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May 6, 2024 Free

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Biggest Week in American Birding begins

Birding enthusiasts hit the hiking trail at Metzger Marsh as the Biggest Week in American Birding begins May 3 and runs through the 12th. This group spotted a Blackpoll Warbler. See story in Entertainment. (Press photo by Ken Grosjean)

Lake Twp.

Court asked to intervene in construction project

By Larry Limpf
News Editor
news@presspublications.com

A Lake Township resident is asking the Wood County Common Pleas Court to issue an order to stop excavation work on a construction project along Woodville Road.

Dan Prewitt, Pemberville Road, filed the court complaint April 22, alleging Hillabrand Holdings, LLC, has unlawfully proceeded with the excavation of a 7-acre parcel without obtaining a proper zoning certificate.

He also alleges Hillabrand, which owns the property and an adjacent 26 acres, failed to submit plans and specifications and the intended use to conform to the township zoning resolution and the company violated Wood County erosion and sediment control rules.

Prewitt's complaint says the township's zoning resolution states: "It shall be the duty of the zoning inspector to issue a certificate, provided that the structure, building, or premises, and the proposed use thereof conform with all requirements of this resolution. No permit for excavation or construction shall be issued by the zon-

“ I consulted with the prosecutor's office and the engineer's office issued a stop work order and the order was adhered to. ”

ing inspector unless the plans, specifications, and the intended use conform to the provisions of this resolution.”

The complaint asks the court to order Mark Hummer, the township police chief, to file misdemeanor charges against Hillabrand. Chief Hummer is also the acting township zoning inspector.

Prewitt is also asking the court to instruct Hillabrand to remove stone and asphalt material that has been placed at the site and bring the property to its original

condition.

The complaint includes an affidavit signed by Joe Zemenski, a Bailey Road resident, stating that he witnessed the excavation and site development of the parcel from April 9 to April 17.

The seven acres are part of a 33-acre parcel that was the subject of a lawsuit between the township trustees and Hillabrand over zoning.

After the trustees last year rejected Hillabrand's application to have the 33 acres rezoned from R-2 residential district to a B-3 highway business district classification, the company filed a lawsuit claiming the trustees' decision denied the company "the economically viable use of the land without substantially advancing a legitimate government interest."

The company said its intent was to build its headquarters on the property and to construct warehouse space.

In a mediated settlement reached in U.S. District Court for Northern Ohio, the township and company agreed to a compromise that allows five to seven acres to be rezoned.

Continued on page 3

Oak Harbor to participate in Walk/Bike to School Day on May 8

The Village of Oak Harbor, in partnership with the Benton-Carroll-Salem School District and St. Boniface Catholic School, announced its participation in National Walk/Bike/Roll to School Day on Friday, May 8.

This day celebrates the fun of active commuting while raising awareness about creating safer routes to schools.

On the morning of May 8, students and staff are encouraged to walk, bike or roll to school, joining together to build community and school spirit. Like every day, school crossing guards and the Oak Harbor Police Department will help ensure kids make it to school safely and can enjoy the walk.

"By creating safer walking routes for children to get to school, we enhance their physical safety and foster a sense of community and belonging," said Oak Harbor Mayor Quinton Babcock. "For a small town like Oak Harbor, these routes become pathways of connection, where neighbors look out for one another, and our children feel supported on their way to school."

For Oak Harbor, participating in this initiative is part of the larger Safe Routes to School Plan begun by the Village earlier this year. This ODOT-funded program helps communities establish safer paths for children who walk to school. Oak Harbor received \$30,000 from ODOT to complete the plan and will contribute \$5,000 of its own funds.

The Safe Routes to School grant aligns with the village's efforts in creating a new comprehensive plan and funding objectives such as improved sidewalks, including those near Veterans Memorial Park, where the sidewalk is narrow and lacks lighting.

More than 200 children attending B-C-S Schools or St. Boniface Catholic School live within a half-mile of their school, emphasizing the potential for ongoing support and investment in

Continued on page 5

Quote of The Week

Distractions from others will abound.

Bryan Golden
See page 8

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Oregon Council member wary of foundation spending

By Omar Smaidy

The Oregon Economic Development Foundation (OEDF) is a non-profit organization that was formed in 1993 by a group of Oregon business owners and city officials to help promote economic development by retaining and attracting new businesses to the Oregon area.

Last month, city council approved an ordinance authorizing the administration to enter into an agreement with the OEDF for another year for \$100,000.

The agreement states that OEDF will continue to provide economic development services to the city, including providing a relationship between city departments, business owners and other economic development agencies.

The OEDF can also assist the city with property management and funding pre-development work on strategic sites for future projects. The foundation also monitors local, state and federal legislation relating to business development and applies for grants or private funding.

The ordinance to fund the OEDF was passed as an emergency measure without three readings and was supported by all members of council - except one.

Beth Ackerman has questioned transferring tax dollars to the OEDF for purchasing properties for the past three years.

Now in her first term on council, she claims the language in the agreement allows the foundation to spend almost "at will" and she's called for more transparency on how city tax dollars are being used.



Beth Ackerman questions funding of OEDF. (Press photo by Omar Smaidy)

Ackerman, who lives on a farm on Bury Road, first started attending city council meetings regularly in 2021 to express her concerns about the city's potential plans to develop an industrial park on 400 acres in East Oregon. Ackerman was one of several property owners who were approached by city officials that year to consider selling their property for the proposed project.

Last week, she said that she questions the wisdom of the city spending millions of dollars on business development that could be used for public safety services

and pointed to a proposal to increase the city income tax rate to 2.5 percent from 2.25 percent.

The administration recently floated the income tax hike proposal, saying it would help pay for the hiring of additional firefighters, upgrades to Fire Station 42 on Wheeling Road, and other improvement to the fire department.

But council voted 5-2 to not place the tax request on the November ballot.

OEDF President, Alec Thompson, declined to comment on the foundation's spending plans.

Plan commission meeting May 7

Amendments to the zoning resolutions in Freedom and Troy townships are on the agenda of the Wood County Planning Commission's May 7 meeting.

In Freedom Township, the trustees have submitted a series of text amendments to the zoning resolution regarding multi-family housing.

The Troy Township Zoning Commission wants to amend its zoning resolution to address the prohibition of data centers in all zoning districts and the addition of a definition of data centers.

Other items on the planning commission agenda include:

- Liberty Township is adding language to address solar power within the township.

- Plain Township is considering amendments to deal with non-traditional accessory buildings, solar power, wood-fired outdoor boilers, and moving pods.

Also, the township has received an application to rezone about 74 acres of land from an industrial zoning classification to a commercial classification.

- Henry Township is amending its zoning to address solar power.

The planning commission meeting will be held in the county office building in Bowling Green and starts at 5:30 p.m.

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Construction project

Continued from front page

“

The morning of the 18th I confirmed that no permits had been issued prior to me becoming interim zoning inspector.

”

Judge recuses herself

The Prewitt complaint had originally been assigned to Judge Molly Mack but has been reassigned to Judge Mathew Reger because of a “personal conflict” with Judge Mack that prevents her from hearing the case.

Judge Reger on April 26 allowed Prewitt more time to amend his filing.

“Upon review of the filings, it appears plaintiff (Prewitt) is seeking an ex parte temporary restraining order. However, the court notes that plaintiff has not complied with the mandatory requirements of Rule 65 of the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure. The court therefore grants plaintiff leave to amend his filings to comply with Civ. R. 65 within 14 days of the file-stamped date of this order. Should plaintiff fail to amend his filings, the motion will be denied and the case will proceed in the normal course,” the judge wrote.

Chief Hummer declined to comment on the lawsuit but said the township took action after his office received a complaint about construction noise at the site late on April 17.

“The morning of the 18th I confirmed that no permits had been issued prior to me becoming interim zoning inspector. I checked with the county engineer’s office first thing and confirmed there were no storm water management plans,” the chief said. “I consulted with the prosecutor’s office and the engineer’s office issued a stop work order and the order was adhered to. We are now working through the permitting process with the property owner.”

Matthew Fischer, attorney for Hillbrand, said he’s reviewing the case and wanted to discuss it with his client before commenting.

Davies Block, early 1900s

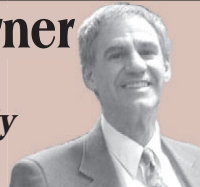


Known as the Davies Block, this sturdy brick commercial building, seen here about 1911, has anchored the northeast corner of Main and 6th Street since the 1890s. Many retail businesses have occupied the ground floor over the years, including the popular long-time Martin Jewelers, which served customers on Main Street for nearly 70 years. The landmark building looks much the same today and is part of the current plans for Main Street’s revitalization.

History Corner

East Toledo Historical Society

by Larry Michaels



Kelsie Hoagland, a spokesman for the Ohio Department of Transportation, said a contractor working on a project along I-280 was using the Woodville Road site to deposit soil and other material.

The contractor has since stopped using the site and is using an alternative site, she said.

“Once ODOT sells the project to a contractor, it is the contractor’s responsibility to identify where they will relocate their project materials and ODOT does not weigh in on those decisions,” Hoagland said. “There was an original projection of approximately 1,000 cubic yards of soil and other materials to be relocated to the site. “However, only a fraction of material relocation had occurred when the location’s use was halted.”

Polish Genealogical Society plans meeting

The Toledo Polish Genealogical Society will meet Saturday, May 18, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Michael’s School Hall, 420 Sandusky St., Toledo.

Guest speaker Rhonda Casler will discuss, “Record Keeping, File Organization, and Documentation for the Genealogist.”

Casler is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Arts in History and minor in Anthropology/ Archeology. She has nearly 40 years of experience in the field and will offer tips to improve genealogical records.

Volunteers sought

Since 1988, Wood County CASA/GAL volunteers have been advocating on behalf of children who have experienced abuse, neglect or dependency by gathering information about them for the Juvenile Court.

The volunteers serve a crucial role in keeping the court informed on the children’s well-being, placement, and needed services.

The Wood County CASA/GAL Program is accepting applications for the next pre-service training class for new CASA/GAL volunteers, which will start on Wednesday, May 8.

Interested persons will complete an interview, a background check, 30 hours of pre-service training, and three hours of court observation before being eligible to take the oath from Wood County Juvenile Court Judge David E. Woessner.

The Wood County CASA/GAL Program currently has 28 volunteers serving 55 children and youth. Additional CASA volunteers are needed so that every child who has experienced abuse or neglect in Wood County has an advocate.

Individuals interested in volunteering with the Wood County CASA/GAL program or with the Citizen’s Review Board may contact Kristen Leverton, program director, or a volunteer coordinator at 419-352-3554, email casa@woodcountyoio.gov or visit woodcountycasa.org.

Annual plant sale

Sandusky/Ottawa Counties Master Gardeners will present the 19th Annual Plant Sale Saturday, May 4, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Sandusky County Fairgrounds, 901 Rawson Ave., Fremont.

The sale will feature a variety of flowering annuals and perennials, as well as hanging baskets, herbs and vegetables. Volunteers will be available to answer questions about planning and maintaining gardens.

There will be no early sales. Payment may be made by cash or checks.

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Walk/Bike day

Continued from front page

“**This day serves as a call to action for our community to prioritize safe infrastructure that supports active transportation for all.**”

safe routes to school.

“We are proud to partner with the Village of Oak Harbor and St. Boniface and encourage our community to join us in creating safer routes to school,” said B-C-S Superintendent Cathy Bergman. “By promoting biking, walking, and rolling, we underscore the need for safe streets, sidewalks, and crossings, ensuring that our children can travel to school securely. This day serves as a call to action for our community to prioritize safe infrastructure that supports active transportation for all.”

St. Boniface School Principal Millie Greggila added, “We are excited to join forces with the Village of Oak Harbor and Benton-Carroll-Salem Schools in participating in National Walk/Bike/Roll Day. This event not only encourages healthy habits but also emphasizes the importance of safety for our students. It provides a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together, promote healthy habits, and prioritize the safety of our students on their journey to and from school.”

After a draft Safe Routes to School Plan has been created later this summer, a community meeting will be held to gather public input on the plan.

Lake algal blooms subject of 4th lawsuit

The Lucas County commissioners, City of Toledo, and the Environmental Law & Policy Center last week filed a lawsuit in federal court against the U.S. EPA to compel the agency to comply with its obligations under the Clean Water Act and prevent harmful algal blooms in western Lake Erie.

“We know it is industrial livestock facilities that are polluting our waterways, and these operations go largely unregulated. It is simply not possible to reverse the degradation of Lake Erie without addressing factory farms. This responsibility falls on the EPA, and we’re willing to take legal action to enforce that,” commissioner Pete Gerken said. “The people who rely on Lake Erie for their drinking water and their livelihoods deserve better from the EPA.”

In 2019, the commissioners and the Environmental Law & Policy Center filed a lawsuit in federal court seeking to compel the U.S. EPA to implement a remedial plan to clean up Lake Erie.

Although the Ohio EPA declared Lake Erie to be impaired, it didn’t take remedial action. After years of litigation, the commissioners, the U.S. EPA, and the Ohio EPA agreed to a consent decree under which the Ohio EPA was obligated to prepare a remedial plan and to submit it to the U.S. EPA for review.

The Ohio EPA prepared what is called a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) – of-

“**Not only does it provide drinking water to half-a-million people, but it is vital to our region’s recreation, tourism, and economic development.**”

ten referred to as a “pollution diet” – for western Lake Erie, which was then approved by the U.S. EPA last year, despite objections from the commissioners and environmental groups.

The commissioners, the City of Toledo, and the Environmental Law & Policy Center all contend that the TMDL as it stands now will not remediate Lake Erie. They argue it doesn’t limit pollution caused by dissolved reactive phosphorus and does not meaningfully address the concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFOs, that they claim are responsible for polluting the wa-

tershed.

The joint lawsuit asks the court to set aside the U.S. EPA’s approval of Ohio’s TMDL and to order the U.S. EPA to prepare a new one that complies with the Clean Water Act.

“Lake Erie is a vital resource that must be protected. Not only does it provide drinking water to half-a-million people, but it is vital to our region’s recreation, tourism, and economic development,” commissioner Lisa A. Sobecki said. “For many in Lucas County, their ability to make a living depends on a healthy lake. We are not going to stop fighting until we see a meaningful TMDL.”

Environmental Law & Policy Center senior attorney Rob Michaels said: “This is the fourth lawsuit the Environmental Law & Policy Center has had to file in federal court to compel U.S. EPA and the State of Ohio to take the necessary and legally required steps to clean up Lake Erie. Ohio’s Maumee River TMDL, or pollution diet, which U.S. EPA approved last fall, does not come close to complying with the Clean Water Act, and it will not remediate the harmful algal blooms that keep impairing Lake Erie year after year. So we are back in court – again – to hold U.S. EPA accountable for their legal obligations, to ensure that the TMDL does what it’s supposed to: clean up the Lake.”

Harris Township

04/22/2024 Janet G Cook and Kermit D Cook to Janice Bench, 20931 West Portage River South Road, \$399,900.

BCS School in Harris Elmore Corporation

04/23/2024 Teresa A Nowak, Gerald W Freimark, Martin A Freimark, & Dennis A Freimark to Sheehy Properties LLC, 326 Ottawa Street, \$85,000.

Danbury Township

04/22/2024 Cheryl Wieldraayer to Christopher Krupper, 143 Spring Crest Dr, \$165,000.

04/22/2024 David A Ringler and Carol L Ringer to Scott R Ziembowicz and Lisa M Simpson, 399 Hidden Beach Road, \$215,000

04/25/2024 Robert D McBride & Marjorie R McBride to Robert & Tammy Mathias, 2789 S Waterside Court, \$2,100,000. 04/26/2024 Stephen

Real Estate Transfers

D Ritzhaupt & Michell L Ritzhaupt to Sharon Ann Miller, 62 Gone Fishin, \$135,000.

Erie Township

04/23/2024 Doris M Wolfe Trust to Erie E Rentals LLC, 4762 W Lakeshore Drive, \$90,000.

04/26/2024 Brooke K Scheufler to Patricia Swyers and Jacqueline Williams, 5431 West Harbor Road, \$130,000.

Port Clinton Corporation

4/24/2024 The Estate of Gary Ohm to Jeffrey W Griffin, 912 Glanedale Drive, \$270,000.

04/26/2024 Wade Nilson and Tara Nilson to Linda L Mathys -Trustee of Linda L Mathys Living Trust dated April 14, 2024, 606 Clinton Street, \$200,000.

04/26/2024 Coastal Maine Holdings LLC to Spartan Land Management LLC, 545 W Lakeshore Dr. Unit 4, \$489,900.

Salem Township

04/25/2024 Katja Ilona Rall- Koepke (Trustee) to Thomas M Cobert and Bridget A Cobert, 164 Manor Court, \$444,000.

Oak Harbor Corp

04/22/2024 Woodland Custom Home Builders LLC to Nancy Kay Hedges & Kevin Lee Hedges, 343 Plantation, \$330,900.

Obituaries

Obituary

Daniel H. Smith (Dan)

February 5, 1949 ~ April 25, 2024



Daniel H. Smith, 75 of Curtice, OH passed away April 25, 2024 after a brave 16 year battle with cancer.

Dan is survived by his siblings; Gary (Dee) Smith, Diane Davis, Mark (Janet)

Smith and Michael Smith.

Dan loved spending time with his nieces and nephews and especially his great nieces and great nephews. Dan loved to go hunting and fishing any chance he got. He also enjoyed going to parks and having picnics with his family. Dan was always just a phone call away.

He was loved by many and will be missed dearly.

Obituary

Marilyn A. Lieske

March 3, 1937 ~ April 22, 2024



Marilyn A. Lieske, 87 of Oak Harbor, OH died Monday, April 22, 2024 at Genoa Care Center. She was born March 3, 1937 in Oak Harbor, OH to the late Lyle and Irene (Marko) Bloom. She was a graduate of Oak Harbor High School. In 1955 she married Clark Lieske and he survives. Marilyn enjoyed being a homemaker as well as being employed at Tri Motor Sales in Oak Harbor and the dental office of Dr. Hablitzel when located on Main Street. She was a member of St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oak Harbor where she was active in the Choir and Altar Guild. She was also a member of the Oak Harbor Town & Country Garden Club.

Survivors include her husband Clark

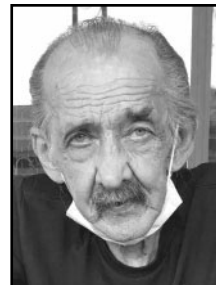
of Genoa, OH; daughter Tammy (Ronald) Nietz of Oregon, OH; grandchildren: Bradley (Jennifer) Nietz and Brian Nietz both of Toledo, OH; great-grandchildren: Brooklyn, Connor and Samuel; and brother James (Vicki) Bloom of Oak Harbor. She was preceded in death by a daughter Sherry Lieske and brother Donald Bloom.

Under the direction of Crosser & Priesman Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Oak Harbor Chapel, Services will begin at 11:00 am on Friday, May 17th, 2024 at St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church, Oak Harbor with the family to receive friends at the Church beginning at 10:30 am. Burial will be in Salem Township Union Cemetery, Oak Harbor. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Johns Ev. Lutheran Church, American Cancer Society, or Ohio Living Hospice. Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.crosserpriesmanfuneralhome.com

Obituary

Andrew (Andy) Distel

September 22, 1950 - March 9, 2024



Andrew (Andy) Distel, age 73, of Walbridge, Ohio, passed away at Bay Park Hospital on March 9th, 2024, surrounded by his family. A private service for immediate family took place on Monday,

March 11th.

Andy was preceded in death by his wife Patricia Distel, his parents Andrew and Leona Distel, and most recently both of his beloved dogs Tommy Boy on

2/21/24 and Tottie (Baby) on 3/8/24.

Andy is survived by his children Hollie (David) Parsons, Nicholas Distel, and April Linley, his grandchildren David & Lauren Parsons, Parker and Layla Linley, and Shay Royer as well as his siblings Diana (Jerry) Kettinger and Tom (Joanie) Distel.

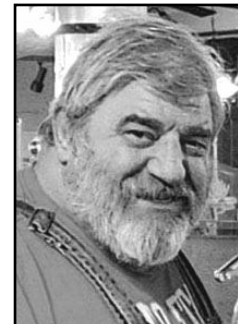
His family takes comfort in knowing that he is now breathing easy. May he rest in peace and his memory live on through those that knew and loved him.

Arrangements by Witzler-Shank-Walker Funeral Home, Walbridge. Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.walkerfuneralhomes.com

Obituary

Joseph R. Steinmetz

October 11, 1958 - April 27, 2024



Joseph R. Steinmetz, 65 of Oak Harbor, OH died unexpectedly Saturday, April 27, 2024 following a lengthy illness. He was born October 11, 1958 in Toledo, OH to Melvin and Rita (Stein) Steinmetz. He was

a 1977 graduate of Bowsher High School and a Journeyman Insulator by trade. On October 17, 1980 he married Lorie Bishop, and she survives. Joe was a Mechanical Insulator for Local 45 in Toledo retiring in 2019. He was also member of St. Boniface Catholic Church, Oak Harbor.

Known to his Union Hall brothers as “Smokin Joe”, he had a knack for making tasty jerky for his friends to enjoy, and he loved to tinker on his farm. Joe was a huge family man who enjoyed nature and taking care of an array of animals.

Survivors include his wife of 43 years,

Lorie; father Melvin (Wanda) Steinmetz; children: Joseph (Monica) Steinmetz, Jacklyn (Andrew) Stewart, Gretchen Steinmetz, and Richard Steinmetz; sisters: Joan Soldenwagner, Rose (Dennis) Bening, Judy Steinmetz, Jane (Roger) Hinehine; brother John (Juli) Steinmetz; and 13 beloved grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his mother Rita; brothers: Dennis and Dan Steinmetz; and sister Diane Steinmetz.

Visitation will be Wednesday from 2-7:30pm at Crosser & Priesman Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Oak Harbor with Prayers for the deceased starting at 7:30pm. A Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 10:30am Thursday, May 2, 2024 at St. Boniface Catholic Church with Rev. Joseph Steinbauer celebrant. Burial will be in Union Cemetery, Oak Harbor. Memorial Contributions may be sent to American Diabetes Association, St. Boniface Catholic Church, or Ottawa County Wildlife Refuge. Online condolences may be shared with the family at www.crosserpriesmanfuneralhome.com

This week in Toledo's past: Events in the Toledo area over the past 150 years

May 5

1813 - Hundreds of Kentucky militiamen, under the command of Colonel William Dudley, during War of 1812, are killed near Maumee River by Indians who had lured them into an ambush. Dudley and at least 220 militiamen are killed.

1883 - First professional game of baseball is played in Toledo as the Toledo Blue Stockings take to the field against Bay City, winning the game 5-4 in 10 innings.

1908 - Toledo Police officer James Boyle, an 11 year veteran with the department, is ambushed and killed while looking for suspects near downtown Toledo.

1919 - A strike begins by workers at the Willys Overland in the city. Deadly violence would erupt and more than 17,000 workers would walk off their jobs.

1924 - Toledo Post Office robbery suspects Joe and Frank Urbaytis, who escaped from the Lucas County Jail in 1921 are recaptured near Columbus. Joe Urbaytis is wounded in a shootout, but recovers and returned to Toledo for trial.

1944 - Toledo motorcycle policeman Fred Disel and a pedestrian are killed at Monroe and 17th Streets during a pursuit of a suspect car.

2005 -The end of an era as the Showcase Cinemas on Secor Road close for good. In operation since 1964, they were first to offer 70mm first run features.

May 6

1932 - Police are investigating the murder of a young woman in Old West End. Winifred Rafferty, a dietician at Robinwood Hospital was on her way to work when she was attacked. Police round up "usual degenerates" for questioning.

1945 - The USS Toledo is launched by the U.S. Navy from the Camden New Jersey



The "Jeep"

Shipyards. Many dignitaries from Toledo are on hand for the ceremonies and they give silver tea set to the ship as a gift of Toledo.

1975 - Toledo Goaldiggers make Toledoans cheer as they win International Hockey League championship and the Turner Cup.

May 7

1902 - Tragedy strikes on the Maumee River when seven young people on a Sunday school outing drown when a tugboat hits their boat near the Ironville docks. The inquiry into the accident lasted for months.

1915 - The great British passenger ship, the Lusitania is torpedoed and sunk by a German U-boat. Two Toledo passengers, William Homewood and Larry Linley are among the 1,100 who died.

1931 - Singer Teresa Brewer is born in Toledo as Teresa Brewer. She rises to national stardom in 1950 with pop hit "Music, Music, Music."

The forerunner to the Secret Service.

Born near Huron, Ohio in 1834, the son of a Presbyterian minister, Conger grew up in Huron but would later move in his early 20's to Fremont to set up a practice as a dentist. His future as a dentist however was altered by the start of the Civil War. He, like many, answered the call to duty and initially served as a 3-month enlistee in the 8th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, but later joined the West Virginia Cavalry as an officer. He rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel but suffered some severe combat wounds. They were so severe, he was sent away from the front, and assigned to the newly formed intelligence service in Washington, D.C. His new commander was General Lafayette Baker who headed up this special detachment.

After the Lincoln assassination in mid-April, Baker and Conger were put to the test. They were tasked with finding Booth and the co-conspirators involved in the plot and bring them to the courts to face trial.

Everton Conger's role was to ride along with a New York Cavalry Regiment and head south into Maryland and Virginia where it was suspected where Booth had fled. Booth had suffered a broken leg when he leapt to the stage at Ford's theater that night, so he was not moving fast and needed assistance. In the course of the pursuit, Conger was able to interview Dr. Sam

1941 - Willys-Overland shows off its first vehicle called the "Jeep". It is one of 1300 prototypes being built for the Army prior to World War II.

1975 -The Tiedtke's store on Summit erupts into massive inferno of flame destroying the historic building. It's a sad and fiery end of a long time Toledo retail tradition.

May 8

1843 - The Wabash and Erie Canal opens from Toledo to Fort Wayne, Ind. First canal boat arrives in Toledo.

1930 - Toledo police engage in fierce gun battle with members of the "Dorr Street Gang" at a farmhouse on Dorr Street near the Inverness. One of the gang is shot dead. 1945 - V-E Day arrives. Germany surrenders. Noisy celebrations spill out into the streets of the city. Rolls of toilet paper are draped from the office buildings downtown, while jubilant pedestrians jam the streets.

May 9

1912 - A dental curiosity being studied in Toledo, as 400 dentists meet to see the silver filling in the tooth of 6-year-old John Schnittker. His mother says his tooth emerged from his gum with a silver filling already in it.

1969 - Toledo Judge Clyde Deeds, 78, refuses to marry a 21-year-old couple because he says there was "too much levity" going on. He walked out, leaving the bride in tears. Judge Reno Riley later saves the day and marries the couple.

May 10

1933 - Thomas "Yonnie" Licavoli and his gang are found guilty in murder of Louise Bell, the girlfriend of rival mobster Jackie Kennedy. She had been shot dead in an attempted hit on Kennedy.



Louise Bell "Death Car"

1937 - A 22-year-old Evelyn Herzig of Toledo falls five floors from the new Secor Hotel and only sprains her ankle. Doctors are pondering the miraculous survival.

1962 - Ten people are killed and 45 people injured in a massive explosion and fire at Maumee Chemical factory. The tragedy at Oak and Front Streets in East Toledo is still listed as city's deadliest fire.

1968 - Major blaze at Westgate shopping center destroys nine stores in the popular shopping district in West Toledo.

May 11

1901 - Toledo Police arrest a man they call "Jack the Clipper". He is accused of using scissors to clip the long locks of several girls and is later identified as 35-year-old Ross Mounts from Bloomdale.

1924 - Moses Fleetwood Walker, former Toledo Blue Stocking player and first African-American to play professional major league baseball, dies in Cleveland.

1936 - Toledo City Council votes to annex Point Place.

1940 - Toledo city health commissioner says scarlet fever outbreak is rampant with 94 cases reported.

Lincoln's killer found by Fremont dentist

By Lou Hebert

The story of how John Wilkes Booth was shot to death in a barn in rural Virginia is relatively well known by those who follow Civil War history. But did you know that the group of soldiers who captured and killed Booth were being guided by a young man from Fremont who only years before had been a dentist?

The day was April 26, 1865, 12 days after Booth had shot the president in Ford's Theater and the young Sandusky County man credited with the key to his capture was J. Everton Conger.

In the days after the assassination, thousands of police and soldiers had fanned out in the area around Washington, D.C. to bring Booth and the plotters of the conspiracy to justice. The manhunt was intense and the rewards being offered reached \$100,000. For J. Everton Conger, his motivation was not money, but was his assignment, for he was part of a newly created intelligence service in Washington, designed in part, to protect the President.

Mudd, the doctor who set Booth's leg and several others who gave Conger information that Booth may be heading towards the Richard Garrett Farm near Port Royal, Virginia.

Conger and the New York Cavalry unit of 25 men reached the farm early on April 26, 1865. There they found the elusive Booth and David Herold in a tobacco barn. The soldiers surrounded the barn and Booth was ordered to surrender. He refused, but Herold decided it was best to comply and did so. As he left the Barn Booth called him a "coward". With Booth refusing to come out, Everton Conger gave Booth some persuasion to leave the refuge of the barn by setting it afire. The soldiers were instructed not to shoot Booth, but wait for him to be taken alive as a prisoner. But, in the confusion of the flame and smoke, a young soldier, Boston Corbett, raised his gun and took aim through a gap in the side of the barn.

The bullet found its mark and tore through the back of Booth's neck. He fell to the ground. A soldier from Michigan, rushed into the burning barn to grab the fallen Booth and drag his body to the porch of the Garrett farmhouse. There, surrounded by the troops, he lay dying. In a story, told by Conger, Booth was given some whiskey and according to Conger, Booth whispered, "Tell my mother I did it for my country." His ragged breathing would only

last another 30 minutes. By dawn, John Wilkes Booth was dead.

Later, Conger found Booth's diary and other items and turned them in to the investigators who were still trying to unravel the plot that Booth had devised to kill Lincoln and Secretary of State Seward. For his success in finding Booth, Conger was given \$15,000 reward money, a substantial sum in 1865. And back here in Northwest Ohio, his town of Fremont gave him a pair of inscribed silver-handled pistols for finding Booth.

After his service, Conger came home to Fremont and to his wife and five children. But the young hero no longer wanted to pursue the dental profession and instead moved to the state of Illinois where he studied law and set up a practice. Later he was appointed a federal judgeship in the Montana Territory, and relocated to the town of Dillon.

Years later, in a quest for new adventure, he followed his daughter's family to Hawaii where he found contentment at last, and lived until his death in July of 1918 in Honolulu. Conger's body was returned to Dillon, Montana where he is buried and where he was remembered fondly both as a judge and an American patriot who captured one of the most highly sought fugitives from justice in the nation's history.



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Habitat for Humanity planning local builds

Habitat for Humanity of Wood County, Inc. announced plans to build homes in Walbridge, Bradner, Rossford and Wayne.

Individuals interested in applying for Habitat's Homeownership Program are encouraged to apply online at wchabitat.org.

"Many people do not realize that they are eligible for a Habitat for Humanity home," said Mark Ohashi, executive director, Habitat for Humanity of Wood County, Inc. "Our criteria make homeownership a real possibility for many people.

"We want people to know that they can replace their rent payments with an affordable mortgage and own their own home through Habitat's Homeownership Program," he said. "We believe that everyone should have a safe, affordable place to call home.

"For example, a family of four that makes between \$23,000 and \$62,000 annually may qualify," Ohashi said.

As part of the Homeownership Program, approved applicants agree to

provide 200 "sweat equity" hours (volunteer time). Their commitment includes attending mandatory monthly homeownership education workshops, completing "Financial Peace University" workshops, and volunteering time on their home and those of other Habitat families.

On average, each Habitat home includes over 2,000 hours of volunteer support. Habitat for Humanity of Wood County is one of 44 Habitat affiliates in Ohio. For more information on criteria for being selected for Habitat's Homeownership program, visit <https://wchabitat.org/> or call 419-481-8100.

Turnpike travel increased in 1st quarter

Ohio Turnpike motorists logged nearly 648.7 million miles traveling on the toll road during the first quarter of 2024, an increase of 1.1 percent compared to the same three-month period a year ago.

Passenger cars traveled 364,974,303 miles, up 1.9 percent; and commercial trucks traveled 283,683,999, up 0.2 percent.

Passenger cars and commercial vehicles accounted for 56.3 percent and 43.7 percent, respectively, of miles traveled.

The combined number of vehicles that traveled on the 241-mile Ohio Turnpike, which is designated as Interstate 80, I-90 and I-76, was 11,072,584, up 2.1 percent, during the first quarter of 2024.

Passenger cars completed 8,075,720 trips, up 2.2 percent; and commercial trucks completed 2,996,864 trips, up 1.9 percent.

Passenger cars and commercial vehicles accounted for 72.9 percent and 27.1 percent, respectively, of traffic.

E-ZPass use rises

Through the first quarter of 2024, combined E-ZPass use by the Ohio Turnpike's passenger car and commercial vehicle customers was 76.6 percent, up 0.3 percent compared to the same period in 2023.

E-ZPass use by passenger vehicle customers was 65.4 percent, up 1 percent; and commercial truck customers was 91 percent, up 0.2 percent.

To calculate the savings with E-ZPass, check the Ohio Turnpike's Fare Calculator.

Health dept. clinics

The Ottawa County Health Department, 1856 E. Perry St., Port Clinton, has issued a schedule of clinics for the week of May 6-10. Appointments may be made by calling 419-734-6800.

May 6: Women, Infants and Children Clinic (WIC), 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

May 7: WIC Clinic, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.; 60+ Clinic - Elmore, 9:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.; Tuberculosis Clinic, 3-4 p.m.

May 8: Family Planning Clinic, 8-9 a.m.; 60+ Clinic - Oak Harbor, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.; Immunization Clinic, 12-4:30 p.m.

May 9: Reproductive Health/Health Chek, 8-10 a.m.; 60+ Clinic - Port Clinton, 8-11 a.m.; Tuberculosis Clinic, 3-4 p.m.

May 10: Immunization Clinic, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

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Excuses are limitation on accomplishment

By Bryan Golden

Excuses are used to justify why a particular goal cannot be achieved. In essence, excuses justify failure. By attempting to formulate a plausible reason for failure, any incentive to succeed is eliminated. Excuses condition a person to accept failure rather than to strive for success.

While some people make excuses for why something is impossible, others find ways to get it done. Excuse makers are adept at articulating why something can't be done. Successful people specialize in finding ways dreams can be transformed into reality.

The excuses are many and often rather creative. "I don't have time." "I don't know how." "It won't work." "It's not possible." "What will others think?" "No one I know is doing it." "I tried it once and it didn't work." "The odds are against success." "I will be laughed at." "I had a bad experience." "My parents discouraged me." "I'm not smart enough."

For every excuse that's been concocted, there is a person who has refused to be limited by it. If you think you can't do something, you will make excuses. If you believe you can succeed, you will find a way. Successful people don't waste a minute dwelling on excuses.

Excuses are a limitation. They prevent accomplishment. As you get in the habit of using excuses, they become an automatic response when facing challenges. Excuses are the path of least resistance that avoid risk and therefore guarantee failure.

One of the reasons people make excuses is because they don't truly believe in themselves. They have self-imposed limitations preventing attainment of their goals. They don't recognize the restrictions they put on themselves. They genuinely believe in the validity of their excuses.

Even though a person may use excuses to justify inaction, feelings of dissatisfaction will still form. Watching others achieve their goals will invariably exacerbate these feelings, even if only subconsciously.

Rather than making excuses, why not concentrate your efforts on finding a path to your desired destination. You may have numerous excuses but you only need one reason for succeeding. One reason to succeed is more potent than dozens of excuses. Additionally, success is infinitely more satisfying than failure. But you have to be willing to discard your excuses. Your reason to succeed can be simply, "I really want this to work." With a burning desire, you will find a way.

Changing your approach begins with recognizing your own unlimited potential. Any chains holding you back are of your own design. These chains have taken years to forge. They won't be broken overnight.

You must believe in yourself. Within you lies the ability to find at least one reason to succeed. Once you find it, you have to focus on it to the exclusion of all other mental distractions. Any temptation to revert to excuses has to be resisted. Distractions from others will abound. As if you can't do it yourself, other people will suggest excuses for you to use. Ignore these as well.

Your objective is to focus on where you want to go and figure out how to get there. Giving in to any excuse will halt your journey. Should this happen, you have to get up and keep going. Just because you become sidetracked, you don't have to give up.

Fighting off excuses is an ongoing battle. Even the most determined individuals deal with this. Successful people aren't deterred by excuses; they look past them, keeping their destination in clear view.

Starting today, don't make any more excuses. Grab hold of one reason to succeed.

NOW AVAILABLE: "Dare to Live Without Limits," the book. Visit www.BryanGolden.com or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. Email Bryan at bryan@columnist.com or write him c/o this paper. 2024 Bryan Golden



Fund transit projects, not highways

By LeeAnn Hall

In cities and in rural areas, in red states and blue states, most residents want cleaner and more connected communities. Public transit — including trains, buses, and dial-a-ride services — and accessible walking and bike routes give us healthy, clean, and affordable ways for everyone to get where they need to go.

But for too long, policymakers have sold us the false choice that we must fund highways above all else. They continue to waste billions of our tax dollars on highway expansion projects that pollute our air and increase traffic, instead of funding sidewalks, safe biking routes, and robust public transportation options. This has resulted in a system where most people must drive for every trip to meet their daily needs.

It doesn't have to be this way. This spring's Earth Day celebrations gave us the opportunity to step back, imagine our future, and commit to the changes that get us there. And to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and stave off the worst effects of climate change, we must address the elephant in the room: transportation.

The transportation sector is the largest source of U.S. climate pollution — and 80% of transportation emissions come from the cars and trucks on our roads. It's one of the only major sectors where emissions are still rising.

The good news is that a shift in trans-

“
...funding priorities will not only clean our air, it will also improve our lives in nearly every dimension.”

portation funding priorities will not only clean our air, it will also improve our lives in nearly every dimension. A new analysis from the Union of Concerned Scientists shows that by funding real transportation choices and reducing the amount we need to drive, we can create healthier, more connected communities while reducing harmful emissions.

If we expanded transportation options and reduced the miles that people need to drive by 30 percent by 2050 that would free up a lot of money in our wallets to spend on the things we need. On average, each household would save more than \$3,000 a year from reduced fuel, maintenance, and depreciation costs for their vehicles. If better transportation choices allowed families to go from owning two cars to one, it would save them \$12,000 per year!

And it would clean our air by reducing harmful emissions — by up to 3,100 megatons of greenhouse gasses. That's the same as preventing emissions from almost 8,000 natural gas-fired plants.

The tide is starting to turn. Recently, federal legislation was introduced to provide more operational funds to transit. This would help many transit agencies across the country that are facing fiscal shortfalls invest in more services, run more routes, and increase the frequency of trains and buses. The bill, the "Stronger Communities Through Better Transit Act" introduced by Congressman Hank Johnson (D-GA), already has more than 100 co-sponsors.

And this momentum cannot come fast enough. The reality is the climate crisis isn't coming — it's here. We see it around us every day. From record heat to stronger storms, it impacts everything from our economy to our national security.

And we need to act now.

We need to raise our voices together to demand our leaders fully fund transit, biking, and walking instead of expanding highways. This will connect and improve our neighborhoods, have a positive economic impact, and protect the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land we call home for generations to come.

LeeAnn Hall directs Just Strategy's National Campaign For Transit Justice. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.

Keep postal service out of corporate hands

By Jim Hightower

Before there was a United States of America — before our Constitution was adopted, and even before our 1776 Declaration of Independence — one of America's best democratic institutions was already delivering for the people: the postal service.

For 250 years, this invaluable public service has delivered more than mail. It was — and is — a core element of our national unity. Its network of local employees go door-to-door, coast-to-coast, six days a week in every zip code, physically linking America's widely dispersed, wildly diverse people into one country. It is a universally popular and essential government service that works.

Yet as we've seen with such other valued public assets as our schools and parks, no flower is so beneficial to the common good that selfish corporate opportunists won't try to pluck it for their private gain. So for years, corporate profiteers and laissez-faire ideologues have been plucking apart the budget, staff, branches, and historic mission of the Post Office.

Their scheme is to shrivel service, foment public dissatisfaction with the agency; demand evermore cuts in staff and branches — then push for a corporate takeover and downsizing of this universal, nationwide delivery network.

It's not just a piece of government they're trying to eliminate. It's the core idea of America itself, namely our people's can-do democratic spirit and commitment to the common good. Rather than meekly accepting this corporate retreat from our egalitarian ideals, let's reassert our rebellious spirit.

For starters, we can help the feisty American Postal Workers Union push a "People's Postal Agenda." It outlines ways to reinvent and expand the public services that this grassroots network of employees and local branches is uniquely able to provide.

For info and action, go to www.apwu.org.

OtherWords columnist Jim Hightower is a radio commentator, writer, and public speaker. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.

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Entertainment

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Sundance Drive-in reopening this weekend under new ownership

The Sundance Drive-In, 4500 Navarre Ave, Oregon, will be re-opening Friday, May 3, as part of a 75th Anniversary Celebration.

Todd Williams, the new owner, said he's excited to bring the drive-in into a new era with a number of improvements coming, especially in the picture and sound quality. In addition, he will be making updates and changes to the drive-in including the addition of a third screen, new playground equipment, new bathrooms in a separate building, new fencing throughout the property, the addition of an arcade and a renovated concession stand offering new menu items.

Williams, who has always been a drive-in enthusiast and operator, is currently the owner of Memory Lane Drive-In in Monroe, Michigan. He said he is hoping for community support to be able to continue updates to the drive-in and the legacy that was started 75 years ago, with the goal of continuing the tradition of providing a fun, family-oriented outdoor movie-going experience.

This weekend, The Sundance will be showing two new films on Screen 1 including "The Fall Guy" at 9:05 p.m., followed by the new Ghostbusters movie at 11:20 p.m. Screen 2 will be showing "Star Wars Episode I" (25th Anniversary) at 9:10 p.m., followed by "Alien" (45th Anniversary) at 11:35 p.m.

FCT presents '42nd Street'

The Fremont Community Theatre will wrap up its season with "42nd Street," May 4-5 at 7:30 p.m. and May 6 at 2 p.m.

This classic musical, featuring popular numbers like "Lullaby of Broadway," "Dames" and "We're in the Money," is directed by Pamela Meggitt, with Randy and Darla Brown serving as assistant directors.

At the heart of this family-friendly musical is the tale of a chorus girl from Allentown, Pennsylvania. In a twist of fate, she is thrust into the spotlight, taking on the lead role after the original star suffers an injury. What follows is a timeless story

Etc.

about perseverance and the realization of dreams.

The theater is located at 1551 Dickinson St., Fremont. Visit fremontcommunitytheatre.org or call 419-332-0695 for tickets and more information.

"Feather to Frame"

The Greater Port Clinton Area Arts Council and Black Swamp Bird Observatory announce the third annual "Feather to Frame" exhibit at The Arts Garage, 317 W. Perry St., Port Clinton, on display through May 23.

"Feather to Frame: An Artists-Eye View" is a gallery exhibit showcasing spring songbird migration in Northwest Ohio coinciding with The Biggest Week in American Birding.

The exhibit features about 50 pieces of original art from Midwestern artists, ranging from woodwork to painting to photography.

The exhibit is free to view. Some pieces will be available for purchase.

For more information about the organizations, visit bsbo.org and gpcaac.org.

'Broadway Cabaret'

Perrysburg Chorale will present the 3rd Annual "Lights, Camera, Action!" Broadway Cabaret Friday, May 17 at 7 p.m. at Perrysburg First Baptist Church, 200 W. Second St. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

The performances will feature show tunes, Broadway and more, including works from Rent and "Wicked." There will also be snacks, drinks and finger foods, along with an opportunity to win prizes through trivia and a 50/50 raffle. Admission is \$25. Purchase tickets at https://ticketstripe.com/perrysburgchoralefundraiser.



The American Theatre Guild will present "MOMIX: ALICE" May 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Stranahan Theater. (Photo by Sharen Bradford)

Visit perrysburgchorale.com for more details.

Performance slots are still available for small a cappella groups and choruses. Performers get free admission to the event.

BarberQ event

The Voices of Harmony will present the Second Annual BarberQ Saturday, June 1, from 12-5 p.m. at Oak Shade Grove, 3624 Seaman Rd., Oregon.

This Johnny Appleseed District-sanctioned event will feature an afternoon of family-friendly food, music and fellowship.

Admission is \$10. Barbeque platters start at \$20. Purchase tickets online at thevoicesofharmony.org/barberq2024.

Tickets will also be available at the gate.

'MOMIX: ALICE'

The American Theatre Guild will present the whimsical new production, "MOMIX: ALICE" Tuesday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Stranahan Theater, 4645 Heatherdowns Boulevard, Toledo.

The production is part of the '23-'24 Broadway in Toledo Series.

Tickets are available at BroadwayInToledo.com and StranahanTheater.com. Group ticket savings for 10 or more are

Continued on page 10





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Continued from page 9

available by contacting Groups@ATGuild.org.

Known internationally for presenting work of exceptional inventiveness and physical beauty, MOMIX is a company of dancer-illusionists under the direction of Moses Pendleton.

Seamlessly blending illusion, acrobatics, magic, and whimsy, MOMIX sends audiences flying down the rabbit hole in Pendleton's newest creation, "ALICE," inspired by Lewis Carroll's classic "Alice in Wonderland." As Alice's body grows and shrinks and grows again, Pendleton's dancers extend themselves by means of props, ropes, and other dancers.

The dazzling company will take the audience on a mind-bending adventure, as Alice encounters time-honored characters including the undulating Caterpillar, a lobster quadrille, frenzied White Rabbits, a mad Queen of Hearts, and a variety of other surprises.

BroadwayInToledo.com, Etix.com and the Stranahan Theater Box Office are the only official sources for tickets to all shows in the '23-'24 Broadway in Toledo Series.

Library seeking Volunteers

Wood County District Public Library is looking for Volunteers at the Walbridge Library this summer.

Teens ages 11 and older are invited to volunteer this summer at the Walbridge Library, and attend one of two orientation dates on Saturday, May 18 at 10:30 a.m. or Monday, May 20 at 4 p.m. to learn more and sign up.

Volunteers will help WCDPL with the "Summer Reading Program: Adventure Begins at Your Library."

The program offers teens the opportunity to gain service hours, prepare crafts, be around books, work a flexible schedule, be

involved, serve the community, meet new people, organize materials, gain work experience and assist with library programs.

Interested teens should fill out the application on wcdpl.org/teens-can-volunteer-wcdpl before attending an orientation, or when they arrive at the orientation. For more information, call 419-666-9900.

'In Order to Live'

Local artist James "dirtykics" Dickerson will show the city of Toledo through a new lens in his exhibition, "In Order to Live," on view through July 14 in the Robert C. and Susan Savage Community Gallery at the Toledo Museum of Art (TMA).

"In Order to Live" features photography and installations by Dickerson, who documents his journeys through the streets of Toledo and the people he meets along the way. The vivid and complex portrayal of everyday life seeks to show the unique experiences of the Toledo community and encourage viewers to check their biases about the communities that surround them.

"Dirtykics uses a 'listen-first, photograph-second' mentality during his documentary photography process," said Jennifer Cantley, Community Gallery and advisory manager at TMA. "This gives the viewer a rare glimpse into the everyday lives and activities of those who spend their time in Toledo. The artist documents his time through photos and oral recounts of his experiences, which give insight into what the artist was thinking during and after taking the photograph. He finds himself documenting strangers with all different life journeys and backgrounds."

Dickerson uses a traditional black and white film photography process to ensure his hands are part of the artmaking journey from start to finish. This exhibition highlights not only the artwork, but the photography process, the film and the cameras used.

Admission to the Museum is always free. TMA is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. It's closed on Mondays and Tuesdays and on certain holidays.

The Museum is located at 2445 Monroe St., call 419-255-8000 or online toledomuseum.org.

'Blast from the past' Dinosaurs stomping their way back to African Safari Wildlife Park

More than 20 moving, roaring, life-sized prehistoric creatures are stomping their way back to Port Clinton as part of Dinosaur Takeover at African Safari Wildlife Park.

Highlights include fan favorites like triceratops and stegosaurus, the carnivorous Australovenator and allosaurus, and a 40-foot-long Tyrannosaurus rex, all scattered throughout the park's Walk-Thru Safari.

Dinosaur enthusiasts can pose for photos in larger-than-life eggs and pick up an educational scavenger hunt in the Safari Gift Shop. As part of the Park's mission to promote an appreciation for all living things, guests will learn about the conservation challenges faced by today's wildlife and how the park is helping to prevent extinction in the 21st century.

"Dinosaur Takeover was a huge hit last summer and added another level of excitement to the guest experience," said park director Kelsey Keller. "It's a real 'blast from the past!'"

Dinosaur Takeover is included with general Park admission and runs daily through Labor Day. More information is available at africansafariwildlifepark.com/dinosaurs.

Ongoing

Through May 12: "Above and Beyond," Imagination Station Toledo, 1 Discovery Way. Visitors will get a closer look at the advances that transformed aviation and aerospace. imaginationstationtoledo.com.

Through May 31: "The Hutchinson Fleet: A Century of Great Lakes Shipping," A Temporary Micro Exhibit, National Museum of the Great Lakes, 1701 Front St., Toledo. The exhibit offers a fascinating journey through the maritime history of the Hutchinson family, pioneers of Great Lakes shipping. nmgl.org.

May

May 3-12: The Biggest Week in American Birding, Black Swamp Bird Observatory, 13551 W. SR 2, Oak Harbor. Revel in being in "The Warbler Capital of the World for "The Biggest Week" - a



celebration of the peak of spring bird migration on the Lake Erie Marsh Region of Northwest Ohio. The festival features birding, photography, and art workshops, guided birding activities, field trips, keynote speakers, spotlight presentations, evening socials and so many more fun activities. biggestweekinamericanbirding.com.

May 3-5: Toledo Tattoo Festival, Glass City Center, 401 Jefferson Ave., Toledo, 12-10 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday. Featuring a selection of more than 200 of the best artists from all over the world. tattootoledo.com.

May 4: Comedy for the Critters, Maumee Indoor Theater, 601 Conant St., Maumee, 7 p.m. Featured comedians include Steve Sabo, Corey W. King and Mark Knope. Doors open at 6 p.m. Open to ages 18 and older. natures-nursery.org/our-event/comedy-for-the-critters/.

May 4, 11, 18, 25 & 27: Fremont Speedway, Gates open at 4 p.m.; races start at 7 p.m. (subject to change). fremontspeedway.com, 419-332-5604.

May 5: Finders Keepers Vintage Market, Lucas County Fairgrounds, 1406 Key St., Maumee, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. More than 150 vendors offering locally made products, vintage and new décor and more. Food trucks will be available. General admission \$5.

May 5: Cinco de Mayo Celebration, Toledo Zoo, 2 Hippo Way, Toledo, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Annual celebration features local entertainers and cultural crafts and activities in the historic Amphitheatre. toledozoo.org/events/cinco-de-mayo-celebration.

Continued on page 11



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Continued from page 10

May 5: Glovation Circus Extravaganza, Promenade Park, 400 Water St., Toledo, 4-8 p.m. Showtimes at 4:30, 5 and 7:30 p.m., plus roaming entertainment, game and play stations, face painting, balloons, food trucks and more. GlovationCircus.com.

May 7-9, 12-19: Birding Day Trips presented by the Toledo Zoo. Zoo ornithologist Jeremy Dominguez will share his knowledge and passion for birds in the region. Cost: \$55. Limited to 12 people per trip. toledo zoo.org/birding/birding-day-trips.

May 7-12: Toledo Mud Hens vs. St. Paul Saints, Fifth Third Field, 406 Washington St., Toledo. milb.com/toledo.

May 9: Beer & Wine Tasting, Schedel Arboretum & Gardens, 19255 W. Portage River Road South Rd., Elmore, 6:30-8 p.m. Join guest host Ben Langan from Mulberry Creek Winery in Huron, who will discuss the fermentation process. \$38 per person. schedel-gardens.org.

May 9: Sesame Street Live, "Say Hello," Stranahan Theater, 4645 Heatherdowns Boulevard, Toledo, 6 p.m. stranahantheater.com.

May 9: Glass City Wranglers vs Derby City Distillers, semi-professional basketball, Bowsher High School, 2200 Arlington Toledo, 7 p.m. glasscitywranglers.com.

May 10: Night Market in the Garden, Toledo Botanical Gardens, Artists Village, 5403 Elmer Dr., Toledo, 4-9 p.m. Free.

May 10: School Bus Figure 8 Race, Toledo Speedway, 5639 Benore Rd., Toledo, 7 p.m. Also featuring the ARCA Late Model Sportsman and Factory Stocks. toledospeedway.com.

May 11: Fireworks Fund Reverse Raffle 2024: Ottawa County Fairgrounds, 7879 W. SR 163, Oak Harbor, 5-10 p.m. Tickets \$50 per person, which includes dinner and a chance to win cash and prizes. Proceeds support Oak Harbor's annual

Independence Day celebration. 419-898-0479, chamber@oakharborohio.net.

May 11-12: Fremont Flea Market, Sandusky County Fairgrounds, 901 Rawson Ave., Fremont, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday. Free admission. sanduskycountyfair.com, 419-332-5604.

May 11: Maker's Mart: Spring 2024, Handmade Toledo, 1713 Adams St., Toledo, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Pop-up indie craft fair. \$5 admission/10 and under admitted free. Free admission during the last hour.

May 12: Mother's Day at Schedel Arboretum & Gardens, 19255 W. Portage River S. Rd., Elmore, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Free admission for moms, and a free gift for the first 100 moms, too. Mimosas available for purchase. schedel-gardens.org.

May 12: Mother's Day Cruise on the Glass City Pearl, 1 Jefferson Ave., Toledo, times vary. Mothers and grandmothers cruise free with the purchase of another. jmcruiselines.com/glass-city-pearl.

May 12: Moms & Mimosas Brunch, Fifth Third Field, 406 Washington St., Toledo, 1:30 p.m. Brunch will be held in Klinger's Corner Party space at 1:30 p.m. milb.com/toledo/tickets/mothers-day.

May 12: Glass City Wranglers vs Cincinnati Warriors, semi-professional basketball, Bowsher High School, 2200 Arlington Ave., Toledo, 3 p.m. glasscity-wranglers.com.

May 12: Live at Jazz Alley, Sixth Edition, Glass City Center, 405 Jefferson Ave., Toledo, 3-5 p.m. Jazz Alley, a first-floor corridor in the Glass City Center continues its series of free jazz concerts.

May 14: Authors! with Ilyon Woo, Toledo Lucas County Public Library, 325 N. Michigan St., Toledo, 7-8 p.m. Join Woo to learn more about the story behind the lives of William and Ellen Craft. toledolibrary.org/authors.

May 17-18: Drums at the Rapids Gaming Convention, Fort Meigs, 29100 W. River Rd., Perrysburg. Miniature war gaming conference will feature many time periods represented from Roman wars to WWII. fortmeigs.org/drums/.

May 18: Dart Frog Dash, Toledo Zoo, 2 Hippo Way, Toledo, 8:30 a.m., rain or shine. toledo zoo.org/events/dart-frog-dash.

May 18: Yoga by the Boat with Parting Clouds Yoga, National Museum of the Great Lakes, 1701 Front St., Toledo, 9-10

a.m. Open to all ages and levels of experience. After class, attendees are invited to enjoy the museum exhibits and board the Schoonmaker and Tug Ohio at a discounted rate. nmgl.org/event/yoga-by-the-boat-with-parting-clouds-yoga/.

May 18: Bike Safety Day, YMCA of Sandusky County, 1000 North St., Fremont, 10 a.m.-noon. Join Cycle Sandusky County Bike Share for a morning of fun and safety. ymcafremont.org.

May 18: Fremont Sports Card Show, Sandusky County Fairgrounds (Flower Building), 901 Rawson Ave., Fremont, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

May 18-19: Gibsonburg "Old Timey" event, Living History Weekend, Williams Park, Gibsonburg, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. Featuring costumed reenactors, craftsmen, historians, veterans and enthusiasts. Come see artifacts from the earliest days of Gibsonburg's founding through today. There will also be cannon firing demonstrations, soldiers and their equipment from different eras, displays with historic artifacts and more. Free. For info, visit facebook.com/GibsonburgLivingHistory.

May 18: Safety Fair & Cruise-in, Wood County Museum, 13660 County Home Rd., Bowling Green, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. woodcountyhitory.org/event/safetyfairandcruisein/.

May 23: Glass City Wranglers vs Jamestown Jackals, semi-professional basketball, Bowsher High School, 2200 Arlington Ave., Toledo, 7 p.m. glasscity-wranglers.com.

May 23: Authors! with Tom Seeman, Toledo Lucas County Public Library, 325 N. Michigan St., Toledo, 7-8 p.m. Seeman, a Toledo, native, will share his memoir of growing up and defying the odds. toledolibrary.org/authors.

May 24: Kids Night, National Compact Touring Series and the Ohio Wheelman Series, Toledo Speedway, 5639 Benore Rd., Toledo, 7 p.m. Also enjoy the ARCA Factory Stock 500 Series. toledospeedway.com/events.

May 24: After-Hours 90s Skate Party, Glass City Metropark, 1001 Front St., Toledo, 8-11 a.m. Join the Skittle Bots at The Ribbon for skating, dancing more. Roller skates available to rent. Concessions available. Free. Open to all ages.

May 25-26: First Siege 1813, Fort

Meigs, 29100 W. River Rd., Perrysburg, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Re-enactors from across the U.S. and Canada will commemorate the First Siege of Fort Meigs by recreating authentic military camps and tactical demonstrations. Experience period camps, musket and cannon demonstrations, battle re-enactments, hands-on activities and more. fortmeigs.org/firstsiege/.

May 26: Spring into the Growing Season Garden Tour, Toledo Zoo, 10:30 a.m.-noon, rain or shine. Price of tour includes admission to the zoo and parking in the Anthony Wayne Trail parking lot. toledo zoo.org/gardens.

May 27: Memorial Day Commemoration, Fort Meigs, 29100 W. River Rd., Perrysburg, 12-5 p.m. War of 1812 soldiers and civilians reenact camp life throughout the day. A special wreath-laying ceremony takes place at 2:00 p.m. at the Fort Meigs Monument. fortmeigs.org/memorialday/.

May 27: Fremont Memorial Day Parade, Downtown Fremont, 10 a.m. (parade travels down Front Street). No pre-registrations required. Prior to the parade, at 9 a.m., there will be a service on the steps of the Sandusky County Courthouse. For info, call 419-334-5900 or visit fremontohio.org.

May 28: Toledo Mud Hens vs. Scranton/WB RailRiders, Fifth Third Field, 406 Washington St., 6:05 p.m. Hens and Hounds Day - bring your dog and watch as the team wears special "Toledo Mud Hounds" jerseys. Dog ticket proceeds benefit Toledo Humane Society and Lucas County Canine Care & Control. \$13 for human; \$8 for dogs. milb.com/toledo.

May 29-30: Toledo Mud Hens vs. Scranton/WB RailRiders, Fifth Third Field, 406 Washington St. milb.com/toledo.

May 30: Tim McGraw in Concert, Huntington Center, 500 Jefferson Ave., Toledo, 7 p.m. huntingtoncentertoledo.com/events/tim-mcgraw/.

May 31: Toledo Mud Hens Girls Night Out, Fifth Third Field, 7:05 p.m. The Mud Huns will take on the Scranton/WB RailRiders. milb.com/toledo/.

For more events, be sure to visit press-publications.com, visittoledo.org, shoresandislands.com or sanduskycounty.org. Submit event information to twalro@press-publications.com.

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May 12, 2024

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Chestnut-sided Warbler
(Photo by Tyler Ficker)
Peak time in NW Ohio during spring migration May 12-20, with males surging May 7-13

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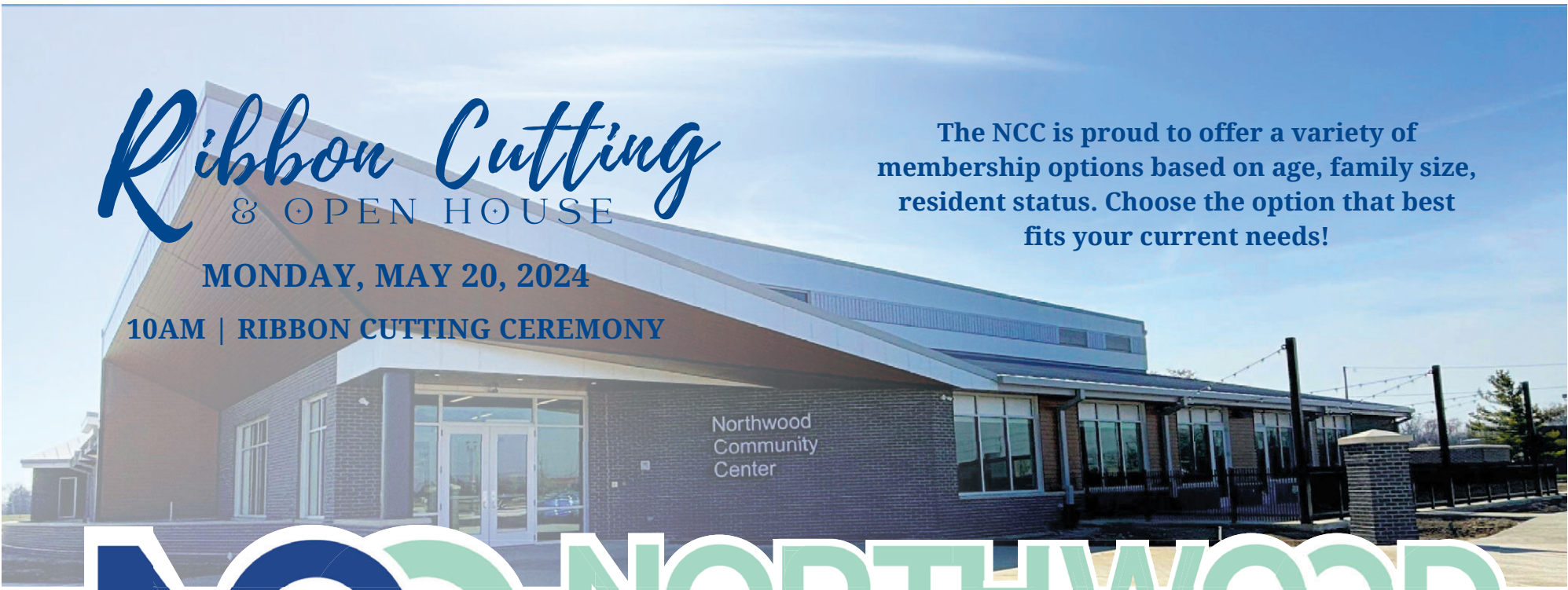
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The first Open House will immediately follow the Ribbon Cutting & additional times will be offered throughout the week as follows:

MAY 20 | 10:30am – 12pm ; 4pm – 8pm
MAY 21 - 23 | 9am – 12pm ; 4pm – 8pm

Guests will be entered into a drawing to receive a free, 1 year individual or family membership.

1 name will be drawn at the end of each day for a total of 4 winners!

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FAMILY	\$288	\$450
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SENIOR COUPLES	\$72	\$150

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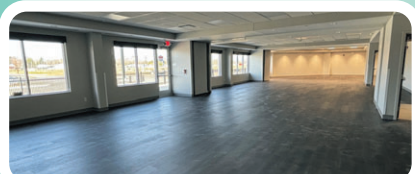
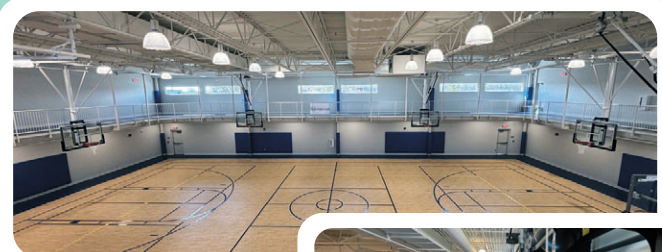
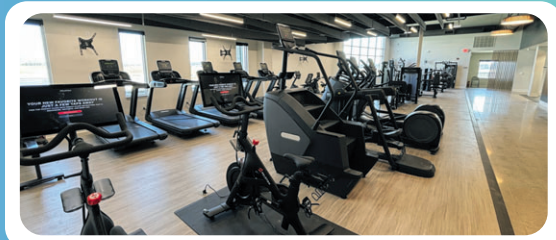
	NORTHWOOD RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
YOUTH	\$16.80	\$27
ADULT	\$42	\$63
TWO ADULTS	\$73.50	\$117
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Communities unite to revitalize Portage River Arts Corridor

The communities of Genoa, Oak Harbor, and Port Clinton are coming together with a shared vision and purpose: to secure funding for the Portage River Arts/Recreation Corridor. This collaborative effort marks a significant milestone in the region as they seek approximately \$750,000 from the State of Ohio's next Capital Budget.

This is the second time that Port Clinton and Oak Harbor have partnered to seek funding, and now, with Genoa's inclusion, the collaborative effort underscores a regional vision for bustling downtowns, thriving small businesses and vibrant communities.

The Village of Genoa is seeking \$350,000 to replace the asbestos roof on the historic Town Hall & Civic Theatre, a building steeped in history and designated as a National Registered Historic Landmark. Completed in 1885, the building remains the historic and cultural centerpiece of Genoa and one of the most prominent landmarks in Ottawa County.

For Thomas Bergman, Genoa's administrator, this funding request is more than just a project; it's a personal journey. His grandmother and namesake, Agnes "Tomme" Bergman, led the effort to save the Town Hall from demolition in the late 1970s. Her tenacity and vision secured a \$755,000 federal economic development grant to renovate the building, ensuring its preservation for future generations.

"The Town Hall is such an iconic part of our town's history. My grandmother grew up in New York, studying opera at Julliard and moved to Genoa with my grandfather after World War II. She quickly fell in love with the community. Together, they raised 14 children in Genoa and were committed to many community efforts that would ensure that the Village of Genoa would always thrive," Bergman said. "My grandmother's legacy is alive throughout Ottawa County, especially in the Town Hall. I think the project of saving and revitalizing the Town Hall & Civic Theatre was the perfect intersection of her love for Genoa and her educational background. I am honored to continue her work to preserve it for generations to come."



Genoa's Historic Town Hall & Civic Theater

Tomme Bergman also founded the Ottawa County Holiday Bureau and was one of the founders of the Ottawa County Parks District. She had a deep passion for her community and desired for Genoa and Ottawa County to thrive. As Bergman carries on his grandmother's legacy, he envisions the Town Hall continuing to provide entertainment and gathering space for the community for another century. Currently, the Town Hall houses the Civic Theatre, the Genoa Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Genoa Historical Society. Thanks to funding from the Historical Society, the building is undergoing interior renovation to include prominent historical artifacts, banners and pictures dating back to the 1885 reunion of Civil War veterans from the 100th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which included more than 40 men from Genoa who served in the regiment. The event was one of the first major events held at the Town Hall and brought then-U.S. President Rutherford B. Hayes and several Civil War generals to the community to commemorate the veterans and the Infantry unit.

"We are thankful for the continued

Bergman said.

Quinton Babcock, Village of Oak Harbor Mayor, echoed Bergman's appreciation of the state legislators' past support, adding, "We are excited about the future of the arts in Ottawa County. The Portage River Arts Corridor project represents a shared commitment to preserving history, promoting the arts, and fostering community engagement. Through this collaborative effort, Oak Harbor, Port Clinton, and Genoa are not only preserving their past but also creating a vibrant future for generations to come."

Oak Harbor is seeking \$250,000 and Port Clinton is \$150,000. The communities would use the additional funds towards improvements towards the riverfront project and the Greater Port Clinton Area Arts Council's Art Garage, respectively.

"The arts are not just a pastime; they are a vital part of our lives," said Mike Snider, City of Port Clinton Mayor.

“
The Town Hall is such an iconic part of our town's history...
”

support of our vision from our state legislators and are hopeful that the legislature will recognize the impact of our projects,”

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Sports

Evarts duo sweep player and coach All-Press honors

By Yaneek Smith
Press Contributing Writer
sports@presspublications.com

Behind the best season in school history, the Gibsonburg Golden Bears were rewarded by the community for their efforts.

Gibsonburg's freshman point guard Elly Evarts earned 10 of the 11 votes for The Alan Miller Jewelers' All-Press Player of the Year (Eastwood's Kayla Buehler received one vote) and Evarts' father, Bo, the coach of the Lady Bears, was named the Coach of the Year with six votes, finishing just ahead of Oak Harbor's Dick Heller, who had four votes. (Genoa's Glenn Black got one vote.)

Gibsonburg went 23-3, won its first district title and its first league title in 48 years.

Bo Evarts, who just completed his fifth season as the coach, went from two wins in his second season to six to 17 to 23.

"It was a pretty historic season," he said. "We did some pretty cool things, but it was a team effort. I have five assistant coaches, and it was very rewarding.

"I took it over five years ago. It was a struggle at first. We had five seniors that were here my very first year. We went 17-7 last year. It was a testament to those seniors."

The three seniors who are leaving the program in great shape are Jazmyne Morant, Sophia Paul and Harley Gamble.

"These seniors, we won two games in their freshmen year," said Evarts. "This year, we thought we'd be pretty good. A lot of it has to do with those seniors. It was nice to see them get the reward. A lot of it has to do with them. Now we feel like we're going to be good for a while.

"I think it validates all of the time and effort you put in. I worked just as hard three to four years ago. There were a lot of sleepless nights when we weren't winning very much. We knew we were getting better. We're working just as hard. This year, because of our success, it helps when you win. It becomes contagious, and you have to prepare a little more."

Bo Evarts talked about the play of Elly Evarts.

"Elly has always been a good offensive player. This year, being the point guard, she made some of the other players go to other positions where they felt more comfortable," said Bo Evarts. "Leah Hall could run up and down the court, hit open shots. She could handle situations. We were pretty confident she would do pretty well. A testament to those seniors and juniors that welcomed her. Some of her better friends welcomed her. It's a group effort, and she did very well. I think she had 87 3s, which I think was second-most in Ohio. As a team, we got better. It did help having stability in the back court with her handling the pressure."

Elly Evarts talked about the time and energy she has invested to become a better player.

"It was a very enjoyable season, espe-

“
We did some
pretty cool things,
but it was a team
effort.”
”



Gibsonburg freshman Elly Evarts dribbles her way to POY honors. (Photo by Doug Hise)

cially because our high school hasn't been known for being the best at basketball," she said. "It was a great year for the team, and our team chemistry was great. It was great to have the season with them.

"I worked hard in grade school, I was pushed in AAU, and played in middle school. I did as much as I could. This fall, I shot a lot in the gym, worked on my skills. By the time I got to high school, I was prepared."

Joining Evarts on the first team is Kayla Buehler (Eastwood), Sydney Stanley, (Lake), Cameran Quisno (Woodmore) and Makenna Moritz (Genoa).

Morant is on the second team with Kara Schneider (Woodmore), Karder Haas (Oak Harbor) and two Northwood teammates — Natalie Thompson and Autumn Schroeder.

The third team features Brooke Tabbert (Oak Harbor), Amelia Ward (Eastwood), Asia Brown (Cardinal Stritch) and Genoa's Lucy Schlageter and Addi Moritz.



Gibsonburg head coach (and father) Bo Evarts, was voted Coach of the Year following a 23-3 season in his fifth year. (Photo by Doug Hise)

2023-2024 Alan Miller Jewelers All Press Girls Basketball Team

Player of the Year: Elly Evarts, Gibsonburg
Coach of the Year: Bo Evarts, Gibsonburg

First Team

Elly Evarts	Gibsonburg	22.2 ppg	6.2 rpg	4.3 spg	3.5 apg
Kayla Buehler	Eastwood	18.0 ppg	3.4 rpg	3.7 spg	
Sydney Stanley	Lake	12.3 ppg	4.3 rpg		
Cameran Quisno	Woodmore	10.2 ppg	4.8 rpg	2.4 spg	2.4 apg
Makenna Moritz	Genoa	13.0 ppg	7.5 rpg	1.8 spg	

Second Team

Jazmyne Morant	Gibsonburg	9.2 ppg	7.1 rpg	4.0 spg	2.9 apg
Kara Schneider	Woodmore	9.5 ppg	6.3 rpg	1.4 spg	
Karder Haas	Oak Harbor	10.2 ppg		2.0 spg	
Natalie Thompson	Northwood	9.8 ppg	3.2 rpg	3.4 spg	
Autumn Schroeder	Northwood	12.4 ppg	2.9 rpg	1.6 spg	2.2 apg

Third Team

Brooke Tabbert	Oak Harbor	7.2 ppg	3.0 rpg		
Amelia Ward	Eastwood	8.4 ppg	4.5 rpg	3.4 spg	
Lucy Schlageter	Genoa	8.8 ppg	4.0 rpg	2.4 spg	
Addi Moritz	Genoa	8.5 ppg	5.4 rpg		
Asia Brown	Cardinal Stritch	9.4 ppg	6.5 rpg		

ppg - points per game rpg - rebounds per game spg - steals per game apg - assists per game

Honorable Mention

Leah Hall, Gibsonburg; Kelsey Kaylor, Woodmore; Bree Bolden, Northwood; Kaelani Chanthakham, Clay; Emilia Henneman-Dallape, Clay; Brynn Reiter, Clay; Brooke Wiley, Lake

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TOM CLUCKEY

Cap Henry rebounds with AFCS Fremont victory

By Brian Liskai

It's said in racing in order to succeed you need to have a short memory. Have a bad night? Put it behind you and move to the next race. That held very true for Cap Henry Saturday, April 27, at Fremont Speedway Presented by Gill Construction.

Henry, who claimed the Fremont Speedway 410 sprint crown, the Attica Fremont Championship Series title and the Attica Raceway Park title in 2023, missed the feature Friday at Attica. He put it behind him on Level Performance/Gressman Powersports Night at Fremont, leading all 30 laps of the Fort Ball Pizza Palace 410 Sprint A-main to score the \$4,000 payday.

Henry had to survive a late race caution to earn his 19th career victory at "The Track That Action Built." He held off a charging Travis Philo, DJ Foos, last week's winner Cale Thomas and Friday night's Attica winner Skylar Gee to visit the Beaverdam Fleet Services Victory Lane.

"I never doubted Zack (Myers) and my guys. We've either been really fast or we shouldn't be at the race track. It's either we win it or don't show up. Zack went through this thing front to back today. He never gives up. We really got lucky there at the end with the cautions. I had ripped off all the tear-offs that thing by like lap 10 and I was just hanging on," said Henry.

Thomas' fourth-place run will keep him atop the All Pro Aluminum Cylinder Heads/Kistler Racing Products Attica Fremont Championship Series Presented by the Baumann Auto Group standings.

The Fremont Federal Credit Union 305 Sprint feature came down to the last lap. A caution necessitated a green-white-checkered finish and in the final corners on the last lap leader John Ivy and Friday night's Attica winner Tyler Shullick raced side by side and banged wheels. Ivy held off Shullick for his 62nd career Fremont victory. Shullick, Jamie Miller, Bryan Sebetto and Seth Schneider rounded out the top five.



Pictured left: Cap Henry 410 Sprint winner. (Photo courtesy of Action Photos)

Ivy, who is now tied for fourth on Fremont's all-time win list with Gug Keegan, put himself in contention for the title of the NAPA of Bryan AFCS presented by Jason Dietsch Trailer Sales.

"I saw Tyler stick his nose down there and I thought, 'Well I have to try something.' I knew Tyler wouldn't take me out — he's a good racer and he will win his fair share. I just have to get as many as I can now — I'm not getting any younger," said Ivy.

Heavy rains struck the speedway just prior to the planned drivers' meeting, which caused a delay of more than three hours in getting the racing surface in shape. Because of the lateness, Fremont Speedway Promoter Rich Farmer approached the Burmeister Trophy Dirt Truck teams about

“

It's either we win it or don't show up.

”

canceling their portion of the night's program in exchange for doubling their purse — from first in the A-feature to last in the B-feature - for next week and the majority of the teams were in agreement.

Fremont Speedway Presented by Gill Construction will be back in action on Family Fun Night, Saturday, May 4, with the dirt trucks, 305 sprints and the USAC D2 Midgets in action.

All events at Fremont Speedway Presented by Gill Construction in 2024 will be streamed on DirtVision. Keep up to date with Fremont Speedway online at fremontspeedway.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/FremontSpeedway, on X at twitter.com/FremontSpeedway or follow on My Race Pass at myracepass.com.

Catherine Michael Knoop ~Attorney at Law~



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Oak Harbor Rockets hope to win NBC, make playoff run

By Yaneek Smith
Press Sports Editor
sports@presspublications.com

Redemption.
After blowing a five-run lead and losing, 9-8, in eight innings to Defiance Tinora in a Division III district semifinal last season, Oak Harbor is on a mission to redeem itself and make a run in the postseason.

So far, things are looking pretty good for the Rockets, who are 16-2 and 8-1 in their first season in the Northern Buckeye Conference — good for first place.

Led by the senior trio of Alyse Sorg, Porter Gregory and Reese Adkins, Oak Harbor is poised to win the league and is the No. 2 seed in the Div. III Springfield District. (The Rockets will face either No. 8 Northwood or No. 9 Evergreen in a sectional final on Friday at home at 5 PM.)

Yes, this group is extremely talented, but what could separate them from other great teams is their chemistry. “I really give hats off to the girls; they play for each other,” said Oak Harbor coach Cami Haas. “The culture, it’s never about one person or another. We live by the mentality that no one is better than anyone else, and they show it each game. There’s a strong character that this team has. They play unselfishly and for one another.”

Gregory echoed those sentiments. “We have a good group of girls, and we all get along and play well together,” she said. “Everyone has their own role every game, and everyone’s role is important to our success.”

The Rockets are known for their hitting, but they wouldn’t be where they are if not for Sorg, who is 15-2 with a 2.70 ERA. In 98.2 innings of work, she has allowed 93 hits and struck out 71 batters.

“Alyse has had a great year; she’s pitched some great games for us,” said Haas. “She knows that she has an offense that is going to pick her up.”

Sorg is the leadoff hitter, followed by Adkins, the shortstop, and Gregory, the first baseman. Right fielder Ava Geyer hits fourth, followed by 3B Karder Haas, CF Tatum Baumgartner, C Allie Giezie, LF Morgan LaLonde and 2B Myley Sandwichsch. (Kaitlyn Meloche and Amelia Tooman have seen some action as well.)

Gregory is hitting .545 and recently set the program record for career RBIs. She’s hit two home runs and driven in 24 runs. As for Adkins, she’s hitting .493 to go with one home run and 28 RBIs, good for first on the team.

Geyer is hitting .474 with 21 RBIs, followed by Sorg (.435, 20 RBIs), LaLonde (.447, 7 RBIs), Giezie (.386, 16 RBIs), Haas (.288, 22 RBIs) and Baumgartner (.286, 17 RBIs).



Top left, Senior pitcher Alyse Sorg is 15-2 with a 2.70 ERA. Top right, left fielder Morgan LaLonde has hit .447 and has 7 RBIs. (Submitted photos)



Bottom left, catcher Allie Giezie has 16 RBIs to go with a .386 batting average. Bottom right, second baseman Myley Sandwichsch rounds out the batting order. (Submitted photos)



“The balanced effort, freshmen through senior, one through nine, it allows them to play comfortably. They really carry over the offense like last year,” Cami Haas said of her top three hitters. “It’s not always about the home run or extra-base hits. We can string a lot of singles together. Porter, Reese and Alyse are fantastic leaders as well, and that really sets the tone for a lot of the success we’ve had.”

Gregory talked about what she’s had to invest to reach this point.

“No matter what I’m doing, I’m always playing softball. The extra live at-bats in the fall, winter and summer are extremely helpful,” she said. “Sometimes it’s easy to get lazy, but I try to keep in mind that I can

always be better. Ultimately, my approach at the plate is way different this year than in past years. I’ve always been worried about breaking a record or trying to hit home runs. This year has mostly been more about (my) confidence and keeping it simple. For example, when I didn’t have any records on my mind, I broke two of them.”

The lone blemish in conference play was a 2-1 loss to Otsego, and the other defeat came against Boardman, a Div. I school located just outside of Youngstown.

Oak Harbor is ranked eighth in Div. III and has some impressive wins over Genoa, Eastwood and Maumee.

“We always keep things constructive.

We said, ‘What can we learn from that loss in the district semifinals last year?’ We talk about finishing, finish the warm up, the play, the inning, the game,” said Haas. “If we finish every little detail, we’ll be OK. We didn’t do that against Tinora. It’s very constructive moving into the postseason, and we’re looking forward to it.”

All of the seniors are expected to compete in sports at the collegiate level.

Sorg hopes to swim at Bowling Green State University, Gregory will play softball at Walsh University in North Canton, and Adkins is set to play softball at Cuyahoga Community College in Highland Hills, which is located just outside of Cleveland.

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Annual 'The Biggest Week' draws many to the region

By Yaneek Smith
Press Contributing Writer
news@presspublications.com

When an estimated 80,000 people from six continents are coming to your neck of the woods, there must be something special to offer them.

The 13th Biggest Week in American Birding, which began on Friday and runs through May 12 and started in 2009, is a worldwide event where birders come to observe the more than 300 species of birds returning after migrating south for the winter. The warblers are returning after spending time in Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

Greg Hart, tourist consultant who works for Lake Erie Shores & Islands in Port Clinton, talked about the event. "This is the earliest big event that we have during the year before we hit the busy tourist season," he said. "A lot of the hotels are full, and the restaurants are definitely busier, too. It is estimated that the tourists bring in approximately \$40 million to the region.

"There are also a bunch of smaller places that are great to go to."

It's a big deal for the area, as well as people at the Black Swamp Bird Observatory, and it brings in plenty of dollars because of money spent staying in hotels and eating at restaurants, among other things.

BSBO is located at 13551 W. SR 2 in Oak Harbor.

One of the world's preeminent birders is Kenn Kaufman who has written about a dozen books about warblers.

His new book, "The Birds That Audubon Missed: Discovery and Desire in the American Wilderness," will be released on Tuesday. The publisher, Simon & Schuster, said the book "examines the scientific discoveries of John James Audubon and his artistic and ornithologist peers to show what they saw, what they missed, and reflects how we perceive and understand the natural world."

Some of the other local places to observe the warblers are at Cedar Creeks Preserve in Northwood, Howard Marsh Metropark in Curtice, Magee Marsh Wildlife Area, Mallard Club Marsh Wildlife Area in



People from near and far travel to the area for birding. Alan and Beryl Turner, of northwest England, strolled the boardwalk at Magee Marsh during "The Biggest Week in American Birding," in 2023. (Press file photo by Ken Grosjean)

Oregon, and Maumee Bay State Park, which is also in Oregon, Metzger Marsh Wildlife Area in Bono, Northwood Nature Trails in Northwood, Ottawa National Wildlife

Refuge in Oak Harbor, Pearson Metropark in Oregon, and Ringneck Ridge Wildlife Area in Gibsonburg. There are also other sites in Port Clinton and Marblehead near the lake.

For more information about the festival, visit biggestweekinamericanbirding.com or go to Facebook at facebook.com/TheBiggestWeekInAmericanBirding.



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Call us at (800) 592-2828 or visit www.genoabank.com

Activity restrictions apply. Deposits are not accepted at Elmore Branch (352 Rice Street).



Happy
Mother's
day

Transitions Deadline is Wed. at
Noon. Call 419-836-2221 or email
classified@presspublications.com

Class of
2024
Run a
Graduation Ad
in color for just \$35!
Size: 2.38 x 3"
Runs: June 17th
Deadline:
Mon. June 10th
For larger ads,
call us about running
in our transitions.
419-836-2221
[classified@
presspublications.com](mailto:classified@presspublications.com)

WooHoo!
Look Who
Turned 2
Happy Birthday
Lucas!
Love, Grandma Jan
and Chris

Real Estate

Delivered to 41,000 readers in Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky & Wood Counties

Deadline: Thursdays at 1pm (Closed Fridays)
classified@presspublications.com 419-836-2221 or 1-800-300-6158

The Press Newspapers reserves the right to reject any advertising material we deem unacceptable. Please check your ad upon first insertion for accuracy. The newspaper will assume responsibility for the first publication only. Compensation will be in the form of ad space or credit, not to exceed original cost of the ad. NO REFUNDS.

Classifieds

Delivered to 41,000 readers in Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky & Wood Counties

Deadline: Thursdays at 1pm (Closed Fridays)
classified@presspublications.com 419-836-2221 or 1-800-300-6158

The Press Newspapers reserves the right to reject any advertising material we deem unacceptable. Please check your ad upon first insertion for accuracy. The newspaper will assume responsibility for the first publication only. Compensation will be in the form of ad space or credit, not to exceed original cost of the ad. NO REFUNDS.

10 Homes For Sale



TERRY FLORO
Realtor

419-270-9667
419-855-8466

HAPPY Mother's Day

PLEASED TO PRESENT:

5500 W ERIE, LACARNE \$65,000

PENDING:

540 N. CHURCH, OAK HARBOR

SOLD:

3796 LAKEPOINTE, NORTHWOOD

1642 HOMESTEAD, TOLEDO

1318 SUPERIOR, GENOA

21051 OAK ST, WILLISTON

352 AUGUSTA, ELMORE

29127 GREYSTONE, MILLBURY

28601 SNYDER, MILLBURY

DANBERRY REALTORS

Reach over 40,000 Readers in our 4 county area when you advertise in The PRESS Classifieds!

10 Homes For Sale

Real Estate for Sale

2023 Navarre Ave. Toledo, Ohio 43605

2/bed, 1/bath
Across from a park, near an Ice Cream Shop. Will make a great starter home.
\$63,500.00 (Pending)

8277 Latcha Rd Perrysburg, Ohio 43551

Nice home 3/bed, 2/bath
Great barn & shed
On a large lot. **\$220,000.00**

17189 St Rt 105 Elmore, Ohio 43416

Very nice home 4/bed, 2/bath.
Has nice a pole barn.
Sits on a large lot.
\$269,900.00 (Pending)

KP Premier Realty

Ken Belkofer
Belkofer's Auction Service
419-277-3635

10 Homes For Sale



Dawn Betz-Peiffer

49 Years of Full-time Experience

If you are selling or would like info on buying, Call me or Email me at: bubbaswife@msn.com or (419) 346-7411



25 Mobile Homes For Sale



Nice Selection! New & Pre-Owned Homes for Sale 2 & 3 Bdrm

Bank Financing Available
Walnut Hills/Deluxe Park 419-666-3993

45 For Rent

GENOA, large upstairs apt, smoke/pet free. Includes most utilities and wifi, except electric. \$875. Call/No texts 419-261-4751

GIBSONBURG 3 BED DUPLEX \$725 mo +deposit & last month rent. No Pets/Smoking. 419-637-7078

Places for rent, for more information call or text 419-779-7406

*** PUBLISHER'S NOTICE ***

All real estate or rental advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act. As amended, prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, and in other housing related transactions, based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status (including children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women, and people securing custody of children under the age of 18), handicap (disability), or an intention to make any such preference, limitation, specification, or discrimination.

To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free telephone number 1-800-669-9777, for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Equal Housing Opportunity

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Donate Your Car to Veterans Today! Help and Support our Veterans. Fast -FREE pick up. 100% tax deductible. Call 1-800-245-0398

Mike's Hauling
We buy junk cars, trucks and vans, also 50's, 60's and 70's vehicles. Scrap metal hauled free. 419-666-1443

80 Help Wanted

Need EXTRA! EXTRA! CASH?

Pick up a PRESS Route!

The Press is looking to hire carriers. Routes are a flexible way to earn extra income on your own schedule.

Walking Routes Currently Available in GIBSONBURG and WILLISTON

If interested, please contact Jordan 419-836-2221, Ext 32

80 Help Wanted

Cleaners Needed at Turnpike Plaza in Genoa, Part-time & full time shifts, including weekends. Starting wage \$12/hr. Must have clean background and reliable transportation. Call 419-261-6094 Mon-Fri between 9am-4pm.

LOVE DOGS? LOVE THE OUTDOORS? THIS JOB IS IDEAL FOR YOU.
We are looking for animal lovers to work part-time to help us humanely manage geese populations using our border collies.
EMAIL CONTACT INFO/RESUME to JOBS@OHIOGEESECONTROL.COM

90 Wanted To Buy

LOCAL BUYER CASH for Guitars, Old & New also beer signs, lunch boxes, cookie jars and unusual items. Call 419-874-9119

WANTED TO BUY: From garage older vehicles, cycles, mowers, bikes, run or not. \$100's - Thousand\$ paid. Call 419-297-2419

133 Professional Services

COMPREHENSIVE PEST SOLUTIONS

All Insect Control
Discreet Service
Wild Animal Control
Individual Management Plans
Ohio Licensed/Insured

If It's Bugging You, CALL ME!

419-250-8732

Classifieds on Your Time

Place your ad in 3 easy steps:

- 1) go to our website: presspublications.com
- 2) click "Submissions"
- 3) click "Place a classified ad"



Open 24/7!

CALL TODAY FOR A FREE INSPECTION!
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20% OFF + 10% OFF
Your Entire Purchase* Seniors + Military

++ We offer financing that fits your budget!!

*See Representative for full warranty details. *One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. †Subject to credit approval. Call for details. AR #036602022, CA #1055795, CT #0649095, FL #C0206678, IA #C122230, ID #R0251604, IL #529544, IN #176447, MD #04148329, MI #210221296, MN #20000403, MO #20027946, NV #0731804, MT #208192, ND #2704, NE #50145-22, NJ #1340995200, NM #080993, NY #086990, OH #191114, HI #52229, OR #216294, PA #0409393, RI #0241354, TN #7056, UT #1078368-5501, VA #2705164445, WA #0449700202, WI #0056912

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB
1-855-417-1306

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In-Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1082165 NSCB 0082999 0083445

We can sell your home and ENTIRE HOME CONTENTS!
On-Site Estate/Tag Sales
Full-Time Experienced Team
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Specializing in MODERN, VINTAGE & ANTIQUE furnishings, collectibles & household goods.
Serving All of Northwest Ohio!

We're the key to selling your home!
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AERIAL DRONE PHOTOGRAPHY
PROFESSIONAL STAGING SERVICES

Key REALTY

Your mother/daughter team serving NW Ohio.

Kelli Weaver
419-260-2100
kelli@kelliweaver.com
kelliweaver.com

Kamarinn Wellman
567-201-9746
kamarinnwithkey.com
kamarinn.com

TWO OFFICE LOCATIONS:
356 Rice St. Elmore, Ohio | 633 Main St. Genoa, Ohio

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Place Your Classified Ad By Filling Out This Form

PLEASE USE BLACK INK

Ads must be sent directly to the Classified Dept. to appear in the paper as well as on our website.
E-mail: classified@presspublications.com
or Fax: 419-836-1319.
Or mail: P.O. Box 169, Millbury, OH 43447
DEADLINE: THURSDAY 1PM

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Phone _____
Category _____

Copy: (We suggest starting with the item's name)

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
13	14	15

PHONE NUMBER _____

We accept MasterCard, Visa, American Express, Discover

Card # _____
Exp. Date _____ cvc _____
Signature _____

the Press
METRO | SUBURBAN | SINCE 1972
Serving Lucas, Ottawa, Sandusky and Wood Counties

Enclosed is \$12.50 for my ad of 15 words or less. Each additional word is 20¢. Please run _____ times. (\$12.50 each run)

Questions? Please call our classified department: 419-836-2221.

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WE BUY JUNK VEHICLES**



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month of
May &
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4 USED TIRES



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Tues., Wed., Thurs. & Sat. 9-5:30
Mon. & Fri. 9-8:00
In Gibsonburg, OH

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Now through May 20th, get factory authorized savings on solid wood, Amish made bedroom, dining room and occasional furniture built to last a lifetime...even custom orders!



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Lab Grown Diamond Studs
.50 CTW SALE \$445 .75 CTW SALE \$645
1.00 CTW SALE \$795 1.50 CTW SALE \$1395
2.00 CTW SALE \$1995 3.00 CTW SALE \$2995

Lab Grown Diamond Pendants
.50 CTW SALE \$1395
1.00 CTW SALE \$1995
1.50 CTW SALE \$2495
2.00 CTW SALE \$2995



Lab-Grown Love Knot
Diamond Earrings/Pendant
.75 CTW Earrings SALE \$999
.50 CT Pendant SALE \$799
(in 10k white or yellow gold)



Lab Grown
Diamond Bracelets
4.00 CTW SALE \$2995
5.00 CTW SALE \$3995
7.00 CTW SALE \$4995
8.00 CTW SALE \$5995
10.00 CTW SALE \$7995
15.00 CTW SALE \$11995



Lab Grown Diamond Hoops
3.00 CTW SALE \$2499
5.00 CTW SALE \$4999

**ALL PANDORA NOW 50% OFF
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST**

- CHARMS • BRACELETS
- RINGS • PENDANTS
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Hrs: Mon - Fri 11-6 Sat 11-4

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