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December 27, 2021 FREE

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## PUCO expands FirstEnergy rate audit

By Larry Limpf  
News Editor  
news@presspublications.com

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has decided to expand the scope of its ongoing investigations into FirstEnergy Ohio utility companies to include a "side deal" the companies allegedly failed to disclose.

In its order, the PUCO said information uncovered during its four investigations indicates FirstEnergy failed to disclose the apparent deal it entered in 2015 in exchange for an industrial energy group dropping its opposition to the utilities' then electric security rate plan proceeding.

Ohio law requires disclosure of such agreements, according to the PUCO.

The PUCO's order indicates the utility companies may have violated the law by failing to disclose an amendment to an agreement with the consulting firm, Sustainability Funding Alliance, which was owned by Sam Randazzo, a former chairman of the PUCO.

As of the PUCO's recent order, Randazzo has not been charged with a crime. In a deferred prosecution agreement, FirstEnergy Corp. stated it had paid him and his firm millions over 2014-2018 and shortly before he was appointed to chair the PUCO in 2019.

The PUCO order broadens the commission's review to consider the issue of the non-disclosure but it also pauses that portion of the case while related criminal cases by the U.S. Attorney's office and lawsuits by the Ohio Attorney General are pending.

"Today's action is just one example of our responsibility to follow the facts wherever they may lead and investigate matters that are within our jurisdiction over utility rates and service," said Jennifer French, PUCO chairperson. "This commitment holds true in this case as well as in the three additional investigations opened by the commission. Our decision today

Continued on page 2



## Christmas dinner is served

David Golaszewski, St. Catherine of Siena Parish; John Gears, First Church of God, Northwood; Bill Silka and Mike Kowrowski, also of St. Catherines, served hundreds of turkey and ham Christmas dinners at Helping Hands of St. Louis. Guests were able to dine-in for the first time since 2019 due to COVID-19. Helping Hands is looking for volunteers and financial contributions. Those wishing to volunteer as salad servers, dining room clean up, dishwashers, tray cleaners, clothing center shopping assistants and stockers can call or text their name and contact info to the office at 419-318-7086. (Press photo by Ken Grosjean)

## Genoa board to place levies on May ballot

By Larry Limpf  
News Editor  
news@presspublications.com

Voters in the Genoa School District will see two levies on the May 2022 ballot – one a replacement levy used to fund technology and the other a request for additional operating revenues.

The school board Tuesday approved resolutions of necessity for putting the levies on the ballot next year and is expected to approve a second required resolution at its regular meeting on Jan. 10.

Voters first approved the technology levy in 2017. The 0.5-mill, 5-year issue now generates about \$90,000 annually and is used to purchase Chromebooks for students' use as well as security cameras and equipment for the district's facilities. By putting a replacement levy on the ballot rather than a renewal, the issue, if passed, would be based on the district's current property valuation rather than the valuation of 2017 when it was originally approved.

"It can't be used for salaries and benefits. We used to pay for some of those things out of the general fund and out of the per-

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We found out recently this type of levy can only be in effect for one to five years. It can never be a continuing levy.  
”

manent improvement fund for technology. It's basically eliminated almost anything we need to take out of the general fund for those items and we don't spend as much as we used to out of the PI fund now that we have this levy," said Bill Nye, district treasurer. "We found out recently this type of levy can only be in effect for one to five years. It can never be a continuing levy."

To help fund the district's operations, the school board also approved asking voters to approve an emergency levy in May – which will mark the fourth operating

levy request the district has faced since November 2020.

However, the board couldn't agree on a specific millage amount and approved two resolutions with different amounts. Board members will decide on what millage to seek at its January meeting where it will also likely approve resolutions to proceed for the technology levy and operating levy. Those resolutions will then be filed with Ottawa County for certification for the May ballot.

Under an emergency levy, a fixed dollar amount would be generated each year it is in effect. Emergency levies are not subject to millage reduction factors and don't figure into the calculation of a district's millage floor.

The board opted to seek a 5-year term for the emergency levy request.

District voters last month rejected a 5.25-mill, 5-year operating levy request that would have generated about \$1.04 million. Last May they rejected a 5.9-mill issue and in November 2020 they said no to a 4.9-mill request.

Last year, the district reduced spending by about \$135,000 in spending in response to cuts in education funding by the state.

## Quote of The Week

We the people (including non-worshippers) paid for nearly all of them with our tax dollars, usually with no chance to vote on the giveaway.

Jim Hightower  
See page 6

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## Rate audit

Continued from front page

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Today's action is just one example of our responsibility to follow the facts wherever they may lead and investigate matters that are within our jurisdiction over utility rates and service.

”

to bifurcate and stay this issue and portion of the proceedings ensures that our investigations will not interfere with the investigations by the U.S. Attorney or the action brought by the Ohio Attorney General.”

The PUCO's investigations are all related to FirstEnergy's Ohio utilities and the passage of House Bill 6.

Gov. Mike DeWine signed legislation in the spring that repealed parts of House Bill 6 that was passed in 2019 but was later linked to a \$61 million bribery and corruption scheme to help secure the bill's passage.

An email message left for comment with FirstEnergy was not returned.



## 'Snowplace Like Metroparks' at Glass City

Snowplace Like Metroparks, featuring 120 snowmen designed by local volunteers, is open at Glass City Metropark on Front Street and continues through January. Admission is free. The drive-through display is open during regular park hours, 7 a.m. until dark. Visitors should use the Morrison Street entrance for the best view of the snowmen from their car. Scouts, schools, clubs, families, other groups and individuals designed the snowman-shaped cutouts. (Press photos by Ken Grosjean)



## Health dept. clinics

The Ottawa County Health Department has released the clinic schedule for Dec. 27-31. Unless otherwise stated, all clinics are held at the health department, 1856 E. Perry St., Port Clinton.

**Dec. 27:** Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Clinic, 7:45 a.m.-12 p.m.

**Dec. 28:** 60+ Clinic (Genoa), 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**Dec. 29:** Family Planning Clinic, 8-9 a.m.; Immunization Clinic, 12:45-4:30 p.m.

**Dec. 30:** Reproductive Health/HealthChek Clinic, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; COVID Vaccine Clinic, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

**Dec. 31:** Holiday (office closed).

## Winter heating help

Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP) is offering emergency winter heating assistance for those facing a utility shutoff or fuel shortage this winter.

The GLCAP Emergency Home Energy Assistance Program (EHEAP) can assist Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca and Wood County residents who have received a gas or electric disconnect notice or have already had utilities disconnected. The program can also assist those who are facing a shortage of bulk fuel such as wood, propane or fuel oil, or need new or transferred service with a utility company.

"GLCAP is busy this holiday season helping hundreds of families with heating needs," said Joyce McCauley-Benner,

GLCAP's energy assistance manager. "When facing a heating crisis, reach out to us as soon as possible. By making an appointment using our scheduling hotline, a hold will be placed on your account until your appointment date. During these cold holiday months, knowing this can help you rest easy."

To be eligible for assistance, residents must be at or below 175 percent of federal poverty guidelines (e.g., \$22,540 annual income/household of one; \$46,375 annual income/family of four).

Applicants must also provide:

- A list of all household members, including Social Security numbers and birthdates;
- Proof of citizenship for all household members;

- Proof of income for all household members for the previous 30 days or 12 months,

• Copies of recent utility bills. Emergency winter heating assistance through EHEAP is available through March 31, 2022.

"Those that have been already shut off or are below 20% bulk fuel, should contact our customer service team right away," said McCauley-Benner.

To schedule an appointment with GLCAP, call 567-432-5046 or visit [glcap.org/winterheating](http://glcap.org/winterheating). Residents who have less than 20 percent bulk fuel or whose utility services are already off should call GLCAP's customer service team at 419-333-6054 to be scheduled an emergency phone intake.

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Metro Edition Vol. 38, No. 15 Suburban Edition Vol. 50, No. 33



## Commercial district opens

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Dec. 21 to mark the opening of the RISE Commercial District in Northwood. The \$10 million storage complex, located at 2559 Tracy Rd., offers office and storage space. Shown are (l-r) back row - Captain Jeffery Zahradnik Glenn Grisdale, City Administrator Bob Anderson, Richard Johnson, Joe Bach, Brent Kuhn. Front row - Jason Barker, Louis Fahrbach, Mayor Edward Schimmel, CEO Jim Sapp, State Rep. Haraz Ghanbari, Adam Hardebeck, Steve Hohenberger. (Submitted photo)

## Fire & Ice celebration

Downtown Fremont Inc. is partnering with the City of Fremont and local businesses for the 4th Annual Downtown Fremont, Ohio, New Year's Eve Celebration.

The "Fire & Ice" event will be held from 8 p.m.-midnight on Front Street between Croghan Street and Birchard Avenue. It will feature interactive activities on the street for all ages, along with music, photo ops, food and more.

The interactive games include VR Google and Pods, Giant Pac Man Battle, Urban Hoops and Giant Foosball Extreme, which can be played for an unlimited access when a \$5 lanyard is purchased. Interactive games will be under a tent, with lights and heating on the two blocks of Front Street.

DJ Werkit will be playing music. Several photo ops will be available, including a large "Happy New Year 2022, Fremont, Ohio" ice sculpture at the intersection of Garrison and Front streets.

The New Year's Eve Bar Crawl, "DORA Freeze and Thaw" will be happening at DORA liquor establishments to feature signature cocktails and specialty beers to help ring in 2022. Several businesses will be open and have entertainment inside their venues.

Support from the City of Fremont, Fremont Federal Credit Union, Crown Battery, Style Crest and The Garrison has helped bring the event to Downtown Fremont, however, more sponsorship is appreciated. Please text Fremont NYE to 44321 to donate.

For more info, call 419-332-8696 or 567-342-4758 or visit the Downtown Fremont, Ohio, New Year's Eve Celebration Facebook Page @ FremontNYE.

## Tips sought in BG car wash fire

The Division of State Fire Marshal's Fire and Explosion Investigation Bureau is seeking tips from the public regarding the identity of a man suspected of intentionally setting the fire at the Super Wash Car Wash, 1003 North Prospect Rd. in Bowling Green.

The suspect was also seen breaking into the City of Bowling Green utility drop box on Nov. 30, the same night as the car wash fire. The suspect was captured on camera and investigators are hoping the public will help in identifying him.

The State Fire Marshal and Bowling Green fire and police departments are conducting the investigation. A reward of \$10,000 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person responsible for these fires.

Anyone with information on the identity of the suspect should contact the State Fire Marshal's tip line at 800-589-2728, or call the Bowling Green fire or police departments.

## Real Estate Transfers



Week ending Dec. 17

### Allen Township

12/13/2021 Mark Morrison and Karen Morrison to Matthew G Dunn, 5895 Martin Williston Road, \$175,000.

12/17/2021 David L DeShetler and Cathy M DeShetler to James D Chamberlin and Nicole N Chamberlin, 22021 West State Route 579, \$170,000.

### Benton Township

12/15/2021 Ronald L Blausey and Jean A Blausey to William J Heaps and Amy L Heaps, 0 West Krause Road, \$3,000.

12/17/2021 Martin R Brewster, Carl Brewster and Diane L Losie to Elizabeth A France, 15625 West State Route 2, \$139,900.

### Carroll Township

12/13/2021 Enrique Montalvo Jr to Tyler Heggie and Taylor Wahlers, 1413 State Route 19, \$225,000.

### Clay Township

12/15/2021 Joanne J Kettle to Zachary W Humberger, 0 Hellwig (20acres), 124,000.

12/16/21 Jack L Lenz and Virginia C Lenz, 0 Opfer Lentz Road (36.683acres), \$220,000.

12/17/2021 Estate of Theresa Crawford to Janice Sheahan, 23430 State Route 51, \$55,000.

### Harris Township

12/13/2021 Pamela J Miller to Kelli Weaver and Matthew A Weaver, 19048 West Orchard Drive, \$156,000.

12/17/2021 Elmore Express Stop LLC to CH Realty IX/CG ME Express LP, 331 Harris Street and two vacant parcel Harris Street, \$623,940.

### Elmore Corporation

12/14/2021 Melissa R Simon to James H Collum Jr., 568 Ames Street, \$46,000.

### Salem Township

12/13/2021 Richard W Gates and Joyce M Gates to Dale R Behlmer and Diane L Behlmer, 600 Behlman Road, \$189,000.

12/14/21 Thomas W Hines and Christina L Hines to Jacob Paul Moore and Jayme Lynn Moore, 11139 West Portage River South Road, \$246,000.

### Oak Harbor Corp

12/13/2021 Cara Lee Densic and Rick A Densic to Gail A Seeburger and Charles E Seeburger, 239 North Locust Street, \$105,000.

12/17/2021 Nicole M Buehler to Cole R Weirich, 339 North Benton Street, \$85,000.

## Airports to receive grants

Several airports in Northwest Ohio are among those in the state to receive funding from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that was recently signed into law.

In all, Ohio airports stand to receive about \$254 million in Airport Infrastructure Grant funding.

Area airports to receive funding include:

- Toledo Express, \$1.5 million
- Toledo Executive, \$159,000
- Kelley's Island Land Field, \$110,000
- Middle Bass Island, \$110,000
- North Bass Island, \$110,000
- Put-in-Bay, \$110,000
- Erie-Ottawa International, \$295,000
- Wood County, \$159,000
- Sandusky County Regional, \$159,000

The funds can be used to improve runways, taxiways, and airport-owned towers.

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# Child porn indictment

The Wood County Grand Jury has indicted a North Baltimore man on multiple charges stemming from possession and distribution of child pornography and one count of gross sexual imposition.

Christopher Livingston is scheduled for arraignment on Jan 7.

The case against Livingston was initiated through the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, which allegedly identified activity on electronic devices owned by Livingston that involved the transfer of child pornography.

After that information was communicated to the North Baltimore Police Department, the department, assisted by the Wood County prosecutor's office, secured a search warrant for the devices where thousands of images of

alleged child pornography were found.

Paul Dobson, Wood County prosecutor, said the investigation also uncovered an allegation that Livingston engaged in sexual contact with a child under the age of 13. Dobson said there is no information the alleged victim of the sexual contact was also a victim in any of the other offenses.

Livingston has been charged with one count of pandering obscenity involving a minor and nine counts of pandering sexually oriented matter involving a minor, all felonies of the second degree; two counts of illegal use of a minor in nudity oriented matter, felonies of the fifth degree; and one count of gross sexual imposition, a third degree felony.

Second degree felonies carry the potential of a 2 to 8-year prison sentence. Third degree felonies have a potential penalty of 1 to 5 years and can be mandatory in some circumstances. Fifth degree felonies carry potential prison sentences of 6 to 12 months.

"We are just at the beginning stages of this prosecution," Dobson said. "The defendant remains innocent unless and until he is proven guilty in a court of law. This office takes crimes of this nature very seriously for many reasons, not the least of which is that they perpetuate a criminal industry which is entirely structured on the exploitation, degradation and destruction of innocent children throughout the world."

He praised the work of the North Baltimore Police Department and said anyone with more information about the case should call the department at 419-257-2181 or contact Doug Kinder at the prosecutor's office at 419-354-9250.

# Consumer debt in Ohio has changed during the pandemic

By Samuel Stebbins, 24/7 Wall St. via The Center Square

At the height of COVID-19 pandemic, the nation's unemployment rate soared to 15 percent, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports. The fallout on American workers was immediate as many lost their paychecks or saw their wages plummet overnight. However, broadly speaking, in much of the country, the economic damage from the pandemic did not prove to be as devastating as many first predicted.

The majority of Americans did feel a money crunch, but various surveys show mixed results. Partially because of government stimulus checks, extended unemployment benefits, and a more watchful eye on their spending, Americans appear to have weathered the economic turmoil fairly well -- at least so far.

According to the nonprofit think tank

Urban Institute, most Americans shored up their bank accounts and kept their spending in check. The median amount of debt in collection nationwide rose a scant \$16 between February and October 2020, inching up from \$1,833 to \$1,849 -- though this amount varies by state.

In Ohio, the median amount of debt in collections fell from \$1,529 to \$1,500 between February and October 2020. The \$29 change ranks as the 14th largest improvement of the 20 states to report a decrease in median debt in collections agencies.

The typical amount of debt in collections is not the only financial indicator that improved in Ohio in the early months of the pandemic.

Likely due in large part to certain provisions of the CARES Act, the mortgage delinquency rate fell from 2.9 percent in February 2020 to 1.6 percent in October 2020.

The act, which was passed in March 2020, stipulated that federally-backed lenders suspend mortgage collections from borrowers in single-family homes if they were faced with financial hardship resulting from the pandemic.

“  
We are just at the beginning stages of this prosecution.  
”



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**Bulletin Board policy**

As a service to our community, The Press publishes Bulletin Board items at no cost, as space permits. In light of the coronavirus pandemic, please verify events have not been canceled or rescheduled. There is no guarantee that items submitted will be published. To ensure publication of events/news items, please speak to one of our advertising representatives at 419-836-2221. A complete listing of events is available at [www.presspublications.com](http://www.presspublications.com).

**Toledo**

**East Toledo/Oregon Kiwanis** have resumed face-to-face meetings. The Kiwanis meet the second and fourth Mondays of the month at noon at American Family Table in Oregon. Everyone welcome.

**Waite High School Class of 1951** meets the 2nd Mon. of every month. For info, call Betty at 419-691-7944 or Fran at 419-693-6060.

**Waite High School Class of 1955** meets the 2nd Tues. of each month. For more info, contact Ned at 419-893-4336.

**Prostate Cancer Support Group** meets the 4th Mon. of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the third floor Cancer Center Library at Mercy Health – St. Anne Hospital. For info, call Roger at 419-346-2753 or Ernie at 419-344-9830.

**Oregon**

**Great Eastern Toastmasters Club** is meeting in person on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. at ProMedica Bay Park Hospital in the meeting room located in the basement behind the cafeteria. The club provides a supportive environment for those looking to enhance self-confidence by improving speaking, listening and/or leadership skills. Guests welcome. Contact Allen at 419-698-3733 or Julie at 419-343-5569 or visit [D28toastmasters.org](http://D28toastmasters.org).

**Oregon Democratic Club** meets the first Thurs. of the month at 8 pm. The club normally meets at Firehouse #1 at the corner of Wynn and Seaman roads, however due to COVID restrictions, meetings are held via conference call/Zoom. Visit [www.oregondemocraticclub.org](http://www.oregondemocraticclub.org) for meeting information and details.

**Oregon Republican Club** meets the first Thurs. of the month at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the Hampton Inn, 2931 Navarre Ave. Speakers, information and more. Email [lynlin3215@gmail.com](mailto:lynlin3215@gmail.com).

**Euchre**, Sundays at 2 p.m., VFW 9816, 1802 Ashcroft.

**East Toledo/Oregon Kiwanis** have resumed face-to-face meetings. The Kiwanis meet the second and fourth Mondays of the month at noon at American Family Table in Oregon. Everyone welcome.

**Oregon Senior Center** is available for transportation, grab-and-go meals and essential services. Call 419-698-7078 for more details.

**Oregon Fire & Rescue Museum** is located at 4350 Navarre Ave. For private tours, contact Mike

**Bulletin Board**

Snyder at 419-297-2383.

**Ashland Church Food Pantry**, 2350 Starr Ave., open the last Saturday of the month for drive-thru from 12-1:30 p.m. ID required.

**Celebrate Recovery**, a 12-step, Christian-based recovery program to help anyone overcome addictions, anxiety, depression, grief, and co-dependency, meets Wed. from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Intersection Church (formerly Heritage Christian Church), 1640 S. Coy Rd. Everyone welcome; free. Call 419-389-3299 for info.

**Christ Dunberger American Legion Post 537** hall at 4925 Pickle Rd. is available for rentals and accommodates up to 145 people. Call 419-704-5381 for details.

**Hispanic Language Pro-life Prayer Group** meets Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Toledo Shrine, 655 S. Coy Rd. Call 419-697-7742 or 419-213-0214.

**Northwood**

**Northwood Neighborhood Block Watch** meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the 2100 Tracy Rd. Fire Station. Bring any questions or concerns to discuss. Check the block watch Facebook page for updates.

**VFW Post 2984 Weekly Fish Fries**, Fridays, 5-7:30 p.m., 102 W. Andrus Rd. Also featuring steak, shrimp, chicken and macaroni and cheese. Dine in or carry out. Weekly Sunday Breakfasts served 8:30-11:30 a.m. Includes two eggs, bacon or sausage, pancake or French toast, potatoes and orange juice.

**God's Instruments Food Pantry** is open the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, 10 a.m.-noon, 1705 Tracy St. between Oakdale Street and Andrus Road. ID and proof of residence required. Masks required. Open to residents of Toledo, Northwood and Rossford.

**Men's Prayer Breakfast**, every 3rd Sat. each month at 9 a.m. at Northwood Church of God, Coy and Curtice roads. For info, call 419-693-0260.

**Jerusalem Twp.**

**Jerusalem Township Board of Trustees** meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. in the Township Chambers at 9501 Jerusalem Rd. Due to concerns with coronavirus variants, meetings are accessible via Zoom through the end of 2021. The public is welcome to join in the meeting by call-in or video conference. Meeting dates, phone numbers and Zoom links are available at [twp.jerusalem.oh.us/trustees/](http://twp.jerusalem.oh.us/trustees/).

**Jerusalem Twp. Food Pantry**, open 2nd Wed. of every month, 9-11 a.m. at the township hall, 9501 Jerusalem Rd.

**Elmore**

**Salvation Army Angel Tree** is in place at the Harris-Elmore Library, 328 Toledo St.

**Genoa**

**Genoa Branch Library** programs include LEGO Club, Dec. 28, 4:30 p.m. Facial coverings are encouraged within the library but are not required. Meeting rooms and public areas are open. Call 419-855-3380 or visit [www.harriselmorlibrary.org](http://www.harriselmorlibrary.org) for details.

**Al-Anon Family Group**, Genoa Giving and Getting, meets Mondays at 8 p.m. Genoa Christian Church, 415 Main St.

**Genoa Community Food Pantry** is open the 3rd Sat. each month 10-11:30 a.m. at Christ Community Church, 303 W. 4th St. Serving Genoa School District residents. ID and billing address within the district required. For more info, call 419-341-0913.

**Trinity Thrift Shop**, 105 4th St., Friday 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Clothes and small household items available at reasonable prices. Proceeds benefit mission projects.

**Gibsonburg**

**Gibsonburg Branch Library** offers a number of programs, including Preschool Storytime, Thursdays, 11 a.m.; Bestseller Saturdays – Virtual, Saturdays at 7 a.m. – A new video each week on Facebook highlighting a best-selling book; Fresh Find Adult Book Chat, Dec. 27, 7 p.m. – Read and discuss the short story, "The Pecan Man," by Cassie Dandridge Selleck. Foodies Night, Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m. (in person) – Make a recipe from Wanda Brunstetter's "Amish Friends Healthy Option Cookbook," and bring it to share; Fresh Find Adult Book Chat, Jan. 24, 7 p.m. (in person) – A discussion of "The Window of the South," by Robert Hicks. (All programs are free, but some require registration at [www.birchard.org](http://www.birchard.org). Call 419-637-2173 for details.

**Graytown/Elliston**

**Zion UMC**, 18045 W. William St., Elliston-Trowbridge Rd. – LIGHT pantry open to residents of Ottawa County who struggle with food or financial insecurity the 2nd Wed. each month from 5-7 p.m.

**Luckey**

**Luckey Food Pantry** is open the last Wednesday of each month from 1-3 p.m. and the last Thursday each month from 6-8 p.m. at 247 Oak St. in the former Loft Youth Center (behind the post office). Open to families residing in the Eastwood School District.

**Oak Harbor**

**Oak Harbor Public Library**, 147 W. Main St., programs include: Preschool Storytimes, Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.; For adults: Watercolor Wednesday, 12:30-4:30 p.m. (bring your own supplies); Knitters' Group, Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-noon (bring your own supplies). Tuesday Book Club, Dec. 28, 6 p.m. – Discuss "Inheritance," by Danny Shapiro. Contactless pickup still available. The Local History & Museum Center is open Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 419-898-7001 for info.

**Oak Harbor Alliance Chapel Food Pantry**, 11805 SR 105, is open every Wednesday from 2-6 p.m. Offering groceries, a bowl of soup and free clothes for all ages. Call or text 419-343-0126 for more info.

**Pemberville**

**Community Food Pantry at Bethlehem Lutheran Church**, 220 Cedar St., is open every Tues. from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and the second and last Sat. of the month from 8-11 a.m. Eastwood School District residents may visit the pantry once monthly. ID and proof of residency required. Info available at Pemberville churches

**Stony Ridge**

**St. John's Lutheran Church's Free Thrift Shop**, "Shared Bounty," is open the first Saturday of each month, 10 a.m.-noon.

**Walbridge**

**New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance**, Dec. 30, 5-10 p.m., Walbridge VFW 9963, 109 N. Main St., featuring Crimson Lights Band, \$25 per person. For ticket or more information call Carolyn at 419-260-0464.

**Walbridge Branch Library**, 108 N. Main St., is open to the public Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Storytimes are held Thursdays at 10 a.m. through Dec. 28. Storytimes is by reservation only. Masks are required for adults and children ages 2 and older. To register, visit [wcdpl.org](http://wcdpl.org).

**Woodville**

**Woodville Library**, 101 E. Main St., programs include: Storytimes, Mondays, 10 a.m.; Winter Reading Challenge starts Jan. 18 (all ages); Homemade Living, Jan. 9 and 23, 10 a.m. on Facebook – Back-to-basics skills for living a simpler life. Visit [birchard.lib.oh.us](http://birchard.lib.oh.us).

**Woodville Food Pantry**, 212 Bridge St., is open the last Thurs. of the month 6:30-7:30 p.m. and the last Fri. 8:30-9:30 a.m. Available to all Woodville village and township residents. Applications available at the pantry.



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# Perspective lets you experience life a little differently

Is the glass half full or half empty? Does it matter? Yes! Your perspective governs your life. From getting through each day to long term strategies, how you see things has a dramatic impact on your happiness and success.

People who see the glass half full experience things differently than those that see it as half empty. The half full people are optimists, while the half empty people are pessimists.

Optimists see their world filled with joy and possibility. They don't get bogged down by obstacles because they recognize problems as being temporary in nature. They are healthier and happier than their pessimistic counterparts. Whenever they are knocked down, they get right back up and keep going.

Pessimists are consumed with adversity and potential problems. They see each day as a minefield of things that will go wrong. They view obstacles as a way of life rather than a temporary state. Pessimists tend to be more depressed and suffer from more physical ailments than optimists.

If you focus on your strengths, solutions, and opportunities, you see the glass



## Dare to Live

by Bryan Golden

as half full. If you obsess over weaknesses, always find problems, and feel you are a victim, you always see a half empty glass.

Optimism and pessimism are learned behaviors. As such, pessimists can become optimists if they so desire. You can change your outlook anytime. But it takes practice, repetition, and consistency.

An optimistic perspective becomes part of you. You take it wherever you go and can apply it as often as necessary. It provides you with a teflon coating that prevents problems from sticking.

There were two children, Jane and Alice. Jane was an eternal optimist and Alice was a perpetual pessimist. As an experiment, Alice was placed in a room full of new toys and Jane was put into a room full of manure.

Their respective reactions were quite surprising. Alice began playing with the toys but quickly became sullen and depressed. Jane, on the other hand, was observed happily searching through the manure.

When questioned about their feelings, their answers revealed their approach to life. Alice said she became sad because she was worried that her good fortune couldn't possibly last since she was certain someone would take away all of the toys, leaving her with nothing to play with.

Jane couldn't believe her good fortune. With so much manure in one room, there had to be a pony in there somewhere, she explained.

This story illustrates the effect of your perspective. No matter what good fortune may befall them, pessimists feel they are doomed and are constantly waiting for the bottom to drop out. When presented with a solution, they find the problem. Optimists are always looking for the pony.

A constantly negative outlook creates a downward spiral. Since pessimists always find problems, they perceive circumstances as going from bad to worse. This cycle

reinforces their belief that the glass is half empty.

To change your perspective, look for the pony. Act the way you want to feel. Smile to feel good rather than waiting to feel good before you smile. Monitor your feelings so you can catch yourself before they turn negative.

Describe problems in terms that make them appear temporary and solvable. For example, if you are laid off from work consider it an opportunity to find a better job or make that career change you always wanted. This will allow you to solve your problem much more readily than if you resigned yourself to being unemployed.

Adjust your perspective to give you the results you want. Successful people always see the glass as half full. Even if there are only a few drops in it, the optimist considers that a good start.

**NOW AVAILABLE:** "Dare to Live Without Limits," the book. Visit [www.BryanGolden.com](http://www.BryanGolden.com) or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. Email Bryan at [bryan@columbian.com](mailto:bryan@columbian.com) or write him c/o this paper. 2021 Bryan Golden

# How platform transparency could help antitrust cases

By Kaleb Leetaru | RealClearWire



There is growing bipartisan concern over the power Silicon Valley's oligopolies wield over American society. Amazon alone controls 72 percent of U.S. adult book sales, Airbnb accounts for a fifth of domestic lodging expenditures and Facebook accounts for almost three-quarters of social media visits.

Just two companies, Apple and Google, act as gatekeepers to 99 percent of smartphones, while two others, Uber and Lyft, control 98 percent of the ride-share market in the U.S. Yet, for government to take robust antitrust action against Silicon Valley requires the kind of data it currently lacks: documenting the harm this market consolidation inflicts on consumers. A new RealClearFoundation report offers a look at how amending Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act to require platform transparency could aid such antitrust efforts.

When it comes to Silicon Valley's social media platforms, they have long argued that antitrust laws don't apply to them because their services are provided free of charge. In reality, users do pay for their services: with their data rather than their money. Companies today harvest vast amounts of private information about their users every day, using that data to invisibly nudge their users toward purchases and consuming ads, or the companies simply sell that data outright.

The question must be asked: If the amount and intimacy of that data increases alongside a company's market dominance, are antitrust conditions of rising "prices" satisfied?

Moreover, that same data is being increasingly used to determine what we pay for goods and services through "differential pricing." In 2000, when Amazon experimented with charging different users different prices for the same items (though the differences were randomly selected rather than personalized), it had just 20 million users. Today Amazon's market share stands at more than 40 percent, and while the com-

pany states it does not employ "differential pricing," e-commerce platforms increasingly base pricing on factors as diverse as search history, home address, in-store vs. online and even Mac vs. PC usage, to name just a few. As major brands like Target also move toward contextual pricing, it is only a matter of time before the majority of e-commerce platforms employ it.

Beyond price, the growing consolidation within entire industries to just a handful of companies means the policies of those companies can have outsized economic impacts on American life, often in unexpected ways.

In 2019, I asked Uber how it ensured that the ratings its drivers assign to passengers did not unfairly penalize older and disabled riders who require additional time to enter and exit vehicles, given that low ratings can result in being banned from the service. A spokesperson pointed to its non-discrimination policy, but went on to note that its community guidelines explicitly require that riders "always try to be on time for your ride ... because nobody likes to wait"; the spokesperson did not comment further when pressed on the impact of this policy on the disabled. Last month, the Department of Justice sued Uber for charging wait fees to disabled users in violation of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Similarly, in 2018 I asked Facebook to explain why it built its advertising system to allow housing, employment and credit advertisements to explicitly exclude women, older people and minorities in violation of federal law and its own policies, cutting them off from economic opportunities. A spokesperson emphasized that it was the responsibility of advertisers to comply with discrimination laws and did not comment further when asked why it did not

simply remove those options for protected ad classes.

It was not until the following year, after settling a series of lawsuits by civil rights organizations, that the company finally removed the ability of advertisers to exclude legally protected groups from seeing housing, employment and credit ads. Yet just months later it was shown that the company's algorithms had learned to continue targeting ads based on those removed categories by identifying non-protected demographic and interest information that were highly correlated with them.

Uber's decision to charge a "wait time" fee meant higher costs for the disabled across 69 percent of the American ride-share market. Facebook's decision to allow housing, employment and credit ads to explicitly target or exclude users based on age, race and gender and to resurrect redlining using pinpoint geo-fencing, impacted the economic opportunities seen by 69 percent of American adults.

A common theme among all of these examples, from Amazon's 2000 pricing experiment to Uber and Facebook's discriminatory policies, is that they came to light not through voluntary disclosures by the companies, but rather through external scrutiny and data. Yet, these discoveries remain the exceptions. Despite their vast internal stores of data, the companies typically refuse to confirm even the most basic of statistics, such as the number of tweets sent each day or the criteria their algorithms use to set prices.

What if companies were forced to share basic pricing information? After the federal government required hospitals to begin sharing their previously confidential pricing data by earlier this year, journalists and researchers have been able to document substantial differences between what different patients pay for the same procedure, offering critical insights to policymakers. Imagine if all e-commerce sites with more than a certain number of users were forced to publish hourly snapshots of the maximum and minimum prices they charged for each item on their site, allow-

ing similar external scrutiny. Such data could be embargoed and released monthly to prevent competitive misuse while still offering critical transparency into just how much of an impact differential pricing is having on American consumers.

Similarly, what if "free" ad-supported platforms with more than a certain number of users had to offer each of their users a monthly report detailing every purchase, sale or collection of their personal data and how much money, including ad revenue, they made from that user and all of the companies and governments that purchased access to their data? This would allow tracking of how the amount and value of our data that we essentially barter for access to these platforms is steadily increasing and would provide evidence as to whether the hidden price we pay for social platforms is steadily increasing.

As foreshadowed by TikTok, future top social media and e-commerce platforms may not be American companies or even have a physical or financial presence in the U.S., complicating antitrust enforcement. Making these transparency requirements an amendment to Section 230 would ensure disclosure even for such companies, providing critical visibility for policymakers to understand their impact on American society.

In the end, antitrust regulation will struggle until policymakers and the public can see for the first time the true economic cost of Silicon Valley's ever-growing consolidation.

*RealClear Media Fellow Kaleb Leetaru is a senior fellow at the George Washington University Center for Cyber & Homeland Security. His past roles include fellow in residence at Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service and member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on the Future of Government.*

## The name of the game is always money

By Jim Hightower

'Tis the season, right? Traditionally, this time of year celebrates spirituality and festivities — including Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa.

In modern day America, however, the winter solstice signals the faithful to gather from afar in monumental temples to worship our nation's supreme secular deity: sports! Get ready for a non-stop frenzy of football, basketball, soccer, and more — with devout fans making tribal pilgrimages to their sacred stadiums and arenas.

But whatever the sport, the name of the game these days is the same: money.

The people's sports franchises are firmly in the grip of a self-regulating handful of secretive, über-rich, and autocratic corporate owners. We might worship the team that actually plays the sport, but our money mostly goes to this ruling clique of billionaire barons.

Consider those gargantuan houses of worship where the games are played. We the people (including non-worshippers) paid for nearly all of them with our tax dollars, usually with no chance to vote on the giveaway.

Yet a few dozen profiteering team owners are given control of the venues. They set and collect the outrageous ticket prices — and are even allowed to gouge the faithful by charging \$15 for one small beer!

Most insultingly, these rich moochers

pocket millions of extra dollars a year by turning these huge edifices — even those built with the people's money — into private billboards by selling off the so-called "naming rights" to the highest corporate bidders.

As a result, dozens of our major sports facilities don't honor the cities they're in, the citizenry, or even the team. Instead they're gaudily plastered with brand names like FedEx Field, Minute Maid Park, RCA Dome, and Toyota Center, as though they're corporate owned.

The money game is yet another corporate swindle, made even more corrupt by its expropriation of America's sporting spirit for private greed.

*OtherWords columnist Jim Hightower is a radio commentator, writer, and public speaker. Distributed by OtherWords.org.*

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# Education

Published fourth week of month.

## Band director to march in Rose Parade

By Tammy Walro  
Press Features Editor  
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Dan Corfman is typically not one to toot his own horn, but the band director for the Gibsonburg School District is very excited to be joining nearly 300 of his peers from across the country as they march in the 2022 Tournament of Roses Parade on Sat., Jan. 1, in Pasadena, California.

A custom-designed, animated float will lead the "marching band of band directors," who will be playing their instruments under the direction of nationally known music educator and band director Jon Waters. A 1994 Woodmore High School graduate, Waters was formerly band director at The Ohio State University and is now director of bands at Heidelberg University.

Waters will conduct rehearsals in Pasadena beginning Dec. 29 and also lead the band at Bandfest – a two-day event in which the Rose Parade marching bands perform a field show.

Corfman will be playing his trumpet in the parade, which will travel along a 5.5-mile route.

The Michael D. Sewell Memorial Foundation, based in Pickerington, Ohio, is the sponsoring organization behind the Saluting America's Band Directors project. The foundation was created to recognize and carry on the work of the late Mike Sewell, who dedicated his life to 3school and community music programs in Pickerington and the Central Ohio area for more than 38 years.

The parade entry, themed "We teach music. We teach life," aims to recognize and salute the extraordinary dedication and accomplishments of band directors everywhere — in public and private schools



Gibsonburg Schools Band Director Dan Corfman will join some 300 of his peers from around the country in the Band Directors Marching Band in the Tournament of Roses Parade Jan. 1 in Pasadena, California. (Submitted photo)

at all levels, colleges and universities, the military and community bands.

Participants were chosen by a foundation committee based on required band instrumentation, the geographic location of the applicant and the date of receipt of the

“

...the first Rose Parade entry consisting of both a float and a marching band.

”

application.

The group's endeavor is historic, as it is the first Rose Parade entry consisting of both a float and a marching band together, and is the first known marching band in which all members are band directors.

The float depicts four larger-than-life animated figures – three playing instruments behind the band director while marching on a football field. A large, rose-embazoned drum in the front of the float acts as a stage for honored Distinguished Band Directors. Behind the figures and seated on symbolic grandstands will be guests and supporters of the Michael D. Sewell Memorial Foundation.

"We are playing three songs through the parade, and I am working hard to memorize them," Corfman said. "We're also playing a fourth piece at the festival on Dec. 30.

"I am looking forward to this experience," he added. "My wife will take a lot of pictures from the sidelines and I'll try to sneak a GoPro onto my jacket somewhere."

More details on the project are available on the Saluting America's Band Directors website, BandDirectorSalute.org.

## Meijer extending teacher discount for 2021-2022

Meijer is making it a easier for teachers who need to refill supplies for their classrooms and home offices out of their own pockets by extending its 15 percent discount on classroom essentials for the entire 2021-2022 school year.

Meijer is offering the discount extension following a year when research teachers spent more than ever before. According to AdoptAClassroom.org, the average teacher spent an estimated \$750 of their own money on school supplies while 30 percent of teachers spent \$1,000 or more. Additionally, 95 percent of teachers said their classroom supply budget will not be enough to meet their students' needs this year.

The extended discount offers savings on school and home office supplies – like paper, pencils, folders and notebooks – as well as craft supplies and hand sanitizer. Other items available for the discount range from school-room essentials like Crayola, Elmer's Glue, Sharpies and Post-It Notes to planners, journals and memo boards. Teachers can also stack their mPerks Rewards with the 15 percent discount.

Teachers receive the discount in the form of a paper coupon when they present their current school ID at the Customer Service desk at Meijer stores across Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and Wisconsin. The coupon can only be used for purchases made in-store and some restrictions apply. Teachers can take advantage of the coupon repeatedly by obtaining a new one on each new shopping trip.

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### Salutes the Oak Harbor High School December Student of the Month



### Macie Morris



Macie is ranked 3rd in her class and has a GPA of 4.1. She is a member of the Oak Harbor Equestrian Team, National Honors Society, Four Beats 4H Club and the Oak Harbor High School Mixed Choir. Macie also gives horse riding lessons to younger kids to teach them companion skills and communication skills with other competitors.

The daughter of Anne Greener and Ryan Morris, Macie has applied to both the Findlay and Toledo universities. She hopes to work in the medical field, or possibly the animal science or chemistry field.

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## GENOA BANK

### Salutes Genoa High School's December Student of the Month



### Seth Witt

Seth Witt has a GPA of 4.25. He is a member of FFA and is on the baseball team.

Seth is the son of Connie and Brad Witt. Seth plans to attend college next fall.

### Genoa High School



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Millie, Dalton and Nora DuPree (shown left to right). The DuPrees, who live in Ottawa County, recently donated a box of new books to share for children in the Ottawa County Board of DD's Early Intervention Program. (Submitted photo)

## Local family donates books

The DuPree family recently stopped by Ottawa County Board of DD office with a wonderful surprise for the board's Early Intervention (E.I.) program – a box of brand-new books to share.

Little sister Millie has benefited from the program, and her family wanted to show their appreciation.

The DuPrees organized a book drive to share Millie's love for storytime with other children in the E.I. family. The books are being gifted to them this Christmas season.

Millie's siblings, Dalton and Nora, used their allowances to buy some of the books, and the rest were donated through the book drive.

"Reading to babies and young children is so important," says pediatrician Sarah Klein. "It provides the building blocks for language. And it gives them the tools for forming lifelong social and emotional skills."

Ottawa County Board of DD notes there are many reasons to share a daily story with

your child.

- When reading a good book, your child sees your facial expressions and hears you using many different emotions and expressive sounds. This supports social and emotional development.

- During storytime you should encourage your child to look, point, touch, and answer questions. This helps with social development and thinking skills.

- Reading together improves a child's language skills by copying sounds, recognizing pictures, and learning words.

- Snuggling up to read a book together signals safety, love and an emotional connection that strengthens your bond.

Ottawa County has several ways for families to get free books. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library has mailed almost 171 million free books to children all over the world, including some in Ottawa County. Get more information at [imaginationlibrary.com](http://imaginationlibrary.com). There are also Little Free Library boxes located throughout the county.



## Friends, then & now

These friends from Bridgewater and Cambridge drives in Oregon's Hickory Shores subdivision got together earlier this year to recreate a photo taken in 2010.

Shown in each photo are (left to right), Logan Dykema, Andy Kessler, Evan Kessler, Cam Cook, Theo Miller, Maddie Dykema and Morgan Cook.

Logan Dykema is a junior at St. Francis High School; Andy Kessler is a freshman

at the University of Toledo; Evan Kessler is a junior at Clay High School; Cam Cook is a freshman at Miami University; Theo is a sophomore at the University of Dayton; Maddie Dykema is a sophomore at Bowling Green State University and Morgan Cook is a junior at Clay.

Though the childhood friends are busy, they stay connected and their families remain in the neighborhood.

## R.C. Waters highlights winners

R.C. Waters Elementary participates in a school-wide initiative called Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) – a process for creating a safe and productive learning environment.

The school has adopted a unified set of expectations for behavior, in place in every classroom and non-classroom setting in the school – Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Ready.

Student behavior is documented using a tool called Class Dojo, a system that reinforces positive behaviors and quickly engages students in becoming accountable for their own choices. On a scheduled rotation, students are able to "shop" from the Dojo reward cart using the points they have earned for meeting the behavior expectations.

November top Class Dojo winners include:

**Kindergarten:** Danica Miller, Laine McGuire, Natalie Reif, Ari Joy, Ben Miller, Blakely DeVito and Alhana Britt.

**First grade:** Zoey Reid, Jacob Rohrer, Elsie Perkins, Kelsey LaBounty and Cara Rollheiser.

**Second grade:** Cody Rickus, Ava Porath, Beckett Sweet, Bailee Miller, Carter Lindsay, Adalynn Mitchell, Braxton Bauer, Kelsey Zetzer, Katie Sabo and Hank Hartman.

**Third grade:** Kara Baker, Claire Magoto,



Kinsley Moore, Kennedy Martikan, Willow Denman, Jackson Smith, Bo Guerin, Joshua Miller, Jaxon Eilrich and Kielie Whitcum.

### Oberhouse performs

Connor Oberhouse, of Luckey, recently performed in the University of Findlay Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble's annual December concert, "Preparing the Way: A Holiday Concert."

### Academic honors

**Terra State Community College:** Terrence Jagodzinski, Jason Masters, Justin Turpie, of Toledo; Kristen Ebert, of Elmore; Nolan Weaver, of Genoa;

Jacob Egbert, Aidan Farmer, Haily Hill, Zachary Kolkemeyer and Olivia Paul, of Gibsonburg; Angelica Sagrero, of Lindsey; Haley Plantz, of Millbury; and Kaleb Heishman, Alannah Pond, Julie Young, of Oak Harbor.

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**BAY AREA CREDIT UNION**

Salutes Northwood High School's December Student of the Month!

**Olivia Cox**

Olivia has a GPA of 4.34 and is ranked 4th in her class. She is active in Varsity Soccer (captain), Varsity Track, Key Club (vice president), Student Council, National Honor Society, Class Council, Girl Scouts and Band (Section Leader).

The daughter of Amy Cox and Jeremy Cox, Olivia plans to study communications to become a speech language pathologist.

As part of our continuing commitment to the communities we serve, Bay Area Credit Union is proud to sponsor this outstanding Northwood High School Student by awarding them a \$50.00 Savings Account.

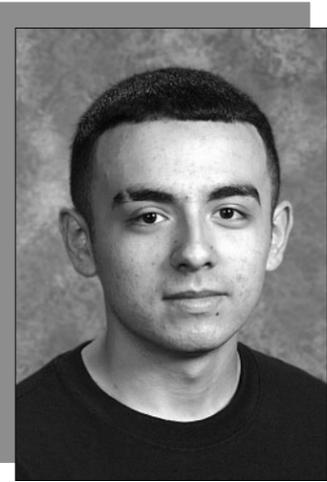
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**Bay Area Credit Union  
salutes Penta Career Center's  
December Student of the Month.**



**Juan  
Penafior**



Juan is a senior from Northwood High School and is studying Criminal Justice at Penta Career Center where he holds a GPA of 4.217. At Northwood Juan was involved in sophomore leadership activities. While at Penta, he has been an honor roll student and was the recipient of the Penta Achievement Award as a junior. Juan is also involved in the Drug Free Club and is a member of SkillsUSA. He is active in the youth group at his church, St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Oregon. Juan works at Cinco De Mayo in Rossford. In his spare time, he enjoys weightlifting and running.

After completing the Criminal Justice program at Penta and graduating from Northwood, Juan plans to study Criminal Justice at Owens Community College and attend the Police Academy. He ultimately would like to become a police officer.



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**Ava  
Ayers**

Ava has a GPA of 4.3 and is ranked 9th in her class. She is a member of the soccer, basketball and track teams. Ava is also a member of the National Honor Society and Students in Action.

The daughter of Jeremy and Mena Ayers, Ava plans to major in Exercise Science and play soccer at a college yet to be chosen.



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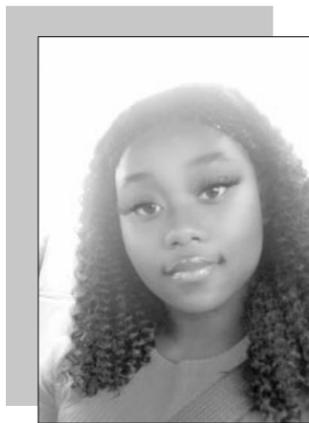


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**Talena  
Walker**

Talena has a 4.30 GPA and is ranked 4th in her class. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Red Cross Club, Team PEP, Dungeon & Dragons and Toledo Excel.

The daughter of Demeshia Walker and the late Cornelius Walker, Talena plans to attend the University of Toledo and study mathematics and engineering.



We congratulate Talena and are happy to award her a \$25.00 Savings Account.



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**Joslyn  
Jurski**

Joslyn has a GPA of 4.3087 and is ranked 5th in her class. She has been a competitive swimmer for 11 years, with 8 years for the YMCA, 3 years for the Greater Toledo Aquatic Club and has earned 3 varsity letters for swimming at Clay High School. Joslyn is a recipient of the Summa Cum Laude award.

The daughter of Jim and Heidi Jurski, Joslyn has received an academic and athletic scholarship to Clarion University where she will major in business.



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*In-demand fields*

# Penta Adult Post-Secondary offering short-term courses

Penta Career Center, Adult Post-Secondary is accepting registration for four new short-term courses.

Courses begin Jan. 10 and are designed to provide short-term training in several in-demand fields. The five-week evening courses include Welding, Auto Technology and CNC Programming/Precision Machining. A 15-week Phlebotomy course is also being offered.

To register, call 419-661-6554 or visit Penta Adult Post-Secondary at 9301 Buck Rd., Perrysburg Township. Additional information is available by visiting [pentacareercenter.org](http://pentacareercenter.org) and clicking on "Adult Education."

**Phlebotomy course**

Vanguard-Sentinel Career & Technology Centers, Adult Workforce Development, announced a new, short-term, part-time course for phlebotomy.

The course, which will begin March 1 and will run through June 16, will include 144 hours of class plus 100 hours of clinical externship. It will incorporate comprehensive classroom and clinical education that covers techniques, skills, and equipment for safe and effective blood collection.

Students will be expected to demonstrate the ability to obtain blood specimens by venipuncture and micro-collection techniques. Individuals who meet all course requirements will be eligible to sit for the Registered Phlebotomy Technician certification exam with American Medical Technologists ([americanmedtech.org](http://americanmedtech.org)).

Financial aid is available to those who qualify.

Vanguard-Sentinel Career & Technology Centers is located at 1306 Cedar St., Fremont. For more details, call



567-201-2873 or email [bhartzell@vsctc.org](mailto:bhartzell@vsctc.org).

**Small Business Basics**

The Ohio Small Business Development Center at Terra State Community College is offering free, three-hour "Small Business Basics" seminars that will answer questions about starting, buying or expanding a small business.

The seminar will take the confusion out of efforts and help entrepreneurs avoid costly mistakes and unnecessary steps. Participants will learn the basics of name registration, licensing, taxes, zoning, business entities, insurance, financing and business planning.

January seminars will be held at Terra State Community College, 2830 Napoleon Rd., Fremont, Doepker Leadership and Entrepreneurial Center, Building B, Room 103 at the following dates and times:

- Wednesday, Jan. 5, 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 19, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

To register or for more information, contact Miranda Hoffman, director of the Ohio Small Business Development Center, at 419-559-2210 or [mhoffma05@terra.edu](mailto:mhoffma05@terra.edu).

**Woodmore meeting set**

The Woodmore Board of Education's organizational/tax budget/regular meeting will take place Thursday, Jan. 6 at 6 p.m. in the High School Media Center.

For more information, call 419-862-1060.



A Dec. 10 Family Fun Night organized by Lake High School National Honor Society Treasurer Izzy Green raised \$1,452 for the MVP Mentoring Program. (Submitted photo)

## Family Fun Night benefits Lake MVP mentoring program

On Friday, Dec. 10, Lake High School National Honor Society Treasurer Izzy Greene, along with many volunteers, put on a Family Fun Night to raise funds for the MVP mentoring program. The middle school gymnasium was filled with students and their families competing in the pop ring toss game, bingo, face painting, bookmark crafts, cookie decorating, a basket raffle and many other

activities. The "snowball" fight game was a highlight for many students.

MVP program leader Jenny Lowe congratulated the students, adding the \$1,452 raised will go a long way to provide activities for the mentoring program.

Greene credited her mom, Jen, and the many community volunteers who offered their time, support and resources for making the event a success.

## Grant to improve adult college readiness

Adults interested in pursuing higher education but unsure where to begin now have additional resources available at Owens Community College, thanks to a \$1.16 million Educational Opportunities Center (EOC) program grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Owens will receive \$235,050 per year for five years to help unemployed workers, low-wage workers and returning high school and college students enter or continue a program of postsecondary education. These resources are available to members of the Northwest Ohio communities, regardless of which higher educational institution they choose to attend.

"The EOC grant will allow Owens to further our commitment to making higher education accessible to the members of our community," Denise Smith, Ph.D., provost and vice president of academic affairs, said. "Our goal is to assist adult students in their pursuit of continuing education or higher education by providing one-on-one support in obtaining their high school diploma or equivalent, connecting them with the college admissions application process and increasing their financial literacy and understanding of student financial aid options."

Educational Opportunities Centers are one of eight federal grant programs known as the Federal TRIO Programs (TRIO), which are authorized by the Higher Education Act to help low-income, first-generation students and student with disabilities succeed in higher education. These programs assist in advancing these individuals from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs.

For more information about the EOC program, email [erica\\_parish@owens.edu](mailto:erica_parish@owens.edu).

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**Aidan**  
**McGough**



Aidan has a GPA of 4.295 and is ranked 7th in his class. He has been a member of the varsity basketball team since his sophomore year and has also been a member of the Key Club and the Spanish Club. Aidan is an avid member of the Gibsonburg High School student sections (for non-boys basketball games).

The son of Tom and Heather McGough, Aidan plans to attend the University of Toledo and major in civil engineering with a possible minor in business.



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*Salutes Woodmore High School's*  
*December Student of the Month*

**Marinda**  
**Rotruck**



Marinda has a GPA of 4.083. She is a member of varsity soccer, marching band, concert band, pep band, symphonic chorale, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Key Club president, National Honor Society secretary, Future Teachers of America, Church Youth Group, and 4-H secretary of Carroll-N-Company 4-H Club.

The daughter of Janell Sandwisch, Marinda plans to attend the University of Cincinnati or The Ohio State University to major in architecture.



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**State Bank**

**Salutes Eastwood High School's**  
**December Student of the Month!**

**Audrey**  
**Sandberg**



Audrey has a GPA of 4.67 and is ranked 3rd in her class. She is a member of the Key Club, National Honor Society, Student Council, People's Inc., International Club, Girls Basketball team, and also volunteers at Cedar Creek Church.

She is the daughter of Justin & Melissa Sandberg. Audrey plans to pursue architecture next year while attending college.



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*Salutes Cardinal Stritch's*  
*December Student of the Month*

**Keera**  
**Garmon**



Keera has a GPA of 4.40 and is ranked 2nd in her class. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Puzzle Club, the soccer, basketball and track teams, Student Council and Cardinal Core. Keera also serves as a Student Ambassador and is on the Prom Committee.

The daughter of Brenda and Brian Garmon, Keera plans to attend OSU and graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Pre-Law and then attend law school, pursuing a career as an attorney.



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Toledo Walleye goalie Billy Christopoulos. (Press file photo by Scott Grau)

## Christopoulos Goalie of Week

Toledo Walleye goaltender Billy Christopoulos has been named Warrior Hockey ECHL Goaltender of the Week for December 13-19. It is the third time he has won the award in his career.

Christopoulos led the Walleye to a perfect 3-0-0 week in South Carolina with a 1.32 goals against average with a .959 save percentage in the three wins. Last Friday he turned aside 32 shots in Toledo's 2-1 win at South Carolina. He posted the same amount of saves in Saturday's 3-2 win at Greenville and a 30 save output to cap the weekend in Sunday's 2-1 overtime victory.

The 27-year-old is 10-2-1 this year in his return to the Walleye with a 2.62 GAA and a .914 SVP. Christopoulos had a breakout season during the 2019-20 season when he went 23-3-3 with a 2.30 goals against average and a .932 save percentage for Toledo. That year he was named as the goaltender for the ECHL All-Rookie Team. In his ECHL career, he has appeared in 61 games with a record of 45-10-5 with a 2.36 GAA and .924 SVP.

From 2015-2019, the native of Raleigh, North Carolina was with the Air Force Academy. In 93 games for the Falcons, Christopoulos went 42-31-11 with a 2.29 goals against average and a .913 save percentage. He appeared in a career-best 43 games during his junior campaign (2017-18) in which he also scored career bests in wins with 23, a 2.06 GAA and .922 SVP. Christopoulos was awarded AHA Goaltender of the Year in back-to-back years (2017-2019) during which he won 37 games.

Earlier this season, Walleye forward Matt Berry was named Warrior Hockey ECHL Player of the Month for November by leading the ECHL with a plus-minus rating of plus-13 while scoring eight goals with 13 assists in 12 games.

Berry had at least one point in ten of Toledo's 12 contests. His four assist game November 14 vs. Indy started a stretch in which he had ten points (3G, 7A) over three games that culminated in him winning Player of the Week honors for the week ending on November 21.

# Eastwood takes the driver's seat in NBC

By J. Patrick Eaken  
Press Sports Editor  
sports@presspublications.com

Considering that two losses came to the state's No. 4 ranked Division II team, Rossford, and two others to Division III regional qualifiers Archbold and Ottawa-Glandorf, Eastwood's 15-9 boys basketball season last year looked impressive.

"Some of our losses have been against quality opponents so hopefully those losses can benefit you," Eastwood coach Todd Henline said. "By playing tough competition you learn some things."

The Eagles finished second at 9-4 in the Northern Buckeye Conference last year but had losses to Elmwood and Otsego down the stretch. The Eagles qualified for the D-III district, where they fell to Cardinal Stritch, 75-65.

"We ended up finishing second in the league and finishing second behind Rossford is no slouch," Henline said. "To be honest, our league, from No. 2 to No. 8, on any given night you could get knocked off. Each team took turns knocking each other off."

This year, the Eagles were picked to win the NBC and they have already put themselves in the drivers' seat, defeating Rossford 61-59 in overtime at George Wolfe Field House.

Eastwood 6-foot-2 senior forward Andrew Arntson scored on a rebound and put-back with 10 seconds remaining to propel the Eagles to a 61-59 overtime victory over the Bulldogs.

Eastwood 6-3 senior guard Jacob Meyer led all scorers with a double-double 24 points and 13 rebounds while Arntson had 18 points and four rebounds. The Eagles improve to 5-1 overall and are a perfect 3-0 in the conference.

Meyer performed the same trick as Arntson did at the end of regulation, scoring on a tip-in at the buzzer to tie the game at 55-55 and force overtime. It was the first sign that the Eagles were going to complete their comeback.

Rossford led 46-31 after three quarters, but the Eagles opened the fourth on a 12-0 run. Arntson was 4-for-7 from behind the arc, including hitting two treys to provide the Eagles' first six points, and a trey to finish off the 12-0 run in the fourth quarter.

Eastwood shot 39% (21-for-54) from the field, 26% (5-for-19) from behind the arc and made 14 of 15 free throws (93%).

Henline believes Elmwood will join Rossford and Eastwood as the top teams in the league. The game with Elmwood was pushed back because both teams had deep playoff football runs. But Henline believes that game could end as a thriller, too.

"To be honest, both of us should be pretty good," Henline said. "We're moving forward. We've got a lot of pieces this year. We just need to put them together, but we're in for an enjoyable season."

Henline says the non-league schedule is a big reason the Eagles are prepared for NBC play. He has his Eagles continuing to play Ottawa-Glandorf, Archbold, Port Clinton and Ottawa Hills. Eastwood has dropped Sandusky and picked up Bellevue, but he likes what O-G, Archbold and the Green Bears provide.

"Ottawa Hills always gives you a pretty good look. That's kind of why I have them on their schedule because you have to handle their slow pace and be able to take care of the basketball against them,



Last year, Eastwood guard Jacob Meyer heads to the rim in the Eagles' 75-65 Division III district tournament loss to Cardinal Stritch at Central Catholic's Sullivan Center. (Press file photo by Doug Karns/www.DougKarns.smugmug.com)

which is a good look for us," Henline said.

The Eagles already defeated Archbold, 59-52. Eastwood took a 37-26 halftime lead over Archbold and held on, handing the Blue Streaks their first loss of the year. Arntson led Eastwood with 14 points, 6-5 senior center Gavin DeWese scored 13 and 6-1 senior guard Lake Boos hit 5-of-6 free throws down the stretch on his way to scoring eight points for the Eagles.

In another non-league win, Meyer had another 20-plus scoring night as the Eagles defeated host Oak Harbor, 59-33.

The only hiccup came when Bowling Green hit 16 of 21 three-point shots — shooting 76% from behind the arc, and held off Eastwood, 76-71.

The third quarter saw BG hit seven field goals, all from behind the arc, in scoring 22 points. The Bobcats did make one free throw in that quarter in building a 55-38 lead.

The Bobcats' shooting percentage from behind the arc was better than inside the arc, where they were 9-for-29 (31%) and from the free throw line, where they made 10 of 16 (63%). Overall, the Bobcats shot 50% from the field (25 for 50).

The Eagles hit five fourth quarter treys, including three by 5-10 junior guard Case Boos, and scored 33 points to make it a two-possession game in the final 30 seconds.

DeWese led all scorers with 21 points and seven rebounds, including 12 points in the third quarter, despite fouling out in the final minute of play.

Case Boos scored 15, senior guard Lake Boos scored 14 points and grabbed six rebounds and 5-10 junior guard Tristan Schuerman came off the bench to score 10.

Eastwood shot 44% (24-for-55) from the field and 16-for-20 from the charity stripe, including making all 14 free throws in the second half.

Although Meyer was in the gym early, Henline got most of his players at least a couple weeks late because of the football playoffs. However, Henline stresses that was a good thing.

"It's a good position to be in because we're having great success and great experiences and it does carry over to basketball," Henline said. "It just makes it a little challenging getting the late start and getting on the same page. It's a good trade-off."

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# Defense continues to be at the top of Rockets' game

By Yaneek Smith  
and J. Patrick Eaken  
sports@presspublications.com

Oak Harbor boys basketball opened the season 4-3 overall and 1-1 in the Sandusky Bay Conference Bay Division. Coach Eric Sweet says the league will be a tough row to hoe.

Last year, Oak Harbor finished second in Bay Division, one year after winning it.

"The league is going to be good. Willard returns a lot of kids, Huron has athletes, Margaretta has the Player of the Year in (Jake) Leibacher and Port Clinton has Adam Thorbahn," coach Eric Sweet said.

"For being a six-team league, it's very competitive. It's going to be a battle for the winner of the league. A lot of people didn't have us up there last year, and we finished second. The league is good."

Willard defeated the Rockets 60-42, but Oak Harbor managed to pull out a 59-45 win over Edison.

Sweet believes his Rockets will continue to have a say in how the SBC Bay title is won thanks to 6-1 senior guard T.J. Hallett, 6-2 junior forward Isaac McHale, 6-5 senior forward Keegan Durdel, 6-3 junior forward Zack Clune, 5-8 sophomore guard Jaqui Hayward and 6-5 senior forward Kyle Glaser.

In seven games, Hallett has been the high scorer averaging 18.7 points, but the Rockets are getting contributions from a lot of role players. Ethan Stokes is putting up 7.4 points, Clune 5.1 points, Glaser 4.7, Jaxson Overmyer 4.6, Hayward 3.7 and Hayden Craig is scoring three points per game. Hallett is grabbing a team-high 6.4 rebounds per game and Clune is next with five caroms per contest.

"We've got some size, some skill there, too. Isaac and Keegan are able to handle the ball and shoot it, Clune is a strong post player, and Kyle will see some time. I have four post guys that are very similar — they're competing for time; some are stronger down low, some are able to shoot it better, each brings their dynamic," said Sweet.

"We've got some size in the post, but we've got to get our guards up to speed, those three freshmen and those other juniors and Jaqui, they're getting after it, and that's the best I can ask.

"It's 11 guys that are competing for seven to eight spots of varsity minutes.



Oak Harbor senior T.J. Hallett (Photo by Laura Bolander)



Oak Harbor freshman Ethan Stokes (Photo by Laura Bolander)

Every day is a competition and an evaluation. There are good days and bad days, we've just got to keep progressing."

In addition, Hallett is an amazing 35-for-38 (92.1%) from the free throw line, Overmyer is 10-for-26 (38.5%) from beyond the three-point arc and leads the team in steals (1.6 per game), Michael LaLone is averaging a team-high 2.4 assists and has a 1.42 turnover to assist ratio, Stokes is also a defensive nightmare for opponents, blocking at least one shot per game.

The Rockets have had good, talented players who could score in recent years, but the calling card of Sweet's program is its defensive identity.

"I was raised by my dad (long time

Ottawa-Glandorf coach Dave Sweet), who's a basketball coach, and defense was always a priority of his. We want to have a good, solid, strong defense (where) you can pressure and make people uncomfortable without giving up your principles.

"If you don't make a couple shots, you can hold the other team and keep yourself in the game — it's something I've always held on to," said Sweet. "I enjoy the defensive side of the basketball, we work really

hard at it. Defense has been a staple of mine, and the kids have bought in. We put a lot of time into it."

The Rockets are 3-2 on the non-league slate, including a 40-37 win over Genoa, 49-38 victory over Vermilion and 52-31 win against Woodmore. However, the Rockets were upended by Eastwood, 59-33, despite 10 points each from Stokes and Hallett, in the second game of the season. Oak Harbor also fell to Old Fort, 60-41.

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# THE PRESS HOLIDAY DEADLINES

## For the Dec. 27th Issue

**Tuesday, Dec. 21st**  
(Noon) Editorial  
(4pm) Real Estate, Auctions, & Transitions

**Wednesday, Dec. 22nd**  
(Noon) Advertising Sales  
(1pm) Classifieds

Office Closed Thursday, Dec. 23rd at 1pm & will re-open Monday, Dec. 27th at 9am

## For the Jan. 3rd Issue

**Tuesday, Dec. 28th**  
(Noon) Editorial  
(4pm) Real Estate, Auctions, & Transitions

**Wednesday, Dec. 29th**  
(Noon) Advertising Sales  
(1pm) Classifieds

Office Closed Thursday, Dec. 30th at 1pm & will re-open Monday, Jan. 3rd at 9am



Waite 5-foot-10, 185-pound freshman running back D'Angelo Haynes (11). (Photo courtesy Innovations Portrait Studio/InnovationsVisualImpact.com)

## Waite football makes history

By J. Patrick Eaken  
Press Sports Editor  
sports@presspublications.com

History was made this football season at Waite High School. The Indians, for the first time, qualified for the playoffs.

Yes, the playoffs were expanded from eight to 16 teams per region, and yes, Waite was blown out by Medina Highland, 57-0, in a first-round game. Highland went on to defeat Anthony Wayne, 38-14, and lost to Central Catholic, 23-20, in the regional semifinals.

But every tradition must have its roots somewhere to become a tradition.

"Waite hasn't been in the playoffs for a long time, so we are making history over here. I'm glad to be a part of making history," said Waite 5-foot-10, 155-pound senior defensive lineman Jaiden Cope.

Waite coach Aaron Peacock added, "They were excited about it. It is something, turning the culture around, and building to win games and participating in stuff like this on a yearly basis. It's great for them, it's great for us and it's great for Waite."

Despite what seems like a lack of size, Cope was voted an Alan Miller Jewelers All-Press second team pick after garnering 40 tackles, including eight sacks and one fumble recovery. That's not easy when many of the other 10 coaches voting did not even play Waite, but he made a name for himself on the offense and defensive line.

Cope wants to play college football, badly.

"I grew up loving this game. I'm probably not going to make it out of here if I don't do well in football, so that's really been my drive finding my way out of here because this place is terrible," says Cope, adding that no one should take wordage too literally. He just wants to do bigger and better things.

"Jaiden Cope, honestly, I hope to see him playing at least D-II or D-I next year," said Waite coach Aaron Peacock.

### Indians show resilience

Waite finished 4-5, but 4-1 in the Toledo City League, which was the same as conference champion Start, but the Spartans defeated the Indians 34-15 to claim the title.

Waite lost three non-league games to open the season, then found itself with a 32-26 win over Rogers, 45-8 win over Woodward, 26-18 win over Scott, and 47-29 win over Bowsher. Scott had opened with four straight wins, defeating Cleveland John Hay, 22-14, Lorain Clearview, 34-22, Columbus Linden McKinley 31-20, and Vermilion, 25-13. For Waite, it was about getting the entire roster on gameday.

"Honestly, we were just healthy. We were pretty banged up at the beginning of the year," Peacock said. "We lost a couple guys, got a couple guys back at the end of the year so we were just then getting healthy. That truly is what contributed to those wins.

"I just noticed the team cohesion and they were coming together. They finally got a chance to gel together. When you put

different lineups in every week it is just so hard to actually do what we had to do. That was the first time we had the same lineup working together, so I think that is what it was and just getting the opportunity to be in the playoffs."

In the win over Scott, 5-8, 250-pound senior running back Antwuan Ullis had a big day.

"We were just sticking to our game plan. Antwuan Ullis had 223 yards rushing and two touchdowns. The kid is amazing," Peacock said. "Blocking was hands down. That has been our strength the last two years. They opened nice holes for him, and he was capitalizing on them."

Ullis finished the season with 793 yards rushing on 102 carries, averaging 7.8 per carry, with 10 TDs. He also caught five passes for 32 yards and on defense had 15 tackles, including three sacks.

Peacock says he will be blessed because many on his offensive line will be back next year.

"Terrance Holbert and Rudy Walker, two juniors that are going to be coming back next year, plus Isiah Hyde, a 6-4, 270 sophomore is coming back next year, so we have solid linemen," Peacock said.

Walker is 6-0 and 300 pounds, Hyde is 6-4, 270, and on defense he had a 5-10, 185-pound freshman linebacker, D'Angelo Haynes, who was voted second team All-Press after getting 27 tackles, seven sacks and a forced fumble.

Overall, Peacock said he loves his team's resilience, winning four of their last six games.

"We actually were playing together. We were gelling and everything was working out," Peacock said. "The guys were fighting all year long and they never gave up. They've been a tough group of kids and they haven't given up at all. I really appreciate this team because they could have folded up a long time ago, but they didn't."

Cope said Peacock made practices challenging, and fun, and that made all the difference.

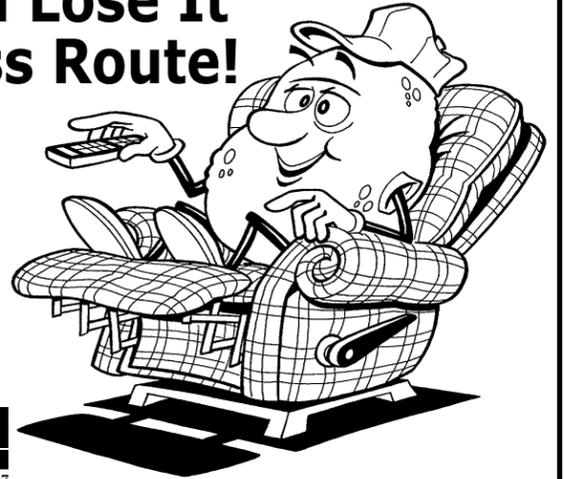
"So, I feel like we came together because we were focusing on team bonding because the losses that we had early in the season really hurt our confidence. So, we did some little competition things to help bring back the confidence in practice and make practice more fun," Cope said.

Not only did Waite make the playoffs, but so did Rogers, Scott and Start, but all failed to win first round playoff games. In Division I, Start lost to Whitmer, 42-7, in D-III Rogers fell to Rocky River, 42-6, and in D-IV, Scott lost to Port Clinton, 47-0. Peacock says just getting the opportunity was half the battle.

"That is a big thing for us. I mean, the league that everybody says is not competitive has been really competitive the last few years," Peacock said. "Now to see us have the opportunity to be in the playoffs, and it is not just us, it is multiple teams from the City League, I think is just wonderful for TPS."

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## The Press Church Worship Guide

Deadline: Thursday 11:00 am

Northwood	Walbridge	Toledo
<p><b>Calvary Lutheran Ch.</b> 1930 Bradner Rd./Corner of Woodville &amp; Bradner Rds. 419-836-8986 Fellowship Breakfast/Learning: 9:15am Sunday Worship 10:30am Pastor Robert Noble</p>	<p><b>Athens Missionary Baptist</b> Sunday School - 9:45am Church Service - 11:00am Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:00pm 101 W. Breckann St. Walbridge, Ohio 43465</p>	<p><b>First St. John Lutheran Church</b> 2471 Seaman St. 691-7222 or 691-9524 Sunday Service: 8:00 am &amp; 10:30 am Sunday School 9:15 am Jerald Rayl, Pastor www.firststjohn.com</p>
<p><b>Seventh-day Adventist Church</b> 2975 Eastpointe Blvd. NorthwoodAdventist.org Saturday Worship: 11:00am Thursday Bible Study: 7:00pm Welcome to our Church</p>	<p><b>ST. JEROME CATHOLIC CHURCH</b> Weekend Masses Saturday Vigil: 4:30pm Sunday: 8am &amp; 10am 300 Warner St., Walbridge St.JeromeWalbridge.org</p>	<p><b>Lake Twp.</b> <b>ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 26535 Pemberville Rd. (between St. Rtes. 795 &amp; 163) Perrysburg, OH (Lake Township) Phone: 419-837-5023 www.zionlatcha.com Sunday Indoor Worship Service @ 10:15 a.m. "God's Work, Our Hands" ELCA</p>
<p><b>Unity United Methodist</b> 1910 E. Broadway St. 419-693-5170 Indoor &amp; Parking Lot Service Sunday 11:00 am No matter who you are, you are welcome.</p>	<p><b>Woodville</b> <b>Solomon Lutheran Church and School</b> 305 W. Main St. 419-849-3600 Sunday Worship: 8:00am &amp; 10:30am Sunday School (All Ages) &amp; Catechism 9:20am Recovery Worship Thurs. 6:30-7:30 pm The Rev. G. Alan Brown, II, Pastor School Open Enrollment Nursery thru 6th Grade</p>	<p><b>See You in Church! Elmore</b> <b>Trinity Lutheran Church</b> 412 Fremont St. 419-862-3461 Stephen Lutz, Pastor In-Person Worship 8:00am &amp; 10:45am Zoom Simulcast 8:00am In-Person Bible Study 9:30am</p>
<p><b>LIVING WORD BAPTIST CHURCH</b> NEW LOCATION! 6100 N. Drouillard Rd. Northwood, Ohio In-person Worship Sunday 10:00 am Wednesday 6:00 pm Nursery, Patch Club for kids &amp; Generation Teen Group Uplifting, joyful, traditional worship. Pastor Jim McCourt 419-972-2622</p>	<p><b>Genoa</b> <b>st. john's church</b> Sunday School 9:00am Sunday Worship 10:00am 1213 Washington St. 419-855-3906 www.stjohnsgenoa.org</p>	<p><b>Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church</b> Rt. 51 at Witty Rd., Just north of Elmore Sunday Worship Inside - 10:30am Outside Worship also available Pastor Jaci Tiell 419/862-3630 graceelc@gmail.com www.graceelc.com Check out our facebook page. Praising. Growing. Serving in Jesus' name. See You in Church!</p>
<p><b>See You in Church! Oak Harbor</b> <b>St. Boniface Catholic Church</b> 215 Church St. Oak Harbor 419-898-1389 Masses - Saturday 4:30 pm Sunday 8:30 am www.sb-oh.org</p>	<p><b>Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church</b> 204 Main St., Genoa, OH Masses- Saturday 6:30 pm Sunday 10:30 am 419-855-8501 www.ourladygenoa.org</p>	<p><b>Trinity United Methodist</b> Main at 4th, Genoa Sunday School 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Ramp &amp; Elevator Pastor Greg Miller www.genoatrinity.com</p>

### Inspirational Message of the Week:

You often hear it said that only you can define what success means to you. While this is certainly true, it doesn't go far enough. That is, the story of our life is something that only we can properly tell. We certainly rely on others to help us with the details, since no one remembers their own birth, or can know what happened while they were under anesthesia or otherwise unconscious, but it's up to us to create the guiding narrative of our own life story. And don't we all want there to be a story worth telling when it comes to our own life? While we are alive the story is necessarily unfinished, but as we get older we begin to see certain themes coming together. Whatever your life story is about, make sure that the way you live makes you a hero and not a villain. And like any good story, the parts that tell us the most are the trials and the struggles we go through. It's easy to be calm, cool and collected when everything is going smoothly. The real question is whether you can maintain your composure, and your values, when things start to fall apart? Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. James 1:12

# Gibsonburg's Mintz, Brubaker honored at banquet

By Brian Liskai  
Special to The Press  
Liskai2x@roadrunner.com

Fremont Speedway put a wrap to the 70th anniversary season by handing out point fund money and awards at an informal gathering at the Flower Building in the Sandusky County Fairgrounds.

The All Pro Aluminum Cylinder Heads/Kistler Racing Products 410 Attica Fremont Championship Series (AFCS) Presented by the Baumann Auto Group and the NAPA of Bryan 305 AFCS Presented by Jason Dietsch Trailer Sales also handed out their 2021 awards.

In the 410 Sprints, Helena native and Gibsonburg High School graduate Stuart Brubaker finished fourth and Gibsonburg's Craig Mintz finished tenth.

## Fortball Pizza Palace 410 Sprints

Champion – D.J. Foos, Fremont, The track's 2012 305 champion and the 2019 and 2021 champion of the Attica Fremont Championship Series, steered the legendary Burmeister Racing machine to an incredible season. Of the 15 winged 410 A-mains at the track he recorded six victories running his career total to 23 at the track. He recorded three wins in a row from June 25 through July 31. With the exception of an 18th place finish against the All Stars on June 12, Foos never finished out of the top 10 all season at Fremont. Besides his wins, he posted three runner-up efforts and a pair of thirds meaning he finished on the podium in 11 of the 15 A-mains in 2021. His average A-main finishing position was fourth.

2nd - Cole Macedo, Lemmore, Calif. – The 2020 Fremont Speedway rookie of the year had a break-out year with a new Ray Brooks Racing team, competing in 14 of the 15 A-mains in 2021, missing only the All Star speedweek event in June. He recorded four wins in 2021 including beating the All Stars to wrap up the season for the Jim and Joanne Ford Classic win. Other than a 23rd place finish on Aug. 14, Macedo never finished worse than eighth all season, scoring 11 top fives out of the 14 A-mains. His average A-main finishing position was fifth.

3rd – Nate Dussel, Bradner., Fremont's



Stuart Brubaker. (File photo by Rick Sherer)

2020 410 track champion and 2016 and 2017 305 champion competed in all 15 A-mains in 2021. He scored three wins (May 22, Aug. 7 and Aug. 14) to run his career total at the track to 28. He recorded nine top five finishes and 12 top 10 runs. His average A-main finishing position was sixth.

4th – Stuart Brubaker, Gibsonburg., Fremont's 2008, 2010 and 2011 305 champion and Fremont's 2012 410 rookie of the year competed in 14 of the 15 A-mains in 2021, missing only the season finale. He posted three top five finishes including a season best second in the make-up event for April 24 and recorded nine top five finishes. His average A-main finishing position was ninth.

5th – Kyle Capodice, Sandusky. – Fremont's 2021 410 rookie of the year really showed improvement throughout the season since moving from the 305 sprint ranks.



Craig Mintz. (File photo by Rick Sherer)

He competed in 13 of the 15 A-mains, missing only the June 12, and Aug. 14 events. Capodice posted a pair of top five finishes including a season best third on Sept. 11. His average A-main finishing position was 12th.

6th – Brian Smith, Fremont. Fremont's 2004 305 track champion competed in 12 of the 15 A-mains in 2021. He recorded seven top 10 finishes including a season best fifth on the make-up from the April 24 event. His average feature finishing position was 10th.

7th – Chris Andrews, Sandusky. Andrews competed in 10 of the 15 A-mains in 2021, posting seven top 10 finishes including a season best fourth on May 15. His average A-main finishing position was ninth.

8th – John Ivy, Fremont. Ivy, Fremont's 2001, 2002 and 2004 410 champion, 1994,

2013, 2018 and 2019 305 champion and 2013 dirt truck champion, competed in 12 of the 15 A-mains in 2021. Ivy, who is tied for fifth on the track's all-time win list, recorded four top 10 finishes including a season best sixth on Sept. 25. His average A-main finishing position was 14th.

9th – Landon LaLonde, South Amherst, Ohio. LaLonde competed in 9 of the 15 A-mains in 2021, recording four top 10 finishes including a season-best 7th on June 26. His average A-main finishing position was 13th.

10th – Craig Mintz, Gibsonburg. Fremont's 2010, 2012 and 2018 track champion competed in only seven of the 15 A-mains in 2021 but never finished out of the top seven. He recorded five top five finishes including a season best 2nd on July 10. His average A-main finishing position was fourth.

# Elmore's Roepke, Lindsey's Rando second, third in points

By Brian Liskai  
Special to The Press  
Liskai2x@roadrunner.com

Elmore driver Alvin Roepke and Lindsey 305 sprint car racer Steve Rando were honored as Fremont Speedway put a wrap to the 70th anniversary season. Here is how racers finished in the Fremont Federal Credit Union 305 Sprints –

CHAMPION – Matt Foos, Fremont., Keeping it a Foos family season at Fremont, Matt Foos recorded his first ever track championship. Foos competed in all 16 A-mains in 2021. Other than a 17th place finish on Aug. 14, Foos never finished out of the top seven all season. He scored wins on Aug. 7 and Sept. 11 to run his career total to 11 at the track. Foos posted an incredible 11 top five finishes on route to an amazing A-main finishing position of fourth.

2nd – Alvin Roepke, Elmore. Roepke competed in 15 of the 16 A-mains, missing only the Aug. 24th event. He posted 9 top five finishes including wins on May 22 and June 12 to run his career total at the track to run his career total to 11. His average A-main finishing position was sixth.

3rd – Steve Rando, Lindsey., Rando competed in all 16 A-mains in 2021, recording eight top five finishes including a season best second on Sept. 11. He posted 13 top 10 finishes on route to an average A-main finishing position of seventh.

4th – Jamie Miller, Fremont. Miller, the 2019 champion of the Attica Fremont Championship Series, competed in all 16 A-mains in 2021, posting seven top five finishes and 12 top 10 runs. He scored his 30th career Fremont win on Sept. 18 having also won the truck feature that night. His average A-main finishing position was ninth.

5th – Brandon Moore, Clyde. Having re-opened his own team mid-way through the season, Moore competed in 15 of the 16 A-mains, missing only the Aug. 14 event. He recorded 13 top 10 finishes including three season best fifth place runs. Moore's average A-main finishing position was seventh.

6th – Mike Keegan, Fremont. Keegan competed in 15 of the 16 A-mains in 2021,

missing only the June 26 event. He posted 10 top 10 finishes including a season best three third place runs. His average A-main finishing position was eighth.

7th – Larry Kingseed Jr., Castalia. Kingseed competed in all 16 A-mains in 2021, recording eight top 10 finishes. He picked up his first career Fremont win on the final event of the year. His average A-main finishing position was 11th.

8th – Chris Verda, Elyria. Verda, who switched to the Mingus race team midway through the season, competed in all 16 A-mains in 2021. He recorded four top 10 finishes including a season best third on June 12. His average A-main finishing position was 13th.

9th – Bryce Lucius, Findlay. Fremont's 2021 rookie of the year competed in 14 of the 16 A-mains in 2021, posting five top 10 finishes including a season best runner-up on the season finale. His average A-main finishing position was 12th.

10th – Shawn Valenti, Fostoria. Fremont's four time dirt truck champion – including in 2021 – competed in 14 of the 16 A-mains in 2021. He posted his first 305 victory to kick off the Sandusky County Fair on Aug. 24. Valenti, who sits second on the track's all-time win list, never finished out of the top nine all season and posted six top five finishes. His average A-main finishing position was sixth.

In the Burmeister Trophy Dirt Trucks, the champion was Shawn Valenti, Fostoria. Valenti picked up his third straight and fourth overall truck track championship. Valenti posted five wins in 2021 and when you add in his 305 victory he now has 67 total career feature wins at Fremont Speedway to place him second on the all-time win list just 9 away from tying the legendary Art Ball. Competing in all 13 A-mains in 2021, Valenti scored 11 top five finishes. Other than a 12th on June 26 and a 22nd on Aug. 14 Valenti never finished worse than third. His average A-main finishing position was a remarkable fourth.

2nd – Jamie Miller, Fremont., Miller competed in all 13 A-mains in 2021, picking up six victories, including one on the same night he scored a 305 sprint victory.

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**ALAN MILLER JEWELERS**

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Store Hours: Mon.-Thur. 10-6, New Year's Eve 10-4

**HO HO HOOPS**



Lab Grown Diamond Hoops  
3.00 CTW **SALE \$2395**  
5.00 CTW **SALE \$2995**  
10.00 CTW **SALE \$4995**



Lab Grown Diamond Rings 2.00 CTW ea.  
**ROUND - SALE \$2995**  
**OVAL - SALE \$3495**

