a pilot program began at the center to help homeless members of the community restore their lives through meals, vocational training, small groups, and mentoring.

Vocational training is provided by Owens Community College and Northwest State Community College.

In 2017, Cherry Street Missions and its Life Revitalization Center impacted the community in these ways:

•153,863 nutritious meals were served in its Mac Street Café

•More than 400,000 pounds of food, clothing and hygiene items were donated and distributed to those living

**Rotary Rocks!**  
 COMMUNITY. OUR REGION. OUR WORLD. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2018

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF PERRYSBURG'S 34TH ANNUAL CHARITY AUCTION**  
 BENEFITTING PERRYSBURG ROTARY SERVICE FOUNDATION & CHERRY STREET MISSION MINISTRIES

**\$100 PER PERSON** *Black Tie Optional*  
 5:00 PM Complimentary Drinks  
 6:30 PM Dinner & Program

**Rotary Club of Perrysburg**  
 Join Leaders. Exchange Ideas. Take Action.

Hilton Garden Inn, Perrysburg  
 For More Information or to RSVP:  
 perrysburgrotary.org  
 or auction@perrysburgrotary.org

in poverty  
 •Approximately 1,700 men and women had 46,166 safe overnight stays  
 •28 found housing and a stabilized life

The theme of this year's auction is "Rotary Rocks! Our City. Our Region. Our World." The event will be held on Saturday, February 3, at the Hilton Garden Inn at Levis Commons in Perrysburg. The theme is in reference to the many community and international projects the club handles each year. It also is a tie-in to the Perrysburg Rotary Club's "Plead the Fifth" rock band that will provide musical entertainment for auction guests.

The event will feature a silent and live auction. 13abc's Jeff Smith will be the guest emcee, and professional auctioneer Jack Amlin, CAI, AARE, will handle auction duties.

Tickets are \$100 per person, which includes a sit-down dinner with cash bar. Complimentary cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be offered from 5 to 6 p.m., with a cash bar following.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.  
 Silent auction bidding will open at 5 p.m., and the live auction will follow dinner.

Over the past 33 years, the Perrysburg Rotary Club has used its auction proceeds to benefit community projects such as: donating \$200,000 to the new Perrysburg Rotary Community Park project on Fort Meigs Road, contributing \$10,000 for the construction of Fort Imagination in Woodlands Park, and purchasing a multi-passenger van for the Perrysburg School district.

The Perrysburg Rotary Club also has used auction proceeds to fund international projects such as: contributing

\$25,000 to help construct the Deborah House, a home for abused girls in Timisoara, Romania; the drilling of 13 water wells in Vietnam; collecting 350 used bicycles for shipment to Guatemalan villages for transportation; coordinating the delivery of fire trucks and medical equipment to third world countries; contributing \$18,000 to the Menies Center, an orphanage for abused children in Belize; and participating with Rotarians worldwide to contribute more than \$1.7 billion and countless volunteer hours to its Polio-Plus program aimed at eradicating polio in the world.

To date, more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries have been immunized.

For more information or to purchase tickets to the "Rotary Rocks!" 34th annual Perrysburg Rotary Charity Auction, visit perrysburgrotary.org.

## Wolcott Guild to present first program in lecture series Feb. 1

The Wolcott House Museum Guild, in conjunction with the Maumee Branch of the Lucas County Library System, will present their first speaker of this year's lecture series, Dr. Janet Kennedy Rozick.

Her presentation on February 1 will relate the story of "The Battle of Fallen Timbers."

All meetings will be held for nine consecutive Thursdays, at 10 a.m., in the Maumee Library.

Dr. Kennedy works as an associate professor at American Public University.

She earned her bachelor of arts degree in history from Heidelberg College, a master of arts in history degree from Bowling Green State University, and her Ph.D. from the University of Toledo.

She has held academic positions at five different universities and worked at the Hayes Presidential Center, Wood County Historical Society, Metroparks and the Maumee Valley Historical Society.

At Metroparks, Dr. Rozick began her research into Native American culture and that led to her in-depth study of the Battle of Fallen Timbers fought near what is now Maumee.

Dr. Rozick is a military wife, and her husband serves at the 1180th Air National Guard base. They have four children.

Dr. Rozick will explore

the early history of the United States Army and will trace its challenges and why it consistently failed in their Ohio territory battle engagements with the Indians under General Josiah Harmar in the fall of 1790 and again in November of 1791 under the faulty leadership of General Arthur St. Clair.

She will explore the changes that led to the Army's advantage in the time between those two defeats and General Anthony Wayne's decisive victory against members of seven Indian tribes at the Battle of Fallen Timbers on August 20, 1794.

The actual Battle of Fallen Timbers National Historic Site is open and laid out 1.4 miles long with a walking trail with several lookouts and interpretive historical signage plaques. It is located on the road across from the Fallen Timbers Mall.

The sacred grounds are preserved under the auspices of the Toledo Metroparks and sponsored by the Fallen Timbers Battlefield Preservation Commission.

All lectures are free and open to the public.

Refreshments will be served.

If the weather is inclement and the Maumee schools are closed, the lecture will be cancelled.

For more information, call Guild President Judy Justus at 419-874-6828.

## NDA placement test February 3

Merit scholarships are awarded to top scorers and are worth up to \$12,000. Register with Liz Pelz at lpezl@nda.org.

## Let's talk about braces!

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## LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has scheduled a public hearing in Case No. 16-1852-EL-SSO, *In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Power Company for Authority to Establish a Standard Service Offer Pursuant to R.C. 4928.143, in the Form of an Electric Security Plan*, and in Case No. 16-1853-EL-AAM, *In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Power Company for Approval of Certain Accounting Authority*. In the application, Ohio Power Company d/b/a AEP Ohio seeks Commission approval of an electric security plan filed on November 23, 2016, and matters related to the company's procurement of power for the period of June 1, 2018 through May 31, 2024. On August 25, 2017, a Joint Stipulation and Recommendation was filed by various parties for the Commission's consideration, which, if approved by the Commission, would resolve all the issues raised in this matter.

The public hearing is scheduled for the purpose of providing an opportunity for interested members of the public to testify in this proceeding. The hearing will be held on Monday, February 12, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., at Ohio History Center, 800 East 17th Avenue, Cardinal Classroom, Columbus, Ohio 43211-2497.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793, viewing the Commission's web page at <http://www.puco.ohio.gov>, or contacting the Commission's hotline at 1-800-686-7826.

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# Sports

## Spreading the scoring wealth, Tigers run past visiting Hillsboro Indians

BY JULIE BILLINGS  
NEWS WATCHMAN SPORTS EDITOR

As the basketball season continues to progress, so do the Waverly Tigers.

The Tigers won their third game in a row Tuesday evening, running past the Hillsboro Indians 80-56. Offensively, Waverly spread the ball around with every player scoring in the victory. The win saw Waverly's record improve to 11-3 overall, while Hillsboro dropped to 6-7.

"The guys played hard. I thought we got off to a good start. We settled in, and then we gave up a big run," said Waverly coach Travis Robertson. "You have to give credit to Hillsboro. I thought they made it fairly competitive throughout the course of the game. They are a little short handed and ran out of gas."

Waverly opened the game with an immediate run. Ethan Adrian hit the initial three-pointer of the game. Then the Tigers generated five more points with their pressure defense leading to turnovers and opportunities for scoring. Easton Wolf had the next three-pointer to make the lead 6-0 and then scored again on a fast break to make it 8-0. Hillsboro finally broke its drought when Phil Mycroft scored on a putback bucket. Then Clayton Howell hit for the Tigers to make the lead 11-2. After a timeout, the Indians came back with a run of their own, scoring 10 straight points to claim the lead, 12-11.

Stopping the Indians' run, Waverly junior Cody Remington broke through for his team by getting fouled on a drive. His first freebie attempt rimmed off, but the second went through the net to tie the game, 12-12. Cobe Marquez put the Tigers ahead again by beating the defense down the floor for a layup in traffic, 14-12.

The Indians charged ahead again, scoring seven straight points, 19-14. Marquez cut the lead to three by getting



JULIE BILLINGS/NEWS WATCHMAN  
**Above: After the Waverly defense forced a turnover, junior Landon Hoover recovers the ball and fires it to a teammate on a fast break during the fourth quarter of Tuesday's game./ Right: Waverly junior Trevor Penrod pulls up for a three-pointer, shooting over top of Hillsboro senior Phil Mycroft during the second quarter of Tuesday's win.**

fouled at the end of the quarter and sinking both of his shots, 19-16.

Beginning the second quarter in a strong way, the Tigers scored six straight points to start a 16-1 run. Adrian provided the first two buckets before Remington added another to put WHS in front 22-19. Hillsboro freshman Ryan Scott broke his team's drought at the line, sinking the first of two freebies. Waverly's Trevor Penrod drew a foul on the other end and did the same, hitting the first of two, 23-20. Penrod has just recently returned to action after missing time with an injury.

SEE TIGERS ON PAGE A9



## Group One Thousand One unveils Veach's No. 26 Indy car

BY ANDRETTI  
AUTOSPORT  
PRESS RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS (Jan. 24, 2018) — Group One Thousand One and Andretti Autosport have unveiled the new livery for Zach Veach's No. 26 Group One Thousand One Honda Indy car competing in the 2018 Verizon IndyCar Series championship. Veach has raced in every step of the Mazda Road to Indy ladder with Andretti Autosport, including a career-best Indy Lights championship finish of third in 2014.

The U.S.-based insurance holding company Group One Thousand One will serve as Veach's primary sponsor. "We're very excited to unveil Zach's bold new livery to all fans of IndyCar and the U.S. racing community," said Dan Towriss, CEO, Group One Thousand One.

"We believe sports have the power to transform lives and we're thrilled to enable Zach to rise to the next level in his racing career with Andretti Autosport. On-and-off the track, Zach personifies the values that we hold true as a company: hard work, perseverance

and making the most of your skills. Like him, we believe in our duty to empower people to chase their dreams and to support the communities in most need of empowerment through education and sports."

The 22-year-old American driver made his Verizon IndyCar Series debut on April 23, 2017, at Barber Motorsport Park and his Indy 500 debut at last year's 101st Running which Mr. Towriss helped sponsor.

"A new cycle is beginning for me. To be back driving with Andretti in the 2018 Verizon IndyCar Series is a dream come true, and I'm so excited to share this dream with Group One Thousand One," Veach added. "I want to thank Dan Towriss, Group One Thousand One, Michael Andretti and the whole team at Andretti Autosport for this opportunity."

Veach is part of an all-American, four-car Verizon IndyCar Series field for Andretti, joining Ryan Hunter-Reay (No. 28 DHL Honda), Alexander Rossi (No. 27 NAPA AUTO PARTS Honda) and Marco Andretti (No. 98 Andretti Herta Autosport Honda). The 2018 season goes green on the streets of St. Petersburg, Florida, March 11.

## Lady Eagles snap 10-game skid with double-digit victory over East

BY JULIE BILLINGS  
NEWS WATCHMAN SPORTS EDITOR

As a young team working to get better each and every time they take the court, the Eastern Lady Eagles were rewarded for their efforts Monday evening.

Snapping a 10-game skid, the Lady Eagles picked up a 67-35 win over the visiting Sciotoville East Tartans.

Early in the game, Eastern's pressure defense resulted in plenty of scoring opportunities for the home team. Paige Carter started the first quarter scoring with a drive to the bucket. Eastern spread the ball around, as Olivia Hatfield, Andee Lester and Morgan Legg all followed with buckets to make the advantage 8-0. The Lady Tartans took a timeout, hoping to combat the pressure of the Lady Eagles, but Eastern continued to score. Carter, Lester, Legg and Hatfield all scored again, completing a 17-0 run by the three-minute mark.

East finally broke through on the foul line when Shayla Rosenagle hit the second of two freebies. Kelsey Setty added East's first bucket from the floor a minute later. Eastern completed the quarter with buckets from Lester and Hatfield, taking a 21-3 advantage into the second frame.

Eastern sophomore Shay Tomlison started the scoring in the second quarter. Legg followed with a pair of free throws before Carter scored eight of Eastern's next 10 points. The other basket during that stretch came from freshman Chloe Dixon. At that point, Eastern was ahead 35-9.

Eastern freshman Skylar White jumped into the scoring action next before Hatfield used a turnover to score another bucket. Then East rallied for three points before Eastern closed the half on a 5-0 run. First, Tomlison added two more buckets. Then Tiffany Burkitt got to the line and hit the first of two freebies



JULIE BILLINGS/NEWS WATCHMAN  
**Drawing defenders in the post, Eastern sophomore Shay Tomlison fires the ball out to an open teammate for an assist during the first half of Monday night's game. Tomlison scored six points in the win.**

For more information, or to schedule a tour of Bristol Village, please contact a Retirement Counselor at 1-866-414-0832.



### Bristol Village Introduces 24 Month Age Qualifie Lease

Bristol Village, located in Waverly, Ohio, is now offering a 24 month lease for those 55 and older, on select homes. A variety of amenities and activities are included and allow you to live an active, independent, maintenance-free lifestyle. From the Activity Center to dozens of clubs and groups, you'll always find something interesting to do at Bristol Village.

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SEE LADY EAGLES ON PAGE A9

## Lady Indians win third game in a row, downing Green

BY JULIE BILLINGS  
NEWS WATCHMAN SPORTS EDITOR

Winning their third basketball game in a row, the Western Lady Indians cruised to a 50-29 victory over the visiting Green Lady Bobcats Thursday evening.

Despite having several players out of the lineup due to injuries, the Lady Indians didn't allow their offense to let up, using contributions from other players to get the job done.

Western started with 15 points in the opening quarter with junior Sierra Bowles providing seven of those points. Brooklyn Tackett

and Sylvia Evans added three points each, while Mea Henderson provided a bucket. At the end of the quarter, the Lady Indians had a 15-6 advantage.

The Indians increased their output to 17 in the second quarter with six different players providing the points. Evans led with four points. Tackett, Haley Whitt and Taylor Horner added three points, while Henderson and Bowles each had a basket. Western's defense limited Green to six again. That allowed the Lady Indians to increase their lead to 32-12 at the half.

Coming out of the break, each team scored nine points in the third quarter. For



Sierra Bowles

Western, Tackett provided four points, Evans added three points and Bowles provided an additional bucket. Going into the final quarter, Western led 41-21.

SEE LADY INDIANS ON PAGE A9

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## MEIGS BRIEFS

Editor's Note: Meigs Briefs will only list event information that is open to the public and will be printed on a space-available basis.

## Painting class at community center

SYRACUSE — Michele Musser's painting class will resume at Syracuse Community Center on Jan. 30 at 6:30 p.m. The first project is a "welcome" sign. Bring masking tape, paints, an unfinished board with one of the following dimensions of your choosing: 30" long X 6" wide, 36" long X 8" wide, or 14" long X 6" wide. Call 740-992-2365 for further information.

## Fish fry set at fire station Jan. 27

MIDDLEPORT — Fish fry set for 11 a.m. at Middleport Fire Department on Saturday, Jan. 27 at the fire station.

## Financial report ready for review

OLIVE Twp. — The Olive Town-

ship Annual Financial Report for 2017 is complete and can be viewed by appointment only by contacting clerk Kaleen Hayman at 740-667-6859. The Olive Township Trustees held their organizational meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 23 at 6 p.m. at the township garage on Joppa Road.

## Free community dinner today

MIDDLEPORT — The monthly Free Community Dinner given by the Middleport Church of Christ will be held today at 5 p.m. This month they are serving beef vegetable soup, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and dessert. The public is invited.

## Immunization Clinic Tuesday

POMEROY — The Meigs County Health Department will conduct an Immunization Clinic on Tuesday from 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. at 112 E. Memorial Drive in Pomeroy. Please bring child(ren)'s

shot records. Children must be accompanied by a parent/legal guardian. A \$15 donation is appreciated for immunization administration; however, no one will be denied services because of an inability to pay an administration fee for state-funded childhood vaccines. Please bring medical cards and/or commercial insurance cards, if applicable. Zostavax (shingles); pneumonia and influenza vaccines are also available. Call for eligibility determination and availability or visit our website at [www.meigs-health.com](http://www.meigs-health.com) to see a list of accepted commercial insurances and Medicaid for adults.

## RACO winter yard sale set Feb 8-9

RACINE — The RACO indoor winter yard sale is set for Feb. 8-9 at the Racine American Legion from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. There will be no clothing, just other miscellaneous and furniture-appliance items. Money goes into the fund for Southern High School Scholarships. The Legion will be serving food for purchase during the event.

## OBITUARIES

## HOWARD C. ROBINSON

RACINE — Howard C. Robinson, 87, Racine, passed away at 7:10 a.m., Tuesday, January 23, 2018 in Overbrook Rehabilitation Center in Middleport.

Born November 19, 1930 in the Apple Grove community of Meigs County, he was the son of the late Earl and Bertha Stover Robinson. Howard was a retired plant manager from Martin-Marietta Corporation with over 35 years of service. He was a member of the Racine United Methodist Church where he served as a long-time church trustee. He founded God's Hands, a program to construct handicap ramps to those with physical barriers. Howard was a Master Mason of Shade River Lodge #453 of Free & Accepted Masons of Ohio and a Scottish Rite 32nd Degree Master Mason of the Valley of Columbus. Howard loved to travel to Blue Grass music festivals and enjoyed fishing and hunting.

Howard is survived by his wife, Mary Darst Robinson, two sons, Carl (Carolyn) Robinson, of Racine and Bryan (Annie) Robinson, of Ridgefield, Connecticut, a granddaughter, Nikki (Jeremy) Northup, of Racine, two grandsons, B. J. (Jennifer) Robinson, of Ridgefield, CT and Mark Robinson, Ridgefield, CT, two great-grandchildren, step-son, John (Jenny) Sigman, of Addison and step grandsons, Randy (Melissa) Sigman, of Cheshire and John (Mandy) Sigman Jr., of Addison, five step-great grandchildren and several nieces, nephews and cousins. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Raymond Robinson, sisters, Clara Mae Sargent and Mabel Shields and brothers, Bill Robinson, Ted Robinson and Raymond Robinson.

Funeral services will be at noon, Saturday, January 27, 2018 in the Racine United Methodist Church. Officiating will be Pastors Larry Fisher and Jim Satterfield. Private interment will be in the Letart Falls Cemetery. Friends may call from 6 - 8 p.m. Friday at the church. Masonic funeral services will be conducted by Shade River Lodge #453, F. & A.M. at 8 P.M. Friday evening at the church.

Funeral services are entrusted to the Cremeens-King Funeral Home, Racine. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to the family by visiting [www.cremeensfuneralhomes.com](http://www.cremeensfuneralhomes.com).

## ANN FELTY

SYRACUSE — Ann Felty, 72, Syracuse, passed away at 3:10 p.m., Wednesday, January 24, 2018 in the Holzer Medical Center, Gallipolis.

Born June 3, 1945 in the Antiquity community of Meigs County, she was the daughter of the late Oris and Leona Mae Sayre Hubbard. She was a homemaker, a member of the Racine United Methodist Church and was a volunteer at the Syracuse Community Center.

She married Robert "Bob" Felty on March 27, 1976 in Syracuse and he survives as well as two daughters, Kimberly (Jerry) Johnson, of Waverly, West Virginia and Shawnee Hansen, of Marietta, Ohio, granddaughters, Krystie (Justin) Storts, Jessica Johnson, and Natalie Marler, grandsons, Jason Greene and Nick Johnson, great-granddaughter, Brianna Greene, great-grandsons Jase Johnson, Jessie Greene and Jayden Johnson, sister, Linda Hubbard Vanlangen,

## POLCYN

GALLIPOLIS — Chester Michael (Mike) Polcyn, 76, known to so many in Gallia County and surrounding areas as Santa, died Wednesday January 24, 2018.

Services, provided by Willis Funeral Home, will begin as the family receives visitors on Sunday from 2-5 p.m., and one hour prior to the 1 p.m., Monday service. His final resting place will be at Ohio Valley Memory Gardens, Gallipolis. Military rites will be given by the Gallia Funeral Military Detail.

## SAMPSON

REEDSVILLE — Tina M. Sampson, 54, Reedsville, died Thursday, January 25, 2018 at her home. Funeral arrangements will be announced by the Cremeens-King Funeral Home, Racine.

## MEIGS CHURCH CALENDAR

## Sunday, Feb. 4

POMEROY — Grace Gospel Church, 196 Mulberry Avenue, first service Sunday, 10 a.m., Sunday school; 11 a.m., Sunday service; 6 p.m., Sunday evening service. Singing group New Beginnings to perform. Pastor is Thomas Wilson.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Friday, Jan. 26, the 26th day of 2018. There are 339 days left in the year.

## Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 26, 1788, the first European settlers in Australia, led by Capt. Arthur Phillip, landed in present-day Sydney.

## On this date:

In 1531, a major earth-

quake struck Lisbon in the Kingdom of Portugal, followed by a tsunami and several strong aftershocks; an estimated 30,000 people died.

In 1784, in a letter to his daughter Sarah, Benjamin Franklin expressed unhappiness over the choice of the bald eagle as the symbol of America, and stated his own preference: the turkey.

In 1837, Michigan became the 26th state.

In 1870, Virginia rejoined the Union.

In 1915, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Rocky Mountain National Park Act, which created America's 10th national park.

In 1942, the first American Expeditionary Force to head to Europe during World War II arrived in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

In 1950, India officially proclaimed itself a republic as Rajendra Prasad took the oath of office as president.

In 1962, the United States launched Ranger 3 to land scientific instruments on the moon — but the probe ended up missing its target by more than 22,000 miles.

In 1979, former Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller died in New York at age 70.

In 1988, Australians celebrated the 200th anniversary of their country as a grand parade of tall ships re-enacted the voyage of the first European settlers. The Andrew Lloyd Webber musical "Phantom of the Opera" opened at Broadway's Majestic Theater.

In 1993, Vaclav Havel was elected president of the newly formed Czech Republic.

## THOUGHT FOR TODAY

"As long as men are free to ask what they must, free to say what they think, free to think what they will, freedom can never be lost, and science can never regress."

— J. Robert Oppenheimer, American physicist (1904-1967).

In 1998, President Bill Clinton forcefully denied having an affair with a former White House intern, telling reporters, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky."

## Ten years ago:

Barack Obama routed Hillary Rodham Clinton in the South Carolina Democratic primary. Maria Sharapova won the Australian Open, beating Ana Ivanovic 7-5, 6-3 for her third Grand Slam singles title. Mirai Nagasu, at 14, became the second-youngest female (after Tara Lipinski) to win the ladies' title at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships held in St. Paul, Minnesota. Christian Brando, the troubled eldest son of the late actor Marlon Brando, died in Los Angeles at age 49. Radical PLO leader George Habash died in Amman, Jordan, at age 81.

## Five years ago:

Thousands of people, many holding signs with names of gun violence victims, joined a rally in Washington, D.C. for gun control. Victoria Azarenka won her second consecutive Australian Open title, beating Li Na 4-6, 6-4, 6-3. Ashley Wagner became the first woman since Michelle Kwan in 2005 to win back-to-back titles in the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, holding off up-and-comer Gracie Gold in Omaha, Nebraska.

## One year ago:

Tensions flared between President Donald Trump and Mexico, with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto scrapping a planned visit to Washington and the White House threatening a 20 percent tax on imports to pay for Trump's proposed wall along the southern border. Actor Mike Connors, 91, who starred as TV's hard-hitting private eye "Mannix," died in Los Angeles. Actress Barbara Hale, 94, who played steadfast secretary Della Street on "Perry Mason," died at her home in Sherman Oaks, California.

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The public hearing is scheduled for the purpose of providing an opportunity for interested members of the public to testify in this proceeding. The hearing will be held on Monday, February 12, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., at Ohio History Center, 800 East 17th Avenue, Cardinal Classroom, Columbus, Ohio 43211-2497.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793, viewing the Commission's web page at <http://www.puco.ohio.gov>, or contacting the Commission's hotline at 1-800-686-7826.

# Governor names Republican to state Supreme Court

By Andrew Welsh-Huggins  
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Gov. John Kasich on Thursday named a fellow Republican to fill an open seat on the Ohio Supreme Court in a move spurred by a crowded governor's race.

Judge Mary DeGenaro sits on the 7th Ohio District Court of Appeals in Youngstown, where she has twice been that court's presiding judge. DeGenaro, of Poland in suburban Youngstown, also has temporarily sat on the Ohio Supreme Court when justices have excused themselves from cases.

DeGenaro, 56, fills the seat to be left vacant Friday by retiring Justice

William O'Neill, a Democrat running for governor. He faces four other candidates in the May primary.

DeGenaro's selection means the seven-person court is now completely Republican, and once again has a majority of female justices with four.

Kasich said he asked DeGenaro if she looks at the law as a Republican or Democrat. She told him political considerations don't matter, according to the governor, who praised her response because of how divided the country is.

"We need to find people who can look at the law, understand the constitution, make an interpretation on the bench that is not going to be viewed as a partisan determina-

tion," Kasich said.

DeGenaro said she's humbled by the opportunity.

"I will do my part to ensure the public continues to have confidence in their Supreme Court, where the rule of law and the protection of our precious constitutional rights are the guiding principles," she said.

DeGenaro is a graduate of Cleveland State's Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and a former private practice attorney. She was elected to the appeals court in 2000.

She also is a beekeeper, the governor said.

"If anybody were to question her, she knows what it's like to be stung," Kasich said. "I would warn any of those that



Judge Mary DeGenaro accepts her appointment as an Ohio Supreme Court justice accompanied by Gov. John Kasich, who announced the selection Thursday in Columbus. DeGenaro, a Republican, is replacing Democratic Justice William O'Neill, who has said he's stepping down today to run for governor.

Andrew Welsh-Huggins | AP

attempt to put pressure on her, that it won't work."

# 17 universities oppose anti-smoking group

By Collin Binkley  
Associated Press

BOSTON — Seventeen public health schools in the U.S. and Canada pledged Thursday to refuse research money from a new anti-smoking group funded by the tobacco industry.

The Foundation for a Smoke-Free World was created in September with nearly \$1 billion from the Philip Morris tobacco company, saying it aims to end smoking worldwide and support research to meet that goal.

But deans of public health schools at Harvard,

Johns Hopkins and other universities said the group is too closely tied to an industry that sells deadly products to millions.

"The idea of taking money that's from the tobacco industry is just antithetical to everything we do," said Karen Emmons, dean for academic affairs at Harvard's public health school.

"Philip Morris in particular has focused very hard to undermine the strategies that we know will reduce smoking rates."

Derek Yach, president of the foundation, said it's "disappointing, and a loss for smokers" that the

deans won't work with the group.

"We share the same goals: To improve public health and urgently advocate for more funding and better science to help millions of smokers reduce their risk of death and disease," Yach said.

He added that Philip Morris has "absolutely no involvement, influence or control" over the foundation, and urged the deans to reconsider.

Officials at Philip Morris, the makers of Marlboro and other cigarette brands, declined to comment for this story.

The foundation has yet

to issue research grants but said it has received draft proposals and will make funding decisions after a series of meetings scheduled to be held in February.

A statement signed by the 17 deans and first released to The Associated Press says that if Philip Morris wants to end smoking, it should stop selling and advertising cigarettes.

"Further, both the tobacco industry and Philip Morris International have a long history of funding 'research' in ways meant to purposely confuse the public and

advance their own interests," the statement says.

Others signing the pledge include leaders of public health schools at Florida International University, the University of Minnesota, Ohio State University, Tulane University and the University of Alberta in Canada.

The foundation said it will pay for research that helps smokers quit, helps tobacco farmers find other livelihoods and develops "reduced-risk" alternatives to traditional cigarettes.

But some critics fear the foundation will try to produce research promoting

some of those alternatives, including a new electronic device called the iQOS (pronounced EYE'-kose) that Philip Morris hopes to market in the U.S.

"This strategy fits into their business model," said Emmons, at Harvard. "But right now we don't really know if these alternatives are safer. There just isn't the evidence base."

After the foundation was announced Sept. 13, it quickly drew scorn from the World Health Organization, which says it won't work with the group and accused it of having "a number of clear conflicts of interest."

## Davis

From page 1A

elected officials and department heads helping to make this happen. With the MCO Tax elimination, we will need to watch our budget very closely. We have made preparations and plans are in place. While we wish we could fund every great idea that crosses our desks, we simply cannot due to funding limitations," Davis said.

"At the Scioto County Fairgrounds, the commissioners helped fund the construction of a much needed Poultry & Rabbit Barn for 4-H. The old barn was beyond its life cycle. This project was funded out of the 2016 carryover preventing bank interest payments. This is a great example of what can be done when a county is fiscally healthy. The Earl Thomas Conley Riverside Park saw the opening of the brand new Doug Coleman Memorial Splash Pad. An additional multipurpose/restroom facility was built to provide facilities in that part of the nearly 200 acre park. In just three months, the splash pad saw over 6000 visitors from our area and broader region. This expansion project provides much needed recreational opportunities for our citizens. Many say the children are our future. We think they are our NOW. More improvements are planned and 2018 is shaping up to be amazing!"

The Commissioners worked with Scioto County Engineer Darren LeBrun to provide matching funds for road resurfacing in several townships. Over 52 roads were resurfaced as a result. The cooperation between the commissioners and

the engineer's office is making a difference.

The Commissioner's office administered several CDBG (Community Development Block Grants) projects.

"New Boston Millbrook Park, Rush Township Tatman-Coe Road Paving, Morgan Townships June and Worstell Streets improvements, and the Shawnee State Golden Bears all received funding," said Davis.

"The Scioto County Land Reutilization Corporation (Land Bank) went to work and acquired and demolished 45 houses, spending over \$850,000 with multiple local contractors reducing blight and improving land values," Davis said. "More houses will come down in 2018 putting properties back on the tax rolls, improving the look of our neighborhoods, and creating possible economic development opportunities. This project is a result of a successful application for NIP funds of \$2.75 million dollars."

The Commissioners are responsible for maintaining the courthouse and annex buildings. Several courthouse renovations occurred in 2017. The second floor jury room was built and additional security cameras installed throughout the courthouse increasing security. The first floor bathrooms received their first renovation in decades. New handicap accessibility and fixtures really spruced up the facilities. If you've never been in the courthouse, come and see. It's the pride of Scioto County!

The Commissioners office led the charge with the City of Portsmouth on a successful application for CHIP (Community Housing Impact and Preservation) monies. \$750,000 was awarded

for 2018. These funds are awarded to qualified individuals who apply for much needed help to replace roofs, wheelchair ramps, windows, etc.

The commissioners funded the remodel of a building at the Greater Portsmouth Regional Airport. The FBO Portsmouth Aviation is planning to locate a new flight simulator at the Greater Portsmouth Regional Airport increasing aviation traffic into the airport seeking these services.

The Commissioners funded the remodel of the airport conference room providing an updated conference room for visitors and local businesses to use. Keep an eye on the airport, good things are coming.

The Sanitary Engineer's office completed a new sewer line extension to the airport terminal building. The above projects are all part of a comprehensive plan to develop the properties around the airport in anticipation of the opening of the Veterans Memorial Highway in the Fourth Quarter of 2018. This will set the stage for the creation of much needed jobs.

"The Scioto County Commissioners assisted in paying for a much needed cruiser fleet replacement at the Scioto County Sheriff's Department. The prior fleet was getting a lot of age on it due to the many years funding was unavailable. This funding in addition to NexGen911 and new phone funding in 2016 has greatly upgraded our law enforcement," Davis said.

Davis wishes to continue making positive changes as a Scioto County Commissioner and plans to work hard in his efforts to seek re-election.

Reach: Ivy Potter (740) 353-3101  
Extension 1932

## Kentucky shooting suspect ordered held in juvenile court

BENTON, Ky. (AP) — The 15-year-old accused in a school shooting that killed two students and left 18 others bleeding and broken appeared Thursday before a juvenile court judge who found probable cause to detain him on preliminary charges of murder and assault.

Assistant Marshall County Attorney Jason Darnall said he can't comment on what hap-

pens inside juvenile court, where the teenager's identity and details of the crime remain cloaked in secrecy. But he reiterated that the state wants to try the teenager as an adult.

Meanwhile, authorities are gathering evidence for a grand jury, hoping to discover why he fired into a crowd of his classmates, all 14 to 18 years old, as they waited for the morning bell inside

Marshall County High School on Tuesday.

The county's elementary and middle schools reopened Thursday in an effort to "get back to normalcy," after Superintendent Trent Lovett invited parents to come with their younger children.

But the high school — still a crime scene — remained closed and Lovett had no word on when classes there might resume.

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## Municipal Court

### Criminal/Jan. 9

Jessy D. Layton, 33, Belmore, pleaded guilty to an amended charge of persistent disorderly conduct, sentenced to 30 days jail, 26 days suspended, fined \$250, with no contact with victim for one year.

### Criminal/Jan. 18

Benjamin R. Ramirez, 19, Columbus Grove, pleaded guilty to two counts criminal damaging, sentenced to 30 days jail each count, suspended, fined \$100 each count and \$2,304.95 restitution. He was also fined \$50 for criminal trespassing. Charges of criminal trespassing and two counts criminal damaging were dismissed.

### Traffic/ an. 18

Kathleen A. Sterling, 49, found guilty of driving under FRA non-compliance and was fined \$100

### Civil/Jan. 18

Benjamin P. Kill, Delphos, to pay judgment of \$4,267.87, plus costs to Capital One Bank, Richmond, Va.

### Traffic/ an. 22

Shianne M. Saunders, 24, Sidney, pleaded guilty to possession of a traffic control device, sentenced to 60 days jail, suspended, fined \$250 and perform 40 hours community service.

Mark D. Lammers, 54, Leipsic, pleaded guilty to an amended charge of persistent disorderly conduct, sentenced to 30 days in jail, suspended, fined \$250, \$100 suspended and no contact with victim for six months.

### Civil/Jan. 22

Terry L. Michel, Ottawa, to pay judgment of \$600 plus interest and costs to Blanchard Valley Health, Findlay, Bluffton Hospital, Findlay, and Blanchard Valley Med Practices, Findlay.

Chaparral, Inc., Toledo, default judgment v. Brandi Clay, Ottawa, \$6,000, plus interest and costs.

### Traffic/ an. 23

Norfolk Southern Corp., Norfolk, Va., was fined \$150 for obstructing road/railroad

### Traffic/ an. 25

Dylan J. Holton, 27, Cloverdale, pleaded guilty to second-offense OVI, sentenced to 180 days jail, 90 days jail, fined \$750, \$225 suspended, three-year license suspension, six points.

Tina M. Breisinger, 57, Continental, pleaded guilty to OVI, sentenced to 180 days jail, 177 days jail, fined \$750, one-year

license suspension, six points, with credit for three days jail upon completion of DIP.

### Waivers

Connie Elliott, 53, Lima, driving under suspension license forfeiture, \$150 fine

William Paholak III, 64, Defiance, speeding, \$50 fine

Crystal Bartley, 30, Fort Jennings, speeding, \$60 fine

Robert Carrillo, 35, Ottawa, seat belt driver, \$30 fine

Casey Walker, 36, Defiance, speeding, \$60 fine

Rosa Asencio, 29, Ottawa, driving without a valid license, \$150 fine

Benjamin Ridinger, 26, Holgate, speeding, \$50 fine

Rene Quinonez, 30, Ottawa, driving without a valid license, \$150 fine

Breana Kosch, 23, Ottawa, failure to control, \$60 fine

Kevin Neuenschwander, 32, Elida, speeding, \$100 fine; driving with expired license, \$60 fine

Erica Louth, 28, Ottoville, failure to control, \$60 fine

Samantha Bartoe, 45, Van Wert, speeding, \$60 fine

Brian Fuerst, 45, Ottawa, speeding, \$60 fine

Davey Wilson, 67, Elida, speeding, \$60 fine

Nathan Buehrer, 22, Montpelier, speeding, \$60 fine

Bailey Dunifon, 18, Elida, assured clear distance ahead, \$50 fine

Trevor West, 20, Alma, Michigan, speeding, \$60 fine

John Kilroy, Mainville, speeding, \$50 fine

Brad Bendele, 40, Oakwood, speeding, \$60 fine

Dustin Maag, 27, Glandorf, expired registration/plates, \$50 fine

Walter Fischer, 70, Delphos, speeding, \$100 fine

Timothy Recker, 59, Ottawa, speeding, \$60 fine

Jordan Joseph, 23, Ada, speeding, \$50 fine

Pamela Everett, 63, Cairo, speeding, \$50 fine

Tina Duffman, 42, Findlay, passing at intersection, \$50 fine

## Sheriff's Log

### Accidents

On Jan. 23 at 9:05 a.m., Dennis Little, 56, Defiance, was traveling south of State Route 115, Union Township, when he rear-ended a vehicle driven by Martin Langhals, 53, Lima, when he stopped to make a left turn into the driveway of a residence.

On Jan. 23 at 4:39 p.m., John Deiger, 66, Brookfield, was stopped at the intersection of Old U.S. 224 and Road 5, Blanchard Township, then pulled into the path of Dale Maag, 48, Blanchard Township, who was traveling east on Old U.S. 224.

On Jan. 24 at 5:41 p.m., Melissa Bendele, 44, Cloverdale, was west bound on Road L, Greensburg Township, when she lost control of her vehicle on the ice, slid sideways and struck a telephone pole on the south side of the roadway.

### Incidents

A domestic dispute was reported on Jan. 23 in the 200 block of North Street, Columbus Grove.

A sex related crime was reported on Jan. 23 in the 5000 block of Road H, Blanchard Township.

A domestic dispute was reported on Jan. 23 in the 13000 block of Road 22-K,

Cloverdale.

Theft was reported on Jan. 25 at 18340 State Route 189, Sugar Creek Township.

Solicitation was reported on Jan. 25 at 22530 Road N, Cloverdale.

An unruly juvenile was reported on Jan. 26 in the 300 block of Main Street, Belmore.

An unruly juvenile was reported on Jan. 26 in the 400 block of North Jefferson Street, Pandora.

A drug related incident was reported on Jan. 27 at the intersection of State Route 15 and Road 15-C, Ottawa.

## Weekly fuel update and outlook

OHIO — Average retail gasoline prices in Ohio have risen 3.0 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.44/g yesterday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 5,345 gas outlets in Ohio. This compares with the national average that has increased 3.0 cents per gallon in the last week to \$2.57/g, according to gasoline price website GasBuddy.com.

Including the change in gas prices in Ohio during the past week, prices yesterday were 43.4 cents per gallon higher than the same day one year ago and are 5.8 cents per gallon lower than a month ago. The national average has increased 8.8 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 30.7 cents per gallon higher than this day one year ago.

According to GasBuddy historical data, gasoline prices on January 29 in Ohio have ranged widely over the last five years:

\$2.01/g in 2017, \$1.68/g in 2016, \$2.08/g in 2015, \$3.22/g in 2014 and \$3.36/g in 2013.

Areas near Ohio and their current gas price climate:

Akron- \$2.29/g, down 6.0 cents per gallon

from last week's \$2.35/g.

Dayton- \$2.45/g, up 12.5 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.32/g.

Columbus- \$2.43/g, up 16.4 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.27/g.

"With oil maintaining strength, gasoline prices have continued to climb in many places, rising to their highest level since Hurricane Harvey dealt a blow to Texas and a significant portion of U.S. refining capacity," said Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "This time around, oil prices have been the culprit for gasoline prices rising to their highest level in over 130 days, and with U.S. crude oil inventories plummeting for 10 straight weeks, I see diminishing chances of the traditional winter relief that accompanies the year's coldest months. Without gas prices falling, the current price environment may be the floor for what could become a more expensive year than anticipated, barring any change to OPEC policy that has led to today's climate of lower supply and higher prices."

For LIVE fuel price averages, visit <http://FuelInsights.GasBuddy.com>.

## OAFP seeks nominations

OHIO — The Ohio Academy of Family Physicians (OAFP) is now accepting nominations for the 2018 Family Physician of the Year Award. This award recognizes a family physician who has exhibited extraordinary, beyond-the-call-of-duty merit, articulating and encouraging members and students to pursue the ideals of family medicine, and convey these ideals to the public.

"Family physicians are committed to the overall health of all Ohioans," said Donald Mack, MD, president of the OAFP. "By recognizing our members for their contribution to their communities and years of service, we hope to inspire the next generation of leaders to consider family medicine."

With nearly 3,600 family physicians providing health

care across the state, Ohio is one of the largest, most active chapters of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). Nearly 80 percent of all family physicians in Ohio are members of the OAFP.

To be nominated for this award, the family physician must:

- have 10 years' post-residency (or equivalent) experience
  - Be a member of the OAFP
  - Currently be in practice
- Nominations can be made by any current OAFP member, a local constituent chapter, a family medicine residency program, departments of family medicine, or a community individual. To nominate your physician, complete the nomination form online at [www.alareg.com/\\_2018familyphysicianoftheyear](http://www.alareg.com/_2018familyphysicianoftheyear) or send a let-

ter of recommendation to:

OAFP Awards Workgroup  
Ohio Academy of Family Physicians  
4075 N. High St.  
Columbus, OH 43214  
Fax: 614.267.9191

Email: [mpelt@ohioafp.org](mailto:mpelt@ohioafp.org)  
To check if a physician is a member of the OAFP, call (800) 742-7327 or e-mail [mail@ohioafp.org](mailto:mail@ohioafp.org).

The 2018 Family Physician of the Year will be recognized on Saturday, August 18, during OAFP's Academy Awards Dinner, which is part of the annual Family Medicine Celebration held at The Grand Event Center in Columbus, Ohio.

For more information about the award and to view the 2017 Family Physician of the Year award winner's video visit: [www.ohioafp.org/members/awards](http://www.ohioafp.org/members/awards).

## Common Pleas

### Jan. 19

Cathy R. Sanchez, Continental, was granted a divorce from Felix Sanchez, Jr., Leipsic. They were married Jan. 26, 1979 in Leipsic and have no minor children.

### Jan. 22

Nicholas A. Okuley, 24, Continental, was ordered to complete the WORTH Center program for violating the terms of supervision. The violations include operating a motor vehicle Sept. 9 and Nov. 30, without a valid operator's license. He was placed on five years community control and his license was suspended for six months. He must obtain a valid operator's license and must pay \$65 in restitution to the MAN unit.

Nathan Closson, 44, Wheat Ridge, Colo., pleaded guilty to aggravated assault. He faces up to 18 months in prison and \$5,000 in fines. Bond was continued while a pre-sentence investigation is conducted with sentencing set for 10 a.m. March 2.

### Jan. 23

Jacquelyn N. Hiegel, 35,

Pandora, was sentenced to 90 days jail for violating the terms of supervision. She was placed on five years community control, must complete all counseling and treatment and must obtain and maintain employment. She was originally convicted of possession of drugs (heroin).

Raymond C. Rainer, 34, Wellston, was sentenced to 12 months in prison for breaking and entering and 18 months for theft. The sentence was ordered to be served concurrent and he was given credit for 142 days served. He must pay \$810 restitution.

### Jan. 25

Brian Ruhlen, Columbus Grove, was granted a divorce from Ashley Ruhlen, Defiance. They were married June 15, 2013 in Columbus Grove, and have three children.

### New Cases

Putnam County Health Department, Ottawa, v. Vickie Hernandez, Belmore; complaint for abatement of nuisance and/or refuse and

debris on property.

Cassie L. Taber, Pandora, v. Jared M. Taber, Pandora; divorce with children.

Quicken Loans, Inc., Detroit, v. Jason Tenwalde, Allons, Tenn., and Elizabeth Tenwalde, Allons, Tenn.; foreclosure (\$64,570.39).

Huntington National Bank, Columbus, v. Michael A. Hohenbrink, West Union, Iowa, and Nichol S. Hohenbrink, West Union, Iowa; foreclosure (\$85,483.08).

Tamara Frey, Ottawa, v. Daren L. Williams Jr., Akron; personal injury (excess of \$25,000).

Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance, Inc., Maryville, Tenn., v. Nathan D. Aguirre, Columbus Grove, Heather L. Aguirre, Columbus Grove and Dianna C. Bailey, Columbus Grove; other civil.

Shawn B. Recker, Continental, and Brenda Recker, Continental, v. Howard H. Weller, Continental, and Lois M. Weller, Continental; personal injury.

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# Columbiana Legion's chili cook-off moved

By **KATIE WHITE**

Staff Writer

COLUMBIANA — A chili cook-off that raises money for veterans causes each year has outgrown its original location. Sam Yarian of the American Legion Riders said the cook-off for this Sunday has been moved to The Vineyards at Pine Lake because the Benjamin Firestone American Legion Post 290 building isn't big enough for the crowd this year.

The chili cook-off got its start nine years ago in the city, with money raised going back to the local Legion and other veteran organizations.

This year, money raised will benefit the Blue Star Mothers Chapter 2 of Canton and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) chapter 122 of Salem.

Yarian said a portion of the money will again go back to the local Legion as well.

The Blue Star Mothers is a support group for mothers of active duty military and this is the fourth year the group will sell baked goods at the event, with this year being more of an outreach to moms of active duty military and veterans in both Columbiana and Mahoning counties, according to a press release announcing the venue change.

The Blue Star Mothers raise funds throughout the year to support other veteran groups, including the Patriot Project, which gives any veteran since 9/11 free chiropractic services.

The mothers group also supports Reach Across America, which provides flags for veterans graves on Memorial Day across the nation.

The Legion Riders said that Blue Star Mothers was chartered by Congress 76 years ago as a 501c3 organization and has more than 13,500 members nationwide. All donations received through the organization goes back to veterans.

More information about the Canton organization can be found online at [bluestarmothers.net](http://bluestarmothers.net) or by calling 330-312-3655. The national website can be accessed at [www.bluestarmothers.org](http://www.bluestarmothers.org).

Yarian said the cook-off has already generated enough funds to provide both Blue Star Mothers and the DAV with \$1,000 checks each.

The cook-off has provided funding to the DAV in the past, but this year's donation will be the largest yet, he added.

The cook-off will be held from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday at The Vineyards banquet center located at 14101 state Route 7, Columbiana.

This year's chili is provided by 12 different contestants, who will compete for first place title and trophies and cash prizes for first, second and third place winners.

Tickets are \$8 on presale at Dynamic Auto Body and \$10 at the door.

In addition to ticket sales, money is also raised through a 50/50 drawing, silent auction and gun raffle.

Live musical entertainment will be provided by Kim VanKleek and a cash bar will also be available, Yarian said.

"It's a good time. It's not just for Legion members but everyone in the community," he added.

For more information on the chili cook-off, call Yarian at 330-853-0981.

[kwhite@mojonews.com](mailto:kwhite@mojonews.com)

## ACROSS OUR COMMUNITIES

### Free bladder health screening offered Feb. 22

SALEM—Comprehensive Urology Institute, the office of Michael J. Scollieri MD, is hosting a free bladder health screening from noon to 4 p.m. Feb. 22 at its new office location, 2364 Southeast Blvd. No appointment necessary.

### Columbiana Library plans winter Toddlertime, Storytime

COLUMBIANA—The Columbiana Public Library is now registering for the winter sessions of Toddlertime and Storytime. Toddlertime is a lapsit program and will be held from 10 to 10:30 or 11 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday mornings for toddler's age 18 to 36 months and their caregivers. Storytime will be held from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Wednesdays or 1 to 1:45 p.m. Thursdays for kids age 3 to 5. The free sessions run Feb. 7 through April 26 and include age appropriate stories, finger plays and crafts. Pre-registration is required. For information or to register call the library at 330-482-5509 or stop in at 332 N. Middle St.

### 25th anniversary Dulci-More concert planned

SALEM—The 25th Anniversary Concert of Dulci-More: Folk & Traditional Musicians is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Sunday in the sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church of Salem, 244 S. Broadway Ave.

The theme for this 25th anniversary concert will be Silver and Gold. Dulci-More members will sing and play songs and tunes connected to this theme. Many of the songs are great for group singing, and words will be provided to encourage audience participation. Individual Dulci-More members may sing and/or play mountain dulcimers, hammered dulcimers, guitars, autoharps, fiddles, mandolins, banjos, ukuleles, bass, harmonicas, recorders, jug, and more. About 10 people are planning to perform during the concert.

The event is free and no tickets or reservations are needed. Everyone is welcome to attend. Cookies and punch will be served during intermission. Church parking lots are to the north and south of the church. The handicapped entrance and elevator are from the parking lot south of the church. For information or directions, contact Bill Schilling at 234-564-3852 or [bill@dulcimore.org](mailto:bill@dulcimore.org) or visit at [www.dulcimore.org](http://www.dulcimore.org).

Since its founding in January of 1993, Dulci-More has met twice a month to enjoy playing and singing. The group averages about two performances a month for festivals, fairs, schools, churches, clubs, nursing homes and others. Its members come from Northeast Ohio and beyond. Dulci-More will also present Dulci-More Festival 24 over Memorial Day weekend at Boy Scout Camp McKinley in Lisbon with workshops on many instruments, singing, and other subjects at all levels and concerts by many of our favorite recording artists and nationally known and local performers.

## Death row inmates challenge solitary confinement

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Five death row inmates sued Pennsylvania prison officials on Thursday, challenging a policy that keeps the convicts isolated most of the time and calling the practice degrading and inhumane.

The federal lawsuit asks the court to end mandatory, indefinite solitary confinement for the 156 men on death row at Graterford and Greene state prisons. The lawsuit said death row inmates are locked up alone 22 to 24 hours each day, and their small cells are kept illuminated at all hours.

"The devastating effects of such prolonged isolation are well known among mental health experts, physicians and human rights experts in the United States and around the world," the lawsuit said. "It is established beyond dispute that solitary confinement puts prisoners at risk of substantial physical, mental and emotional harm."

The lawsuit seeks class-action status as well as a declaration that the solitary policy violates constitutional protection against cruel and unusual punishment and violates the guarantee of due process.

# Lisbon property owners warned of violations

By **TOM GIAMBRONI**

Staff Writer

LISBON — The village is beginning to crack down on some of the neglected homes in town that are beyond repair.

Mayor Joseph Morenz reported at this week's council meeting the village fire inspector sent a letter to the owner of 502 W. Washington St. declaring it in violation of the fire code, the first step in eventually getting the home repaired or demolished, if necessary.

The home was damaged by a fallen tree in June 2014 and it has not been repaired. Repeated attempts to contact the owner have been unsuccessful.

Morenz said three other properties have received similar notifications from the fire inspector: 215 W. Washington St., the home at the corner of West Pine Street and Thomas Road and the home on East Lincoln Way in front of the Lisbon Laundromat, which he would like to save because of its location near the downtown business district.

"I want them to be usable properties, one way or the other," he said.

Morenz will meet with village attorney Megan Bickerton to determine what is the next step in the process of getting the homes declared a nuisance so they can be repaired or razed.

"The process has started and it's time to bring the hammer down because we're not getting any reaction from them," Morenz said.

The Columbiana County land bank

program also recently approached the village about submitting a property for demolition, and Morenz said the property they chose is 264 W. Washington St. Several more village properties are to be submitted to the land bank for demolition in 2018.

During the meeting, fiscal officer Tracey Wonner admonished council for waiting until now to suggest what projects they would like undertaken this year. She told them a year ago to begin thinking about what projects they wanted to fund in 2018 and they would work on including them the 2018 budget.

"We can't do our budget like this," she said.

New Councilman Peter Wilson, who was elected in November, agreed they need to plan in advance for future projects, and that would also give them time to see state and federal grants to help fund those endeavors.

"If you do that, more power to you," Wonner told Wilson, "because I've been trying for 15 years."

In other action, council agreed to purchase six sets of firefighter turnout gear from Blue Line Ltd. at a cost of \$15,096. The cost is split between the village and Center and Elkrun townships, which contract with Lisbon for firefighter services.

Village Board of Public Affairs chairwoman Carol Petrachkoff reported they are under an Ohio Environmental Pro-

tection Agency mandate to perform and complete an "asset management" plan by October, which could cost them anywhere from \$10,000 to \$60,000.

An asset management plan, according to the OEPA, involves an inventory and evaluation of a community's water and sewer systems, with the information incorporated into a software program that monitors the inventory. The information is to help communities develop plans to maintain, repair and replace the "assets" and how to pay for the improvements.

Tuscarawas, a village of 1,055 people in Tuscarawas County, received a \$35,000 interest-free loan from the state to fund its asset management plan, with \$5,000 being forgiven. Petrachkoff said similar loans would be available to Lisbon.

At the beginning of meeting, Roger Gallo was re-elected council president, but faced opposition for the first time in years after council member Dawn Thomas was also nominated for the position. Gallo and Thomas abstained from the vote, leaving four council members to decide. Wilson and new council member Jerry Cox voted for Thomas, while Tom Darcy and Jeff Snyder voted for Gallo. Mayor Morenz broke the tie by voting for Gallo.

"Roger's been here a long time, so I guess we'll stick with Roger," Morenz said.

[tgiambroni@mojonews.com](mailto:tgiambroni@mojonews.com)

# Trump plan offers citizenship path to 1.8M immigrants

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House unveiled a proposal Thursday that provides a pathway to citizenship for 1.8 million young immigrants living in the country illegally, in exchange for new restrictions on legal immigration and \$25 billion in border security. The plan was applauded by some in Congress, but blasted by conservative activists as "amnesty" and slammed by a slew of Democrats, who accused President Donald Trump of holding "Dreamers" hostage to his hard-line immigration agenda.

Senior White House officials cast the plan as a centrist compromise that could win support from both parties and enough votes to pass the Senate. But it comes with a long list of concessions that many Democrats, and also conservative Republicans, especially in the House, may find impossible to swallow.

The plan would provide a pathway to citizenship for the roughly 690,000 younger immigrants protected from deportation by the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program — as well as hundreds of thousands of others who independent estimates say qualify for the program, but never applied.

Trump announced last year that he was doing away with the program, but gave Congress until March to come up with a legislative fix.

The plan would not allow parents of those immigrants to seek lawful status, the officials said.

In exchange, Trump's plan would dramatically overhaul the legal immigration system. Immigrants would only be allowed to sponsor their spouses and underage children to join them in the U.S., and not their parents, adult children or siblings. The officials said it would only end new applications for

visas, allowing those already in the pipeline to be processed. Still, immigration activists said the move could cut legal immigration in half.

It would also end a visa lottery aimed at diversity, which drew Trump's attention after the New York City truck attack last year, redirecting the allotment to bringing down the existing backlog in visa applications.

The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the plan before its release.

On Wednesday, Trump said he was open to a pathway to citizenship for the younger immigrants. "We're going to morph into it," Trump told reporters. "It's going to happen, at some point in the future, over a period of 10 to 12 years." It was a reversal for the president, who had previously said he opposed a pathway to citizenship for Dreamer immigrants.

Under the plan, recipients could have their legal status revoked due to criminal behavior or national security threats, the officials said, and eventual citizenship would require still-unspecified work and education requirements — and a finding that the immigrants are of "good moral character."

The nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute said it believes the largest share of the White House's 1.8 million people who'd be eligible for citizenship — 1.3 million — are people who currently meet all of DACA's eligibility requirements. These include years in the U.S., their ages now and when they entered this country, and whether they have a high school or equivalent education.

Another 400,000 are people who'd be eligible for DACA protection but for their education. And 100,000 more are people who are under age 15 — the minimum age allowed for most people

requesting protection under the program.

Trump ended the DACA program in September, setting a March 5 deadline for Congress to provide legal protections or the program's recipients would once again be subject to deportation. The officials said Trump would only sign legislation providing those protections if the other immigration changes he is proposing are implemented.

Trump earlier this month had deferred to a bipartisan, bicameral group of lawmakers to craft an immigration proposal, saying he would sign whatever they passed. But as talks on Capitol Hill broke down — in part because of controversy Trump ginned up using vulgar language to describe African countries — the White House decided to offer its own framework.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and others had also complained the president had failed to sufficiently lay out his priorities, leaving them guessing about what he might be willing to sign. One official said the Thursday release represents a plan for the Senate, with the administration expecting a different bill to pass the House.

McConnell thanked the president and his aides for providing the outline. "I am hopeful that as discussions continue in the Senate on the subject of immigration, Members on both sides of the aisle will look to this framework for guidance as they work towards an agreement," he said in a statement.

Doug Andres, a spokesman for House Speaker Paul Ryan, echoed the sentiment saying: "We're grateful for the president showing leadership on this issue and believe his ideas will help us ultimately reach a balanced solution."

## Oldest son of 13 captive children was star college student

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The oldest son of the California siblings who authorities say were tortured by their parents, chained to their beds and so malnourished their growth was stunted had excelled at his community college and had been named to the honor roll for two semesters, school officials said Thursday.

The son, who is in his 20s, attended Mt. San Jacinto College for several years. His mother would bring him to school and wait outside his classes for him, prosecutors said.

He did not earn a degree but was on the president's honor roll in fall 2015 and spring 2016, college spokeswoman Karin Marriott told The Associated Press.

A transcript obtained by ABC News showed he attended classes from 2014 until at least 2016 and sometimes earned 15 credits per semester. He earned A's in many classes, including algebra, guitar, public speaking, English fundamentals and freshman composition, according to the transcript.

He and his 12 siblings were rescued on Jan. 14 when their 17-year-old sister climbed out a window of their home about 60 miles southeast of Los Angeles and called 911.

## LEGAL NOTICE

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The public hearing is scheduled for the purpose of providing an opportunity for interested members of the public to testify in this proceeding. The hearing will be held on Monday, February 12, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., at Ohio History Center, 800 East 17th Avenue, Cardinal Classroom, Columbus, Ohio 43211-2497.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793, viewing the Commission's web page at <http://www.puco.ohio.gov>, or contacting the Commission's hotline at 1-800-686-7826.

# US mortgage rates rise for third straight week

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. mortgage rates rose this week for a third week in a row, lifted by investors' expectations for faster economic growth, which has pushed up borrowing costs.

Mortgage giant Freddie Mac said Thursday that the rate on 30-year, fixed-rate mortgages rose to 4.15 percent this week from 4.04 percent. That is the highest since March. The rate on 15-year fixed-rate mortgages, which is popular with homeowners who are refinancing, rose to 3.62 percent, also the third straight increase.

Signs of faster economic growth have also lifted concerns that inflation may quicken and the Federal Reserve will raise short-term interest rates more quickly to keep price increases in check. That has driven up the yield on the 10-year Treasury note. Mortgage rates track the yield on the 10-year.

The rate on five-year adjustable-rate mortgages climbed to 3.52 percent this week, after a flat reading of 3.46 percent last week.

To calculate average mortgage rates, Freddie Mac surveys lenders across the country between Monday and Wednesday each week. The average doesn't include extra fees, known as points, which most borrowers must pay to get the lowest rates.

The fee on 30-year mortgages slipped to 0.5 point from 0.6 point last week. The fee on 15-year mortgages was unchanged 0.5 percent. And the fee on five-year adjustable home loans moved up to 0.4 percent from 0.3 point.



Photo by Jane T KeHRes

Lynn Moritz explains Media Communications to the Talbott family during the PCTC open house on Thursday.

# US official urges Turkey to halt Syria campaign

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — The United States would prefer that Turkish troops "remove themselves" from a conflict in the Syrian border town of Afrin and focus on "long-term strategic goals" like ending Syria's war, President Donald Trump's homeland security adviser said Thursday.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos before Trump's arrival, Tom Bossert said Turkey "ought to be mindful of the potential for escalation as they move into Syria and Afrin."

The United States has expressed concerns over Turkey's military offensive against the Kurdish-controlled enclave of Afrin in northwestern Syria, which began Saturday, but Bossert's comments were the most direct call yet for Turkey to withdraw.

Turkey has vowed to expand its operation against Syrian Kurdish forces, known as the People's

Defense Units or YPG, to other areas along the border. Ankara views the YPG as a major threat because of its links to Kurdish insurgents in Turkey.

The YPG forms the backbone of the Syrian Democratic Forces, a U.S. ally that drove the Islamic State group from much of northeastern Syria. U.S. troops are embedded with the SDF in other parts of Syria, where they are working to prevent a resurgence of IS, but do not operate in or near Afrin.

The rising tensions between the U.S. and its NATO ally Turkey were on display after a phone call Wednesday between Trump and his Turkish counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The White House said Trump expressed concern about the fighting and told Erdogan the Afrin operation jeopardizes shared goals in Syria. It said Trump also expressed concern about

"destructive and false rhetoric coming from Turkey," in reference to recent anti-American statements made by Turkish officials.

Turkish officials disputed the White House readout, saying it did not "accurately reflect" the content of their discussions. They said Trump did not voice concerns about the violence or use the phrase "destructive and false rhetoric coming from Turkey." The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with government rules.

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim lashed out at the United States, saying "it is astounding and unacceptable... that a country which is supposed to protect NATO's borders is giving open support to armed entities that target our borders."

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told reporters that U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, during a meeting in Paris this week, had raised the possibility of

the creation of a 30-kilometer-deep (20-mile) "safe zone" in Syria running along Turkey's border. But he said trust between Ankara and Washington has to be restored before Turkey would be prepared to discuss the issue. When asked in Davos about the safe zone, Tillerson said "we discussed a number of possible options but we didn't propose anything."

Bossert meanwhile said it would be a "terrible outcome" if Turkish troops clashed with "the proxy forces that we have all been relying on to defeat ISIS, especially if there are U.S. advisers in the region." He said there could be "grave consequences to any miscalculation and escalation."

He acknowledged Turkey's "legitimate security concerns" about the Syrian Kurdish forces along its border, but said they were "smaller concerns than the grander strategic need for a stable and supportable

Syria." "I'm not in any way critical of the Turkish decisions, but I'm just praying for their longer-term strategic patience," Bossert said.

A new round of U.N.-led talks on Syria opened Thursday in Vienna, where U.N. special envoy Staffan de Mistura met with Syrian government representatives and planned to separately hold talks with an opposition delegation.

De Mistura said the talks, which have made little if any progress since they began four years ago, are at a "very critical moment." Russia plans to hold separate peace talks on Jan 29.

Islamic State militants meanwhile launched a wave of attacks against government forces in eastern and northern Syria. The extremists have been driven from nearly all the territory they once held in Syria and neighboring Iraq but have proved they can still carry out insurgent-style

attacks. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said IS militants attacked Syrian troops and allied forces stationed in the eastern Deir el-Zour province, killing over a dozen fighters in attacks several kilometers (miles) apart.

State media also reported the attack, saying it had been repelled. IS announced a new offensive against Syrian government forces on its social media accounts.

The Observatory said the militants are also on the offensive in northern Syria, where they seized a number of villages in Aleppo province that position them closer to a strategic road linking northern and central Syria.

Over the past month, IS has established a presence in the northwestern Idlib province for the first time in four years, after it was expelled by rival Syrian insurgent groups.

# Company says Ohio, PA nuclear plants in danger of closing

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP) — FirstEnergy Corp.'s nuclear plant near Toledo is likely headed for closure and the outlook is just as bleak for its two other plants near Cleveland and Beaver Valley, Pennsylvania, a company executive said Thursday.

No date has been set for the potential closures, and selling the plants will be almost impossible because of the costs to operate them in deregulated electricity markets, James Pearson, FirstEnergy's chief financial officer said.

The company has been warning that it could decide this year whether to sell or close the three aging nuclear plants because they can't compete with new natural gas plants.

Nuclear plant operators along the East Coast and in the Midwest impacted by the natural gas boom have been pressing lawmakers to help with financial rescues.

But Akron-based FirstEnergy hasn't been able to sway lawmakers in Ohio and Pennsylvania. It also was dealt a

blow when the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in January rejected a Trump administration plan to bolster coal-fired and nuclear power plants.

No matter what happens, it's unlikely that FirstEnergy will have a role in operating the Davis-Besse plant near Toledo, the Perry plant near Cleveland and the Beaver Valley nuclear plant west of Pittsburgh, Pearson said.

"Those units cannot generate enough cash to cover costs," he said, adding that the company's coal-fired plants are also in jeopardy of being sold or closed.

A key date is coming up in April when FirstEnergy Solutions, which owns the nuclear plants, has a \$100 million debt payment due.

The two Ohio plants, which sit along Lake Erie, produce 14 percent of the state's electricity.

They're also vital to the rural towns where they're located and generate millions in tax money for schools and local governments.



## CIVISTA BANCSHARES, INC.

The Board of Directors of Civista Bancshares, Inc., Sandusky, Ohio, has approved a quarterly dividend of seven cents per share to shareholders of record on January 23, 2018, payable February 1, 2018. Affiliated companies of Civista Bancshares, Inc. are Civista Bank, First Citizens Insurance Agency Inc., and Water Street Properties.

[www.civb.com](http://www.civb.com)

## aLManaC

**Fire**  
Shelby Firefighters responded to a vehicle accident at Plymouth-Springmill and Shelby Ganges on Thursday, completed four squad runs, and completed a life-flight standby.

**Court**  
**Fines**  
• Quentin Jenkins, 21, 19 Summit St., pleaded no contest to menacing/stalking. Found guilty. Fined \$250 plus costs, 120 days jail with 60 days suspended. No violations for two years. Work release upon payment of fines and costs. Two years probation. Also pleaded no contest to disorderly conduct. Found guilty of a reduced charge. Fined \$200 plus costs, 30 days jail with jail suspended.  
• Anthony Davis, 21, 1211 Alcrest Dr., Mansfield, pleaded no contest to drug paraphernalia. Found guilty. Fined \$150 plus costs.  
• Matthew Rank, 29, 178 Mansfield Ave 126, pleaded guilty to possession of drugs. Fined \$200 plus costs, 30 days jail with jail suspended. No convictions, active probation for two years.  
• Amber hall, 29, 455 W. Mansfield St. 7, bucyrus, pleaded guilty to possession of drug instruments. Fined \$200 plus costs, 90 days jail with jail suspended. No convictions, active probation for two years. Defendant to obtain drug assessment and follow treatment plan. Also pleaded guilty to possession of drugs. Fined \$200 plus costs, 30 days jail with jail suspended.  
• Nicholas Stults, 31, 4729 Laser Rd., pleaded guilty to possession of drug instruments. Fined \$200 plus costs, 90 days jail with jail suspended. No convictions, active probation for two years. To continue drug treatment program. Also pleaded guilty to possession of drugs. Fined \$200 plus costs, 30 days jail with jail suspended.  
• Jamie hall, 35, 455 W. Mansfield St., 7, bucyrus, pleaded guilty to possession of drug instruments. Fined \$200 plus costs, 90 days jail with jail suspended. No convictions, active probation for two years. Defendant to obtain and complete drug assessment and follow treatment plan. Also pleaded guilty to possession of drug paraphernalia. Fined \$200 plus costs, 30 days jail with jail suspended.  
• Lee Ann bowman, 34, 31 Auburn Ave., pleaded guilty to possession of drug paraphernalia. Fined \$150 plus costs, three days jail with jail suspended. No similar violations, two years probation.  
• Merle brust, 66, 25 W. Tucker Ave., pleaded no contest to yard maintenance. Found guilty, fined \$25 plus costs. Also pleaded no contest to a zoning violation. Found

guilty, fined \$25 plus costs.

**Waivers**  
• Carla Keaton, 38, 45 North St., Plymouth, speed, 69/55, \$114.  
• Joseph Perrise, 45, 203 Lasalle St., Mansfield, failure to control, \$114.  
• Vicky Durnwald, 50, 66 W. Park Dr., assured clear distance, \$114.  
• Leon Zimmerman, 42, 8350 Willet Rd., Plymouth, operating traction engines, \$114.  
• Austin erwin, 19, 121 Carmel Ave., Galion, speed, 70/55, \$114.  
• brett Rank, 50, 2433 holtz Rd., speed, 51/25, \$149.

**Lottery**  
(AP) — These Ohio lotteries were drawn Thursday:  
**Lucky For Life**  
08-09-31-43-45, Lucky ball: 6  
**Mega Millions**  
estimated jackpot: \$76 million  
**Pick 3 evening**  
7-6-7  
**Pick 3 Midday**  
2-5-4  
**Pick 4 evening**  
5-5-6-3  
**Pick 4 Midday**  
6-9-7-7  
**Pick 5 evening**  
5-2-6-6-5  
**Pick 5 Midday**  
5-0-5-4-1  
**Powerball**  
estimated jackpot: \$112 million  
**Rolling Cash 5**  
03-07-12-19-33  
estimated jackpot: \$140,000

## LEGAL NOTICE

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# Another school shooting: Are we numb to it?

ATLANTA (AP) — The shooting of more than a dozen students at a Kentucky high school might have been expected to shock the nation, but Americans seem numbed by the apparent frequency of school shootings since 20 children and six adults were killed at a Connecticut elementary school in 2012, gun-control advocates say.

President Donald Trump took more than 24 hours to express sorrow about the shooting on Twitter — but tweeted about text messages between FBI agents and immigration in the meantime — while Canada's prime minister, Justin Trudeau, tweeted condolences and called Kentucky's governor the same day. Although the story led many newscasts, much coverage of the shooting in Benton, Kentucky, emphasized how students put past safety training into practice, running as far as a mile to escape the gunfire.

A 15-year-old boy was in police custody after authorities say he walked into Marshall County High School armed with a pistol Tuesday morning and immediately started firing. Two 15-year-old classmates were killed and 18 others were injured.

Gun safety and school safety advocates say the shock factor has disappeared amid years of school shootings, making them feel like common, everyday events.



Associated Press

**COMFORTING ONE ANOTHER** — Alyssa Edging, center, a student at McCracken County High School, embraces Erica Johnson, left, and Abigail Hicks, both juniors at Marshall County High School in Benton, Ky., following a prayer vigil at Paducah Tilghman High School in Paducah, Ky., Wednesday. The gathering was held to honor the victims of the Marshall County High School shooting.

"It is a story that feels probably like the movie 'Groundhog Day,'" said Shannon Watts, who founded Moms Demand Action after watching the shooting at a Newtown, Connecticut, elementary school that killed 20 children and six adults.

"It almost is like some kind of bar has been set (since Newtown), and if school shootings don't reach that bar, then maybe they're not newsworthy, which is in itself wrong," Watts later added. "We have to care every time a gun goes off

on school grounds, no matter what the reason is ... because we are the only developed nation where this happens."

In the five years since the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, the United States has had 283 school shootings — 11 since just the beginning of this year — by gun control advocates' count. The day before the shooting in Benton, a 16-year-old boy shot and injured a 15-year-old girl in the cafeteria at a high school in Italy, Texas — barely a blip

on the national news.

Katherine Newman's book "Rampage: The Social Roots of School Shootings," zeroes in on two shootings, one of which occurred in Paducah, Ky., just 24 miles from Benton.

These types of school shootings — rampage shootings — remain uncommon, she said. However, because they are lumped in with all sorts of other shootings near or at schools, they feel like they're happening more frequently. For example, among the 11 cases this year some count as a school shooting was a 31-year-old man who killed himself in the parking lot of a Michigan elementary school. In researching the 2004 book, Newman said they tracked school shootings from 1970 to 2000 and identified 20 that fit the rampage category.

By the strict definition, no school shootings have happened so far this year except the ones in Kentucky and Texas, plus a teen who killed himself in a school bathroom.

Newman said actual school shootings remain rare and occur most often in places just like Benton: small, rural and viewed as idyllic places to grow up. But those qualities sow the seeds for the kids who carry out these shootings, she said.

"These are tiny towns where people feel like it's a wonderful place to raise your kids because everyone knows your

name," Newman said.

But in these towns, she said, future shooters grow up surrounded by classmates who seem to be enjoying life, excelling in sports or academics, and being raised in wonderful families. They struggle to fit in and, when they can't, they conjure up shootings as a way to at least become notorious.

"They were trying to get people to think of them as an antihero because that was better than being thought of as a loser," she said.

School shootings rarely happen spontaneously or without a few classmates having a whiff it might happen. The solution? Finding ways to ensure kids can tell an adult without feeling like snitches or reactionaries.

Robert Boyd, executive director of the Delaware-based Secure Schools Alliance, which works on making schools safer, said the vast majority of mass shootings at elementary schools are committed by an intruder, while those at middle and high schools are by students.

"The malaise, the tolerance that we as a society have built up about students doing violence on other students, we seem to have more collective outrage when it's an intruder," Boyd said. "But we've just come to accept that it's normal for a student to walk in with a gun and start shooting."

## Chinese opioid sellers exploit U.S. postal service flaw

WASHINGTON (AP) — China said Thursday it is ready to work with the United States in fighting illicit opioid shipments after congressional investigators found that Chinese opioid manufacturers exploit weak screening in the U.S.

Postal Service to ship large quantities of illegal drugs to American dealers.

"Anti-drug coordination is one of the highlights of China-U.S. law enforcement cooperation," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chun-

ying said at a regular briefing. "We stand ready to work with the U.S. to enhance our coordination in this field."

In a yearlong probe published Wednesday, Senate investigators found that Chinese sellers, who openly market

opioids such as fentanyl to U.S. buyers, are pushing delivery through the U.S. postal system. The sellers are taking advantage of a failure by the postal service to fully implement an electronic data system that would help authorities identify suspicious shipments.

At a time of massive growth in postal shipments from China due to e-commerce, the investigators found that the

postal system received the electronic data on just over a third of all international packages, making more than 300 million packages in 2017 much harder to screen. Data in the Senate report shows no significant improvement during 2017 despite the urgency.

The U.S. Postal Service said it has made dramatic progress in the last year in total packages with opioids seized by

U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

"The Postal Service will continue to work tirelessly to address this serious societal issue," spokesman David Parteneheimer said.

He said implementing the use of electronic data is slowed by the need to negotiate with international partners, but the service is making progress.

Reporters found multiple sellers willing to ship carfentanyl — an opioid used as an elephant tranquilizer that is so potent it has been considered a chemical weapon. The sellers also offered advice on how to evade screening by U.S. authorities.

Researchers on the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations also contacted Chinese sellers directly. The sellers preferred payment in Bitcoin.

Investigators traced the online sellers to seven U.S. opioid deaths and 18 drug arrests.

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### LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has scheduled a public hearing in Case No. 16-1852-EL-SSO, *In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Power Company for Authority to Establish a Standard Service Offer Pursuant to R.C. 4928.143, in the Form of an Electric Security Plan*, and in Case No. 16-1853-EL-AAM, *In the Matter of the Application of Ohio Power Company for Approval of Certain Accounting Authority*. In the application, Ohio Power Company d/b/a AEP Ohio seeks Commission approval of an electric security plan filed on November 23, 2016, and matters related to the company's procurement of power for the period of June 1, 2018 through May 31, 2024. On August 25, 2017, a Joint Stipulation and Recommendation was filed by various parties for the Commission's consideration, which, if approved by the Commission, would resolve all the issues raised in this matter.

The public hearing is scheduled for the purpose of providing an opportunity for interested members of the public to testify in this proceeding. The hearing will be held on Monday, February 12, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., at Ohio History Center, 800 East 17th Avenue, Cardinal Classroom, Columbus, Ohio 43211-2497.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793, viewing the Commission's web page at <http://www.puco.ohio.gov>, or contacting the Commission's hotline at 1-800-686-7826.

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electronically filed by Mr. Steven T Nourse on behalf of Ohio Power Company