



139 E. Fourth Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Emily.Olive@duke-energy.com
Emily A. Olive
Paralegal

September 7, 2022

Ms. Tanowa M. Troupe
PUCO Docketing Division
180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-3716

Re: *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., for Authority to Abandon
Certain Propane-Air Facilities.*
Case Nos. 21-986-GA-ABN, 21-1035-GA-AAM

Dear Ms. Troupe:

Please find attached the affidavit and newspaper notices from the newspaper publishers verifying publication of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.’s legal notice in the above-referenced proceedings.

The notice was published as follows:

<u>Newspaper</u>	<u>Publication Dates</u>
Cincinnati Enquirer	August 18, 25, 2022
Clermont Sun	August 25, 2022 September 1, 2022
Dayton Daily News	August 19, 26, 2022
Georgetown News Democrat	August 25, 2022 September 1, 2022
Hamilton Journal News	August 19, 26, 2022
Hillsboro Times Gazette	August 20, 27, 2022
People’s Defender	August 24, 31, 2022
Wilmington News Journal	August 20, 27, 2022
The Pulse of Warren County	August 28, 2022 September 4, 2022

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Emily A. Olive, CP

Emily A. Olive
Certified Paralegal

cc: Parties of Record

Affidavit Proof of Publication

I, Walt Dozier, do hereby attest that the Duke Energy Legal Notices did appear in the following newspaper(s) as ordered:

The Clermont Sun	August 25 & September 1, 2022
Dayton Daily News	August 19 & 26, 2022
Cincinnati Enquirer	August 18 & 25, 2022
Georgetown News Democrat	August 25 & September 1, 2022
Hamilton Journal News	August 19 & 26, 2022
The Peoples Defender	August 24 & 31, 2022
The Pulse of Warren County	August 28 & September 4, 2022
The Times Gazette	August 20 & 27, 2022
Wilmington News Journal	August 20 & 27, 2022

Mitch Colton

9/6/22

Mitch Colton

Date

State of Ohio
County of Franklin

On this day, the 6 day of September 2022 before me, Chana L Powell, the undersigned Notary Public, personally appeared Walt Dozier, proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person whose name was subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he executed it.

Witness my hand and official seal.

Chana L Powell
Notary Public



CHANA L POWELL
Notary Public
State of Ohio
My Comm. Expires
November 25, 2025

Housing

Continued from Page 1A

to house them alongside continuing students who want to stay on campus.

Rise in housing requests likely from COVID-19 fallout

The university worked this summer to find housing for all students who met the May 5 application deadline, Miner says, which was 1,100 more students than last fall. The last of those students received their housing assignment last Thursday, two days before freshmen started moving in.

Students who didn't meet the May deadline were put on a waiting list, and ultimately were told in early July that the university would not be able to find housing for them. Students and parents alike took to Facebook in the last month scrambling for a place to stay.

So, how did we get here?

The university knew it was welcoming its largest incoming class this fall, Miner says. It was prepared for that and, as always, made room for the incoming students from 50 or more miles away from campus. What it wasn't prepared for was changing preferences among continuing and local students. Where in the past sophomores, juniors and seniors have moved to nearby rentals and a good portion of local students opted to commute, Miner says this year the university was overwhelmed by student requests for on-campus housing.

"I think part of that is our profile" has risen, Miner says. "But in reality, it's also a reaction to COVID."

Students want to have the "Cincinnati experience" living among their peers, close to campus and away from mom and dad, Miner says. UC has also upped its student support and financial aid in recent years, which Miner says likely contributed to increased on-campus housing interest.

"I think part of that is our profile. But in reality, it's also a reaction to COVID."

Jack Miner
UC's vice provost for enrollment management, on the increase in student requests for on-campus housing

Other universities across the country have seen the same trend, as reported by Inside Higher Ed.

For UC, that meant converting traditional double-occupancy dorms "that had been built large enough to hold three people" to triples, contracting with apartment buildings and renting out floors at nearby hotels. More than 200 students will spend the fall semester in hotel rooms including at The Graduate Hotel, The Hampton Inn and The Fairfield Inn. The hotel spaces are able to "function like a residence hall," Miner says, since the university rented out blocks of rooms together and is offering dining services connected to students' meal plans in those facilities.

Things will likely change throughout the academic year, Miner says, because many students leave campus in the second semester for cooperative educational experiences or to study abroad.

"I imagine that many of the students that are in triples, many of the students that are in hotels, will either sometime during fall or in the spring choose to move into a more traditional space," Miner says.

Communication the biggest concern

Stiller has worked in higher education before, as a marketing professional for Dickinson College in Pennsylvania and

the University of Oregon.

She understands the housing shortage is not unique to Cincinnati, but the lack of communication to students and families about the shortage?

That's a problem, she says. Her daughter didn't get email updates from the university about the housing challenge and how they were working to fix it, Stiller says.

As a parent, she didn't get any emails at all.

Miner says the delayed communication was due to a strong desire from the university not to resort to hotel spaces or converted triple dorm rooms.

Officials wanted to ensure freshmen had priority to live as close as possible to the campus core, he says, and spent the front half of the summer trying to convince upperclassmen to move off campus using incentives that would decrease housing costs by \$2,000 per semester if students moved to university-run apartments such as CP Cincy, or offering \$2,500 plus free parking if students moved into the private market.

Wait-listed students who applied after the May 5 deadline were never guaranteed housing, Miner maintains.

Those students were encouraged all along to look for off-campus housing, and the university only confirmed its lack of on-campus space in an early July email.

But Miner admits the university "always could have provided more in-

formation" about the status of on-campus housing and will continue to improve its communication with students and families in the future.

Moving forward, Miner says UC wants to prioritize the on-campus experience for freshmen, no matter where they are from in the city, country or world.

That likely means rethinking space for continuing students on campus or at university-managed housing near campus.

Two things are for sure, Miner says: UC needs more housing stock on campus and the surrounding private market needs to grow.

Stiller says her daughter will be OK, though Abigail's living situation isn't ideal for a first-year student. And despite all the confusion, Stiller says she still thinks she made the right decision in sending her daughter to UC.

Her confidence comes from conversations she's had in recent weeks with leaders in the College of Nursing, including interim dean Gordon Gillespie. "He was wonderful. He was empathetic, he was responsive," Stiller says.

Gillespie assured her Abigail would be connected with other nursing students and supported no matter where she was living.

"That is 90% of the difference," Stiller says, between feeling apprehensive and confident in sending her kid to school, "because at the end of the day, it is going to come down to her faculty."

Ohioans can get extended coverage after childbirth

Titus Wu
State Bureau

COLUMBUS – Ohio mothers who rely on Medicaid will now be eligible for up to a year of health coverage after the birth of a child, up from 60 days previously.

Up to 21,000 low-income and disabled people annually will benefit from this change, said the Ohio Department of Medicaid, which announced the change before April but only received final approval from the federal government on Tuesday.

"We know that access to postpartum care not only saves lives but leads to better health outcomes for moms and their babies," said Maureen Corcoran, director of Ohio Medicaid, in a statement.

"Extending eligibility

for a full year postpartum ensures women have access to critical services that impact maternal morbidity and mortality as well as the health of their baby."

Available coverage includes: treatment for postpartum depression; medical care for chronic conditions such as hypertension or diabetes; breastfeeding resources; and nurse home visits

The change was initiated by state lawmakers in the previous state budget. Ohio suffers from one of the highest rates of infant mortality in the nation, at 6.9 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2019.

The extended coverage, for now, will be available for a five-year period through April 2027.

Titus Wu is a reporter for the USA TODAY Network Ohio Bureau, which serves the Cincinnati Enquirer.

Manager

Continued from Page 1A

was elected in November.

Whoever gets the job comes to it with a big decision of his or her own: who will be the city's next police chief.

Chief Eliot Isaac retired from the city in February.

Curp selected Assistant Police Chief Teresa Theetge as interim police chief.

The city manager will also deal with a city budget expected to have deficits since it will be

the first during the COVID-19 pandemic without federal government aid.

"An understanding of the city's strengths and opportunities is critical to this job," Pureval said. "The candidate didn't necessarily have to be internal to have that understanding, but during the search, it was clear just how strong our internal candidates were."

Pureval is asking the nine council members to interview each city manager candidate one-on-one and offer him feedback. He hopes to put forward one candidate at council's special Aug. 29 meeting for approval.



Due to the current conditions, our office hours and obituary placement times may vary.

Please contact us at 855-288-3511 or obits@enquirer.com for further details.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has scheduled a public hearing in Case Nos. 21-986-GA-ABN and 21-1035-GA-AAM, *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Abandon Certain Propane-Air Facilities and for Authority to Change Accounting Methods*. According to Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke), it has used manmade caverns since 1959 to store propane that it uses, along with the associated propane-air facilities, to supplement natural gas during peak usage periods and when otherwise needed. Duke asserts that these caverns cannot be inspected or repaired. Further, Duke has determined that the caverns and associated propane-air facilities, specifically facilities at East Works, Dick's Creek, and the portion of facilities in Erlanger, Kentucky allocated to Ohio customers, should be abandoned and replaced by alternative methods to provide reliable natural gas distribution service. According to Duke, the Central Corridor Pipeline approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board enables Duke to retire the caverns and associated propane-air peaking facilities while maintaining safe and reliable service to customers. *In re the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.*, Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX, Opinion, Order, and Certificate (Nov. 21, 2019). Furthermore, Duke asserts that environmental remediation of its manufactured gas plants, which was addressed in Case No. 14-375-GA-RDR, et al., cannot be completed until the caverns and associated facilities have been decommissioned. Consequently, Duke believes that the abandonment is reasonable, is in the best interest of the public, and should be approved.

Staff of the Commission recommended that Duke's application for abandonment be approved. Further, Staff also recommended deferral authority for the net book value of the propane inventory but does not recommend deferral authority for the net book value of the propane caverns. Staff also recommended approval of deferral authority for a portion of the estimated decommissioning costs. Staff asserts that recovery of these deferred amounts cannot be recovered until these amounts have been reviewed and addressed in future proceedings before the Commission.

Since the filing of the application and Staff's report, Duke and Staff have entered into a stipulation and recommendation purporting to resolve all issues in the case, which has been offered to the Commission for consideration.

An evidentiary hearing in this proceeding will commence on September 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, Hearing Room 11-C, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

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.



KOHLER Walk-In Bath & Shower Systems

AMERICAN MADE

LIMITED-TIME SPECIAL OFFER

FREE PROFESSIONAL INSTALLATION! *Plus* **LOW MONTHLY PAYMENTS** FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS

*Cannot be combined with any other offer. Previous sales excluded. Good at initial presentation only. With purchase of a Complete Walk-in Shower w/ Luxstone Walls.

513-657-1166

NEW BATH TODAY

Ohio GOP state senator pushes gun safety, mental health legislation

Anna Staver
State Bureau

COLUMBUS – An Ohio Republican is taking another run at crafting gun safety legislation that can pass the GOP-controlled legislature.

Sen. Matt Dolan, R-Chagrin Falls, introduced Senate Bill 357. The legislation would give judges the authority to temporarily take firearms from certain people in court-ordered treatment for mental health.

It would create optional “seller protection certificates” for private gun sales, and require background checks for most gun sales to non-military and/or law enforcement individuals younger than 21.

The bill would also appropriate \$175 million in federal COVID recovery dollars for mental health counselors and regional crisis centers.

“We have an issue that needs to be addressed here in Ohio,” Dolan told the USA TODAY Network Ohio Bureau. “You can’t just address mental health without recognizing that tragedies are occurring because mentally unfit people have access to firearms.”

This isn’t the first time Dolan has tried to get his fellow Republican lawmakers to support gun reforms.

Two months after the 2019 mass shooting in Dayton’s Oregon District, Dolan stood beside Gov. Mike DeWine and introduced legislation to expand civil commitment or “pink slip” laws, increase the penalties for certain gun crimes and create a voluntary background check system for all private firearm sales.

STRONG Ohio received three hearings – more than most gun safety measures – but it never got a vote.

“The (Safety Protection Order) is much tight-

er than it was for STRONG Ohio,” Dolan said. “It’s pretty clear there’s full due process.”

Prosecuting attorneys wouldn’t be able to request these orders unless the person is under a judicial order for in- or out-patient treatment. The accused also has a right to be present at the hearing, call witnesses, have an attorney and appeal the decision.

“The truth is, and no one in Ohio can dispute this, it is accepted bipartisan law that if you are mentally unfit you are not able to buy a gun,” Dolan said. “Doesn’t it stand to reason that if you develop those same disabilities after you purchase a gun that same prohibition should apply?”

Ohio does not require unlicensed sellers to run background checks on gun buyers, and Dolan’s proposal wouldn’t change that unless the buyer was younger than 21.

Ohioans age 18 to 21 who haven’t served in the military or worked in law enforcement would be required to pass a background check when purchasing anything other than a single-shot rifle. And they would need a co-signer of sorts who is older than 25 and would “vouch” for them.

“We don’t want any immature, emotional decisions being made by someone who may not have any criminal record at all,” Dolan said.

For private sales where the buyer is older than 21, sellers could request



Ohio Sen. Matt Dolan, R-Chagrin Falls, has introduced legislation that would let judges temporarily take firearms from certain people in court-ordered treatment for mental health. JOSHUA A. BICKEL/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

something called a “sell protection certificate.” These documents, which essentially amount to passing a background check, would protect a seller from any criminal or civil liabilities if the weapon was used to commit a crime.

Sellers who didn’t get a certificate would only be liable civilly if a court determined them to be reckless, meaning they disregarded a known risk.

This is different from STRONG Ohio, which went with a negligence standard, a lower burden of legal proof that says a reasonable person would have seen the risk.

DeWine spokesman Dan Tierney said improving access to mental health treatment is a priority for the governor.

“This is certainly not the end or a final bill,”

Tierney said. “But if you look at what’s in Sen. Dolan’s bill and what the governor has been talking about, it’s a lot of the same things.”

The bigger lift for Dolan will be getting support from his fellow GOP members in Ohio’s House and Senate who have been overwhelmingly opposed to any gun reform legislation that could limit access to firearms.

Republicans control both chambers by substantial margins, so it will be impossible to pass SB 357 without their support.

“We haven’t reviewed the language yet ...,” said John Fortney, a spokesman for Senate Republicans. “As is always the case with any legislation

infringing on the Second Amendment, it raises serious constitutional questions.”

Senate Democrats aren’t sure they’ll back Dolan’s plan either.

“I don’t have any interest in supporting a bill that has no merit ...,” Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko, D-Richmond Heights, said. “I understand what (Dolan’s) doing, and he’s trying, but this issue is too important. You can’t walk around the issue when people are dying every single day.”

Yuko would prefer some of the bills introduced by Sen. Cecil Thomas, D-Cincinnati, be considered instead. Senate Bill 351, for example, would raise the age to

buy a gun to 21 and create a legal process where families could petition for the temporary confiscation of a person’s firearms.

Dolan’s bill, in his opinion, wouldn’t capture most mass shooters because they rarely find themselves in court-ordered treatment before their attacks.

“Cecil’s been doing it from day one,” Yuko said. “He’s a former police officer. He’s done a tremendous job, and it’s once again being ignored.”

But Nan Whaley, former Dayton Mayor turned Democratic candidate for governor, called the bill “a good first step.”

“When I am governor, I’ll actually fight to pass common-sense legislation like this, unlike Mike DeWine,” Whaley said in a statement. “The truth is, DeWine is all talk when it comes to keeping folks safe.”

Dolan doesn’t have a lot of time to talk about SB 357 either.

Lawmakers are unlikely to debate any legislation until after the November midterm elections, and this General Assembly comes to an end in December.

Anna Staver is a reporter for the USA TODAY Network Ohio Bureau, which serves the Columbus Dispatch, Cincinnati Enquirer, Akron Beacon Journal and 18 other affiliated news organizations across Ohio.



Due to the current conditions, our office hours and obituary placement times may vary.

Please contact us at 855-288-3511 or obits@enquirer.com for further details.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has scheduled a public hearing in Case Nos. 21-986-GA-ABN and 21-1035-GA-AAM, *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Abandon Certain Propane-Air Facilities and for Authority to Change Accounting Methods*. According to Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke), it has used manmade caverns since 1959 to store propane that it uses, along with the associated propane-air facilities, to supplement natural gas during peak usage periods and when otherwise needed. Duke asserts that these caverns cannot be inspected or repaired. Further, Duke has determined that the caverns and associated propane-air facilities, specifically facilities at East Works, Dick’s Creek, and the portion of facilities in Erlanger, Kentucky allocated to Ohio customers, should be abandoned and replaced by alternative methods to provide reliable natural gas distribution service. According to Duke, the Central Corridor Pipeline approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board enables Duke to retire the caverns and associated propane-air peaking facilities while maintaining safe and reliable service to customers. *In re the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.*, Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX, Opinion, Order, and Certificate (Nov. 21, 2019). Furthermore, Duke asserts that environmental remediation of its manufactured gas plants, which was addressed in Case No. 14-375-GA-RDR, et al., cannot be completed until the caverns and associated facilities have been decommissioned. Consequently, Duke believes that the abandonment is reasonable, is in the best interest of the public, and should be approved.

Staff of the Commission recommended that Duke’s application for abandonment be approved. Further, Staff also recommended deferral authority for the net book value of the propane inventory but does not recommend deferral authority for the net book value of the propane caverns. Staff also recommended approval of deferral authority for a portion of the estimated decommissioning costs. Staff asserts that recovery of these deferred amounts cannot be recovered until these amounts have been reviewed and addressed in future proceedings before the Commission.

Since the filing of the application and Staff’s report, Duke and Staff have entered into a stipulation and recommendation purporting to resolve all issues in the case, which has been offered to the Commission for consideration.

An evidentiary hearing in this proceeding will commence on September 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, Hearing Room 11-C, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

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.

A celebration of the sea

HANDCRAFTED TWO-TONE STERLING SILVER BRINGS BACK BEACHY MEMORIES



\$59

Compare at \$85

Our two-tone adjustable bolo bracelet captures the charm of sand and shore. The handmade sterling silver Bismark-link centerpiece is adorned by a starfish, seashell and sand dollar in 18kt yellow gold over sterling silver. A beautiful way to add coastal flair to your jewelry collection, this style will pair swimmingly with your favorite casual looks!

Shown larger for detail.

ROSS SIMONS

fabulous jewelry & great prices for 70 years

ORDER TODAY!

To receive this special price and free shipping use offer code:

SURF68

1.800.556.7376 or visit ross-simons.com/surf

Item #954679

Patrol enters nationwide “Best Looking Cruiser” contest

Submitted by the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol has entered the American Association of State Troopers (AAST) “Best Looking Cruiser” contest. Through August 25, visit the Patrol’s Facebook, Twitter or Instagram pages and click the link in any of our contest posts. You can also visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QHXV8ZS> to cast your vote

for Ohio for the best looking state agency cruiser photo. When visiting the SurveyMonkey website, scroll to the bottom of the page and select Ohio from the drop-down menu. Agency rankings will be updated on AAST’s website at <https://www.statetroopers.org> throughout the contest. The photo receiving the most votes will be featured on the cover of AAST’s 2023 wall calendar.

Last year, Ohio finished in second place. Please help vote the Ohio State Highway Patrol as the 2022 best looking cruiser. Voting began on August 8 at 12 p.m. and will continue until August 25 at 5 p.m.



Photos and images courtesy of The Ohio State Highway Patrol.

Glen Este Church of Christ Readifest a Huge Success

Submitted by Glen Este Church of Christ.

The rains subsided just in time as carload after carload of families came with their children to receive free backpacks full of school supplies on Saturday, August 6th. But there were more than just backpacks to receive. There were bouncy houses and craft tables and arm and leg painting and craft giveaways and grilled hot dogs and fresh popcorn and cookies and games for the family. The lines were pretty long most of the day and parking was a bit of a challenge, but everyone was so patient with our church staff of about 70 volunteer workers as they worked hard to take care of what is estimated to be well over 1,000 people. What a turnout! We gave away



Photo courtesy Glen Este Church of Christ.

all 500 backpacks which had been prepared and have ordered an additional 100 backpacks to serve those who didn’t receive theirs on Saturday. All total, we were able to help nearly 250 households in just four hours. So many thank yous to the businesses who permitted us to advertise with posters in their windows and all the public service announcements made by local

media outlets. The Glen Este church considers it a privilege to serve this community. A free community luncheon is being planned for Wednesday, September 14 from 11:00-2:00 here at the church building. All are welcome. You can check out the Glen Este Church of Christ at www.gecc.net or call 513-753-8223 or follow us on our social media sites on Facebook or Instagram.



Photo courtesy Glen Este Church of Christ.

Clermont Hospital’s Ribbon Cutting for New Diagnostic Suite with Outpatient Lab Services and Imaging

Submitted by Mercy Health - Cincinnati.

Mercy Health hosted a ribbon-cutting to celebrate the opening of its new diagnostic suite with outpatient lab services and imaging at Clermont Hospital. The ribbon-cutting follows the completion of work on the new, \$350,000 suite, which is located conveniently on the right just inside the hospital’s main entrance. It provides quick and easy access to lab, imaging and cardiology services, as well as check in for those services.

Celebrating with Mercy Health – Clermont Hospital’s President Shane Knisley, Imaging Director Brittany Glover and other hospital associates were: Joy Lytle, President and CEO of the Clermont County Chamber Adam Bird, Ohio State Representative for the 66th District Anthony Speatzel, Field Representative for Congressman Brad Wenstrup Claire Corcoran, Cler-



mont County Board of Commissioners Heather Frye, Clermont County Chamber of Commerce Director of Development



LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has scheduled a public hearing in Case Nos. 21-986-GA-ABN and 21-1035-GA-AAM, *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Abandon Certain Propane-Air Facilities and for Authority to Change Accounting Methods*. According to Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke), it has used manmade caverns since 1959 to store propane that it uses, along with the associated propane-air facilities, to supplement natural gas during peak usage periods and when otherwise needed. Duke asserts that these caverns cannot be inspected or repaired. Further, Duke has determined that the caverns and associated propane-air facilities, specifically facilities at East Works, Dick’s Creek, and the portion of facilities in Erlanger, Kentucky allocated to Ohio customers, should be abandoned and replaced by alternative methods to provide reliable natural gas distribution service. According to Duke, the Central Corridor Pipeline approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board enables Duke to retire the caverns and associated propane-air peaking facilities while maintaining safe and reliable service to customers. *In re the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.*, Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX, Opinion, Order, and Certificate (Nov. 21, 2019). Furthermore, Duke asserts that environmental remediation of its manufactured gas plants, which was addressed in Case No. 14-375-GA-RDR, et al., cannot be completed until the caverns and associated facilities have been decommissioned. Consequently, Duke believes that the abandonment is reasonable, is in the best interest of the public, and should be approved.

Staff of the Commission recommended that Duke’s application for abandonment be approved. Further, Staff also recommended deferral authority for the net book value of the propane inventory but does not recommend deferral authority for the net book value of the propane caverns. Staff also recommended approval of deferral authority for a portion of the estimated decommissioning costs. Staff asserts that recovery of these deferred amounts cannot be recovered until these amounts have been reviewed and addressed in future proceedings before the Commission.

Since the filing of the application and Staff’s report, Duke and Staff have entered into a stipulation and recommendation purporting to resolve all issues in the case, which has been offered to the Commission for consideration.

An evidentiary hearing in this proceeding will commence on September 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, Hearing Room 11-C, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

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.

Volunteering for our veterans

How my World War II veteran grandfather inspired me to lead a life of service

By Evan Osgood

My grandfather, World War II Army veteran Bernard "Papa B" Brockmeyer, always told me that the most valuable thing I could learn was how to rally people behind a cause.

"When you work together, you can overcome anything," he used to say.

Papa B passed when I was just 7 years old, but he continues to be a guiding force in my life. He was a man who selflessly served his country, and he inspired me to find ways to do the same. So when the COVID-19 pandemic struck communities across the United States in early 2020, I decided to step up the same way Papa B did many years ago.

I remember the news reports about our community members and front-line caregivers getting sick and dying because of the shortage of protective masks, one of our only defenses against the virus at the time. I found a how-to guide from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and started making them myself. I gave my homemade masks to friends and family in need, hoping they could avoid the grim scenes I was watching on TV. Every person who received a mask was extremely grateful and wanted to help make even more. Together, we became a mask-making team. All of us wanted to do something—anything—to fight the virus that was taking over our community.

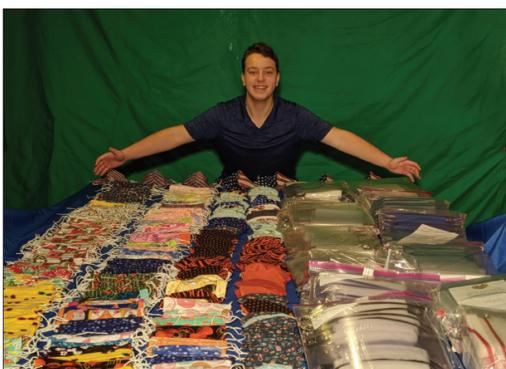
I still remember a heartwarming experience I had delivering one of our first sets of masks to a veteran couple during the early days of the pandemic. I placed the masks on the couple's front porch, rang the bell and stepped back to my car. A woman answered the door, looked down and burst into tears. It turned out she and her husband had been stuck inside without masks for three weeks and didn't feel safe enough to leave. She couldn't have been more appreciative, calling out to me, "Bless you and bless what you are doing for this community!"

That's what volunteering means to me—something so small having such a meaningful impact for someone else. I'm always grateful for that feeling of making someone's day, of making a difference, one small action at a time.

Our mask-making team continued to grow, and I eventually founded a nonprofit, created a website,



Photos provided.



and started shipping mask and face shield assembly kits across the country. We held virtual assembly parties where people would reconnect while making a genuine difference toward slowing the spread of COVID-19. The mask-making team that started out as me and my friends sewing masks in my basement grew to over 10,000 volunteers across the nation.

We focused on reaching underserved communities, including veterans. Of the roughly 800,000 masks created by volunteers, around 40% went directly to veteran communities. Our network also provided a much-needed opportunity for people—including veterans at my local Veterans Affairs medical center—to find purpose during a scary, uncertain time. By volunteering to make and deliver masks, we were empowering each other and our communities. Papa B was right. We were stronger together.

As a result of those efforts, I was honored with the top scholarship from DAV (Disabled American Veterans), the congressionally chartered voice of America's disabled veterans. The DAV Scholarship program awards \$110,000 in scholarships each year to volunteers 21 and younger who give back to veterans in their communities.

To be eligible, hours must be credited to DAV, and the process couldn't be easier. Volunteers can log hours at a local VA medical center or through the Local Veterans Assistance Program (LVAP), which can include everything from grocery shopping to yardwork for veterans. When a volunteer selects DAV or DAV Auxiliary to credit the hours,

those hours are reported back to the organization. With at least 100 hours, volunteers can be eligible for scholarships ranging from \$5,000 to \$30,000.

The DAV Scholarship money will be a huge help in funding my college education, but the real reward is the chance to reach even more veterans and volunteers. With a robust volunteer program and more than 1 million members across over 1,200 local chapters, DAV makes it easy to give back to all our nation's heroes. Whether you're looking for a new opportunity or an impactful way to fill your service hour requirements, DAV makes volunteering accessible and effortless.

I always knew Papa B was right about the power of a united front, but the past two years brought that message home for me. That's why I hope you'll join me and thousands of others who donate their time to veterans through DAV. Learn more at volunteerforveterans.org.

Evan Osgood is the top 2022 DAV Scholarship recipient. He began volunteering at 7 years old when he co-founded a nonprofit that brings science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education to his community. He resides in Loveland, Ohio, and will soon graduate from Loveland High School and pursue a degree in computer science and artificial intelligence.



SMALL ANIMAL SALE

Sat. Sept. 10th - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Sunrise Farms 1622 St. Rt. 136, Winchester, OH 45697

2nd Sat of the month March thru Oct

Expecting a large selection! - chickens, lambs, goats, calves, peacock, rabbits, golden red pheasants, guinea fowl, pigs, turkeys, rabbit hutch.

**ALL ANIMALS ARE FARM RAISED
NO CONSIGMENTS ACCEPTED
NEXT SALE OCTOBER 8th, 2022**

FRESH PRODUCE AVAILABLE

Sunrise Farms Fair Ridge Produce
1622 St. Rt. 136, Winchester, OH 45697 7066 Fair Ridge Rd., Hillsboro, OH 45133

21st Annual FRESHWATER SHRIMP HARVEST

**SEPTEMBER 10th & 17th, 2022
1:00 PM**

Tim & Betty Ratliff
9589 John Woods Rd., Winchester, OH 45697
Bring Your Cooler and Ice

**For More Information Call
(937) 695-0199 • (937) 725-4979**

LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has scheduled a public hearing in Case Nos. 21-986-GA-ABN and 21-1035-GA-AAM, *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Abandon Certain Propane-Air Facilities and for Authority to Change Accounting Methods*. According to Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke), it has used manmade caverns since 1959 to store propane that it uses, along with the associated propane-air facilities, to supplement natural gas during peak usage periods and when otherwise needed. Duke asserts that these caverns cannot be inspected or repaired. Further, Duke has determined that the caverns and associated propane-air facilities, specifically facilities at East Works, Dick's Creek, and the portion of facilities in Erlanger, Kentucky allocated to Ohio customers, should be abandoned and replaced by alternative methods to provide reliable natural gas distribution service. According to Duke, the Central Corridor Pipeline approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board enables Duke to retire the caverns and associated propane-air peaking facilities while maintaining safe and reliable service to customers. *In re the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.*, Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX, Opinion, Order, and Certificate (Nov. 21, 2019). Furthermore, Duke asserts that environmental remediation of its manufactured gas plants, which was addressed in Case No. 14-375-GA-RDR, et al., cannot be completed until the caverns and associated facilities have been decommissioned. Consequently, Duke believes that the abandonment is reasonable, is in the best interest of the public, and should be approved.

Staff of the Commission recommended that Duke's application for abandonment be approved. Further, Staff also recommended deferral authority for the net book value of the propane inventory but does not recommend deferral authority for the net book value of the propane caverns. Staff also recommended approval of deferral authority for a portion of the estimated decommissioning costs. Staff asserts that recovery of these deferred amounts cannot be recovered until these amounts have been reviewed and addressed in future proceedings before the Commission.

Since the filing of the application and Staff's report, Duke and Staff have entered into a stipulation and recommendation purporting to resolve all issues in the case, which has been offered to the Commission for consideration.

An evidentiary hearing in this proceeding will commence on September 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, Hearing Room 11-C, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

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.

Fall Festival at Grant Career Center

Please join us for games, bounce house,
inflatables, food, and a ton of
FREE FUN!

When: September 10, 2022

5pm - 8pm

**Where: 718 W. Plane St.
Bethel, Ohio**

RON'S REALTY

**For ALL Your
Real Estate Needs**
-Auction Services Available-

CALL JAY, RON OR ADAM

- Jay 513-403-7909
- Ron 513-720-4421
- Adam 937-483-8257

Since 1979

FROM PAGE ONE

CareSource

continued from A1

is also part of a team offering services in Arkansas for people with developmental disabilities.

CareSource has multiple offices in downtown Dayton, including the office tower built in 2019 at First and Jefferson streets, which was built to accommodate for the future growth of the company, according to CareSource officials at that time.

The company reported \$11.2 billion in gross revenue in 2020, up from \$10.6 billion in 2019. CareSource said 9.7% went toward administration,



The new CareSource building located at First and Jefferson Streets in Dayton. MARSHALL GORBY / STAFF

up from 8.3% reported the year prior.

The joint bid between

TrueCare and CareSource placed first overall in the state of Mississippi's evaluation of



Erhardt Preitauer is the president and CEO of CareSource. STAFF FILE

bids, according to the Mississippi Division of Medicaid. TrueCare, which is owned by nearly 60 Mississippi hospitals and health systems, plans

to utilize CareSource's experience as a nonprofit managed health plan to provide services to Mississippi Medicaid members.

"CareSource's strength as a national leader in quality and operational excellence aligned with TrueCare's local knowledge is a unique combination. TrueCare drives innovation at the heart of member care while also bringing value for providers," said Erhardt Preitauer, president and CEO of CareSource. "We look forward to making a lasting difference in the health and well-being of Mississippians while driving better quality and outcomes."

The new contract's initial term is expected to begin on July 1, 2023. CareSource had announced a joint bid with TrueCare in December 2021. As the procurement process continues, Mississippi-CAN and CHIP members will continue to receive services through their existing coordinated care organizations, according to CareSource.

CareSource first began looking into partnering with TrueCare to serve Mississippians in 2020, according to a CareSource spokesperson.

Contact this reporter at 937-503-5305 or email samantha.wildow@coxinc.com.

Guns bill

continued from A1

even includes an unconstitutional 'co-signer' mandate for firearms purchasers who are 18-21 years of age, which is blatant and arbitrary discrimination."

Gov. Mike DeWine's office indicated approval, if not active support.

"The proposed legislation contains several issues on which the Governor has been focusing, including mental health," Press Secretary Dan Tierney said. "We look forward to following the bill as it progresses through the legislative process."

"This bill is a good first step towards tackling gun violence in Ohio," said Nan Whaley, Democratic gubernatorial nominee and former mayor of Dayton. "When I'm governor, I'll actually fight to pass common sense legislation like this, unlike Mike DeWine. The truth is, DeWine is all talk when it comes to keeping folks safe. We've seen it time and time again: he'll say he supports measures like this, but won't lift a finger to get it passed."

Whaley has criticized DeWine for signing several bills that loosen gun restrictions, including a "stand your ground" law, permitless

MORE DETAILS

WHAT'S IN DOLAN'S BILL?

- A "red flag" law to temporarily take guns from people in mental crises.
- Requiring an older cosigner for gun buyers 21 years or younger for more than a single-shot weapon.
- Requiring a sheriff's affidavit for private gun sales, except between relatives.
- Requiring information on gun buyers to be entered in state and federal background check databases by the end of the next business day.
- Using one-time federal money to increase training of mental health workers and build mental health crisis centers.

concealed carry and allowing teachers to carry guns in schools with little training.

Dolan's bill has five major provisions, according to a news release:

- In cases where a judge deems people to be a threat

to themselves or others due to a "severe mental health condition," a probate judge could issue a safety protection order for police to "retrieve and temporarily hold" that person's firearms.

"The retrieval process will protect constitutional rights and will be conducted with a focus on law enforcement safety," the announcement says.

■ Anyone aged 18 to 21 who wants to buy a gun other than "a rifle or shotgun that holds only a single round of ammunition" would need a cosigner at least 25 years old.

"The cosigner can be held civilly liable if that purchased firearm is used or brandished during the commission of a felony offense while the buyer is under the age of 21," the announcement says.

■ Private gun sales, other than transferring guns between family members, would require written clearance from a county sheriff confirming that those involved are legally eligible to own guns.

■ Speeding up and enhancing background checks by requiring "critical information" on gun buyers to be entered in state and federal law enforcement databases by the end of the following business day.

■ Using American Rescue

Plan Act money to encourage training more mental health workers and expand the network of regional mental health crisis centers.

Someone judged to be mentally incapacitated should not be allowed to buy a gun, a belief that has broad support, Dolan said. His bill would extend that to people who suffer mental disability after buying a gun and who show the potential for causing harm, he said.

The "red flag" provision for police to impound someone's guns during a mental health crisis has been done in other states, Dolan said. The language of his proposal contains more due process than most others, including Florida's, passed by a "very Republican" state government, he said.

Dolan said he's not aware of any other state requiring a cosigner for gun purchasers 21 or younger, but his bill includes an exemption for people of that age in the military or police who have had proper training.

"The 18- to 21-year-old is not banned from buying any gun," he said.

They would just need a cosigner for a weapon that could fire multiple shots without reloading, he said.

The bill would use \$85 million in ARPA funds to work

with hospitals and colleges to expand the pipeline of mental health workers able to serve in counties and schools, Dolan said.

Another \$90 million in ARPA money would go to build mental health crisis centers around the state, to house people who are currently in jail but really need mental health treatment, he said.

Federal ARPA dollars are a one-time appropriation. Dolan said he hopes to design the worker-training program so it becomes self-sustaining. Ongoing funding for operating the crisis centers could be from counties or from the state, he said.

The deadliest mass shooting in Dayton's history happened in August 2019, when a gunman killed nine and injured 37 people in the Oregon District. At a memorial event, a Dayton crowd chanted "Do something!" at DeWine, leading to his introduction in October 2019 of the "Strong Ohio" bill, which called for a slate of gun reforms: improving gun background checks, expanding 72-hour mental health holds, increasing penalties for crimes committed with firearms, and more.

But that legislation has languished in the General Assembly. Instead, legislators

have passed multiple bills loosening existing gun laws, which DeWine has consistently signed.

Legislators need to show their constituents they can discuss gun violence and get something done, Dolan said.

Asked why his bill might pass when similar proposals haven't, Dolan said he didn't think legislators were "ready to have" this discussion when "Strong Ohio" was proposed.

"I think more people are ready to have it now than perhaps they were two years ago," he said.

Dolan said he has talked with Ohio law enforcement, prosecutors and mental health advocates in "building support" for his bill. But he hasn't sought advance cosponsors in the legislature; he plans to do that following its filing.

Dolan served in the state House for six years, and was elected to the state Senate in 2016 from the suburbs of Cleveland. This year he ran for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, who did not run for reelection. Dolan came in third in the Republican primary on May 3.

Contact this reporter at 614-980-7588 or email james.gaines@coxinc.com.

GERMANTOWN
Fresh Market

LOOK what's LOCAL

Fresh Produce

WE'RE PROUD TO SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS

GERMANTOWNFRESHMARKET.COM

Fairborn Sweet Corn Festival

3rd Full Weekend in August!
Aug. 20 & 21

Vendors, arts and crafts, food,
music and family entertainment!

Community Park,
691 E. Dayton-Yellow Springs Road,
Fairborn

Admission is FREE! Saturday 11 AM-7 PM Sunday 11 AM-6 PM

LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has scheduled a public hearing in Case Nos. 21-986-GA-ABN and 21-1035-GA-AAM, *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Abandon Certain Propane-Air Facilities and for Authority to Change Accounting Methods. According to Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke)*, it has used manmade caverns since 1959 to store propane that it uses, along with the associated propane-air facilities, to supplement natural gas during peak usage periods and when otherwise needed. Duke asserts that these caverns cannot be inspected or repaired. Further, Duke has determined that the caverns and associated propane-air facilities, specifically facilities at East Works, Dick's Creek, and the portion of facilities in Erlanger, Kentucky allocated to Ohio customers, should be abandoned and replaced by alternative methods to provide reliable natural gas distribution service. According to Duke, the Central Corridor Pipeline approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board enables Duke to retire the caverns and associated propane-air peaking facilities while maintaining safe and reliable service to customers. *In re the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX, Opinion, Order, and Certificate (Nov. 21, 2019)*. Furthermore, Duke asserts that environmental remediation of its manufactured gas plants, which was addressed in Case No. 14-375-GA-RDR, et al., cannot be completed until the caverns and associated facilities have been decommissioned. Consequently, Duke believes that the abandonment is reasonable, is in the best interest of the public, and should be approved.

Staff of the Commission recommended that Duke's application for abandonment be approved. Further, Staff also recommended deferral authority for the net book value of the propane inventory but does not recommend deferral authority for the net book value of the propane caverns. Staff also recommended approval of deferral authority for a portion of the estimated decommissioning costs. Staff asserts that recovery of these deferred amounts cannot be recovered until these amounts have been reviewed and addressed in future proceedings before the Commission.

Since the filing of the application and Staff's report, Duke and Staff have entered into a stipulation and recommendation purporting to resolve all issues in the case, which has been offered to the Commission for consideration.

An evidentiary hearing in this proceeding will commence on September 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, Hearing Room 11-C, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

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.

FROM PAGE ONE

Affidavit

continued from A1

basis for executing a search warrant at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach on Aug. 8. Documents already made public as part of the investigation show that the FBI retrieved from the property 11 sets of classified documents, including information marked at the top secret level.

The documents also showed that the FBI was investigating the “willful retention of national defense information,” the concealment or removal of government records and obstruction of a federal investigation.

Multiple news media organizations, including The Associated Press, argued in court last week for the disclosure of the affidavit, citing the extraordinary public interest in the federal search of a former president’s home. Trump and some of his supporters have also encouraged the document’s release.

The media coalition responded to Thursday’s filing by asking the judge to unseal portions of the department’s brief and to direct the government, “going forward,” to file publicly a redacted version of any sealed document it submits.

The groups noted that significant information about the investigation is already public.

“At a minimum, any portions of the Brief that recite those facts about the investigation, without revealing additional ones not yet publicly available – in addition to any other portions that pose no threat to the investigation – should be unsealed,” the news organizations wrote.

They added, “If and when additional facts come to light and are confirmed to be accurate, or certain facts no longer pose a threat to the investigation for any other reason, there is no justification for maintaining them under seal either.”

Tension between Trump, archives began in May '21

Alan Feuer
and Maggie Haberman
©2022 The New York Times

Less than four months after former President Donald J. Trump left office, the general counsel of the National Archives reached out to three lawyers who had worked with Trump to convey a firm message: The archives had determined that more than two dozen boxes of Trump’s presidential records were missing, and it needed the lawyers’ “immediate assistance” to retrieve them, according to an email obtained by The New York Times.

The email, sent May 6, 2021, by the top lawyer at the archives, Gary M. Stern, was an early sign of tension between Trump and the federal agency responsible for safeguarding presidential records. It presaged the battle that would later erupt over the former president’s removal of scores of highly sensitive documents from the White House.

On Tuesday, the archives released a separate letter, indicating Trump had taken more than 700 pages of classified materials when he left. Among them, the letter said, were some related to Special Access Programs among the country’s most secretive intelligence operations.

Stern’s email did not mention any classified materials, but it did help to further flesh out the cascading events that ultimately



An email sent on May 6, 2021, to lawyers for former President Donald Trump, shows how long the dispute over classified material had been brewing. MORRY GASH/AP

mately led to an investigation into whether Trump wrongfully kept hold of national security documents and other presidential records.

That investigation, which has included steps like the issuance of federal subpoenas and a visit by top counterintelligence prosecutors, reached a new level this month when FBI agents conducted a court-approved search of Mar-a-Lago, the former president’s private club and residence in Florida, and carted off more sensitive government documents.

In his email, Stern noted that there were two sets of documents in particular the archives could not find: the original correspondence between Trump and the North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, and a letter that President Barack Obama had left for Trump on his first day in office.

The Justice Department has opposed the release, saying the disclosure risks compromising an ongoing criminal investigation, revealing information about witnesses

and divulging investigative techniques.

Reinhart has said that though he was sensitive to the department’s concerns, he was not inclined

to keep the entire document sealed and directed officials to submit to him redactions of the document reflecting the information it wants to keep secret.

2016 ELECTION

DOJ releases memo on Trump-Russia investigation

By Sarah D. Wire
Los Angeles Times (TNS)

WASHINGTON — The Department of Justice has released a 2019 memo to then-Attorney General William Barr advising him not to pursue obstruction of justice charges against then-President Donald Trump related to the special counsel investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election.

The memo by two senior Justice Department officials, which the Trump and Biden administrations both fought to shield from public view, states that Trump’s attempts to influence the investigation – including urging those in his circle not to “flip” on him, firing the head of the FBI and attempting to fire special counsel Robert S. Mueller III – did not constitute obstruction of justice because Trump thought the investigation was politically motivated.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ordered the Justice Department to release an unredacted version of the memo under the Freedom of Information Act.

A version of the memo with more than half of its 10 pages redacted was released in May 2021 in response to a FOIA suit brought by watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington.

The Justice Department argued in court that the document was exempt from disclosure and should be shielded from public view

because it was produced in private deliberations by attorneys before a decision was formalized.

But the appeals court found that Barr never seriously considered charging Trump with obstructing the investigation, stating in its ruling that the memo Barr requested was an “academic exercise” and a “thought experiment.”

Mueller’s report listed 10 instances in which Trump’s actions while president could meet the requirements for an obstruction of justice charge. The special counsel’s office would have exonerated Trump if the facts had supported that conclusion, the report stated.

But Mueller did not make a decision on whether charges should be brought, citing Justice Department policy that a sitting president cannot be charged with a federal crime.

Trump’s actions cited in the report included pressuring then-FBI Director James B. Comey to back off of an investigation into conversations between Michael Flynn and Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak; firing Comey because he would not stop the investigation; and firing Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

The memo was written by Steven Engel, the former head of the department’s Office of Legal Counsel, and Ed O’Callaghan, then-principal associate deputy attorney general.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has scheduled a public hearing in Case Nos. 21-986-GA-ABN and 21-1035-GA-AAM, *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Abandon Certain Propane-Air Facilities and for Authority to Change Accounting Methods.* According to Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke), it has used manmade caverns since 1959 to store propane that it uses, along with the associated propane-air facilities, to supplement natural gas during peak usage periods and when otherwise needed. Duke asserts that these caverns cannot be inspected or repaired. Further, Duke has determined that the caverns and associated propane-air facilities, specifically facilities at East Works, Dick’s Creek, and the portion of facilities in Erlanger, Kentucky allocated to Ohio customers, should be abandoned and replaced by alternative methods to provide reliable natural gas distribution service. According to Duke, the Central Corridor Pipeline approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board enables Duke to retire the caverns and associated propane-air peaking facilities while maintaining safe and reliable service to customers. *In re the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX, Opinion, Order, and Certificate (Nov. 21, 2019).* Furthermore, Duke asserts that environmental remediation of its manufactured gas plants, which was addressed in Case No. 14-375-GA-RDR, et al., cannot be completed until the caverns and associated facilities have been decommissioned. Consequently, Duke believes that the abandonment is reasonable, is in the best interest of the public, and should be approved.

Staff of the Commission recommended that Duke’s application for abandonment be approved. Further, Staff also recommended deferral authority for the net book value of the propane inventory but does not recommend deferral authority for the net book value of the propane caverns. Staff also recommended approval of deferral authority for a portion of the estimated decommissioning costs. Staff asserts that recovery of these deferred amounts cannot be recovered until these amounts have been reviewed and addressed in future proceedings before the Commission.

Since the filing of the application and Staff’s report, Duke and Staff have entered into a stipulation and recommendation purporting to resolve all issues in the case, which has been offered to the Commission for consideration.

An evidentiary hearing in this proceeding will commence on September 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, Hearing Room 11-C, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

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.

HOT DEALS

for Summer!



\$1050 OFF

any Tub or Shower Replacement

⋮

\$1550 OFF

a Total Bathroom Remodel

or 18 month no interest financing!



We’ve been serving the Miami Valley for over 25 years

Call us for a **FREE, NO OBLIGATION** estimate

937.202.0059

OR VISIT OUR BATH DESIGN SHOWROOM

7255 Poe Ave., Dayton, OH 45414











Conrad collecting lids for 'Compassion Benches'

By Bailey Miller

Creatively re-purposing items such as jars, boots, tissue boxes, paper bags, grocery bags, bottles, wooden furniture, and others is a common practice among many. It inspires creative fulfillment by encouraging one to brainstorm how the item can be repurposed and fit one's visionary aesthetic. The repurposed item begins to feel more personal to the person, as well as the room it's positioned in. Such creativity can be spread to others, enforcing some of the same positive feelings that the first person experienced. Some items are more challenging to re-purpose, which is where recycling comes in. Recycling has become a vital part of daily lives to prevent excess trash from growing faster than it already is. Lids to bottles and containers are something that would fall into recycling rather than re-purposing, so one would think.

Karra Conrad, of Georgetown, has been collecting lids from laundry detergents, bottles, and containers to create something impactful to the entire community—"Compassion Benches." Unfortunately, kids sometimes face hardships on their own and do not have the support system that they need. It is difficult to reach out for help when one doesn't know how or when asking for help has only been met with unkind rejection. Pain, hurt, and sorrow never has to be faced alone. Taking a chance to open up with others, those who one senses



kindness and security in, is always worth it. Even if something painful is transpiring, others will want to help the one suffering through it. All have faced some kind of strife in their lives and experienced harrowing emotions; therefore, their hearts will beat with empathy and desire to aid the one suffering. No one is ever alone. Sharing such hurt with another and working through it together will only instill a deeper closeness and trust. There is immense power in vulnerability, it is one of the greatest points of relatability. Humans are complicated, but sharing everything—both the good and bad—sparks a deeper understanding between one another. Everyone has the potential to reach their dreams and become the person they desire to be. We can rely on one another to help get each other there; it's okay that it takes time. Compassion Benches are a silent way for the hurting to reach out to others for help.

The benches are created entirely out of plastic lids by a company called Green Tree Plastics in Evansville, Indiana.

Placed in schools, the benches are encouraged to be used by all who are experiencing any hurt, no matter how big or small it is. Nothing has to be said by the kid, they need only to sit on the bench. Children and staff will take note of the kid on the bench, later following up with them in private to check in on them. This is a major preventer of kids growing up with negative perceptions such as talking about one's feelings is wrong or should be kept to oneself, that there aren't any good people in the world, that it is wrong to feel pain and one should only feel happiness, and the fear of rejection. Growing up with such negative perceptions of the world can greatly impact the kid's adult life through their relationships with others, sense of belonging, their self-worth, and their daily quality of life. The concept of the Compassion Benches also encourages kids to talk openly about their feelings and learn to help each other. It builds an essential quality between two people—trust. Kids will learn ways in which they can process difficult emo-

tions now and when they are faced in the future. Most of all, it prevents tragedies from occurring. Karra wanted to create a Compassion Bench in memoir of Blake Roush, a kid who took his life, and further spread awareness. Blake's bench will have his name engraved into it. All hearts go out to Blake's family and those who were blessed to know him. Not only are the benches saving the environment, but also they are saving lives. "We're transforming something that would've been thrown away into something used for goodness," Kim Conrad remarked.

Karra Conrad aims to save an abundance of lids and obtain enough donations to place benches in all schools throughout the county. Compassion Benches hold the potential to become a phenomenon outside of the county as well. Nursing homes and Mennonite children have already gotten involved to help collect lids. Families, schools, churches, and businesses can get involved simply by saving lids. Karra currently has 17 contractor bags full of lids, enough to make 4 or 6 benches. Shockingly, the abundance of lids has reached 1,900 pounds! There is a fee that must be reached in order for the benches to be made. Heather Garbutt, the owner of Lighthouse Thriftique in Georgetown, has made the Compassion Benches known by discussing the cause and accepting donations. She sorts all donations by different schools. Heather, Kim, and Karra are

always seeking out ways to give back to the community; they have dedicated so much of their time for good causes. Compassion Benches are revolutionary, aiding in

kids' growth, saving lives, creating invaluable connections, and helping the environment. Thank you for creating a way to help those suffering in silence to be heard.

MULCH



Doug GREINER
Trucking, LLC

Mulch, Limestone,
Round Gravel, Sand, Topsoil
PICK UP OR DELIVERY AVAILABLE

937-444-3717

3510 PLEASANT HILL RD, MT ORAB, OH 45154

Insurance

That Goes the Extra Mile

ONE AGENT FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS
Auto • Home • Life • Business





Jay Anderson
Kallam Insurance
937-378-6947 • RonKallam.com



Need Storage Space?

We've got you covered!

Georgetown Area

Brown County Storage: (937) 378-6839
www.browncountystorage.com

Mt. Orab Area

Eastwood Storage: (937) 444-4499
www.eastwoodstorage.com

Call today for the area's lowest rates and best availability.

Benefit for Doug Heyne, Sr. and Fay Heyne

To aid in paying the Heyne family's medical expenses that occurred in June due to the motorcycle wreck on Oakland Road, a fundraiser full of fun activities is being held. Please come join us at the Mt. Orab Sales and Towing on August 28 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00

p.m.

There will be a bounce house, a DJ, food trucks, shaved ice, and lots of vendors and crafters. There will be raffle tickets and split the pot; each ticket is \$1 or an arm's length for \$20. There is a Facebook event listed under Doug and Fay Ben-

efit that lists some of the crafters, vendors, donors, and raffle prizes. Raffle tickets are also available at Snap Fitness and Harmony Salon.

For more info, please call Cindy at (513) 575-8028, Doug at (937) 515-9782, or Sunshine at (937) 444-6292.

Hamersville Community Benefit

The Hamersville Community Action Team (HCAT) is hosting a Flea Market Benefit to raise money for the community of Hamersville. The event is on Saturday, September 24 at 8:00

a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Stik Restaurant at the Flash Baseball Fields off of State Route 125, Hamersville.

We're looking for vendors! Tables are each \$10 (vendors provide table).

HCAT is taking donations on the day of the event.

For more information and if interested in a table, please contact Mark Gall at 1-513-587-9055.

Seven indicted by Brown County grand jury

continued from page 1

Facebook with a person he believed to be a 12-year-old female, according to the Brown County Drug and Major Crimes Task Force. Despite the age being clearly communicated, Zeisler engaged in conversations about sex, sent pornographic material, and made arrangements to meet for sex. Zeisler was taken into custody at the arranged meeting location.

Zeisler is currently incarcerated at the Brown County Jail on a \$100,000 bond.

Other Aug. 11 indictments included:

Mark Kinster, 57, of Olive Hill, KY, was indicted on one count of aggravated posses-

sion of drugs (Methamphetamine, fifth degree felony).

Jamey L. Sanders, 57, of Morehead, KY, was indicted on once count of aggravated possession of drugs (Methamphetamine, third degree felony).

Douglas Brian Vance, 33, of Sardinia, was indicted on two counts of OVI (fourth degree felonies).

Michael Wayne Gormley, 31, of Mt. Orab, was indicted on two count of aggravated burglary (first degree felonies), one count of burglary (second degree felony), two counts of abduction (third degree felonies) and one count of criminal damaging or endangering (second degree misdemeanor).

Tierney Hensley, 35, of Mt. Orab, was indicted on one count of failure to comply with an order or signal of a police officer (third degree felony), one count of receiving stolen property (fifth degree felony), one count of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle (first degree misdemeanor) and one count of aggravated possession of drugs (Methamphetamine, fifth degree felony).

Andrew T. Finley, 32, of Russellville, was indicted on one count of aggravated robbery (first degree felony), two counts of robbery (one a second degree felony and one a third degree felony), and one count of petty theft (first degree misdemeanor).

LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has scheduled a public hearing in Case Nos. 21-986-GA-ABN and 21-1035-GA-AAM, *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Abandon Certain Propane-Air Facilities and for Authority to Change Accounting Methods*. According to Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke), it has used manmade caverns since 1959 to store propane that it uses, along with the associated propane-air facilities, to supplement natural gas during peak usage periods and when otherwise needed. Duke asserts that these caverns cannot be inspected or repaired. Further, Duke has determined that the caverns and associated propane-air facilities, specifically facilities at East Works, Dick's Creek, and the portion of facilities in Erlanger, Kentucky allocated to Ohio customers, should be abandoned and replaced by alternative methods to provide reliable natural gas distribution service. According to Duke, the Central Corridor Pipeline approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board enables Duke to retire the caverns and associated propane-air peaking facilities while maintaining safe and reliable service to customers. *In re the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.*, Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX, Opinion, Order, and Certificate (Nov. 21, 2019). Furthermore, Duke asserts that environmental remediation of its manufactured gas plants, which was addressed in Case No. 14-375-GA-RDR, et al., cannot be completed until the caverns and associated facilities have been decommissioned. Consequently, Duke believes that the abandonment is reasonable, is in the best interest of the public, and should be approved.

Staff of the Commission recommended that Duke's application for abandonment be approved. Further, Staff also recommended deferral authority for the net book value of the propane inventory but does not recommend deferral authority for the net book value of the propane caverns. Staff also recommended approval of deferral authority for a portion of the estimated decommissioning costs. Staff asserts that recovery of these deferred amounts cannot be recovered until these amounts have been reviewed and addressed in future proceedings before the Commission.

Since the filing of the application and Staff's report, Duke and Staff have entered into a stipulation and recommendation purporting to resolve all issues in the case, which has been offered to the Commission for consideration.

An evidentiary hearing in this proceeding will commence on September 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, Hearing Room 11-C, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

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.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Shellee and Johnny Jones to Shellee and Johnny Jones, parcel #41-080392.0000, filed 08-18-22

Johnny Jones to Johnny and Shelee Jones, parcel #41-079904.0000, filed 08-18-22

McIntosh Ruth J. Trustee to Ruth Jean Ansilene Long and Harold W. Long, parcel #33-067616.0000, filed 08-18-22

John Edward Hiler to John Edward Hiler and Patricia Hiler, parcel #34-069552.0006, filed 08-18-22

Larry Clifton LLC-Tom Clifton to Samantha Bailey and Joseph Dylan Bailey, parcel #44-073068.7100, filed 08-18-22, \$229,000

Brian W. Saylor to Steven D. Hall, parcel #37-072044.0015, filed 08-18-22, \$38,000

Barbara Crawford to Fester Group LLC, parcel #22-042172.0000, filed 08-18-22, \$29,500

Danny R. Bulp to Lori Wheeldon, parcel #08-011228.0000 and #08-011224.0000, filed 08-18-22, \$219,000

Terry and Rose Teegarden to Terry L. Teegarden, parcel #15-025924.4800 and #15-025924.4700, filed 08-19-22

CMH Homes Inc. to Luis and Barbara Soto, parcel #37-072148.2200, filed 08-19-22, \$231,994

Amanda Kool and Christopher P. Adams to Christopher P. Adams, parcel #39-074680.0100, filed 08-22-22

Carrington Mortgage Services LLC to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development,

parcel #34-069152.0201, #34-069596.0000, #34-069600.0000, #34-069604.0000, #34-069608.0000, #34-069988.0000, filed 08-22-22

Richard and Kara Ernst to Richard and Kara Ernst, 12 parcels, filed 08-22-22

James and Nancy Deitschel to James Deitschel, parcel #08-0011732.0000, filed 08-22-22

James and Nancy Deitschel to James Deitschel, parcel #08-011728.0000, filed 08-22-22

Neal Ahern to Josh and Shannon Burns, parcel #08-012664.0000, filed 08-22-22, \$3,500

Clifford Vogel to David K. Vogel and Carolyn K. Clifton Etal, parcel #16-027072.0000, filed 08-23-22

Hodge Elvis D. Jr. and Hilliker Cyn to Elvis Hodge, parcel #43-081444.0000, filed 08-23-22

Patricia Whirls to Whirls-Webb Mary E. and Linda J. Garbenis Etal, parcel #23-050424.0000, filed 08-23-22

Jimmie Worstell to Jimmie and Claudia Worstell, parcel #37-073144.0100, filed 08-23-22

Spirita L. Covert to Lewis Fillers, parcel #37-072412.0305 and #10-018724.0305, filed 08-23-22

Eugene and Ruby Lang to Eugene Lang, parcel #15-025604.0000, filed 08-23-22

Ben P. Sexton and Shawna S. Rowland to Shawna September Sexton, parcel #37-071660.0100, filed 08-23-

22 Le Khanh Phu to J.B. Hale LLC, parcel #15-024700.0000, filed 08-23-22

John and Sandra Smith to John J. Smith, parcel #23-046032.0000 and #23-045832.0000, filed 08-23-22

Beacon Hill Land Development LLC to Schlabach Construction LLC, parcel #30-056600.5600, filed 08-23-22, \$34,500

Brandon Smith to Gregory Langefeld, parcel #34-069324.0000, filed 08-23-22, \$235,000

Michael and Dawn Napier to Ralph E. Barber Jr. and Judith Dozier, parcel #16-032428.0000, filed 08-23-22, \$2,500

Larry Clifton LLC-Tom Clifton to Brian and Deanna White, parcel #44-073068.9100, filed 08-23-22, \$231,667

John Utter to Hartman Ridge Farms LLC, parcel #21-041776.0101, filed 08-23-22, \$16,500

Heather A. Smith to David and Lee Pazynski, parcel #41-079872.0000, filed 08-23-22, \$260,000

Dutch Builders LLC to Donald and Juanita Dunham, parcel #16-032836.0000, filed 08-23-22, \$310,000

Brandon Brookbank to Houston Henize, parcel #29-054828.0000, filed 08-23-22, \$214,000

Eric and Melissa Purdy to Hope Orr, parcel #18-038452.0000, filed 08-23-22, \$144,000

Steve and Trena Demasters to Cameron Lynch, parcel #10-017488.0000, filed 08-23-22, \$124,000

Brian and Ashley Yoder to Roger Fetters, parcel #16-028008.0000, filed 08-23-22, \$500

Richard and Candace Flanagan to Candace Flanagan, parcel #07-007256.0600, filed 08-24-22

Zachary and Alysia Thatcher to David and Karen Cress, parcel #31-060204.0000, filed 08-24-22, \$50,000

Yvonne Becker and Dorothy Sams and Aimee Garrett to Steven Kitchen and Michelle Gates, parcel #18-038120.0000 and 18-038116.0000, filed 08-24-22, \$135,000

Barbara A. Beer to Billie Jean Johnson, parcel #03-003648.1300, filed 08-24-22, \$74,000

Joshua Roush and Stacy Strong to Callie Simmons and Baron Frost, parcel #43-082532.0000, filed 08-24-22, \$144,900

Jenel Wyatt to Tracy Denniston, parcel #37-072980.0000, filed 08-24-22, \$145,000

TRUST

*It's important to you.
It's important to us.*

**Trusted Legal Expertise
From a Local Firm**
**ESTATE PLANNING
REAL ESTATE - PROBATE**

Call or email us to schedule a comprehensive strategy session to review/revise or create your estate plan. Enjoy the personal attention and integrity you deserve from a community-focused legal team.



Schroeder Law Group
101 Winchester Street • Sardinia, OH 45171
937-886-4563 • jim@southwestohiolaw.com

CIVIL

Mbc Ventures, Llc vs. Steven Creager, case #20220487, Action: Other Civil, filed: 08-24-22

Pennymace Loan Services, Llc vs. David Baughman, case #20220490, Action: Foreclosures, filed: 08-25-22

Jack Marchbanks, Director vs. Namoh Kentucky Inc. A Kentucky, case #20220491, Action: Appropriation, filed: 08-25-22

Matrix Financial Services vs. Donald Parker Caudill, case #20220492, Action: Foreclosures, filed: 08-25-22

Jack Marchbanks, Director vs. Richard L. Goettke, case #20220493, Action: Appropriation, filed: 08-25-22

Eric D. Kilgore vs. Rumpke Consolidated Companies, case #20220496, Action: Workers Compensation, filed: 08-26-22

Midland Credit Management Inc. vs. Kelly Mingua, case #20220497, Action: Other Civil, filed: 08-26-22

Nationstar Mortgage Llc vs. John Doe (S), case #20220498, Action: Foreclosures, filed: 08-26-22

MARRIAGES

Darek Wade Moorehouse, 38, of Williamsburg, union iron worker, to marry Brandy L. Marion, 34, of Williamsburg, surgical assistant, filed 08-18-22

Matthew Malone Johnson-Smyth, 22, of Stow, full time student, to marry Erin Kendall Bishop, 23, of Mt. Orab, fashion designer, filed 08-22-22

PROBATE

William T. Bradford, of Sardinia, case #20221208, DOD 07-01-2022, filed 08-19-22

Robert Dale Farley, of Aberdeen, case #20221207, DOD 08-27-2021, filed 08-18-22

Carol F. Fisher, of Mt. Orab, case #20221212, DOD 07-25-2022, filed 08-23-22

David J. Houghton, of Russellville, case

#20221206, DOD 06-03-2022, filed 08-18-22

Kenneth Kimberly, of Winchester, case #20221210, DOD 06-15-2022, filed 08-19-22

Cheryl A. Kirk, of Aberdeen, case #20221211, DOD 07-04-2022, filed 08-22-22

John T. Wilson, of Aberdeen, case #20221209, DOD 07-05-2022, filed 08-19-22

Concert at Apple Street Christian

The Singing Byrds will be in concert September 10 at 6:00 p.m. and September 11 10:00 a.m. at the Apple Street Christian Church located on 300 North Apple Street, Georgetown. Everyone is welcome! For any questions, please call Bobby Hunt 606-407-0254.

GHS class of 1972 reunion

The 1972 class of Georgetown High School will be holding their 50-year reunion on Saturday, Oct. 8 at the Lion's Club shelter at the Kathryn Hanlon Park in Georgetown. It will start 2 o'clock. Everyone should bring a casserole (or some type of food to share) and drinks. Tableware will be supplied. Please spread the word! They are hoping to see all their classmates. If anyone has any questions, they can call Chris Purdon Neal, at 937-379-1711.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has scheduled a public hearing in Case Nos. 21-986-GA-ABN and 21-1035-GA-AAM, *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Abandon Certain Propane-Air Facilities and for Authority to Change Accounting Methods*. According to Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke), it has used manmade caverns since 1959 to store propane that it uses, along with the associated propane-air facilities, to supplement natural gas during peak usage periods and when otherwise needed. Duke asserts that these caverns cannot be inspected or repaired. Further, Duke has determined that the caverns and associated propane-air facilities, specifically facilities at East Works, Dick's Creek, and the portion of facilities in Erlanger, Kentucky allocated to Ohio customers, should be abandoned and replaced by alternative methods to provide reliable natural gas distribution service. According to Duke, the Central Corridor Pipeline approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board enables Duke to retire the caverns and associated propane-air peaking facilities while maintaining safe and reliable service to customers. *In re the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.*, Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX, Opinion, Order, and Certificate (Nov. 21, 2019). Furthermore, Duke asserts that environmental remediation of its manufactured gas plants, which was addressed in Case No. 14-375-GA-RDR, et al., cannot be completed until the caverns and associated facilities have been decommissioned. Consequently, Duke believes that the abandonment is reasonable, is in the best interest of the public, and should be approved.

Staff of the Commission recommended that Duke's application for abandonment be approved. Further, Staff also recommended deferral authority for the net book value of the propane inventory but does not recommend deferral authority for the net book value of the propane caverns. Staff also recommended approval of deferral authority for a portion of the estimated decommissioning costs. Staff asserts that recovery of these deferred amounts cannot be recovered until these amounts have been reviewed and addressed in future proceedings before the Commission.

Since the filing of the application and Staff's report, Duke and Staff have entered into a stipulation and recommendation purporting to resolve all issues in the case, which has been offered to the Commission for consideration.

An evidentiary hearing in this proceeding will commence on September 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, Hearing Room 11-C, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

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.

THE NEWS
DEMOCRAT
937-444-3441

Karen Brown
Regional
Sales Director
kbrown@cmpapers.com



Wade Linville
Editor
wlinville@browncountypress.com



Garth Shanklin
Sports
gshanklin@clermontsun.com

THE NEWS
DEMOCRAT
(USPS 38622)

Publishes every Thursday.
Subscription rate is \$35.00 per year.

Prices are subject to change at any time.

Email:
info@
newsdemocrat.com

Website:
www.newsdemocrat.com

Business hours:
Monday - Thursday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.,
Friday
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Classified deadline is Monday at 4 p.m.

Advertising deadline is Monday at 4 p.m.

News deadline is Monday at noon.

219 South High Street
Mt. Orab, Ohio
Telephone
937-444-3441
Fax
937-444-2652

The News Democrat (Pub. No. 38622) is published weekly by the Clermont Sun Publishing Company, 465 E. Main St., Batavia, Ohio, 45103. Telephone 513-732-2511. Periodical postage paid at Georgetown. Subscriptions - \$30.00 per year (in state). POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Brown County Press, 219 South High St., Mt. Orab, Ohio 45154. Reproduction or use, without permission of editorial or graphic content is prohibited. USPS Publication #38622

Advertising pays in The News Democrat
Place your ad by calling (937) 444-3441

NATION & WORLD

COURTS

Trump Organization CFO pleads guilty to tax evasion

By Michael R. Sisak
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A top executive at former President Donald Trump's family business pleaded guilty Thursday to evading taxes in a deal that could potentially make him a star witness against the company at a fall trial.

Trump Organization CFO Allen Weisselberg pleaded guilty to all 15 of the charges he faced in the case. He was accused of dodging taxes on lavish fringe benefits he got from the company, including lease payments for a luxury car, rent for a Manhattan apartment and private school tuition for his grandchildren.

Weisselberg is the only person to face criminal charges so far in the Manhattan dis-

trict attorney's long-running investigation of the company's business practices.

Judge Juan Manuel Merchan agreed to sentence Weisselberg to five months incarceration and five years probation at New York City's Rikers Island jail complex, although he will be eligible for release much earlier if he behaves well behind bars. The judge said Weisselberg will have to pay nearly \$2 million in taxes, penalties and interest.

The plea bargain also requires Weisselberg to testify truthfully as a prosecution witness when the Trump Organization goes on trial in October on related charges. The company is accused of helping Weisselberg and other executives avoid income taxes by



The Trump Organization's former Chief Financial Officer Allen Weisselberg arrives at court Thursday in New York. YUKI IWAMURA / AP

failing to accurately report their full compensation to the government.

Trump himself is not charged in the case.

Testimony by Weisselberg could potentially weaken the Trump Organization's defense. If convicted, the company could face fines

and seek an indictment of Trump, according to former prosecutor Mark Pomerantz, who previously led the probe.

But after Vance left office, his successor, Alvin Bragg, allowed the grand jury to disband without charges. Both prosecutors are Democrats. Bragg has said the investigation is continuing.

The tax fraud charges against the Trump Organization are punishable by a fine of double the amount of unpaid taxes, or \$250,000, whichever is larger.

Trump has decried the New York investigations as a "political witch hunt" and has said his company's actions were standard practice in the real estate business and in no way a crime.

WAR IN UKRAINE

High-level talks yield little reported progress

By Derek Gatopoulos
and Suzan Fraser
Associated Press

LVIV, UKRAINE — Turkey's leader and the U.N. chief met in Ukraine with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Thursday in a high-powered bid to ratchet down a war raging for nearly six months. But little immediate progress was reported.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he would follow up with Russian President Vladimir Putin, given that most of the matters discussed would require the Kremlin's agreement.

With the meetings held at such a high level — it was the first visit to Ukraine by Erdogan since the war broke out, and the second by Guterres — some had hoped for break-

throughs, if not toward an overall peace, then at least on specific issues. But none was apparent.

Meeting in the western city of Lviv, far from the front lines, the leaders discussed such things as expanding exchanges of prisoners of war and arranging for U.N. atomic energy experts to visit and help secure Europe's biggest nuclear power plant, which is in the middle of fierce fighting that has raised fears of catastrophe.

Erdogan has positioned himself as a go-between in efforts to stop the fighting. While Turkey is a member of NATO, its wobbly economy is reliant on Russia for trade, and it has tried to steer a middle course between the two combatants.

The Turkish president



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy (center), Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (left) and United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres shake hands after their meeting Thursday. EVGENIY MALOLETKA / AP

urged the international community after the talks not to abandon diplomatic efforts to end the war that has killed

tens of thousands and forced more than 10 million Ukrainians from their homes. He repeated that Turkey

is willing to act as "mediator and facilitator" and added, "I remain convinced that the war will end at the negotiating table."

In March, Turkey hosted talks in Istanbul between Russian and Ukrainian negotiators, but the effort to end the hostilities failed.

On the battlefield, meanwhile, at least 17 people were killed overnight in heavy Russian missile strikes on Ukraine's Kharkiv region, Ukrainian authorities said Thursday.

Russia's military claimed that it struck a base for foreign mercenaries in Kharkiv, killing 90. There was no immediate comment from the Ukrainian side.

In the latest in a series of incidents on Russian soil near the border with Ukraine, an

ammunition dump caught fire in the Belgorod region, the regional governor said. No casualties were reported.

Heightening international tensions, Russia deployed warplanes carrying state-of-the-art hypersonic missiles to its Kaliningrad region, an enclave surrounded by NATO members Lithuania and Poland.

One major topic at the talks in Lviv was the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in southern Ukraine. Moscow and Kyiv have accused each other of shelling the complex.

Condemning the Kremlin for what he called "nuclear blackmail," Zelenskyy has demanded that Russian troops leave the plant and that a team from the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency be allowed in.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has scheduled a public hearing in Case Nos. 21-986-GA-ABN and 21-1035-GA-AAM, *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Abandon Certain Propane-Air Facilities and for Authority to Change Accounting Methods*. According to Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke), it has used manmade caverns since 1959 to store propane that it uses, along with the associated propane-air facilities, to supplement natural gas during peak usage periods and when otherwise needed. Duke asserts that these caverns cannot be inspected or repaired. Further, Duke has determined that the caverns and associated propane-air facilities, specifically facilities at East Works, Dick's Creek, and the portion of facilities in Erlanger, Kentucky allocated to Ohio customers, should be abandoned and replaced by alternative methods to provide reliable natural gas distribution service. According to Duke, the Central Corridor Pipeline approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board enables Duke to retire the caverns and associated propane-air peaking facilities while maintaining safe and reliable service to customers. *In re the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.*, Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX, Opinion, Order, and Certificate (Nov. 21, 2019). Furthermore, Duke asserts that environmental remediation of its manufactured gas plants, which was addressed in Case No. 14-375-GA-RDR, et al., cannot be completed until the caverns and associated facilities have been decommissioned. Consequently, Duke believes that the abandonment is reasonable, is in the best interest of the public, and should be approved.

Staff of the Commission recommended that Duke's application for abandonment be approved. Further, Staff also recommended deferral authority for the net book value of the propane inventory but does not recommend deferral authority for the net book value of the propane caverns. Staff also recommended approval of deferral authority for a portion of the estimated decommissioning costs. Staff asserts that recovery of these deferred amounts cannot be recovered until these amounts have been reviewed and addressed in future proceedings before the Commission.

Since the filing of the application and Staff's report, Duke and Staff have entered into a stipulation and recommendation purporting to resolve all issues in the case, which has been offered to the Commission for consideration.

An evidentiary hearing in this proceeding will commence on September 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, Hearing Room 11-C, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

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.

HOT DEALS

for Summer!

\$1050 OFF

any Tub or Shower Replacement

\$1550 OFF

a Total Bathroom Remodel

or 18 month no interest financing!

We've been serving the Miami Valley for over 25 years

Call us for a **FREE, NO OBLIGATION** estimate
937.202.0059

OR VISIT OUR BATH DESIGN SHOWROOM
7255 Poe Ave., Dayton, OH 45414

See stores for details

FROM PAGE ONE

Affidavit

continued from A1

basis for executing a search warrant at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach on Aug. 8. Documents already made public as part of the investigation show that the FBI retrieved from the property 11 sets of classified documents, including information marked at the top secret level.

The documents also showed that the FBI was investigating the “willful retention of national defense information,” the concealment or removal of government records and obstruction of a federal investigation.

Multiple news media organizations, including The Associated Press, argued in court last week for the disclosure of the affidavit, citing the extraordinary public interest in the federal search of a former president’s home. Trump and some of his supporters have also encouraged the document’s release.

The media coalition responded to Thursday’s filing by asking the judge to unseal portions of the department’s brief and to direct the government, “going forward,” to file publicly a redacted version of any sealed document it submits.

The groups noted that significant information about the investigation is already public.

“At a minimum, any portions of the Brief that recite those facts about the investigation, without revealing additional ones not yet publicly available – in addition to any other portions that pose no threat to the investigation – should be unsealed,” the news organizations wrote.

They added, “If and when additional facts come to light and are confirmed to be accurate, or certain facts no longer pose a threat to the investigation for any other reason, there is no justification for maintaining them under seal either.”

Tension between Trump, archives began in May '21

Alan Feuer and Maggie Haberman
©2022 The New York Times



An email sent on May 6, 2021, to lawyers for former President Donald Trump, shows how long the dispute over classified material had been brewing. MORRY GASH/AP

Less than four months after former President Donald J. Trump left office, the general counsel of the National Archives reached out to three lawyers who had worked with Trump to convey a firm message: The archives had determined that more than two dozen boxes of Trump’s presidential records were missing, and it needed the lawyers’ “immediate assistance” to retrieve them, according to an email obtained by The New York Times.

The email, sent May 6, 2021, by the top lawyer at the archives, Gary M. Stern, was an early sign of tension between Trump and the federal agency responsible for safeguarding presidential records. It presaged the battle that would later erupt over the former president’s removal of scores of highly sensitive documents from the White House.

On Tuesday, the archives released a separate letter, indicating Trump had taken more than 700 pages of classified materials when he left. Among them, the letter said, were some related to Special Access Programs among the country’s most secretive intelligence operations.

Stern’s email did not mention any classified materials, but it did help to further flesh out the cascading events that ultimately led to an investigation into whether Trump wrongfully kept hold of national security documents and other presidential records.

That investigation, which has included steps like the issuance of federal subpoenas and a visit by top counterintelligence prosecutors, reached a new level this month when FBI agents conducted a court-approved search of Mar-a-Lago, the former president’s private club and residence in Florida, and carted off more sensitive government documents.

In his email, Stern noted that there were two sets of documents in particular the archives could not find: the original correspondence between Trump and the North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, and a letter that President Barack Obama had left for Trump on his first day in office.

Stern told the lawyers that just before Trump left office, the letters from Kim were placed in a binder for the president but never made their way to the archives. “It is essential that these original records be transferred to NARA as soon as possible,” he wrote, using the acronym for the National Archives and Records Administration.

Stern’s email was addressed to Scott Gast and Michael Purpura, two of Trump’s representatives to the National Archives, and to Patrick F. Philbin, a senior lawyer in Trump’s White House Counsel’s Office. Philbin and Pat Cipollone, the top White House lawyer at the end of the Trump administration, have been interviewed by the FBI in connection with the inquiry into the sensitive documents stored at Mar-a-Lago, according to people familiar with the matter.

The Justice Department has opposed the release, saying the disclosure risks compromising an ongoing criminal investigation, revealing information about witnesses and divulging investigative techniques.

Reinhart has said that though he was sensitive to the department’s concerns, he was not inclined

to keep the entire document sealed and directed officials to submit to him redactions of the document reflecting the information it wants to keep secret.

2016 ELECTION

DOJ releases memo on Trump-Russia investigation

By Sarah D. Wire
Los Angeles Times (TNS)

WASHINGTON — The Department of Justice has released a 2019 memo to then-Attorney General William Barr advising him not to pursue obstruction of justice charges against then-President Donald Trump related to the special counsel investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election.

The memo by two senior Justice Department officials, which the Trump and Biden administrations both fought to shield from public view, states that Trump’s attempts to influence the investigation — including urging those in his circle not to “flip” on him, firing the head of the FBI and attempting to fire special counsel Robert S. Mueller III — did not constitute obstruction of justice because Trump thought the investigation was politically motivated.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ordered the Justice Department to release an unredacted version of the memo under the Freedom of Information Act.

A version of the memo with more than half of its 10 pages redacted was released in May 2021 in response to a FOIA suit brought by watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington.

The Justice Department argued in court that the document was exempt from disclosure and should be shielded from public view

because it was produced in private deliberations by attorneys before a decision was formalized.

But the appeals court found that Barr never seriously considered charging Trump with obstructing the investigation, stating in its ruling that the memo Barr requested was an “academic exercise” and a “thought experiment.”

Mueller’s report listed 10 instances in which Trump’s actions while president could meet the requirements for an obstruction of justice charge. The special counsel’s office would have exonerated Trump if the facts had supported that conclusion, the report stated.

But Mueller did not make a decision on whether charges should be brought, citing Justice Department policy that a sitting president cannot be charged with a federal crime.

Trump’s actions cited in the report included pressuring then-FBI Director James B. Comey to back off of an investigation into conversations between Michael Flynn and Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak; firing Comey because he would not stop the investigation; and firing Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

The memo was written by Steven Engel, the former head of the department’s Office of Legal Counsel, and Ed O’Callaghan, then-principal associate deputy attorney general.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has scheduled a public hearing in Case Nos. 21-986-GA-ABN and 21-1035-GA-AAM, *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Abandon Certain Propane-Air Facilities and for Authority to Change Accounting Methods.* According to Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke), it has used manmade caverns since 1959 to store propane that it uses, along with the associated propane-air facilities, to supplement natural gas during peak usage periods and when otherwise needed. Duke asserts that these caverns cannot be inspected or repaired. Further, Duke has determined that the caverns and associated propane-air facilities, specifically facilities at East Works, Dick’s Creek, and the portion of facilities in Erlanger, Kentucky allocated to Ohio customers, should be abandoned and replaced by alternative methods to provide reliable natural gas distribution service. According to Duke, the Central Corridor Pipeline approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board enables Duke to retire the caverns and associated propane-air peaking facilities while maintaining safe and reliable service to customers. *In re the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX, Opinion, Order, and Certificate (Nov. 21, 2019).* Furthermore, Duke asserts that environmental remediation of its manufactured gas plants, which was addressed in Case No. 14-375-GA-RDR, et al., cannot be completed until the caverns and associated facilities have been decommissioned. Consequently, Duke believes that the abandonment is reasonable, is in the best interest of the public, and should be approved.

Staff of the Commission recommended that Duke’s application for abandonment be approved. Further, Staff also recommended deferral authority for the net book value of the propane inventory but does not recommend deferral authority for the net book value of the propane caverns. Staff also recommended approval of deferral authority for a portion of the estimated decommissioning costs. Staff asserts that recovery of these deferred amounts cannot be recovered until these amounts have been reviewed and addressed in future proceedings before the Commission.

Since the filing of the application and Staff’s report, Duke and Staff have entered into a stipulation and recommendation purporting to resolve all issues in the case, which has been offered to the Commission for consideration.

An evidentiary hearing in this proceeding will commence on September 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, Hearing Room 11-C, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

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.

HOT DEALS

for Summer!

\$1050 OFF

any Tub or Shower Replacement

\$1550 OFF

a Total Bathroom Remodel

or 18 month no interest financing!

Call us for a FREE, NO OBLIGATION estimate
937.202.0059

OR VISIT OUR BATH DESIGN SHOWROOM
7255 Poe Ave., Dayton, OH 45414

We’ve been serving the Miami Valley for over 25 years

See stores for details



Anti-abortion supporters rally as the Indiana Senate Rules Committee met to consider a Republican proposal to ban nearly all abortions in the state during a hearing at the Statehouse in Indianapolis on July 26. Michael Conroy | AP file

Post-Roe differences surface in GOP over new abortion rules

By Hannah Fingerhut and Scott Bauer
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — When the U.S. Supreme Court repealed in June a woman's constitutional right to an abortion, Wisconsin's 1849 law that bans the procedure except when a mother's life is at risk became newly relevant.

Republicans in the Legislature blocked an attempt by Democratic Gov. Tony Evers to overturn the law. Yet there's disagreement inside the GOP over how to move forward when they return to the state Capitol in January.

The state's powerful Republican Assembly speaker, Robin Vos, supports reinforcing the exception for a mother's life and adding protections for instances involving rape and incest. Others, including GOP state Rep. Barbara Dittich, say the law should stay as it is, without exceptions for rape and incest.

For decades, Republicans like Vos and Dittich appealed to conservative voters — and donors — with broad condemnation of abortion. But the Supreme Court's decision is forcing Republicans from state legislatures to Congress to the campaign trail to articulate more specifically what that opposition means, sometimes creating division over where the party should stand.

Dittich says consensus among her Republican colleagues on an alternative to the 1849 law would be a "tremendous challenge."

"We once heard that the Democrats were the big-tent party," she said in an interview. "Now I would say the Republican Party is more the big-tent party on some of these issues."

Of course, supporters of abortion rights are now a distinct minority in Republican politics. Just two GOP members of Congress — Sens. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Susan Collins of Maine — publicly support passing legislation to reinstate the protections of a woman's right to choose that the Supreme Court struck down in overruling *Roe v. Wade*. In Colorado, U.S. Senate candidate Joe O'Dea is the rare Republican running this year who backs codifying *Roe*.

But the debate over even a limited set of circumstances in which abortion could be legal spurred some division within the GOP in Wisconsin and elsewhere.

In Indiana, after a decade of stalled legislation on abortion, empowered Republicans

passed the first near-total abortion ban since the Supreme Court ruling. But even that measure drew dissent within the GOP. Exemptions for rape and incest up to 10 weeks prevailed after 50 Republicans joined with all Democrats to include them.

Still, 18 Republicans voted against final passage of the bill, with roughly half saying the bill went too far and the rest saying it was too weak.

In South Carolina, meanwhile, Republicans have spent decades curtailing abortion access and there is ongoing discussion about a near-total ban. But some in the legislature voiced concern about pushing the current six-week ban further and urged deceleration, particularly after seeing voters in Kansas spike a ballot measure that would have allowed the legislature there to ban abortion.

"It's like you are playing with live ammunition right now," Republican Rep. Tom Davis told The Associated Press.

The Supreme Court ruling paved the way for severe abortion restrictions or bans in nearly half the states. Nine states currently have laws banning abortion from conception, with three more — Tennessee, Idaho and Texas — set to take effect on Aug. 25. Three states — Georgia, South Carolina and Ohio — have laws banning abortion when fetal cardiac activity is detected, at about six weeks. Florida's law bans abortion at 15 weeks, and Arizona's will as of Sep. 24.

Some experts say the inconsistency among Republicans about how to move forward underscores how new the debate is — and how unprepared the party was for it.

"Historically, GOP candidates and policy makers were in a politically convenient spot when it came to being 'pro-life,'" University of Denver political science professor Joshua Wilson told the AP in an email.

Until *Roe* was overturned, Republican-controlled states could introduce legislation to dismantle abortion access, knowing that federal courts bound by the law at the time would block the most aggressive regulations. That and the issue's lower salience among Democratic and moderate voters, Wilson noted, "were linked guardrails against political backlash."

The rejected ballot measure in Kansas surprised advocates on both sides, not only because it was defeated by a 20-percentage-point margin

but also because turnout surged, driven by voters who weren't participating in the Republican primary. Prioritization of abortion and women's rights is growing among abortion rights supporters, and Democrats are seeking to capitalize on the shift by campaigning on the issue and pushing for ballot measures in other states.

Polling shows the most extreme anti-abortion laws are at odds with the American public and even most Republicans.

The July AP-NORC poll showed Republicans are largely opposed to abortion "for any reason" and at 15 weeks into a pregnancy. But only 16% of Republicans say abortion generally should be "illegal in all cases."

Most Republicans said their state should generally allow a pregnant person to obtain a legal abortion if the child would be born with a life-threatening illness (61%), the person became pregnant as the result of rape or incest (77%) or if the person's health is seriously endangered (85%).

A majority of Republicans, 56%, also said their state should generally allow abortion at six weeks into a pregnancy. GOP politicians may begin to face pressure to satisfy their base's most conservative anti-abortion opponents — they want total abortion bans — and the moderate or independent voter, who is more accepting of abortion at early points in the pregnancy and in extenuating circumstances.

That's led some candidates to pivot from hard-line positions in their primaries to more diffuse rhetoric ahead of their general election in purple states. In Arizona, the Republican candidate for governor, Kari Lake, who said during the primary that "abortion is the ultimate sin" and abortion pills should be outlawed, punted to the Legislature when asked about the specifics of abortion policy after she won.

When he was running to be Georgia Republicans' nominee for the U.S. Senate, Herschel Walker was unequivocal in his support for an outright abortion ban with no exceptions. Now that he is the nominee running in a tight general election contest, he's more circumspect. When asked plainly whether he'd vote for an absolute prohibition in a Republican-controlled Senate, Walker demurred.

"That's an 'if,'" Walker said, telling reporters he won't entertain such a hypothetical scenario "right now."

Legacy

From page 1

subjects that had fallen through the ice and were in immediate peril.

He said the accident took place at a private dock located on the north side of Rocky Fork Lake at the bottom of a steep incline that had compromised access, but a first responder was on the scene within 10 minutes of the call.

One male juvenile had attempted to rescue one female juvenile, Jackman reported, with the male juvenile able to self-rescue from the ice and water. The male juvenile was later ground transported to Highland District Hospital for treatment of hypothermia, and survived.

During the initial phase of the rescue, LaGore, 38, of Warren County, suffered a medical emergency and was transported via ground ambulance to Highland District Hospital, where he later died.

"Officer Lagore began his ODNR career in 2005 when he joined the Division of Parks and Watercraft in 2005 and worked at both Caesar Creek and Cowan Lake state parks," states the Facebook page @LagoreMemorialDogPark.

"In 2011, Officer Lagore began working and training with his first canine partner, Ranger. Officer Lagore attended Police Dog Services and completed police K-9 training. Throughout K-9 Ranger's service life, this

highly effective team of canine and officer was involved in numerous missing person searches. Highlights of their work include 21 cadaver finds and locating nearly an ounce of heroin. Officer Lagore and K-9 Ranger also received a life-saving award for locating a missing 88-year-old diabetic male."

The article on the Facebook page continues, "As Officer Lagore worked with his K-9 partner, he began advocating for the use of additional K-9 teams across ODNR and other law enforcement agencies. In January 2017, Officer Jason Lagore coordinated the first Ohio State Park's Canine Academy, which resulted in graduating two new K-9s."

"In the recent past, Officer Lagore was instrumental in training additional K-9's for the ODNR's divisions of Parks and Watercraft and Wildlife, as well as other agencies across Ohio. Because of his expertise, instruction skills, enthusiasm, and advocacy, ODNR now has 10 K-9 units assisting traditional law enforcement officers."

"As K-9 Ranger reached retirement age, Officer Lagore trained a new K-9 partner, Sarge, who replaced K-9 Ranger in 2018. Working with both K-9s, Officer Lagore's efforts resulted in more than 40 positive finds for cadavers and hundreds of searches for other Ohio law enforcement agencies. The work done by Officer Lagore and his K-9 partners provided closure or relief for dozens

of Ohio families.

"It cannot be said enough — Officer Lagore's wealth of knowledge about training police canines is irreplaceable. In addition to committing hundreds of hours training his own canines, he routinely answered calls for service for a total of more than 400 K-9 team responses. ...

"Today, his K-9 partner, Sarge, is retired from service and living with Officer Lagore's wife and children. Because of his dedication and hard work, Officer Lagore and his K-9 partners leave a strong legacy for other ODNR K-9 units to follow. Because of his commitment to excellence and public service, ODNR's law enforcement canine teams are professional, well-respected, and highly effective units they are today."

Car show fundraiser upcoming

The Friends of Ohio K9 Inc. is planning a car show to raise funds for the project, set for Sunday, Oct. 16 at the Caesar Creek State Park Beach parking lot.

The event will include rides, raffles, music, food, and a tribute to Lagore. There will also be a dog watering area and dog beach access.

Registration is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (\$15 per entry) with judging 1-3 p.m. and trophies at 4 p.m.

The event will open at noon, when the tribute will take place.

For more information, visit the Facebook page @LagoreMemorialDogPark.

Courses

From page 1

between the school and local colleges.

"We are very excited to expand STEM opportunities for our students," McClain Principal Matthew

Shelton said. "Mr. Luke has put in countless hours this summer to be certified to teach these courses, so a big shout-out to him for working hard to further benefit the education of so many of our students."

To keep up with what's happening at

McClain High School, check out the high school's Facebook page, the district's social media pages, and the district website at greenfield.k12.oh.us.

Angela Shepherd is a correspondent for the Greenfield Exempted Village Schools.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has scheduled a public hearing in Case Nos. 21-986-GA-ABN and 21-1035-GA-AAM, *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Abandon Certain Propane-Air Facilities and for Authority to Change Accounting Methods*. According to Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke), it has used manmade caverns since 1959 to store propane that it uses, along with the associated propane-air facilities, to supplement natural gas during peak usage periods and when otherwise needed. Duke asserts that these caverns cannot be inspected or repaired. Further, Duke has determined that the caverns and associated propane-air facilities, specifically facilities at East Works, Dick's Creek, and the portion of facilities in Erlanger, Kentucky allocated to Ohio customers, should be abandoned, and replaced by alternative methods to provide reliable natural gas distribution service. According to Duke, the Central Corridor Pipeline approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board enables Duke to retire the caverns and associated propane-air peaking facilities while maintaining safe and reliable service to customers. *In re the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.*, Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX, Opinion, Order, and Certificate (Nov. 21, 2019). Furthermore, Duke asserts that environmental remediation of its manufactured gas plants, which was addressed in Case No. 14-375-GA-RDR, et al., cannot be completed until the caverns and associated facilities have been decommissioned. Consequently, Duke believes that the abandonment is reasonable, is in the best interest of the public, and should be approved.

Staff of the Commission recommended that Duke's application for abandonment be approved. Further, Staff also recommended deferral authority for the net book value of the propane inventory but does not recommend deferral authority for the net book value of the propane caverns. Staff also recommended approval of deferral authority for a portion of the estimated decommissioning costs. Staff asserts that recovery of these deferred amounts cannot be recovered until these amounts have been reviewed and addressed in future proceedings before the Commission.

Since the filing of the application and Staff's report, Duke and Staff have entered into a stipulation and recommendation purporting to resolve all issues in the case, which has been offered to the Commission for consideration.

An evidentiary hearing in this proceeding will commence on September 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, Hearing Room 11-C, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

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.

Gulls

From page 1

that scientists named “Bald Eagle Disturbance” that is exclusively used when certain subtypes of gulls are in the presence of bald eagles, their biggest nemesis and predator.

According to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, “The bald eagle occurs in marshes, swamps and river systems throughout Ohio.” The country’s national symbol, the bald eagle was once notably on the Endangered Species List, but is still being monitored. According to the ODNR, “Bald Eagles have continued to recover from a low of four breeding pairs in 1979.”

Their population in Ohio now encompasses a “documented 707 nests throughout the state of Ohio,” according to a recent statewide nest census.

Like the bald eagle, Ohio gulls have recovered from historically being near extinction. Their once declining numbers was attributed to their



Ring-billed gulls like the one in this photograph can be identified by the distinctive black ring around their bill.

Photo by Juliane Cartaino

use in millinery, such as the fancy plumed hats favored by fashionable denizens of the late 19th century. As a result of their inclusion in the making of increasingly

extravagant ladies’ hats, the gulls’ existence was once threatened.

Pretty feathers, plumage and even entire wings or birds, at the time, adorned millinery to

such an extent that gulls were in danger of becoming extinct. But wildlife legislation in the interim has allowed the gulls to successfully rebound and thrive.

Why are they here and what do they want

The gulls are adaptable by nature and the edible detritus created by human consumer activity accounts for their presence in, and adaptation to, more metropolitan spaces, according to Ohio author and journalist Robert Loewendick, who has studied the species and other state wildlife extensively, and has documented their tendencies and activities.

The human reaction to the seemingly salient sight of birds that seem somehow out of place is something he’s noticed, too.

“The gulls of Ohio are an interesting sight, especially displayed against the drab colors of winter,” he said.

Amidst a background of stark commercial landscapes, Ohio gulls, feasting on the scraps of commerce, bring the soothing seaside sounds of the beach and make us stop for a second to think, “Why are there seagulls in this parking lot in Ohio?”

The proliferation of gulls around human

activity is easy explainable, according to Loewendick, who said the species has become less timid around humans in their ongoing, scavenging quest for food. The gull’s normal diet would include fish, small salamanders, rodent animals, insects, and even a small bird if the opportunity presents itself, according to Loewendick. But the intrusion of humans has resulted in adaptation and a change in diet.

“Human sprawl has invaded to the edges of ponds, lakes and rivers,” Loewendick said, and that has changed their behavior.

“As with most wildlife species, members of the gull family have adapted to the change in habitat,” Loewendick said. Nevertheless, he cautioned that humans should not attempt to befriend or directly feed them.

“Please don’t offer a full anything to eat as human handouts create health issues for the birds,” Loewendick said.

Juliane Cartaino is a stringer for The Times-Gazette.

Look

From page 1

frankfurters for 35 cents.

This week in 1960, the Lynchburg News reported that John Martin, chairman of the joint Lion’s Club and volunteer firemen’s committee, announced that the ending of the Labor Day Homecoming would have “one of the most spectacular displays of fireworks ever seen here.”

Karen Pfister, a senior, was announced to be representing the Lynchburg Future Farmers of America in the annual State Fair Queen Contest, which was scheduled for Aug. 27.

Roger Barker, a registered Republican, received an endorsement from the Highland County Democratic Executive and Central Committee to be appointed as the permanent postmaster in Lynchburg.

Emily Huff, Burton Morris and Mack Sauer were named as new board members at the Highland County TB and Health Association, with Sauer named the Seal Campaign chairman for 1960.

In sports, the Buckeye League Bavarians traveled to Lynchburg and gifted the Lynchburg baseball team their second loss in the elimination playoffs by a score of 11 to 6, meaning Lynchburg’s next loss would eliminate it from the playoffs.

The Roselawn Auto Theatre in Allensburg advertised multiple films including “The Bellboy,” starring Jerry Lewis, and “Ten Seconds to Hell,” starring Jeff Chandler and Jack Palance.

Griffith Motors, located in Lynchburg, advertised multiple vehicles, including a 1953 Ford V8 nine-passenger station wagon for \$495 and a 1945 GMC two-ton truck in “good condition” for \$195.

This week in 1985, The Press-Gazette reported that Highland County residents living outside of Hillsboro had the possibility of losing life squad services beginning on Jan. 1, 1986, because of the “tremendous cost” involved in paying employees for the life squad trips.

Around 64,000 schedules were delivered to

potential Southern State Community College students from Adams, Brown, Clinton, Fayette and Highland counties and included new options like nursing, engineering and accounting.

The Highland County Board of Commissioners announced that Merchants National Bank was selected to be the depository for active county funds because of a proposal delivered by the bank, with the fixed interest rate on money deposited to be 9.21 percent.

The Hillsboro Fire Department was called in to respond to a fire at Jaycees Clubhouse where a fire “apparently” started in a wastebasket after some hot ashes were left in an ashtray and then dumped into the trash container. There was minor fire damage and heavy smoke throughout the building.

The Highway 50 Drive-In Theatre, located on U.S. Route 50 in Allensburg, advertised multiple movies including “Teen Wolf,” starring Michael J. Fox, and “Night of the Comet,” starring Kelli Maroney and Catherine Mary Stewart.

Edmisten’s Home Furnishings, located eight miles south of Seaman off S.R. 247, advertised multiple products including an Astrolounger Hide-A-Bed love seat size for \$269.95 and bunk beds with bedding included for \$159.95.

This week in 2010, The Times-Gazette reported

that Blake’s Coffey Shop in downtown Greenfield celebrated its 50th anniversary, with founder Rosie Blake still working in the store at the time of the anniversary.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, announced that the state’s squirrel season was scheduled to open on Sept. 1, when hunters could claim up to six of the animals.

Highland County’s unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percent to 15.8 percent for July 2010 but was still less than the highest rate in the state, which was Clinton County at 16.7 percent.

People were invited to meet the firefighters at Paint Creek Joint EMS/Fire District at an open house scheduled at the department’s headquarters on North Washington Street in Greenfield.

In sports, the McClain freshman, junior varsity and varsity cheerleading teams attended a Universal Cheerleading Association camp at Ohio Northern University where they claimed multiple awards, one of the being the “coveted” Traditions Awards, which was given to the team that showed the most leadership.

Gusweiler Toyota, located in Washington Court House, advertised multiple vehicles including a 2011 Camry LE, with four doors, for \$179 per month, and a new 1020 RAV4 4x4 for \$209 a month.

Reach Jacob Clary at 937-402-2570.

Fayette County Fish & Game Assn. 2022 Fall Shoot Schedule X CARD All Start at 10 a.m. Fee Based

August 28th 10 a.m.
September 11th & 25th
October 9th & 23rd
November 13th & 27th
December 11th & 18th

Open Shooting Schedule

August thru October – Tuesday’s 5-8 p.m. and Fridays 9 till noon

Saturday August 20th noon 3 p.m. Fee Based

Rifle Bench Shoots 10 a.m.

Third Sunday thru November – Fee Based

“Rimfire practice” 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Fee Based

August 21st, September 18th, October 16th

“S.W. Ohio Rimfire Challenge”

8 a.m. – 4 p.m, August 27th – Fee Based

Follow Fayette County Fish & Game on Facebook Group page for updates. Range location 1236 Robinson Road, Wash. C.H.

Ad Courtesy of Fayette County Travel and Tourism Bureau

CLIP AND SAVE

LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has scheduled a public hearing in Case Nos. 21-986-GA-ABN and 21-1035-GA-AAM, *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Abandon Certain Propane-Air Facilities and for Authority to Change Accounting Methods*. According to Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke), it has used manmade caverns since 1959 to store propane that it uses, along with the associated propane-air facilities, to supplement natural gas during peak usage periods and when otherwise needed. Duke asserts that these caverns cannot be inspected or repaired. Further, Duke has determined that the caverns and associated propane-air facilities, specifically facilities at East Works, Dick’s Creek, and the portion of facilities in Erlanger, Kentucky allocated to Ohio customers, should be abandoned, and replaced by alternative methods to provide reliable natural gas distribution service. According to Duke, the Central Corridor Pipeline approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board enables Duke to retire the caverns and associated propane-air peaking facilities while maintaining safe and reliable service to customers. *In re the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.*, Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX, Opinion, Order, and Certificate (Nov. 21, 2019). Furthermore, Duke asserts that environmental remediation of its manufactured gas plants, which was addressed in Case No. 14-375-GA-RDR, et al., cannot be completed until the caverns and associated facilities have been decommissioned. Consequently, Duke believes that the abandonment is reasonable, is in the best interest of the public, and should be approved.

Staff of the Commission recommended that Duke’s application for abandonment be approved. Further, Staff also recommended deferral authority for the net book value of the propane inventory but does not recommend deferral authority for the net book value of the propane caverns. Staff also recommended approval of deferral authority for a portion of the estimated decommissioning costs. Staff asserts that recovery of these deferred amounts cannot be recovered until these amounts have been reviewed and addressed in future proceedings before the Commission.

Since the filing of the application and Staff’s report, Duke and Staff have entered into a stipulation and recommendation purporting to resolve all issues in the case, which has been offered to the Commission for consideration.

An evidentiary hearing in this proceeding will commence on September 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, Hearing Room 11-C, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

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.

Chambers Auction

Friday, September 2 @ 4:00 PM

FARM EQUIPMENT-COLLECTIBLES-HOUSEHOLD

Location: From Hillsboro take SR 124 through Marshall to right on Harriett Road. Go through North Union one mile to 2508 Harriett Rd.

Household goods: Entertainment center; sofa; occasional chair; pedestal table (dining) w/ 2 chairs; electric range; Frigidaire SS deep freeze; washer & dryer; ceramic chicken collection; single bed; Gibson 23 cu ft deep freezer; metal shelving; kerosene heater; crock pots; glass top jars; books; two 6” vises; steamer trunk; mowing sythe; mole traps; platform scales; wheel barrow; single trees; galv. coal bucket; hay fork; cross cut saw; wood blocks; cedar posts; 4,000 tobacco sticks; 2 grind stones; fence stretcher; electric fence posts; split bushel basket; fence anchors; **Farm equipment:** Huskee Supreme rototiller rear tine; MX7 J.D. 8’ 3pt rotary mower; 4610 Ford tractor w/776 loader w/ excellent tires; Ford 3pt scoop; flat top wagon; NH square baler; 7’ 3pt scraper blade; transplanter; Oliver 3X16 3 point breaking plows; 3pt post hole digger.

TERMS: Cash or check with proper ID. Major credit cards accepted with fee.

PHOTOS AVAILABLE on Auction Tab of ChambersFiteRealty.com

Food available.

Owners:

Floris Jane Chambers

SALE CONDUCTED BY:

CHAMBERS AUCTION COMPANY
216 N High Street • Hillsboro • Ohio 45133 • 937.393.1948
chambersfite.com
Auctioneers: Lowell Chambers • Rusty Fite

Scioto Foundation announces new Southern Ohio Folklife Endowment Fund

NEWS RELEASE

The Scioto Foundation has announced the creation of the Southern Ohio Folklife Endowment Fund, an organizational fund established for the benefit of the new nonprofit's efforts to embrace the rich folklife of eleven counties in this part of Appalachian Ohio. The new endowment fund will be used for support of the research, community engagement or educational purposes of Southern Ohio Folklife. The new nonprofit plans to participate in the Foundation's 2022 Scioto Gives campaign on October 20.

"Southern Ohio Folklife is excited to join the Scioto Foundation family this year because we are interested in connecting with other organizations in the area and growing our potential for long-term investment to carry out folklife projects. Building our capacity early on will help us develop intentionally and sustainably," said Southern Ohio Folklife Executive Director Cassie Rosita Patterson.

"Our goal for this endowment fund includes but is not limited to supporting folklife research and programming that fosters cultural understanding and solidarity between Latine and Appalachian communities across southern Ohio," Patterson added.

The purpose and mission of Southern Ohio Folklife is to research, support, document and network folklife within the Southern Ohio region, focusing specifically on Clermont, Brown, Highland, Adams, Ross, Pike, Scioto, Vinton, Jackson,



**SOUTHERN OHIO
FOLKLIFE**

Lawrence and Gallia Counties. The nonprofit engages community-centered participatory approaches and collaborative methodologies in order

to center local perspectives and knowledges in complex, equitable and inclusive representations and decision-making processes that impact local life.

After receiving a planning grant from Ohio Humanities in 2021, Southern Ohio Folklife has been awarded a quarterly grant from the state organization to continue its work with the Latine community. The nonprofit seeks to deepen and expand existing relationships in the area, recruiting more collaborators and stakeholders and continuing to build collaborative frameworks with the project Steering Committee and to contextualize Latine life in the area by conducting archival and public research that culminates in a white paper that is available for free to the general public.

They also intend to continue exploring Latine life in the southern Ohio region through fieldwork and by collecting and transcribing 3 – 4 bilingual oral histories with Latine leaders, to establish a bilingual archival collection with the Center for Public History at Shawnee State University and to contribute to the existing Oral Narratives of Latin@s in Ohio Collection at the Center for Folklore Studies at The Ohio State University.

Finally, they plan to present their work at a public event and solicit feedback from community members. At the end of the grant period they will reflect on their work and the feedback from the public event and brainstorm their next steps based on expressed community interests.

Collaborators for the project include the South Central Ohio Educational Service Center and the Center for Public History at Shawnee State University.

The Latine in Southern Ohio project is headed by Dr. Cassie Rosita Patterson, Executive Director of Southern Ohio Folklife. Patterson earned her PhD degree from the OSU Department of

English with interdisciplinary specialization in Folklore. She previ-

ously served as Associate Director of the Center for Folklife Studies and was Director of the Folklore Archives from 2012 – 2021. Her team includes Fieldworker Dr. Celine Lamb (Independent) and Bookkeeper: Sue Eleuterio, M.A., (Independent Folklorist).

The Project Steering Committee includes Joseph D. (J.D.) Emmett (Curriculum Specialist, South Central Ohio Educational Service Center), Dr. Sophia Enriquez (Assistant Professor of Music, Duke University), Dr. Andrew Feight (Professor of History and Director of the Center for Public History, Shawnee State), Dr. Elena Foulis, (Assistant Professor, Department of Language, Literature and the Arts, Texas

A & M, San Antonio, Edwin Martell (Board of Trustees, Southern Ohio Folklife and Watch Me Grow, Ohio), Hector Refitt (Pastor, The Cross Church of the Nazarene), and Dr. Pablo Salinas (Associate Professor, Spanish Language and Hispanic Cultures and Literatures, Department of English, Shawnee State University).

Among localities serving on the Southern Ohio Folklife Board are Dr. Barbara Bradbury, retired Dean of Students at Shawnee State University and co-owner of the organic Hurricane Run Farm, who is secretary of the Southern Ohio Folklife Board of Trustees; award-winning singer and songwriter Steve Free, and former Portsmouth City Coun-

cilman Edwin Martell of Watch Me Grow Ohio.

Multigenerational Appalachian artist Liza Jane Boggz, who was born and raised in Portsmouth, is a member of the Advisory Committee.

Contributions to the Southern Ohio Folklife Endowment Fund from family, friends, supporters of the arts or the general public may be made at any time. Donations may be in the form of gifts of cash, securities or property.

Additional information about the Southern Ohio Folklife Fund or other planned giving opportunities at the Scioto Foundation may be obtained by contacting Patty Tennant, Program Office – Donor Services, or SF Executive Director Kim Cutlip at (740) 354-4612.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has scheduled a public hearing in Case Nos. 21-986-GA-ABN and 21-1035-GA-AAM, *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Abandon Certain Propane-Air Facilities and for Authority to Change Accounting Methods*. According to Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke), it has used manmade caverns since 1959 to store propane that it uses, along with the associated propane-air facilities, to supplement natural gas during peak usage periods and when otherwise needed. Duke asserts that these caverns cannot be inspected or repaired. Further, Duke has determined that the caverns and associated propane-air facilities, specifically facilities at East Works, Dick's Creek, and the portion of facilities in Erlanger, Kentucky allocated to Ohio customers, should be abandoned and replaced by alternative methods to provide reliable natural gas distribution service. According to Duke, the Central Corridor Pipeline approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board enables Duke to retire the caverns and associated propane-air peaking facilities while maintaining safe and reliable service to customers. *In re the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.*, Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX, Opinion, Order, and Certificate (Nov. 21, 2019). Furthermore, Duke asserts that environmental remediation of its manufactured gas plants, which was addressed in Case No. 14-375-GA-RDR, et al., cannot be completed until the caverns and associated facilities have been decommissioned. Consequently, Duke believes that the abandonment is reasonable, is in the best interest of the public, and should be approved.

Staff of the Commission recommended that Duke's application for abandonment be approved. Further, Staff also recommended deferral authority for the net book value of the propane inventory but does not recommend deferral authority for the net book value of the propane caverns. Staff also recommended approval of deferral authority for a portion of the estimated decommissioning costs. Staff asserts that recovery of these deferred amounts cannot be recovered until these amounts have been reviewed and addressed in future proceedings before the Commission.

Since the filing of the application and Staff's report, Duke and Staff have entered into a stipulation and recommendation purporting to resolve all issues in the case, which has been offered to the Commission for consideration.

An evidentiary hearing in this proceeding will commence on September 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, Hearing Room 11-C, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

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.



109 West Walnut St., West Union, Ohio
937-544-2043

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS!

We are proud to have you on our team and offer our congratulations on this service milestone.



Lisa Brown
Customer Marketing Manager

THANK YOU!

On behalf of Pennington Seed, Cedar Works and Central Garden & Pet

Upgrade Your Home with a
NEW METAL ROOF
Guaranteed to Last a Lifetime!

LIMITED TIME OFFER
60% off
YOUR INSTALLATION
+
TAKE AN ADDITIONAL
10% off
Install for Military, Health Workers and First Responders

ERIE
Metal Roofs

STRONG AS STEEL WITH THE ATTRACTIVE LOOK OF VARIOUS ROOF STYLES

From Dimensional Shingles to classic styles reminiscent of Cedar Shake and Spanish Tile, an architectural roofing system by Erie Metal Roofs can enhance the beauty of your home while protecting your family and property for a lifetime.

Call today to schedule your
FREE ESTIMATE 1-866-335-2531

Made in the USA

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc. ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. Offer expires December 31, 2022. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technology notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on www.erieconstruction.com. All rights reserved.

GENERAC

Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
866-297-0137

FREE
7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!

Limited Time Offer - Call for Details

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

WEST VIRGINIA

Experience
BLANNERHASSETT ISLAND HISTORICAL STATE PARK

Take a ride on a graceful sternwheel paddleboat across the Ohio River to Blennerhassett Island – an island with a past of forbidden romance and political intrigue.

VISIT GREATER
PARKERSBURG
Learn more at GreaterParkersburg.com

Apple warns of security flaw for iPhones, iPads and Macs

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple disclosed serious security vulnerabilities for iPhones, iPads and Macs that could potentially allow attackers to take complete control of these devices.

Apple released two security reports about the issue on

Wednesday, although they didn't receive wide attention outside of tech publications.

Apple's explanation of the vulnerability means a hacker could get "full admin access" to the device. That would allow intruders to impersonate the device's owner and subsequent-

ly run any software in their name, said Rachel Tobac, CEO of SocialProof Security.

Security experts have advised users to update affected devices — the iPhone6S and later models; several models of the iPad, including the 5th generation and later, all iPad

Pro models and the iPad Air 2; and Mac computers running MacOS Monterey. The flaw also affects some iPod models.

Apple did not say in the reports how, where or by whom the vulnerabilities were discovered. In all cases, it cited an anonymous researcher.

Commercial spyware companies such as Israel's NSO Group are known for identifying and taking advantage of such flaws, exploiting them in malware that surreptitiously infects targets' smartphones, siphons their contents and surveils the targets in real time.

Legacies

From page 1

natural product called D-2 that she gets online at atlaspreservation.com. It is the same product they use at Arlington.

Weiss says you do not want to ever use a household product like bleach on a stone, and never power wash them. The first thing that she does is spray it down with water, then squirt the D-2 on and wait five minutes and then you can start scraping off the lichens with a plastic putty knife.

Spray more water on the stone as you are working as it is important to keep it wet. You can then take a soft brittle brush and start scrubbing around the names and dates.

Sometimes you can see a difference right away. Some stones may turn a yellowish color first — that is called a blush. After the product sits on the stone and after it has been scrubbed, the blush goes away. The longer the product stays on the stone, the longer it works, so even after you are done, it is still cleaning.

Mickey does this in her spare time, in-between working a job and taking care of her autistic son. She likes to go early in the morning before it gets too hot and later in the evening after the sun goes down.

"If more people would get involved, we could have every tombstone in the cemetery cleaned up," she said.

When asked if it was an expensive hobby, she jokingly said, "Yes, I work to support my hobby!"

She said the one-quart spray bottle cost about



\$20 and can clean 9-10 stones.

Mickey is a preservationist that is keeping these tombstones from being lost to time. Mold, mildew, lichens, dirt, and the environment will eventually take their toll on these old monuments if they are not properly cleaned occasionally. Half of them were so bad the names could not be read at all.

Will Mickey be able to reach her goal by her birthday in September? She said she was delayed a month in June because her son had to have surgery.

If you would like to see the names of the veterans' stones that she has cleaned already, and keep up with her accomplishment, you can friend her on Facebook at Mickey Weiss (McKinzie Brown). Send her an Instant Message if you would like to help or start cleaning in another cemetery.

She warns it is a dirty job, and she has had to fight heat, sweat, bees, rain, and people coming



out of the woods, but she has persevered.

The rewards include feeling peaceful and empowered, as well as seeing deer roaming the cemetery.

The American Legion Auxiliary in Blanchester is proud to have Mickey as a member and Chairman of the Legislation Committee.

Swim

From page 1

"My kids really enjoyed these lessons and gained a great deal of confidence around water and learned about safety," said parent Lacey Cottrell. "I am so thankful for the chance that they were given with their scholarships to do these lessons and they would love to be able to continue them!"

"I was so excited when I was able to get my granddaughter involved in real swimming lessons at Sabina pool over this past summer. So many families do not have access to a pool large enough to really teach children the importance of knowing how to swim and be safe in the water," said grandparent Nicole Richmond.

Fall swim lessons at WC

Registration is now open for fall session swim lessons that will be held at Wilmington College from Sept. 7-Oct. 3 with support from the Wilmington College swim team as instructors. More information can be found at fb.com/kiwaniswilmington.

Sponsors are welcomed to support fall swim lessons. Contact kirstin.harris15@gmail.com for more information on sponsorship opportunities.

WPD

From page 1

The grant dollars going to WPD are specifically "to pay for retention and/or hiring bonuses to help maintain current law enforcement staffing levels, recruit new officers, and continue ongoing public safety services to prevent and investigate violent crime," the release added.

DeWine, in partnership with the Ohio General Assembly, created the Ohio Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program last year to give local law enforcement additional tools to address violence, including increases in crime associated with law enforcement retirements and resignations.

The grant program is funded through both the state operating budget and with ARPA funds. The 21 grants announced Thursday in the seventh round of recipients are all funded through ARPA.

Driver

From page 1

"Negotiations were attempted for several hours with the female suspect without success," said Fithen. "The Wilmington Police Department Special Response Team was used to extract the suspect from the vehicle."

The suspect was taken to Clinton Memorial for a mental health evaluation, said Fithen.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has scheduled a public hearing in Case Nos. 21-986-GA-ABN and 21-1035-GA-AAM, *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Abandon Certain Propane-Air Facilities and for Authority to Change Accounting Methods*. According to Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke), it has used manmade caverns since 1959 to store propane that it uses, along with the associated propane-air facilities, to supplement natural gas during peak usage periods and when otherwise needed. Duke asserts that these caverns cannot be inspected or repaired. Further, Duke has determined that the caverns and associated propane-air facilities, specifically facilities at East Works, Dick's Creek, and the portion of facilities in Erlanger, Kentucky allocated to Ohio customers, should be abandoned, and replaced by alternative methods to provide reliable natural gas distribution service. According to Duke, the Central Corridor Pipeline approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board enables Duke to retire the caverns and associated propane-air peaking facilities while maintaining safe and reliable service to customers. *In re the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.*, Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX, Opinion, Order, and Certificate (Nov. 21, 2019). Furthermore, Duke asserts that environmental remediation of its manufactured gas plants, which was addressed in Case No. 14-375-GA-RDR, et al., cannot be completed until the caverns and associated facilities have been decommissioned. Consequently, Duke believes that the abandonment is reasonable, is in the best interest of the public, and should be approved.

Staff of the Commission recommended that Duke's application for abandonment be approved. Further, Staff also recommended deferral authority for the net book value of the propane inventory but does not recommend deferral authority for the net book value of the propane caverns. Staff also recommended approval of deferral authority for a portion of the estimated decommissioning costs. Staff asserts that recovery of these deferred amounts cannot be recovered until these amounts have been reviewed and addressed in future proceedings before the Commission.

Since the filing of the application and Staff's report, Duke and Staff have entered into a stipulation and recommendation purporting to resolve all issues in the case, which has been offered to the Commission for consideration.

An evidentiary hearing in this proceeding will commence on September 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, Hearing Room 11-C, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

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.

Report

From page 1

Ohio EPA staff reported finding healthy fish further downstream of Cowan Creek when it crosses Ireland Road, meaning the chemicals from the foam hadn't reached that point.

Also during council:

- Wilmington Police Chief Ron Fithen honored police dispatcher Terri Murphy for her work and professionalism during the foam accident on August 7 and the nearby FBI standoff on August 11.
- Council approved a resolution supporting the Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) Program which will humanely control the feral cat population in the city.
- Mayor John Stanforth announced that on August 24, City Water Protection Coordinator Travis Lunan will be presented with the Conservationist of Year Award at the Warren County Soil and Conservation annual meeting.
- Safety/Service Director Brian Shidaker



Wilmington Public Work Director Rick Schaffer gives a report about foam spillage as a result of the accident at the air park.



Wilmington Police Chief Ron Fithen, left, presents a special plaque to Terri Murphy for her dispatch work during the fire suppression foam discharge incident and the FBI stand-off.

informed council that South Street in front of the library would be closed on August 22 to fix a collapsed storm sewer.

Shidaker told council he is aware a sign on Progress Way is mis-

spelled. He mentioned this to council, because he has received many calls in regard to the sign.

Reach John Hamilton at 937-382-2574

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming public/community events in Clinton County include the below. Email your public event information to info@wnewsj.com.

Saturday, August 27

- **2nd Annual End of Summer Craft Fair** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 27 at Veterans Memorial Park, 933 Broadway St., Blanchester. Free parking and no admission cost. Featuring handmade crafts, specialty items and boutique items.

- **Township Talk** — featuring Adams, Chester, Marion, and Vernon Townships — presented by Clinton County Historical Society and Genealogical Society 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at the History Center, 149 E. Locust St., Wilmington. Provides you with materials you need to learn about the county. Open to both members and non-members at no cost; donation asked if you find your visit worthwhile. Family tree forms, research charts; Celebrating Clinton County pencils given out, coloring sheets and crayons for kids 7 and under. Also a short museum scavenger hunt.

- **Standout in support of Ukraine** — public invited noon-1 p.m. Saturdays, corner of Locust and South South Streets, Wilmington. Rain or shine. Clinton County Alliance for Compassion and Truth (A.C.T.) and Empathy Surplus Network USA, sponsors, encourage signs promoting freedom, democracy, and peace. Limited number of signs available on site.

Wednesday, August 31

- **Overdose Awareness Day** — Community events 4 to 7 p.m. at both the J.W. Denver Williams Jr. Memorial Park in Wilmington, and at The Exchange (203 S. Wright St. in Blanchester), an outreach ministry of

Blanchester Church of the Nazarene. Food, community speakers, personal testimonies, Narcan training and distribution.

- **Opening reception** for Professor Hal Shunk's "Retirement Exhibit" at Wilmington College's Harcum Art Gallery, 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 31. Free of charge, and refreshments served.

Thursday, Sept. 1

- **Booklovers**, a Blanchester area book discussion group, will be held at Blanchester Public Library 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 1 discussing "A Good Girl's Guide to Murder" by Holly Jackson. Anyone interested in participating may call the library at (937) 783-3585 to get a copy. New members are welcome. For more information, contact the library.

September 2-4

- **Nowhere Else Festival** — Musicians include Courtney Marie Andrews, Iris DeMent, Carrie Newcomer, and of course Over the Rhine (and more). It's on a farm located at 190 Townsend Road near Martinsville in Clinton County. For ticket info, visit NowhereElse-Festival.com.

Saturday, Sept. 3

- **All-you-can-eat breakfast buffet** for \$10 the first Saturday of each month 8-11 a.m. at the Aging Up center located at 717 N. Nelson Avenue. Bar includes eggs, sausage, gravy, biscuits, pancakes, coffee cake, yogurt and drink. Open to public.

Wednesday, Sept. 7

- **Unlimited Soup & Salad Bar** open to public,

first Wednesday of each month 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Aging Up senior center, 717 N. Nelson Ave., Wilmington.

Friday, Sept. 9

- **An Evening with the Fancy Free Cloggers** at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 9 for "a journey with us — dancing, music, comedy, and more!" All tickets \$12. For more information or to reserve your tickets, visit www.themurphytheatre.org or call 937-382-3643 or email boxoffice@themurphytheatre.org.

Fri-Sunday, Sept. 9-11

- **Clinton County Corn Festival** Friday through Sunday, Sept. 9-11 at Clinton County Fairgrounds. Daily admission is \$4. For more information including the complete list of events and times/dates, visit www.cornfestivalonline.com.

Saturday, Sept. 10

- **Secret Life of Plants Hike** 9-10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 10 at Caesar Creek Gorge State Nature Preserve, 4080 Corwin Road, Oregonia (Corwin Road parking lot). Through the gorge loop of Caesar Creek park, where participants will examine the fascinating ways plants defend and disperse themselves. Sturdy footwear recommended. For questions please contact Eric Sagasser at Eric.sagasser@dnr.ohio.gov.

Friday, Sept. 16

- **New Vienna Oktoberfest** 2022 is 6-11 p.m. Friday and 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday featuring food and crafts vendors and, in concert: Friday

7-11 p.m. Vinyl Countdown; Saturday noon-4 p.m. Teachers Pet Band; and Saturday 7-11 p.m. American Rebel.

Saturday, Sept. 17

- **Wilmington College Homecoming** is Saturday, Sept. 17. Featured events include: Alumni Tent open for check-in 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tours and Tailgates with WC Admission (McCoy Room/Kelly Center) 10 a.m.; WC Tailgating 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (Center for Sciences & Ag parking lot); family-friendly activities 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (Collett Mall); Athletic Hall of Fame Brunch 10:30 a.m., (Lobby, Boyd Center); Special Classroom Session I (learn about new Occupational Therapy and Athletic Training master's classes; Center for Sport Sciences lobby); Greek Bed Races, 11 a.m. (Withrow Circle); Food Truck Alley 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (Elm St.); Aggieville noon-2 p.m. (Elm & College streets); Special Classroom Session II (learn about Master of Organizational Leadership program; Lecture Hall 148, Center for Sciences & Ag); Fightin' Quakers football game vs. Otterbein, kickoff 2 p.m. at Williams Stadium; BSI/CBS/MSU Alumni reception 4:30-5:30 p.m. (Boyd Center Lobby); Alumni Awards & Milestone Reunions for Classes of '72, '82, '92 and '02 (cost \$35/person; TOP Dining Hall/Pyle Center); First Decade Society Reunion Party for Classes of 2012-2022 (Tin Cap Cidery on Sugartree St.) 6-8 p.m.

- **Fall Family Weekend at Bible Baptist Church** Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 17-18. Starts with 5K (at Denver Williams Park) at 8:30 a.m. Saturday (\$15 entry fee); then at the church free activities begin at 10 a.m. with garden tractor pull, pony rides, petting zoo, hayrides, inflatables and

gospel music, with lunch at noon; cruise-in at 1 p.m. (awards at 3 p.m.) and 6-man volleyball tourney at 1 p.m. Mutton Busting at 2 p.m. (kids 2nd-5th grade) with \$5 entry fee; limited to 50, registration starts at 10 a.m. On Sunday: Outdoor worship service at 10 a.m., and BBQ lunch at 11:30 a.m.; at noon, inflatables and petting zoo, and at 1:30 p.m., Diamond J Rodeo.

Saturday, Sept. 24

- **Caesar Creek Collaborative Pickin' at the Park** — From 5 to 9 p.m. at Caesar Creek State Park Beach, 8570 State Route 73, Waynesville. Musical lineup features Jake Speed & the Fred Dies, Sam Shaw Band, Root Cellar Blues Band, and Willow Creek Bluegrass Band. Beer garden will benefit Nature Center Association of Caesar Creek.

Thursday, Sept. 29

- **Author Jason Cannon** — who penned "Charlie Murphy: The Iconoclastic Showman Behind the Chicago Cubs" — will be at a ticketed meet-and-greet event at the Clinton County History Center at 149 E. Locust St. at 7 p.m. Thursday, September 29. Program limited to 75 tickets. Tickets free for members and \$5 for non-members, available at <https://JasonCannon-AuthorEvent.eventbrite.com> or by calling 937-382-4684.

Saturday, Oct. 1

- **OktoberFest in downtown Wilmington** on Sugartree Street 4-11 p.m.
- **Free E-Waste Recycling Event** for Clinton County residents and businesses only 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Participants

must pre-register at ClintonCountyOhioFoundation.org. Drive-through; volunteers will unload your items.

- **All-you-can-eat breakfast buffet** for \$10 the first Saturday of each month 8-11 a.m. at the Aging Up center located at 717 N. Nelson Avenue. Bar includes eggs, sausage, gravy, biscuits, pancakes, coffee cake, yogurt and drink. Open to public.

Wednesday, Oct. 5

- **Unlimited Soup & Salad Bar** open to public, first Wednesday of each month 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Aging Up senior center, 717 N. Nelson Ave., Wilmington

Friday, October 7

- **The Menus** — a Murphy Theatre crowd favorite — return at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7. For more information or to reserve your tickets, visit www.themurphytheatre.org or call 937-382-3643 or email boxoffice@themurphytheatre.org.

Saturday, October 15

- **The Electric Light Orchestra Experience featuring Evil Woman — The American ELO** at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 15 at the Murphy Theatre. For more information or to reserve your tickets, visit www.themurphytheatre.org or call 937-382-3643 or email boxoffice@themurphytheatre.org.

- **Rodney Crowell Word For Word Tour** at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22 at the Murphy Theatre. For more information or to reserve your tickets, visit www.themurphytheatre.org or call 937-382-3643 or email boxoffice@themurphytheatre.org.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has scheduled a public hearing in Case Nos. 21-986-GA-ABN and 21-1035-GA-AAM, *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Abandon Certain Propane-Air Facilities and for Authority to Change Accounting Methods*. According to Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke), it has used manmade caverns since 1959 to store propane that it uses, along with the associated propane-air facilities, to supplement natural gas during peak usage periods and when otherwise needed. Duke asserts that these caverns cannot be inspected or repaired. Further, Duke has determined that the caverns and associated propane-air facilities, specifically facilities at East Works, Dick's Creek, and the portion of facilities in Erlanger, Kentucky allocated to Ohio customers, should be abandoned, and replaced by alternative methods to provide reliable natural gas distribution service. According to Duke, the Central Corridor Pipeline approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board enables Duke to retire the caverns and associated propane-air peaking facilities while maintaining safe and reliable service to customers. *In re the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.*, Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX, Opinion, Order, and Certificate (Nov. 21, 2019). Furthermore, Duke asserts that environmental remediation of its manufactured gas plants, which was addressed in Case No. 14-375-GA-RDR, et al., cannot be completed until the caverns and associated facilities have been decommissioned. Consequently, Duke believes that the abandonment is reasonable, is in the best interest of the public, and should be approved.

Staff of the Commission recommended that Duke's application for abandonment be approved. Further, Staff also recommended deferral authority for the net book value of the propane inventory but does not recommend deferral authority for the net book value of the propane caverns. Staff also recommended approval of deferral authority for a portion of the estimated decommissioning costs. Staff asserts that recovery of these deferred amounts cannot be recovered until these amounts have been reviewed and addressed in future proceedings before the Commission.

Since the filing of the application and Staff's report, Duke and Staff have entered into a stipulation and recommendation purporting to resolve all issues in the case, which has been offered to the Commission for consideration.

An evidentiary hearing in this proceeding will commence on September 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, Hearing Room 11-C, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

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.

Moderna sues Pfizer over patents behind COVID-19 vaccine

By Tom Murphy
AP Health Writer

COVID-19 vaccine maker Moderna is suing Pfizer and the German drugmaker BioNTech, accusing its main competitors of copying Moderna's technology in order to make their own vaccine.

Moderna said Friday that Pfizer and BioNTech's vaccine Comirnaty infringes on patents Moderna filed several years ago protecting the technology behind its preventive shot, Spikevax. The company filed patent infringement lawsuits in both U.S. federal court and a German court.

Pfizer spokeswoman Pam Eisele said the company had not fully reviewed Moderna's lawsuit, but the drugmaker was surprised by it, given that their vaccine is based on proprietary technology developed by both BioNTech and Pfizer.

She said in an email that the company would "vigorously defend" against any allegations in the case.

BioNTech did not immediately respond to a

request from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Moderna and Pfizer's two-shot vaccines both use mRNA technology to help patients fight the coronavirus.

The mRNA vaccines work by injecting a genetic code for the spike protein that coats the surface of the coronavirus. That code, the mRNA, is encased in a little ball of fat, and instructs the body's cells to make some harmless spike copies that train the immune system to recognize the real virus. That approach is radically different than how vaccines have traditionally been made.

Moderna said it started developing its mRNA technology platform in 2010, and that helped the company quickly produce its COVID-19 vaccine after the pandemic arrived in early 2020.

By the end of that year, U.S. regulators had cleared shots from both Pfizer and Moderna for use after clinical research showed that both were highly effective.

Moderna CEO Stéphane Bancel said in a prepared statement that

the vaccine developer pioneered that technology and invested billions of dollars in creating it.

The company said it believes its rivals' vaccine infringes on patents Moderna filed between 2010 and 2016.

Moderna said it recognizes the importance of vaccine access and is not seeking to remove Comirnaty from the market. It also is not asking for an injunction to prevent future sales.

Moderna said in 2020 that it would not enforce its COVID-19 related patents while the pandemic continued. But the company said in March, with vaccine supplies improving globally, that it would update that pledge.

It said it still would not enforce its patents for vaccines used in low- and middle-income countries. But it expected companies like Pfizer and BioNTech to respect its intellectual property, and it would consider "a commercially reasonable license" in other markets if they requested one.

"Pfizer and BioNTech have failed to do so," Moderna said in a statement.

LOCAL

WARREN COUNTY REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

By Amy Burzynski
Staff Writer

The following list of recent real estate transactions in the Mason and Lebanon areas was compiled through public records.

Deerfield Twp.

6826 Gentry Ln.	\$270,000
3335 Grand Falls Blvd.	\$400,000
6101 Maxfli Ln.	\$780,000
2335 Rose Rd.	\$325,000
8742 Simpson Ct.	\$325,000
2556 Socialville-Foster Rd.	\$320,540
9878 Whippoorwill Ln.	\$333,900
3600 Wild Cherry Way	\$694,000

3452 Wildwood Dr.	\$360,000
7275 Windsor Park Dr.	\$525,000
3690 Wood Trail Dr.	\$279,900
8305 Woodbridge Ln.	\$275,000
3358 Yosemite Falls Rd.	\$315,000

Lebanon

811 Cherry Hill Ln.	\$50,000
116 E. Concord Dr.	\$425,000
940 Dillon Way	\$199,000
432 Lake Haven Ct.	\$235,000
1142 Navaho Dr.	\$230,000
227 Portland Blvd.	\$250,000
337 Saratoga Ct.	\$360,000
48 Shaker Run Rd.	\$269,280
607 Southline Dr.	\$200,000

490 Yale Dr.	\$390,000
--------------	-----------

Maineville

445 Hennepin Dr.	\$325,000
8165 Ohio 48	\$204,000

Mason

5615 Aspen Dr.	\$440,000
340 Bexley Ct.	\$203,000
5513 Birch View Dr.	\$995,000
4455 Black Oak Ln.	\$314,000
909 Cherokee Dr.	\$295,000
3166 Falcon Ridge Dr.	\$715,000
4268 Fontenay Dr.	\$279,000
1428 Hillary Ln.	\$255,000
6364 Killerney Ct.	\$551,500

4330 Marival Dr.	\$300,000
4467 Pond Meadows Ct.	\$280,000
6738 Ridgefield Ct.	\$370,000
6463 Rosewood Ln.	\$640,000
3849 Saint Andrews Ct.	\$795,000
5800 Sentinel Oak Dr.	\$808,583
3175 Spalding Dr.	\$566,000
5667 Willow View Dr.	\$990,965

South Lebanon

5373 Little Turtle Dr.	\$425,000
5137 Riverview Dr.	\$595,000
384 Vista Ridge Dr.	\$950,000

Contact this reporter at 513-820-2170 or email amy.burzynski@coxinc.com.

Conflicting

continued from A2

demand, and prices began heading up last year.

Consumers are reacting to high prices by becoming more careful shoppers, Sheridan said.

“We are starting to see consumers trade down,” he said. “They’re being more flexible with brands. They’re willing to go to store brands. We’re seeing an increase in shoppers at Dollar Stores.”

Gas prices decline

Once prices go up, they rarely go back down, except during recessions or in the case of volatile commodities like oil and anomalies, such as used car prices that shot up as the semiconductor shortage cut production of new cars.

A 7.7% decline in gas prices and 4.6% reduction in overall energy costs drove improvements in both the consumer and producer price indexes in July, said Kurt Rankin, senior economist at PNC Financial Services Group.

“If that (energy) number continues to fall into August, that’s going to continue to be a pressure release valve for inflation because as energy prices go, that then flows through the rest of the supply chain, manufacturing processes, transportation and just feeds inflation down the line from there,” Rankin said.

“So easing energy prices, easing oil prices will help inflation to slow throughout the rest of the year, as well.”

In Ohio, the average price of a gallon of regular gasoline reached a high of \$5.065 on June 9, according to AAA. By Friday, that gallon cost \$3.685.

The price drop has people more willing to travel by car or airplane, despite some sticker shock over plane fares, said Kara Hitchens, public affairs manager of Miami Valley AAA.

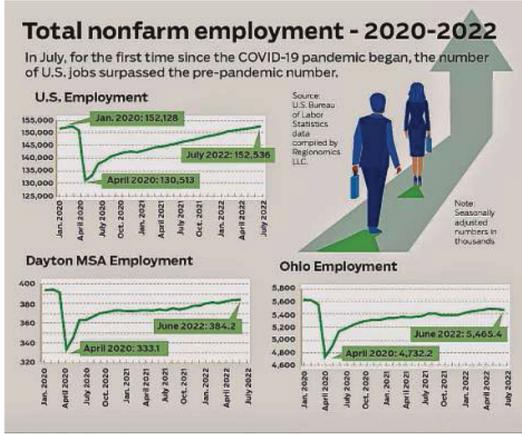
“I would say it’s going well. They are seeing some tight inventory in hotels and car rentals,” Hitchens said. “And people are making their budgets work, whether that means that they are cutting back somewhere else.”

PNC projects the Federal Reserve will add 100 basis points to the federal funds rate this year and approve an additional increase in early 2023, said Gus Faucher, PNC chief economist. The Fed’s goal is a 2% average inflation rate.

Housing sales decline, but prices are up

People are also cutting back on home-buying after seeing mortgage rates rise to 6% in June. Rates are now hovering around 5%, said Billie Duncan-Hart, associate partner at Coldwell Banker Heritage.

“It’s not a bad interest rate,” she said. “We’ve just



Total non-farm employment - 2020-2022

been spoiled the last few years.”

In July, home sales declined nationally by 20.2% compared to July 2021, according to national Realtor associations.

But prices continued going up. In the local region, the median price increased by 17.6% to \$223,500. Nationally, it was \$403,800, a 10.8% increase year-over-year.

Duncan-Hart doubts home prices will go down substantially. In her 30 years of selling real estate in the area, the only time she has seen housing prices drop is when something negative is going on in a neighborhood, like the foreclosures that decimated

some neighborhoods in the Great Recession.

But Duncan-Hart expects that regional buyers will have more choices and be less prone to pay more than asking price in the months ahead.

“When the pandemic hit, things went haywire. Houses were going for over asking (price),” Duncan-Hart said. “June was kind of a transitional month where we started seeing things linger on the market a little longer, not seeing as many offers on one house and competing offers and over asking.”

Housing costs make up about 43% of CPI, so higher prices for rent and homes

‘There’s a little light at the end of the tunnel we’re seeing from time to time. We’re seeing some lead times come down, we’re seeing some pricing come down.’

Chuck Dryer

Territory manager, Industrial Tube and Steel Corp.

has a powerful impact on

inflation and the economy. “It means you are spending more and more of your income on housing, which means you have less to spend on other things. That’s got negative impacts on consumer spending, and it also has negative impacts on the ability to attract workforce,” LaFayette said. “And so population growth slows. Economic growth slows.”

He and others blamed high prices on lack of enough housing, a problem that predated the pandemic, and say slowing construction activity will aggravate that.

“Lack of supply will prolong the path to house price equilibrium,” Rankin said.

Consumer spending

Rankin said savings rates are declining and credit card balances are rising, both signs that, despite their complaints about things costing too much, consumers are continuing to spend, and not just on necessities.

“And until that slows, until spending gives in, we’re still going to have some infla-

tionary pressure and consumer prices just go up,” Rankin said.

He said moderating spending means less money will be chasing a limited supply of goods, giving supply chains a chance to recover and reducing businesses’ pricing power.

“That soft landing possibility is there, but it is fully dependent on consumers taking their cues from the current environment and not just continuing the habits, the lifestyle and spending habits that they have become accustomed to,” Rankin said. “Our baseline forecast is achieving that soft landing, and it will be very soft.”

One of the biggest problems for businesses is that there are simply fewer people in the labor market to fill job openings. The labor force participation rate, which measures the number of people working or looking for work, is 62.1%, still below the pre-pandemic rate of 63.4%.

Contact this reporter at 937-610-7417 or email lynn.hulsey@coxinc.com.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has scheduled a public hearing in Case Nos. 21-986-GA-ABN and 21-1035-GA-AAM, *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Abandon Certain Propane-Air Facilities and for Authority to Change Accounting Methods. According to Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke)*, it has used manmade caverns since 1959 to store propane that it uses, along with the associated propane-air facilities, to supplement natural gas during peak usage periods and when otherwise needed. Duke asserts that these caverns cannot be inspected or repaired. Further, Duke has determined that the caverns and associated propane-air facilities, specifically facilities at East Works, Dick’s Creek, and the portion of facilities in Erlanger, Kentucky allocated to Ohio customers, should be abandoned and replaced by alternative methods to provide reliable natural gas distribution service. According to Duke, the Central Corridor Pipeline approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board enables Duke to retire the caverns and associated propane-air peaking facilities while maintaining safe and reliable service to customers. *In re the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX*, Opinion, Order, and Certificate (Nov. 21, 2019). Furthermore, Duke asserts that environmental remediation of its manufactured gas plants, which was addressed in Case No. 14-375-GA-RDR, et al., cannot be completed until the caverns and associated facilities have been decommissioned. Consequently, Duke believes that the abandonment is reasonable, is in the best interest of the public, and should be approved.

Staff of the Commission recommended that Duke’s application for abandonment be approved. Further, Staff also recommended deferral authority for the net book value of the propane inventory but does not recommend deferral authority for the net book value of the propane caverns. Staff also recommended approval of deferral authority for a portion of the estimated decommissioning costs. Staff asserts that recovery of these deferred amounts cannot be recovered until these amounts have been reviewed and addressed in future proceedings before the Commission.

Since the filing of the application and Staff’s report, Duke and Staff have entered into a stipulation and recommendation purporting to resolve all issues in the case, which has been offered to the Commission for consideration.

An evidentiary hearing in this proceeding will commence on September 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, Hearing Room 11-C, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

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.

A Mental Health Crisis Can't Wait.

Overwhelming anxiety or depression can happen at any time, day or night.

If you or someone you love is facing a mental health crisis — no matter how big or small — don’t wait to reach out. Call our confidential hotline to get help through a tough time and connect with local resources and support.

Find Help. Find Hope.

Local 24-hour crisis hotline:
877-695-6333

FindHelpFindHope.org

Mental Health Recovery Board
Serving Warren & Clinton Counties

LOCAL

CLOSER LOOK

Life expectancy drops by almost 2 years in US

COVID-19, accidental overdose deaths play a big part in decline.

By Samantha Wildow
Staff Writer

Life expectancy has gone down in all 50 states, driven mainly by COVID-19 and deaths related to the opioid epidemic, says new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A report from the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics published Tuesday revealed from 2019 to 2020, life expectancy declined in the United States to 77 years from 78.8. Ohio's life expectancy decreased by more than a year and a half. In 2019, the life expectancy in Ohio was 76.9 years. In 2020, it dropped to 75.3 years.

Nationally among the 50 states and D.C., Hawaii had the highest life expectancy at birth of 80.7 years in 2020, and Mississippi had the lowest at 71.9 years. Hawaii saw the smallest decline from 2019 to 2020 with a change of 0.2 years, and the state of New York declined by 3 years to 77.7 years.

Causes for this decline were linked to the COVID-19 pandemic as deaths related to COVID in the U.S. are currently more than 1.04 million since the pandemic hit the United States in 2020. The CDC also cited deaths related to the opioid epidemic and other drug use. According to the CDC, drug overdose deaths in the United States exceed 100,000 annually.

Minorities are hardest hit

Dr. Roberto Colon, chief medical officer of Miami Valley Hospital, said the CDC's latest report on life expectancy is similar to data on life expectancy other scientific journals have put out, like the Journal of the American



COVID-19 testing is conducted in July 2020. A new report released by the CDC on Aug. 23 showed the life expectancy in the United States has gone down in all 50 states, plus D.C., due to the pandemic, along with drug overdose deaths. STAFF

MORE DETAILS

States with the lowest life expectancy:

1. Mississippi: 71.9 years.
2. West Virginia: 72.8 years.
3. Louisiana: 73.1 years.
4. Alabama: 73.2 years.
5. Kentucky: 73.5 years.

12. Ohio: 75.3 years

SOURCE: NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS

Medical Association. JAMA released a study in April looking at how the U.S. life expectancy changed between 2019 and 2020, finding that Hispanic and non-Hispanic Black populations within the United States were disproportionately affected.

JAMA's study found the U.S. life expectancy decreased by 1.87 years overall, and by 3.70 years in Hispanic populations and 3.22 years in non-Hispanic Black populations.

"We need to change our approach to health care," Colon said, explaining the industry needs to address social determinants of health in how health care is delivered.

Additionally, the United States did not match with other similar wealthy nations. The JAMA study stated the decrease in life expectancy

in peer countries was a mean of 0.58 years, with no country experiencing a decrease similar to that of the United States.

"We fell off more than our peer countries did," Colon said.

Colon said one of the indirect impacts of the COVID pandemic was how people put off routine health care and checkups. Delaying cancer treatments or cancer diagnoses can have "tremendous impacts" on the outcomes of those illnesses, he said.

Drug overdoses decline locally

Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services officials said locally deaths related to opioid and other drug use are on the decline, but COVID still remains a concern.

Life expectancy falls in Ohio

The Buckeye State saw life expectancy fall in 2020 by more than a year and half compared to 2019.

Change in life expectancy at birth: Each state, District of Columbia, and United States, from 2019 to 2020

Area	2019	2020	Chng.	Area	2019	2020	Chng.
N.Y.	80.7	77.7	-3.0	S.D.	78.4	76.7	-1.7
D.C.	78.0	75.3	-2.7	W.Va.	74.5	72.8	-1.7
La.	75.7	73.1	-2.6	Mont.	78.4	76.8	-1.6
N.J.	80.1	77.5	-2.6	Ohio	76.9	75.3	-1.6
Ariz.	78.8	76.3	-2.5	Okla.	75.7	74.1	-1.6
Miss.	74.4	71.9	-2.5	Wis.	79.3	77.7	-1.6
N.M.	76.9	74.5	-2.4	Fla.	79.0	77.5	-1.5
Ill.	79.0	76.8	-2.2	Iowa	79.0	77.5	-1.5
Texas	78.6	76.5	-2.1	Neb.	79.2	77.7	-1.5
Ala.	75.2	73.2	-2.0	N.C.	77.6	76.1	-1.5
Ind.	77.0	75.0	-2.0	Pa.	78.3	76.8	-1.5
Ky.	75.5	73.5	-2.0	Va.	79.1	77.6	-1.5
Mich.	78.0	76.0	-2.0	Mass.	80.4	79.0	-1.4
S.C.	76.8	74.8	-2.0	Wyo.	77.7	76.3	-1.4
Ark.	75.7	73.8	-1.9	Del.	78.1	76.7	-1.4
Calif.	80.9	79.0	-1.9	Minn.	80.4	79.1	-1.3
Conn.	80.3	78.4	-1.9	R.I.	79.5	78.2	-1.3
N.D.	78.8	76.9	-1.9	Alaska	77.7	76.6	-1.1
Ga.	77.4	75.6	-1.8	Utah	79.7	78.6	-1.1
Mo.	76.9	75.1	-1.8	Idaho	79.5	78.4	-1.1
U.S.	78.8	77.0	-1.8	Vt.	79.8	78.8	-1.0
Kan.	78.2	76.4	-1.8	Ore.	79.6	78.8	-0.8
Tenn.	75.6	73.8	-1.8	Wash.	80.0	79.2	-0.8
Colo.	80.0	78.3	-1.7	Maine	78.3	77.8	-0.5
Md.	78.5	76.8	-1.7	N.H.	79.4	79.0	-0.4
Nev.	78.0	76.3	-1.7	Hawaii	80.9	80.7	-0.2

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality.

"The good news is overdose deaths are down 18.7% in Montgomery County," said Tina Rezash Rogal, ADAMHS director of strategic initiatives and communications.

"COVID is still impacting our community in a big way," Rogal said. So far this year, Montgomery County has experienced approximately 457 deaths related to COVID, which is up 7% from the same time period in 2021, according to data from the Ohio Department of Health.

The county has also had

approximately 184 drug overdose deaths so far in 2022, according to data from COAT. Last year in Montgomery County, there were 337 accidental overdose deaths, an increase from 323 the year before.

"So while overdose deaths are trending downward ... we're seeing a slight increase in COVID deaths still in Montgomery County," Rogal said.

Rogal, in looking at COVID data for Montgomery County, said 2020 was a difficult year. In addition to the pandemic,

people became isolated due to lockdowns, so people who abused opioids or other substances were doing so alone, with no one to help if there was an overdose.

"If an overdose situation was happening, no one was there to call for help, no one was there to administer Narcan," Rogal said. "People were dying in their homes alone more than ever before."

Rogal encouraged individuals to get updated on their vaccinations and pay attention to the ongoing pandemic, saying the COVID-related deaths are having more of an impact on life expectancy rates than drug overdose deaths.

Deaths by suicide

Suicide was the 12th leading cause of death in the United States in 2020, and Rogal said locally there has been a slight increase in deaths by suicide. According to the CDC, more than 45,900 people died by suicide in 2020 nationwide, almost double the number of homicides in 2020, which accounted for approximately 24,576 deaths.

"We are continuing to see in our community a slight increase in death by suicide, and we're seeing a small spike in those who are 55-plus," Rogal said.

She encouraged people to utilize Montgomery County ADAMHS' Crisis Now hotline, which is 833-580-CALL (2255), if they are experiencing suicidal ideation.

"That Crisis Now hotline, while it deals with the full scope of mental health substance use disorders, its primary focus is folks who are experiencing suicidal ideation and helping those who feel the despair of two and a half years into COVID now," Rogal said. "Many people have lost friends and family members, and they just become overwhelmed with grief."

She encouraged people to use that hotline if they are in need.

LEGAL NOTICE

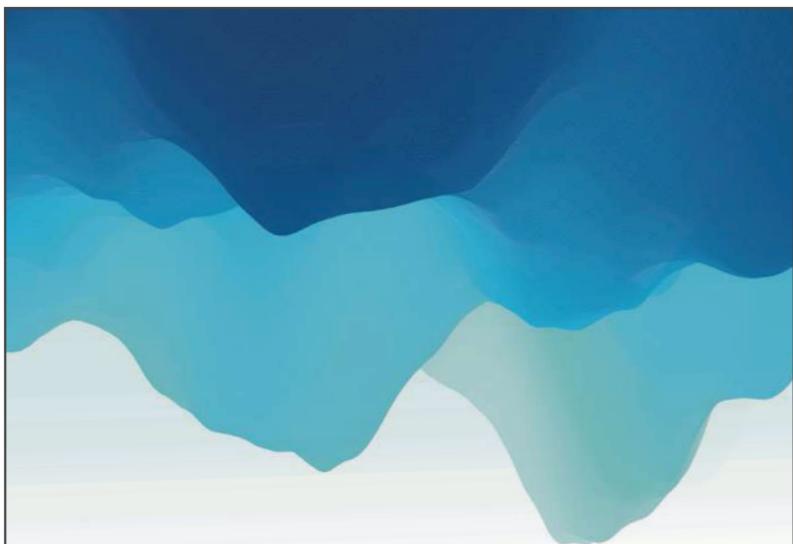
The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has scheduled a public hearing in Case Nos. 21-986-GA-ABN and 21-1035-GA-AAM, *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Abandon Certain Propane-Air Facilities and for Authority to Change Accounting Methods.* According to Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke), it has used manmade caverns since 1959 to store propane that it uses, along with the associated propane-air facilities, to supplement natural gas during peak usage periods and when otherwise needed. Duke asserts that these caverns cannot be inspected or repaired. Further, Duke has determined that the caverns and associated propane-air facilities, specifically facilities at East Works, Dick's Creek, and the portion of facilities in Erlanger, Kentucky allocated to Ohio customers, should be abandoned and replaced by alternative methods to provide reliable natural gas distribution service. According to Duke, the Central Corridor Pipeline approved by the Ohio Power Siting Board enables Duke to retire the caverns and associated propane-air peaking facilities while maintaining safe and reliable service to customers. *In re the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., Case No. 16-253-GA-BTX*, Opinion, Order, and Certificate (Nov. 21, 2019). Furthermore, Duke asserts that environmental remediation of its manufactured gas plants, which was addressed in Case No. 14-375-GA-RDR, et al., cannot be completed until the caverns and associated facilities have been decommissioned. Consequently, Duke believes that the abandonment is reasonable, is in the best interest of the public, and should be approved.

Staff of the Commission recommended that Duke's application for abandonment be approved. Further, Staff also recommended deferral authority for the net book value of the propane inventory but does not recommend deferral authority for the net book value of the propane caverns. Staff also recommended approval of deferral authority for a portion of the estimated decommissioning costs. Staff asserts that recovery of these deferred amounts cannot be recovered until these amounts have been reviewed and addressed in future proceedings before the Commission.

Since the filing of the application and Staff's report, Duke and Staff have entered into a stipulation and recommendation purporting to resolve all issues in the case, which has been offered to the Commission for consideration.

An evidentiary hearing in this proceeding will commence on September 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, Hearing Room 11-C, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

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.



A Mental Health Crisis Can't Wait.

Overwhelming anxiety or depression can happen at any time, day or night.

If you or someone you love is facing a mental health crisis — no matter how big or small — don't wait to reach out. Call our confidential hotline to get help through a tough time and connect with local resources and support.

Find Help. Find Hope.

Local 24-hour crisis hotline:

877-695-6333

FindHelpFindHope.org



Mental Health Recovery Board

Serving Warren & Clinton Counties

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities
Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

9/7/2022 12:46:40 PM

in

Case No(s). 21-0986-GA-ABN, 21-1035-GA-AAM

Summary: Affidavit Affidavit and Newspaper Notices verifying publication of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.'s legal notice electronically filed by Mrs. Tammy M. Meyer on behalf of Duke Energy Ohio Inc. and D'Ascenzo, Rocco and Kingery, Jeanne and Vaysman, Larisa and Akhbari, Elyse Hanson