

Transfers Janik and Counts lead Ranger wrestlers

See Sports, page 9



Defense leads Lady Lions over Open Door

See Sports, page 9

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NORTH RIDGEVILLE
Press

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Shoppes at Northridge

This is a rendering of Eagle Lake Development's proposed Shoppes at Northridge. Plans call for a 36,000-square-foot shopping center on Center Ridge Road, north of All Secure Storage and level with the street, featuring a bank, restaurants and upscale women's ready-to-wear shops. The developer expects to break ground this spring.

Gillock blames Buescher for present controversy

By Carol Klear

Debate continues in City Hall over the possible creation of a new post in the law department and who would fill it, and Mayor Dave Gillock blames Councilwoman Nancy Buescher, R-1.

"I think Nancy Buescher generated the controversy," Gillock said.

"We were not hiring Allison Manning, we were creating a position," Gillock said. "Allison is a recent law school grad and I have heard she was first in the state (in the bar exam)." Manning is the daughter of Councilwoman Gayle Manning.

"We will interview, that is the only issue," the mayor said. "We got sidetracked."

Buescher disagrees.

"At the Dec. meeting I told the law director that I wanted to talk to him about the Allison Manning issue," Buescher said. "He did not want to talk about it at the meeting and said we'd discuss it later, however, although he represents City Council, he never got back with me.

"So in Jan. another meeting was called and in order to protect those involved, it was my sworn duty to bring up the issue about the hiring of Mrs. Manning's daughter because I sensed a conflict which, as a legislator, I considered had the potential to be a serious issue. I asked for an outside legal opinion, which is provided to council by the city charter, to help us in our decision-making. If this had been taken into consideration and if a vote had been delayed until we received an outside opinion, this would not have become an issue."

During the Jan. 5 finance committee meeting, Finance Chairman Gayle Manning recommended that the post of assistant law director be added to the law department based on the burgeoning workload due to the continued influx of new residents. The finance chair's recommendation followed the apparent urging of City Law Director Andy Crites who had requested added help from the previous finance committee.

During the session, Crites explained the department's need for more help. Manning made a motion in favor of the post, followed by Dick Jaenke's second. Councilman Dennis Boose voted against it.

Prior to the vote, Buescher cautioned that Manning's vote could be a conflict since Crites previously had expressed an interest in having her daughter fill the position.

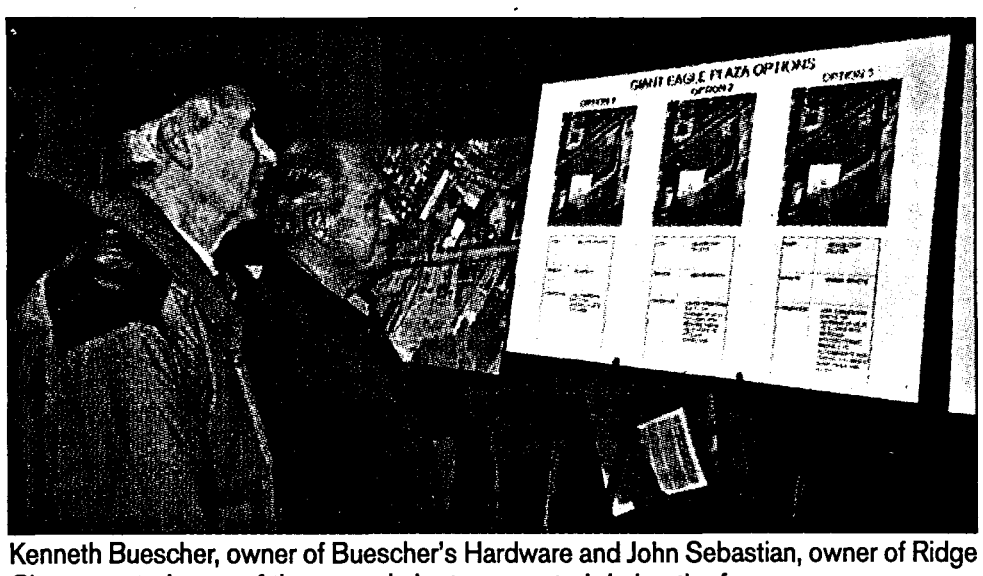
Following the meeting, Buescher researched Ohio Revised Code (ORC) concerning hiring relatives and subsequently sent memos to council representatives, expressing her apprehension about the situation, noting that her findings on such restrictions "should clearly indicate the slippery slope on which city representatives and Mrs. Manning in particular, are placing themselves as a result of the vote..."

Gillock insists the only question is whether the position should be funded, not who will fill it. He also stands behind the law director, noting that he will continue in the position, though he admits that Crites "would have been smarter to say 'no'" when asked if he had someone in mind for the position.

"I don't believe there is a conflict," Gillock said. "Now there is a huge firestorm. If it is her (Allison Manning), she is highly qualified."

On Jan. 13, Crites sent a letter to the Ohio Ethics Commission requesting an advisory opinion on several areas of the situation, including whether or not an attorney may be employed in a city's law department in which her mother

SEE **LAW DIRECTOR,** page 6



Kenneth Buescher, owner of Buescher's Hardware and John Sebastian, owner of Ridge Cleaners, study one of the several charts presented during the forum.

Forum on Center Ridge Road widening attracts crowd

By Carol Klear

City officials took another step toward plans for widening Center Ridge Road when they hosted a second public forum on Jan. 25. Mayor Dave Gillock said he was pleased with the turnout.

"Over 100 people were there," Gillock said. "It was really good."

Even before the official 4 p.m. opening, people were milling around in the community room at the North Ridgeville Library, studying maps of the Center Ridge Road corridor and the options being considered to expand the thoroughfare between Stoney Ridge Road and Lear Nagle.

City officials, along with representatives from the engineering firm of Burgess & Niple and the state were on hand to answer questions and discuss concerns. As they perused the charts, people talked among themselves, as well. Some seemed excited about the proposed widening, while others, including business owners and residents, expressed concerns about the amount of frontage they would lose to the project.

To gauge public opinion, each visitor was given an option sheet and asked to mark a preference from the alternatives offered, including sidewalks, bike paths, school connections and street connectors.

Former North Ridgeville safety service director Warren Blakely had definite opinions on his choices.

"Overall, No. 2," Blakely said, which would widen the road to five lanes and construct a 6-foot sidewalk on the north side and a 10 -foot multi-use path on the south side. When the votes were counted on Friday, a majority of others also favored that choice.

Blakely and 23 others selected option two for the school connection issue, which referred to driveway elimination and access management at SR 83 and Center Ridge Road.

When the numbers for the other options were tabulated, 20 favored no further improvement at the Ridge Plaza Road connector and 15 liked the idea of a connector road from Ridge Plaza to

SEE **CORRIDOR,** page 6

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INDEX

Classifieds 15
Editorial 4
Lifestyle 12
Police/Fire Blotters 14
School News 8
Sports 9
Town Crier 13
X-perts 15

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Realtors and developers are 'eyes and ears' of community

By Carol Klear

New house construction and the influx of new residents into the city served as the impetus for officials of the North Ridgeville City Schools (NRCS) to host a luncheon for local realtors and developers recently.

Welcoming the nearly two dozen professionals, Superintendent Larry Bowersox told them, "You are the eyes and ears of our community" and offered assistance in their job of marketing North Ridgeville.

"Together we enjoy a special relationship and are partners in the economic development and educational system of this city," Bowersox said, adding that an excellent school system can act as a catalyst for success in housing developments and increased property values.

The superintendent said the district's mission is "to educate all students to be lifelong learners and responsible citizens," noting the 2005 report card from the Ohio Department of Education rated the district as "Effective." However, facilities must be maintained and expanded to keep pace with the increasing enrollment.

Dr. Craig Phillips, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, David Livingston, assistant superintendent of business services, Biagio Sidoti, treasurer and Tissy Simon, director of communication, development and marketing, walked the audience through the components of the Strategic Continuous Improvement Plan–curriculum, facilities, finance and communication.

Curriculum and instruction

Phillips listed the schools' instructional priorities, such as improving the rating, meeting the targets of the federal government's mandate of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), as well as implementing the state's academic standards, the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and co-teaching to support student intervention and assessment literacy for the staff.

"All children in all educational groups will achieve 100 percent mastery in reading and math by 2013-2014," he said. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) must be shown each year on federal learning targets by specific groups, including economically disadvantaged, minorities and students with disabilities.

Co-teaching and supporting student intervention plays an important role in the instructional priorities.

"We offer a seamless system of intervention," Phillips said.

Facilities and operation

Livingston said there is a lot going on behind the scenes in the district and his areas of responsibility are transportation, building and grounds, food service and school safety.

Although he said it is a "constant battle" to keep up with the needs of the facilities, he said that an asset is the Permanent Improvement Levy.

"We have seven buildings," he said, adding that two of them, Fields-Sweet and the middle school, are approaching 100 years of age. A year ago the Ohio State Facilities Committee visited the district and made recommendations for the future, including the need for new buildings.

Livingston said the district has a "fleet of 30-plus buses on the road each day." He also said that the average life of a bus is between 15 and 20 years, and the system tries to purchase two new buses each year.

Safety is a major concern of NRCS, and Livingston assured the audience that there is a crisis plan and crisis teams.

"North Ridgeville is also one of the first school in the state to get AED defibrillators," he said, adding that the portable units travel with sports teams.

Finance and funding

Sidoti gave a financial overview of the district, noting the reduction in the financial support to the schools as time passes from the date an original levy goes into effect. He also noted that at 1 percent, the city of North Ridgeville has "one of the lowest income tax rates around."

Sidoti compared NRCS to similar districts and to the state average in expenses for administration, building operations, staff support, pupil support, instruction and per pupil spending. With the help of a graph the treasurer also showed a comparison between the district's revenues and expenditures over the past 10 years.

Communications

This is the first year the district has had a full-time communications director, and as she began her portion of the program, Simon said that, compared to the administration's job, her's "is easy."

Simon is responsible for keeping both NRCS staff members and the community in tune to what is happening in the schools. She said the staff has a monthly newsletter and the various school organizations such as PTAs and booster groups help funnel the information. The building site-based teams and district wide site-based committee meet and "bring issues to the table," Simon said.

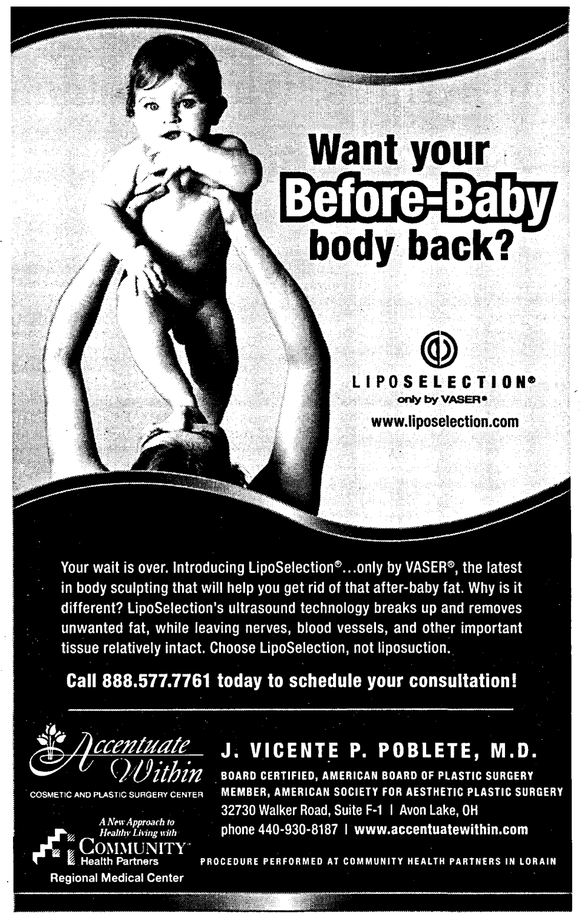
The Business Advisory Committee holds quarterly meetings to discuss ways of helping students to acquire employment skills and offer shadowing and business co-op programs.

Simon explained other means of communicating with residents are through the Ranger Pride News, school calendar, annual report and North Ridgeville magazine. In addition, she said the district "tells our story" through public school board meetings, its web site, newspapers, radio and TV.

Concluding, Bowersox said the district has just over 3,700 students presently.

"Growth is an issue," he said, adding that most development is in the north and southwest areas of the city and it is necessary for school officials to address the growth.

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There's a puzzlement on Avon Belden Road and this P.I. wants some answers

KLEARLY SPEAKING

P-EW.....For the past several months, a natural gas smell has been wafting along SR 83 from near Center Ridge Road to the turnpike overpass and nobody seems to know where it's coming from. It comes and goes intermittently, like a thief in the night...and sometimes day.

FIRST MENTION.....A few months ago city employee Dennis Tenney said he had smelled gas driving past our house on Avon Belden Road. Did I smell it? Nope. But doggone I got a whiff later that night. We called the gas company and when a tech arrived, he said, "yep," he smelled it when he got out of his truck. In a few minutes the odor was gone and after checking all around, he said he found nothing. Then he headed to South Central Park and again, nothing.

SINCE THEN.....We've noticed the same odor off and on since then and a councilwoman reported the same smell outside City Hall. Just last week, the fire blotters showed several other calls from the Aurensen/Noll area. A spokesperson for Columbia Gas speculated there might be a natural gas well in the area that does not belong to C.G.. But he also sent a tech out on Thursday. He did some work, but on Saturday night, a friend called and reported smelling gas as he drove along 83.

SERIOUS STUFF.....City officials have to use their clout to get to the bottom of this before there is a deadly gas explosion as there was on Otten Road a number of years ago.

OTHER THINGS.....Yeah, I read loraincounty.com, in fact it's part of my morning routine. It's usually pretty informative. On Saturday, I logged on and read this great quote contributed by a poster who calls himself/herself "Wordsworth: *"Without publicity, no good is permanent; under the auspices of publicity, no evil can continue."*

AND ANOTHER.....There's also someone called "Elvis," who hasn't much use for yours truly, especially regarding the handling of the debacle over the law director's request. That's OK, but Mr./Ms. (Whoever???), check out page three of the Jan. 11, 2006 NRP and you'll see our story...in fact, we reported it quite awhile before the PD or the CT even knew it happened and we were there when it happened. The opinion on the whole thing was in the Jan. 18 issue. And, "opinion" is what the Notebook column is...mine or Melissa Linebrink's. And I invite you to send a letter or column stating yours and we'll print it...but you have to sign your *real* name...like I do.

P.S.....One more thing, Elvis, "Don't be Cruel."

North Ridgeville Press — Ed Kelly



PRESSLINE

Caller: *Now that the police levy passed and appropriations are starting soon, City Council should think about rather than 15 percent for capital projects, which is not enough, go to 25 percent.*

Caller: *With gas prices approaching almost $3 a gallon and less than one-half the rank and file police not living in town and the rash of break-ins we have had, we should have a Support Car Amnesty program. The police should turn in their support cars (including unmarked cars) and drive their own cars like everybody else.*

Caller: *I was just wondering why school officials would host a luncheon for realtors and developers and who paid for the luncheon?*

Response: *According to Tissy Simon, director of communications and marketing for the North Ridgeville City Schools, the district paid for the luncheon, however it was prepared by the food service department which made it cost effective. Simon said that school officials*

SEE PRESSLINE, page 5

Hats off to the NRP readers and writers; what a bunch



Editor's Notebook

By Carol Klear

I've been at this gig for quite a while–in fact, let's make that *quite* a while–but you out there in Readerland still blow me away.

I write and write and you read and read. But every once in a while the something I write (the same something *you* read) prompts a reversal in roles; then *you* decide to write and *I'm* the one doing the reading.

And your writings are so much fun (well, most of the time).

About two weeks ago, I received an e-mail from Larry Estesen. After compliments on several stories in the Jan. 18 issue and telling Melissa Linebrink to "keep up the good work," Mr. Estesen turned his attention to *moi* and wrote, "I've got a question regarding the always well done article by Ms. Klear."

Then he went on to discuss "*naïveté*," a word I had used in my column. He had no problem with its use, in fact agreed I had used it "quite appropriately," however, he wondered, if someone were competing in a spelling bee, just how the heck you would spell it.

See what I mean...you readers and writers are awesome.

It's been a long time since I entered a spelling bee and I don't ever recall that word coming up, but when a reader poses a question, it deserves an answer...at least some sot or another.

However, Mr. Esteser not only presented the query but attempted to take a stab at a solution, as well

If asked to spell *naïvté*, he said his response would be, "*Naïveté.* en aye eye-with-two-dots-equally-spced-on-top-of-it-instead-of-one-dot vee e tee ee-with-a-French-accent-mark-on-it *Naïveté*."

Terrific!

But Mr. Estesen didn't stop there. He wanted to know what those kinds of letters are called...or if they're foreign...or if they're English...and if we have more than 26 letters in the alphabet...etc., etc.

Talk about "inquiring minds."

I got on it ASAP, so listen up.

Nearly all western- and central-European languages use the *Latin alphabet*, but some add accent marks. Well, actually those marks are called "diacritics," because not only do they add those funny looking things to words for accents (like in *naïveté*), but they also give a different sound. That reminds me of a French teacher I had in high school who demanded that we twist our mouths into beaks and then try to say some godawful French word.

Sorry, I digressed.

The first accent mark in *naïveté* is called a diaeresis (aka dieresis). (I really don't like that word no matter how it's spelled. It sounds like something out of a medical dictionary...something very disgusting.) Anyway, the dia...well, you know...are those two little dots above the "i" in "*naïveté*" telling you to split the "a" and "i" to two separate sounds. And there are other words that could use those little dots like "cooperate," "Chloe" "Zoe"...but they don't. Why? How should I know?

The second mark in *naïveté* is just a slanted line that suddenly shoots up to the right and is called an acute accent mark and means, "hit it, Sam" (alright or Joe, or Joan, or whatever your name is...touchy, touchy). Anyway, give that letter a little extra punch...*naïvet E* (with the E pronounced like A)...Got it?

And there are more, like the tilde...a wavy line above a letter, used lots in Spanish, like in *señor*; the macron, a straight line above a character; a breve, the lower quarter of a circle used in Latin; the dot, the stroke, the ogonek and more...

But back to Mr. Estesen's question about how to say 'em in a spelling bee...sorry, I haven't a clue.

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Letters for publication on Wednesday must be in The North Ridgeville Press office on the prior Thursday at 5 p.m.

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Senior Scene

Crimes against seniors and how to protect yourself



Young at Heart

By Rita Price
Director, North Ridgeville Office for Older Adults

Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part series on crimes against senior citizens. Next month we will look at telemarketing scams/swindlers and how to protect yourself or your loved one from these types of criminals.

Last month, off duty North Ridgeville Police Detective Matt Gorski helped apprehend a thief at one of our neighborhood stores. He also was able to identify her accomplice, who remains at large. We thank Matt for looking out for our seniors as this person and their partner were wanted by police and often preyed on someone older distracting them, then taking money or credit cards from their purses.

According to North Ridgeville Police Chief Richard Thomas, these types of criminals often work in pairs or in groups. One may distract the customer by asking questions, and then divert their attention to something on the shelf. At that point, they may easily lift cash or credit cards from an open purse. Sometimes they work alone in the store while the accomplice waits outside in the car. This type of thief often stalks stors where the eldery tend to shop.

"Seniors tend o be more trustiig and more readiy willing to offr assistance if thy are asked a question," Thomas sail.

"In addition, their divided attentin skills are not as sharp as someoe younger, so they can be more easily distracted."

Seniors and everyone should follow a few simple tips.

"You don't have to make majr changes in your lifestyle," Thomas sail. "But there are definitely some little things to be aware of to protect your valuables.'

1. Hang on to your purse at all times and don't leave it unattended in the cart

2. If the purse has a snap or zipper, be sure it is closed and secured.

3. Checkbooks should always be in a safe place and not visible.

5. If you have an ATM card, keep your PIN number separate from the card so thieves cannot easily access your accoun.

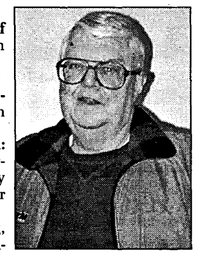
6. The first place many thieves wil look when breaking into your home is the kitchen, looking for a purse–keep it in another room.

Once the crime is completed, it doesn't take long for the thief to use the credit card on food, gas or electronics they can later return for cash or sell.

Criminals are becoming more refined in crimes of theft involving deception because these are not considered robbery or crimes of violence such as purse snatching. Jail time, if any, is not as severe and many times the theft is not even noticed or reported until it is too late. According to Thomas, it may be days or even weeks before someone notices a credit card is missing. Or, if the loss is noticed quickly, people wait to report the loss thinking the credit card or checkbook is just misplaced.

These types of crimes do not occur often in North Ridgeville. However, they are cyclical in that a pair or group of criminals work quickly and may strike multiple times before moving on to another area. Fortunately, police officers work 24 hours a day/seven days a week and are trained to look at things differently than the average citizen.

Smick enjoys the people, the info and the breakfasts



Name: Chuck Smick
Date and place of birth: Aug. 31, 1935 in Cleveland.
Number of children: 3
Number of grandchildren: 3 (one set of twin boys)
Former profession: Chuck, who has been married to Winnie for nearly 45 years, was an engineer prior to retirement.
Hobbies: Reading, gardening, golf and working out.
Volunteer activities: Chuck volunteers as a driver for the Meals-on-Wheels program and he sometimes drives for special trips.
Favorite way to spend your free time: Reading.
Why do you attend the Senior Center: "The people are friendly, the food at breakfast is good and the programs are informative."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Same old, same old

To the Editor:

I took the time to attend the North Ridgeville Board of Education organizational meeting on Jan. 10. I was disappointed to see business as usual being conducted. The school board consists of five people and it only takes three to take control (the incumbents) leaving the two new board members out in the cold. I am not saying the "majority" three don't hold the best interest of the district as their goal, but exclusion is going on and that is just plain wrong.

As soon as I saw the seating arrangements, I knew it was the same old, same old.

On one side of the Board of Education table were the incumbents-Maria Sycz sat next to Robin Hrabik, who sat next to Ross Mitchell. Next to Mitchell is the superintendent, next to him is the chief financial officer and then the new board members, Bill Harnish and Manuel Dominguez. No effort was made by the incumbents to sit next to the new board members to offer guidance if needed.

As for election into positions, there are a total of 25 slots to be filled. Three positions are elected among the board members and are as follows:

Ross Mitchell, elected as president (nominated by Robin Hrabik, all five voted for Ross)

Robin Hrabik, elected as vice president nominated by Maria Sycz, Manuel Dominguez nominated himself for VP–vote went three for Hrabik (Mitchell, Sycz, Hrabik–no surprises there).

Lorain County Joint Vocational School (Ross Mitchell was nominated by Robin Hrabik and nominations were not opened for anyone else).

Do you see a pattern here?

Next the board president appoints board members to subcommittees. The breakdown of elected and appointed positions are as follows:

Ross Mitchell, elected for two positions, appointed himself to four more (total of six); Robin Hrabik, elected to one position, appointed to four (total of five);

Maria Sycz appointed to five positions, leaving appointments of four to Manuel Dominguez and four to William Harnish.

The board president appointed the superintendent to the Endowment Foundation Committee instead of offering it to the two new board members.

The person who really made out in the above elected and appointed positions is Ross Mitchell. He will get paid by the North Ridgeville Board of Education (FY2005 paid $3,875) and the Lorain County Joint Vocational Board (FY2005 paid $1,500). Manuel Dominguez has a son at LCJVS and felt he could be of value but was not given the opportunity. NO OTHER nominations were requested. Cut and dried, isn't it?

I heard that none of the incumbents contacted the new board members when they were elected to offer them information or even welcome them aboard. I hope for the sake of the voters and children the exclusion does not continue. We need harmony on the school board, or at least an agreement among the board members that it is okay to disagree but still work together.

Linda McMillen
North Ridgeville

PRESSLINE, *from page 4*

find it important to keep the developers and realtors up on what is happening in the district in order to help them do their jobs more effectively. When people plan a move, the first things they check out are the school districts.

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Ask Dr. Arndt

By: Scott W. Arndt, D.D.S.



FOOD AND DECAY

How does the food I eat cause tooth decay?

The food that you chew and eat leaves a residue in your mouth, and nothing could make the bacteria that live in your mouth happier. Bacteria love the sugars and starch found in many foods. If you don't clean your teeth thoroughly after eating, bacteria will use the sugars and starch to produce acids that can eat through the enamel on your teeth. After a while, tooth decay begins. The more often you eat and the longer food residue stays in your mouth, the greater the potential for damage.

You may be surprised to learn that some foods that are otherwise very good for you are also high in sugars and starch. Just some examples are fruit, milk, bread, cereal and even vegetables. You don't have to stay away from these foods. In fact, they're part of a balanced diet. But keep in mind that foods eaten as part of a meal–as opposed to a snack–cause less harm because you produce more saliva during a meal. That helps wash food residue from the mouth and lessens the impact of acids.

Finally, limit your snacks. Each time you eat food with sugar or starch, acids attack your teeth for 20 minutes or more.

Presented as a community service by Dr. Scott Arndt, at 33650 Center Ridge Road, Phone 327-9006 or 835-9939 for information and appointment. Very early morning, evening and Saturday hours available.

CORRIDOR, from page 1

SR 83 with a cul-de-sac at Ridge and East Street.

There were 12 votes for the Root Road realignment, with two wanting no adjustments at that intersection, four recommending minimum realignment of the north and south portions to a single intersection and six agreeing the south leg should be adjusted.

Public opinion seemed to favor a plaza connector with an outlet to Jaycox at the Marc's Plaza and a signal at the entrance off Center Ridge Road, while the vote on options at the Giant Eagle Plaza were close, with most wanting an access off Pitts Boulevard.

Eighteen votes went to a cul-de-sac on Olive Avenue with a traffic outlet onto Wallace Boulevard while 13 said to leave it as it is.

The eighth consideration involved the Wild Flower Development, with a number of people preferring closing access to US 20 and routing to Emerald Street.

"Not everyone was jumping for joy," Gillock said. "But they weren't too brutal."

The primary audience for the forum were people who would be affected by the widening, he said, adding that there were good comments.

The mayor noted several people who offered some ideas about the plans, including Gary Minute, owner of Garden Village, chiropractor Doug Charboneau, whose practice is located in the Midtown Building, west of the middle school, and the Rev. Stephen Kaminski, pastor of St. Peter Church.

"Father Kaminski had some really good options," Gillock said. "Really good."

A number of those attending questioned the wisdom of widening just the stretch from Stoney Ridge to Lear Nagle, rather than the entire length, with the feeling that the bottleneck will continue when vehicles leave the corridor and enter the reduced lanes. The dominant question was, "Why not consider widening the rest of Center Ridge Road end-to-end?"

The issue is "money," Gillock said, adding that the cost ranges from $30 million to $39 million. He said the state has committed to help fund the present project because of the inherent problems, however it is not going to provide money for the preparation work needed to extend the widening project from city limit to city limit.

Gillock said another public forum is expected to be held in March.

LAW DIRECTOR, from page 1

serves on council.

David E. Freel, executive director of the Ohio Ethics Commission told the North Ridgeville Press that he is not sure when the commission will consider Crites' request.

K-9 unit added to Lorain County Jail

Lorain County Sheriff Phil R. Stammitti recently announced the addition of a K-9 unit that will be assigned to the Lorain County Jail.

Correction Officer John Parks will be the K-9 handler and the new addition to the K-9 corps is named Kasper. The 2-year-old German Shepherd was purchased through Von Lindesfarne Kennel in Seville, Ohio.

The sheriff's office has been contemplating having a K-9 in the jail for several years and with the recent overcrowding conditions at the jail it was decided to implement a K-9 program. The Summit County sheriff's office has assisted Stammitti's office in getting the K-9 program up and running.

Kasper was purchased with funds from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund drug monies and the K-9 will be mainly used to search for drugs/contraband concealed on inmates who enter the jail. Since the recent upswing in gang activity and violent tendencies, the K-9 can also be used to assist in quelling any disturbances in the jail and for interior/perimeter checks of the Lorain County Jail.

The addition of the jail K-9 units brings a total of three K-9s at the sheriff's office. Deputies for road patrol and/or narcotic work are using the others.

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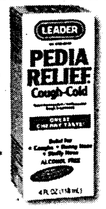
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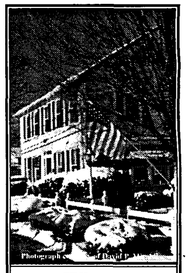


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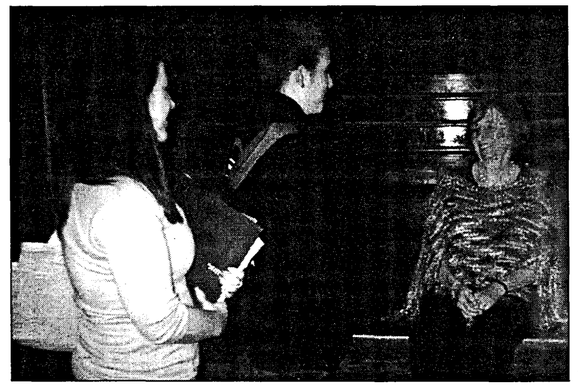
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Well-known psychologist talks to NRHS teens about life and every day problems

By Carol Klear



Wel-known psychologist Sylvia Rimm talks to a couple of students before her talk at North Ridgeville High School

"What's an old grandma got to tell us?"

That was Sylvia Rimm's opening line when she spoke to North Ridgeville High School (NRHS) students on Jan. 24.

The noted child psychologist and clinical professor at Case School of Medicine told them, "I work with parents just like your parents and I work with teachers just like your teachers." She added that she hoped students would take away one message from her talk that would make a difference in their lives.

Introducing herself, Rimm said that in addition to her work at Case and the Family Achievement Clinic in Cleveland, she has written numerous books, including her recent book, "Growing Up Too Fast," which she based on a survey of 5,000 middle school students.

She also appeared on the "Today" show for nine years, as well as "20/20," CNN, local television and perhaps her most exciting TV appearance-"Oprah."

Rimm said that when she was a teenager she never expected to be on television, but the possibility exists that someone in the NRHS audience could one day be on TV.

Before addressing the many questions the teens had prepared, Rimm read a story she had found on the Internet, that focused on a note a daughter had left telling her mother that she and her boyfriend "Brad" had run off to get married.

The young girl effused over Brad's "tattoos, piercings, long hair and beard," then went on to tell her mother that they enjoyed smoking pot and might consider growing marijuana after they settled.

"And the bad news," the daughter wrote, "is that you're going to become a grandmother in August."

As the mother was becoming more anxious with each word, she read her daughter's instruction at the bottom of the note to read the next page. Shuffling to the next piece of paper, the mother read, "I'm really just next door, please look at my report card first before I come home."

When the laughter subsided, Rimm went on to the students' questions which included topics from waking up too early for school to getting along with the family to alcohol and drugs to sex.

"I'm going to leave sex to the end, so you keep awake," Rimm joked.

If it's difficult to get up early for school, the psychologist recommended going to bed earlier, stressing that adolescents need more sleep and "move the TV set out of your bedroom," she added.

Responding to a question on obesity, Rimm cautioned that sometimes teens can be cruel to one another and losing weight is a "tough, tough battle." The answer is to reduce calories, exercise and get help, she said.

When stress becomes a problem, the best idea is to talk it out and try to figure what's causing stress. And again, get enough sleep and exercise was the psychologist's advice.

When she came to "family issues," Rimm admitted that they are difficult however they are also a part of life.

"The most important thing is to be respectful," she said.

When parents divorce, try not to take sides, unless abuse is involved, Rimm said, adding, "both parents have a right to love you."

The psychologist cautioned the teens against becoming caught up in an abusive relationship, whether it is emotional, physical or sexual.

Moving on to the subject of drugs and alcohol, Rimm told the young adults that teens do drugs for many reasons, including the novelty of the idea, fun, peer pressure, because they are socially anxious and to make them feel like adults. However, there are many reasons why drugs are bad, such as impairing judgment, they are against the law, harmful long-term effects of drugs on the brain and the possibility of developing addictions.

When Rimm finally arrived at the discussion on sex, the audience applauded, but when she stated, "Sex is great!" cheers, hoots and hollers erupted.

Then she qualified the statement with the admonition that it should be reserved for when they are older and are in a "committed love relationship."

"Don't become sexually active until you are in a long-term committed relationship," she repeated, adding, however, that if they are sexually active they should use birth control. And if a girl becomes pregnant, "tell your parents," Rimm said.

"Sex is powerful," she said. "Don't be bullied or pressured into having sex. Sex without love is animal behavior."

She also reminded the students of the dangers of sexually transmitted diseases that sometimes result from having unprotected sex, including AIDS.

Concluding her hour-long talk, Rimm said that parents and teachers are trying to instill self-discipline and recommended that the teens, laugh a lot, treat others with respect, stay in school, prepare to go farther and get more education.

Following Rimm's talk, freshman Julie Mellinger said she enjoyed the talk and the thing she would take with her was, "Don't do drugs."

Freshman Daniel Smith said the presentation was "OK," but that teens hear the same type of talk all the time.

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EDUCATION

Chocolate feast turns out to be a yummy lesson for fifth-graders at Liberty Elementary School

Liberty Elementary fifth grade teachers, Pat Post and Gary Neely and their students read "The Chocolate Touch" by Robert Kimmel and a book about the riches of the rainforest which included the history of chocolate. Student Laura Petroff's grandfather worked for the Hershey Company for 40 years and he shared with the students some amazing information about chocolate, including what made a candy creation a "loser" or a "winner."

As a culmination, students planned a formal chocolate feast that was held on the last school day in December. Small groups of students planned an entire table setting including: tablecloths, napkins, silverware, glasses/cups, centerpieces, and candles. The settings were elegant–enough to make "Martha" proud.



Some students enjoying the chocolate feast, from left around the table; Matthew Vondrak, Alexis Wengler, Megan Davila, Rachel Fazekas, Haley Urbansky and Seth Myers.

Students dressed up and practiced their manners according to Emily Post. They visited the buffet table and enjoyed chocolate foods various students brought in. While feasting, the classes watched a video about the chocolate king–Milton Hershey, an entrepreneur whose determination made chocolate into the solid form we enjoy today.

Adult judges evaluated each group and voted for the best three table settings. Though there was only a first, second and third place, everyone congratulated teammates for doing a wonderful job and behaving so politely

Some facts the students learned through the project included:

The saying "Money doesn't grow on trees" may have developed because cacao seeds were used as money long ago. For hundreds of years, chocolate was only found as a drink for the wealthy. The first Spanish explorers encountered chocolate and said it seemed more like a drink for pigs. The chocolates found in Europe are very different from those we eat. Soldiers during the World War benefited from the burst of energy they got from chocolate bars included in their meal kits.

What's for lunch?

For Feb 2-8, 2006

North Ridgeville Middle School/ High School

Thurs: Spaghetti/meat sauce, breadstick, deli sub, salad, peaches, milk
Fri: Hot dog, taco pizza, French fries, pineapple, milk
Mon: Pizza, rib b-que/bun, green beans, fruit cocktail, milk
Tues: Beefy cheesy nachos/wheat roll, grilled chicken/bun, baby carrots, cinnamon apple slices, milk
Wed: Lasagna, breadstick, toasted cheese sandwich, broccoli, red grapes, milk

North Ridgeville Elementary

Thurs: Ravioli, breadstick, green beans, peaches, milk
Fri: Hot dog/bun, french fries, pineapple, milk
Mon: Pizza/cheese slice, green beans, fruit cocktail, milk
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MOST PEOPLE UNINFORMED ABOUT LOW VISION

An American Optometric Association survey found that a majority of consumers lack vision-care knowledge. This is especially true about the condition known as "low vision." Only 27 percent of those interviewed knew what this term meant.

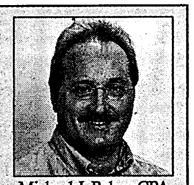
Eye-care professionals use the term low vision to designate partial sight that is not fully correctable with surgery, pharmaceuticals, contact lenses or glasses. Low vision can range from a moderate disability, such as tunnel vision or blind spots, to near blindness. Sometimes it consists of a lack of acuity, when objects do not come into focus.

Low vision is caused by a variety of conditions, including eye injuries, disease and genetics. Cataracts, macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and retinitis pigmentosa are illnesses that may cause vision problems. Talk to your vision-care specialist if you are concerned about your eyesight.

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TIME OUT

It's a new era at LRA



Joe Ostrica

The rivalry between Lake Ridge Academy and Open Door Christian has always been intense. After witnessing last week's girls and boys basketball double header at Lake Ridge, the meeting between the two teams seems to have risen to a whole different level.

It was Spirit Day at Lake Ridge and the stands were packed before the girls game started at 6 p.m. By the time the boys game started, the gym had expanded to standing-room only capacity. Maybe the Open Door crowd was curious to check out the beautiful Rob Hall, nicknamed "The Rob" by the Lake Ridge students.

Whatever it was, the gymnasium was electrified with loud fans. The games definitely lived up to the hype. The Lady Lions, pumped up from a solid effort at Elyria Catholic two nights earlier and even more energized from the love they were receiving from the stands, had no problem handling Open Door in a 43-16 victory. The LRA boys fell to Open Door in a tough 48-41 loss, but gave fans plenty to cheer about for the majority of the contest.

Open Door Christian coach Todd Oswald was very impressed with the new facility and the crowd. Oswald, who remembers playing in the old Lake Ridge gym when he was the head coach at Medina Christian Academy, said Rob Hall is an unbelievable improvement over the previous gym.

"The atmosphere was fantastic tonight," he said. "I love the new gym and it's just a great atmosphere. It was loud in here tonight. That's what high school basketball is all about, right there. When you have a full house on a Friday night, that's awesome. A lot of credit has to go to Lake Ridge. They've built a nice facility."

Oswald said he was also impressed with some of the Lake Ridge student athletes.

"I really like their kids a lot," he said. "I had a chance to talk to a couple of them before the game. They're going to do fine the rest of the year. They're a good team and are well-coached."

NRMS wrestling

The North Ridgeville Middle School wrestling team finished its West Shore Conference dual meet season with wins over Vermillion (57-12) and Avon (66-16).

"The kids wrestled great," NRMS head coach Joel Melvin said. "I had asked them to pick up the intensity. I kept telling them that this match was important, and they responded very well. Even the kids who lost wrestled tough."

The Rangers, 11-1 overall, finished the conference dual meet season at 6-1. Their only loss came against Fairview.

"They handled us pretty good, but our team is a different team now and the conference tournament should be very interesting," Melvin said. "If our kids wrestle like they did against Vermilion and Avon, I think we can win the tournament."

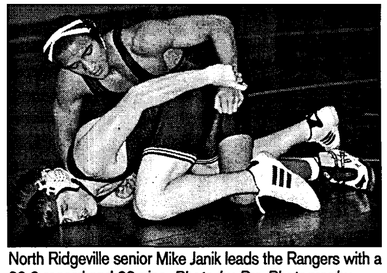
Wrestling alumni night

North Ridgeville's home varsity wrestling match this Saturday against Admiral King is Alumni Night. All Ranger alumni wrestlers will receive free admission to the match, which starts at 7 p.m.

pressostrica@hotmail.com

Transfers help lead Rangers to perfect West Shore record

By Joe Ostrica



North Ridgeville senior Mike Janik leads the Rangers with a 32-2 record and 23 pins. *Photo by Pro Photography*

Last Thursday's tri-match sweep over Firelands (60-14) and Avon (41-21) helped the North Ridgeville wrestling team clinch a perfect 7-0 record in West Shore Conference action. Rangers' head coach Ed Haller was pleased to see his team maintain a steady pace all season in the inaugural of the WSC.

"It's nice to be 7-0, but you still have to place in the top two to win it all," Haller said about the upcoming West Shore Conference Championship on Feb. 11 at Bay. "We did a nice job in the regular season and still have a little more to accomplish."

The Rangers owe a big part of their success to two students who transferred into the school this year. Mike Janik, a 140-pound senior who previously wrestled at St. Edward, improved to 29-0 for the season after two wins at the tri-match. Janik pinned Fireland's Paul Garcia (1:47) and defeated Avon's Alex Tabar in a 17-5 major decision. Although Janik's win streak came to an end at last Saturday's Cardinal Duals, he still has a team-best 32-2 record. His team-best 23 pins ties Dan Priebe's school record for most pins in a season.

Another transfer, junior Josh Counts (125), returned to North Ridgeville after wrestling at Elyria Catholic. Counts went 6-0 for the week, improving to 26-5 for the season. Counts pinned Firelands' Alex Vandalov in 1:06 and defeated Avon's Eric Swandt 5-2. He went 4-0 at the Cardinal Duals.

"They're really helping the team," Haller said. "When you have 32 and 26 wins, that always adds a lot to a team. They're production is pretty good on our stats and they're really helping us, making us a tougher team. We're a good team anyhow, but a little addition really helps."

Counts said he's happy with his return to North Ridgeville, as are his teammates.

"It was basically my mom's decision for me to come back here, but I wanted to come back," he said. "The atmosphere is better here. I grew up and wrestled here, so I knew everyone already. The teams was surprised I came back. Nobody knew I was coming back. It was kind of on a short notice, but everyone was kind of excited to see me back here."

Despite his 26-5 record, Counts is very critical about his performance. A disappointing finish last year is what motivates him.

"I should be a lot better this year, a lot better," he said. "I started out really bad, but I'm picking it up now like I always do towards the end of the year. I want to be a state-placer, nothing lower than that. I missed going last year to state in the last 10 seconds. I made the match to go to state and lost in the very end."

Counts said it's nice to experience a conference championship race this season, something that was missing at EC.

"Coming from EC, I never was ever

SEE **WRESTLING,** page 11

Ranger bowlers ranked second in state

The North Ridgeville boys bowling team has found much success this season, going 7-0. The Rangers are currently ranked second in the state following a recent win over Elyria Catholic.

The Rangers finished with 2,258 total pins. The Panthers had 1,689. Jason Case led the Rangers with a team-high 275. Chris Henning (226) and Aaron Klein (204) followed.

The Rangers edged Vermilion on Jan. 23 with 2,186 total pins compared to the Sailors' 2,100. Bryan Cioffloetti bowled games of 202 and 193. Klein (213, 182), Henning (231, 154) and Case (202, 156) all had at least one game over 200. Andrew Gorzelanczyk (168) and Frank Kotas (171) each bowled one game. Freshman Patrick Connor totaled 520 in two games (279 and 241) for the JV team.

The Rangers also defeated Firelands (2,370-2,072) on Jan. 18. Case (256, 202), Klein (214, 212) and Henning (205, 193) led the charge.

The Rangers will end their regular season in today's 4 p.m. match against Admiral King at Center Ridge Lanes. Sectional playoffs are scheduled to begin Feb. 5.

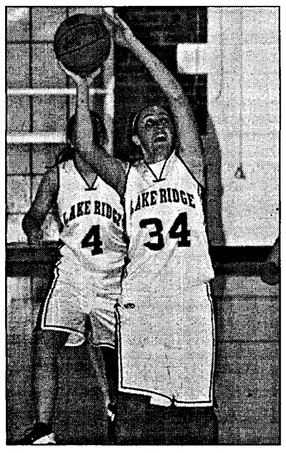
Lady Rangers 6-1

The Rangers aren't the only team doing well in the lanes this season. The Lady Ranger bowling team is 6-1 after a recent win over Elyria Catholic. North Ridgeville defeated the Lady Panthers 1,618-1,470. Heather Becka (165) and Sara Quillin (161) finished with high scores.

The Lady Rangers' lone loss came against Vermilion (1,922-1,724). Quillin (171, 129) and Melissa Lee (176, 123) were the team leaders.

Strong defensive effort helps Lady Lions handle rival Open Door

By Joe Ostrica



LRA senior center Alisha Bouzaher had a game-high 18 rebounds to go along with 10 points, six steals and one block against Open Door Christian. *Photo by Pro Photography*

Something very positive came out of the Lake Ridge Academy girls basketball team's loss at Elyria Catholic on Jan. 25. Despite dropping the contest 45-38 to the Lady Panthers, Lake Ridge frustrated EC all night with its defensive effort.

According to LRA head coach Malisha Richardson, that intensity carried over into the Lady Lions' home contest against rival Open Door Christian two nights later.

That was bad news for Open Door. The Lady Lions easily handled them with a 43-16 victory, racking up 26 team steals along the way. Open Door made just eight field goals and made no trips to the free throw line. They were held scoreless for 9:30 over the first and second quarters.

"I think the Elyria Catholic games is what really got the team pumped up for tonight," Richardson said. "They saw what they could do and what kind of team they could be. The fact that they didn't win doesn't even explain the game. They played wonderfully that night. The defense was perfect. The same defense that played Open Door tonight was there at Elyria Catholic a couple of nights ago. They (EC) just had more threes than we did.

"The performance they had that night really showed them what they could do and now they have confidence and are playing well right now."

Both teams got off to a slow start, but Lake Ridge held an 8-4 advantage after the opening quarter. The Lady Lions held Open Door scoreless for the first 7:30 of the second quarter. The Lake Ridge offense racked up 16 points in the quarter to take a 24-6 lead at halftime.

With three players in double figures in scoring and three players in double figures in rebounding, Richardson was pleased to see the offense clicking as well as the defense.

"They worked really hard," she said. "I couldn't ask for more. They did a wonderful job."

Sophomore Alex Hansen led the attack with 14 points, 13 steals and six assists. Senior center Alisha Bouzaher had a game-high 18 rebounds to go along with 10 points and six steals. Senior Georgia DiOrio scored 10 points, one 3-pointer, 10 rebounds, three steals and two assists. Mary Elise Topp chipped in 10 rebounds.

"Hard defense, making our shots, crashing the boards, boxing out and good passes, all those little things help everything fall together," Bouzaher said. "We had an awesome game at EC doing all of those things, even though we lost. We wanted to come out with that same intensity again. I try to get up on the boards a lot. It was nice to get everybody out there in the game.

"If we keep going into every game like we did tonight and against EC, we should be alright. We've just got to keep going in strong and do our best."

Bouzaher and her teammates continued with that attitude the next night at Columbia and walked away with a 39-34 victory. Bouzaher and DiOrio shared game-high scoring honors with 12 points apiece. Hansen finished with 11 points as Lake Ridge improved to 9-6 for the season.

The Lady Lions will face back-to-back road challenges this week. After traveling to Oberlin tomorrow and Brooklyn on Saturday, Lake Ridge will have nearly a week off before returning home to host Elyria First Baptist Christian Feb. 10.

"We're going to practice like we always do and focus on our defense like we always do," Richardson said. "We're going to work on getting some shots to fall in. Hopefully we'll come out with a 'W.'"

Sports Schedules

Wednesday, Feb. 1
Girls Basketball
7:30 p.m.: Rocky River @ NRHS

Thursday, Feb. 2
Girls Basketball
7:30 p.m.: LRA @ Oberlin

Friday, Feb. 3
Boys Basketball
7:30 p.m.: Avon @ NRHS
7:30 p.m.: Brookside @ LRA

Saturday, Feb. 4
Girls Basketball
2:30 p.m.: NRHS @ Fairview
7 p.m.: LRA @ Brooklyn
Wrestling
7 p.m.: Admiral King @ NRHS

Tuesday, Feb. 7
Boys Basketball
7:30 p.m.: NRHS @ North Royalton
8 p.m.: LRA @ Christian Community

Wednesday, Feb. 8
Girls Basketball
7:30 p.m.: Firelands @ NRHS

Friday, Feb. 10
Boys Basketball
7:30 p.m.: Rocky River @ NRHS
7:30 p.m.: EFBC @ LRA
Girls Basketball
6 p.m.: EFBC @ LRA

Saturday, Feb. 11
Wrestling
TBA: NRHS/WSC Championships @ Bay
Boys Basketball
8 p.m.: LRA @ Horizon Science

Tuesday, Feb. 14
Boys Basketball
7:30 p.m.: Oberlin @ LRA

Fourth quarter scoring drought gives Open Door edge over Lions

By Joe Ostrica

For three-and-a-half quarters, the Lake Ridge Academy boys basketball team held tight with rival Open Door Christian at last Friday's home meet against the Patriots. Unfortunately for the Lions, they went 4:25 without scoring a point while the Patriots scored nine unanswered points to seal the win 48-41.

"I told our guys I don't think it was as much our shooting as it was us giving up too many offensive rebounds," LRA head coach James Knight said. "In one play they had four or five offensive rebounds with a few minutes left and we were only down two points. That was crucial. That and we had too many turnovers. We weren't taking care of the ball too well.

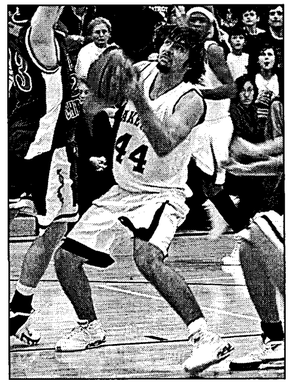
"That being said, this was without a doubt a much better effort than the last time we faced Open Door."

The Lions, who suffered a 55-44 loss at Open door on Dec. 6, were prepared to guard North Ridgeville's Danny McClintic this time around. McClintic punished the Lions with 21 points in the first meeting. With the Lions double-teaming McClintic, that gave Open Door coach Todd Oswald more options. Dave Reszegi made Lake Ridge pay with their game plan and finished with a game-high 20 points.

"We decided at halftime if they were going to double Danny, we were going to bring Danny out to the wing and send Reszegi in because he was matched up with one of their guards," Oswald said about his 6'4" senior. "Dave played so well tonight and just didn't give up an inch. There are times when you just have to sort of gut one out. That was an ugly one, but we got it done.

"Lake Ridge did such a nice job tonight, trying to take away what we wanted to do. They're a well-coached team and their kids are top notch."

The Lions jumped on top of Open Door in the early going, taking a 15-6 lead after the opening quarter and increasing that lead to 11 points (17-6) in the opening minute of the second quarter.



LRA senior Greg Norton (44) led the Lions with 11 points against Open Door. *Photo by Pro Photography*

Open Door turned up the defensive pressure from there, limiting the Lions to just two field goals. Open Door's offense also woke up and took a one-point lead (19-18) with a 13-1 run. The Lions were able to battle back and take a 23-21 advantage at halftime.

"The one thing that really frustrated me was when they got a steal, we'd only have a couple of guys running back," Knight said. "When the other team has three of four guys sprinting at you, you're in major trouble."

The Lions held a five-point lead twice in the third quarter. Both instances came after sophomore point guard Sammie Farhat hit a 3-pointer. After LRA led 34-29, Open Door closed out the third quarter with a 6-0 run to take a 35-34 lead into the final quarter.

A free throw by LRA senior Assad Butt tied the scored 35-35 to start the final quarter, but Reszegi scored back-to-back baskets to put the Patriots up 39-35. A free throw by Greg Norton and a 3-pointer by Moudy Farhat tied the game up again (39-39) with 4:32 remaining.

LRA did not score another basket until sophomore Diego Chada connected on a putback with just 6.9 seconds remaining. By then the Patriots had gone on a 9-0 run to seal the win.

Knight admitted going against a team with Open Door's size, which includes four starters 6'3" or taller, was a challenge. LRA, meanwhile, has just one starter that stands over 6'0".

"That's what hurt us, to a degree," Knight said. "Two or three times Brett (Cannaday) was there and the post was four inches taller than him and too strong."

Moudy Farhat and Norton led the Lions with 11 points apiece. Moudy Farhat also had three 3-pointers, two rebounds, one steal and one assists. Norton finished with five rebounds and one steal. Cannaday scored nine points, grabbed seven rebounds and had two steals and two assists. Sammie Farhat (six points, two 3-pointers, six steals, two assists, one rebound), Butt (two points, three rebounds) and Chada (two points, one rebound) rounded out the scoring.

Knight was impressed with Farhat's play despite battling the flu all week.

"Moudy was able to shoot around last night, but he wasn't 100 percent today," he said. "He wasn't going to miss this game though and gutted it out. He didn't do too bad for somebody that was out for five days."

The Lions, who traveled to Fuchs Mizrachi on Tuesday (after NRP deadline), will host Brookside on Friday at 7:30 p.m.

"I'm trying to encourage the guys not to get frustrated and down," Knight said. "We've got to turn this thing around. We're on a three-game losing streak now and are 5-8. We need to get a little win streak going. Brookside is going to be a tough matchup. They are a competitive team."

Rangers follow win at Vermilion with Bay loss, drop to fifth in WSC

Despite a big 50-36 win over West Shore Conference rival Vermilion last Friday, the North Ridgeville boys basketball found themselves sitting at fifth-place at the end of the weekend. A 54-43 home loss to Bay the following night left three teams tied for second in the conference with 6-4 WSC records and North Ridgeville one game behind at 5-5. Rocky River continues to keep plenty of distance from the pack with a 9-1 WSC record.

The Rangers had little trouble handling Vermilion on the road thanks to their great defensive performance. The Rangers held the Sailors' leading scorer Colin Vories to just five points, his lowest total of the year. Last week Vories scored 35 and 28 points. The win completes a season sweep over Vermilion for North Ridgeville. After starting the season 3-0, the Rangers handed the Sailors their first loss of the season in a 64-54 Dec. 16 contest.

After taking a 19-14 halftime lead, the Rangers blew the game open in the third quarter, outscoring the Sailors 15-5. Nick Carpenter led the Rangers with 14 points, including two 3-pointers. Mike Nelson finished with 13 points, three 3-pointers and six assists. Sean Bunevich had a game-high 13 rebounds to go along with five points.

The Rockets handled the Rangers the following night exactly the way Ridgeville handled Vermilion–with defense. Bay was determined to contain Carpenter, who scored 23 against the Rockets in their first meeting. The game plan worked. The senior shooting guard was held to just eight points and two 3-pointers. Although Jordan White (14 points) and Bunevich (10 points) managed double figures, no other Ranger scored over four points. The Rockets, who led by just four (30-26) at halftime, outscored the Rangers 24-17 in the second half.

North Ridgeville will look to bounce back with a home game this Friday against last-place Avon (1-9 in WSC, 3-11 overall). The game begins at 7:30 p.m. The Rangers will follow with a 7:30 p.m. non-conference road contest against former Pioneer Conference rival North Royalton on Tuesday.

West Shore Conference Standings
(as of January 30, 2006)

	WSC RECORD	OVERALL RECORD
Rocky River	9-1	13-1
Bay	6-4	10-4
Firelands	6-4	9-5
Midview	6-4	9-6
North Ridgeville	5-5	7-8
Vermilion	4-6	7-7
Fairview	3-7	6-10
Avon	1-9	3-11

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Number-one Ranger baseball fan passes, but spirit remains with team

By Joe Ostrica

When Ed Grochowski died Jan. 4 at the age of 92, the city of North Ridgeville didn't just lose its number-one baseball fan, as Grochowski was known. They also lost an amazing person beloved by several former North Ridgeville High School baseball players.

Grochowski lived in North Ridgeville for nearly 50 years and was passionate about baseball, particularly Cleveland Indians baseball. He was an avid collector of autographed baseballs, model bats, banners, programs, photographs and so many other memorabilia items that one section of his home was known as the "Baseball Museum."

Some items that held a special place in Grochowski's heart was items he collected from the North Ridgeville Ranger baseball teams. Grochowski formed a friendship with local baseball legend Dell Bethel, a former player for the New York Giants that coached locally and also worked with the Cleveland Indians for several years as a scout and hitting coach.

When Bethel coached the Rangers in the late 70's and early 80's, Grochowski would attend all the games and was adopted as a sort of mascot for the team.

"Ed never missed a game when I coached," Bethel said. "He always had gum for the kids. 'Here comes Mr. Gum,' they'd say. That was the nickname they gave him. He'd have a big bag of gum for them. He'd even come down to the practices sometimes. He'd say 'Those guys are half dead. You're killing those guys Bethel.'

"Ed was North Ridgeville's number-one fan. The kids loved him. When we made it to the regional finals against Parma, we gave him the trophy. At the end of every season, the teams gave Ed an autographed team ball at the team banquet."

According to Bethel, Grochowski would sometimes donate more than his time to Ranger baseball.

"Ed would also donate money for kids that were underprivileged and couldn't afford things," Bethel said. "He'd give them money to buy new shoes or whatever they needed to play.

"Ed was one of a kind. He was always positive. He even knew about some kids new to the neighborhood a year ago and would pay for them to play in Hot Stove because they couldn't afford it. He would never say anything about it. He never made a big deal about it. He'd just give them the money. Ed was a great guy like that."

Bethel said he enjoyed taking Grochowski to nearly a dozen Indians games every season. Grochowski, who had been following the Indians his entire life, was impressive with his knowledge of baseball history.

"We'd go to a lot of Indians ball games in the summer," Bethel said. "I made it a point just to take him. In his later years it got tougher and tougher. Then he finally couldn't take it anymore and he'd just stay home and watch the games on TV.

"I even got to take him to see (Mark) McGuire when he crushed that home run. We always had a good time. I'd get him free tickets behind home plate or somewhere nice. Ed knew the history of the game. Some of the coaches he remembered from when they were players."



The late Eddie Grochowski (left) seen here with Bob Feller, received a gift (stamp, inset) from the legendary Cleveland Indians pitcher after he gave Feller a special baseball.

One of Grochowski's prized possessions was a Bob Feller stamp given to him by the legendary Indians pitcher himself.

"Ed had a 1944 autographed team ball from the Indians," Bethel said. "That was when Feller was in the Navy during the war, so that ball meant a lot to him. Ed gave it to Feller for his museum in Van Meter, Iowa. Feller was so touched that he gave Ed a stamp with his likeness on it. It was number 199 out of 5,000. The lower the number is the higher the value of the stamp. So Ed got a very low number and was really thrilled to get that.

"Feller always treated him nice even before Ed gave him the stamp. Feller was tickled pink when Ed gave him that ball. Ed volunteered to give it away and Bob was ecstatic to get it."

Over the years Bethel was surprised when he would run into former Ranger players and they would ask how Grochowski was.

"It's amazing, whenever the guys come back or I run into them, they always would ask how Ed was doing," Bethel recalled. "They called him the team's good luck charm. They really got to believe that he was. We won a lot of games when he was there."

WRESTLING, from page 9

really in a dual match," he said. "We were always in tournaments. I like the dual matches. It's actually exciting to be going for a conference championship. Winning one would be good for the whole team."

Haller said Janik's leadership, along with senior Alec Barker, has been great for the team this season. Barker (215) pinned Firelands's Matt Stravaski (1:55) and won by forfeit against Avon. He went 4-1 with two pins at the Cardinal Duals, improving to 31-4 with 19 total pins.

"Mike Janik is an excellent leader," Haller praised. "Josh is just coming into his own and helps. They're all helping, along with Barker. Barker has been here for four years. You can't slight him when he's 31-4."

In addition to the pin record, Haller said Janik might be able to break another school record before he's finished.

"Right now he's sitting on 32 wins and I think the most wins we've ever had is 36 or 37," he said. "If he goes all the way in and does what he's supposed to be doing the remainder of the year, he could break that record. There's still a lot of wrestling left."

Senior Kyle Armaro improved to 19-7 after going 5-1 for the week. Armaro pinned Firelands' Larry Wingard in 57 seconds at 171 pounds. He moved up to 189 pounds to wrestle Dave Stringer of Avon. Armaro pinned Stringer in 3:47. Greg Byrd went 6-1 for the week, improving to 18-6. Byrd pinned Brian Pete of Firelands in 29 seconds. He won by forfeit over Avon and pinned one opponent at the Cardinal Duals in five seconds.

"Kyle and Greg are having good years for us," Haller said. "They're both close to 20 wins and are doing well."

Shane Friend (160) improved to 17-12 for the season, picking up four wins for the week. Friend pinned Kane Hogan of Firelands in 3:49. He defeated Avon's Louis Quintana 9-1. Kyle Beaune improved to 16-9 for the season and also won both matches in the WSC tri-match. Beaune won a 6-0 decision against Avon's J. DiFransco. He won by forfeit over Firelands.

The Rangers will host Admiral King at 7 p.m. on Saturday. Haller said it will be good to get his key wrestlers one more match before the WSC Championship the following week.

"We need to keep the timing and everything down so we'll just wrestle the way we've been," he said. "We had seven matches this weekend. I don't want seven before the conference championship. To have a match or two this week is fine.

"We're in the driver's seat, but it's not over yet. The tournament points added to the dual meet points are what make a conference championship. Nothing is over at this point, but we are looking pretty decent right now."

On Deck

Editor's Note: On Deck submissions are due before 4 p.m. on the Thursday before the desired publication date. Items are run on a space available basis. E-mail items to pressostrica@hotmail.com. Fax items to 933-7904, mail to P.O. Box 300, Avon Lake 44012 or drop them off at our offices at 158 Lear Road in Avon Lake.

NRASL registration

Registration for the 2006 North Ridgeville Amateur Soccer League (NRASL) season will be held Feb. 4, 18 and 25 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at The North Ridgeville Branch Library. Children ages 5-13 are eligible to enroll to play soccer. Registration will also be required for children that previously played. The Tot Soccer program for U-4 will also be offered. At least one parent or legal guardian must be present, with proof of residence and a copy of the child's birth certificate. For more information, including a description of the boundaries, call Michael Collier. Registration forms can be downloaded from www.nrasl.com Completed forms with payments can be mailed to: NRASL, P.O. Box 39482, North Ridgeville, 44039. Forms must be postmarked by Feb. 28.

Hot Stove baseball

Registrations for the 2006 Hot Stove baseball season will be held at Palmer Field Feb. 11 and 18 from 10 a.m.-noon and Feb. 19 from noon-2 p.m. Costs are $85 for boys farm players (ages 5-7), $95 for girls farm players (ages 5-8) and boys travel teams (age 8), $105 for boys H and G and girls A and B (ages 9-12) teams, $125 for boys F and girls C (ages 13-14) teams and $165 for boys E, D and EE teams. Open registration is available for the farm teams. Limited openings are available for those ages 8 and up.

Baseball fundraiser

A fundraiser for the North Ridgeville Ranger summer baseball team will be held at Bullfrogs Sports Lounge located on Center Ridge Road Feb. 25 from 6-8 p.m. for anyone 21 and over. Each admission ($15) includes unlimited beverages and appetizers. Tickets are limited. Sponsors are also needed to assist with uniforms and tournament fees. For more info, contact Don Chismar at 327-6193.

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Thursday

9 a.m. Men's Breakfast-Senior Center
Noon-3 p.m. Tax Time-Senior Center
1-4 p.m. Cards/games-Senior Center
1 p.m. Toddler story time-NR Library
5:15-6:15 p.m. Beginner Tae Kwon Do-Safeteyville building
6:30-7:30 p.m. Cardio-fit kickboxing-Safetyville building
7 p.m. Preschool story time-NR Library

Friday

9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Low cost immunizations-SJWS Community Outreach Center
9:30-11 a.m. On Target fencing-Senior Center
4-5 p.m. Theater workshop-NRHS
5-6 p.m. Magic class, grades 1-8-NRHS
6:00-7:00 p.m. Women's self defense-Safetyville building
7:30-8:15 p.m. Family self-defense-Safetyville building

Saturday

8:30-10 a.m. Breakfast with the birds-Sandy Ridge Reservation-Johnson Wetland Center
9-11:30 a.m. On Target fencing-Senior Center
9:30-10:30 a.m. Cardio kickboxing/powerflex-Safetyville building
10:30 a.m. Toddler story time-NR Library
10:45-11:45 a.m Tae Kwon Do-Safetyville building
11:30 a.m. Preschool story time-NR Library
2 p.m. Intro. to the Web-NR Library

Sunday

10-11:30 a.m. Pre-Super Bowl hike-Sandy Ridge Reservation-Johnson Wetland Center
10-11:30 a.m. Self defense-Safetyville building
2 p.m. Amelia Earhart-NR Library

Monday

9-9:50 a.m. A new wrinkle-Senior Center
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Crafting/quilting-Senior Center
12;30-2 p.m. Free glucose and blood pressure screenings-SJWS Community Outreach Center
1 p.m. Toddler story time-NR Library
1-2 p.m. Free Audiology Screenings- SJWS Hospital Bldg.2, Suite 290
2-4 p.m. Computer Class Basic III-Senior Center
6-8 p.m. Free blood pressure screenings-Westlake Recreation Center
6:30-7:30 p.m. Cardio-fit kickboxing-Safetyville building
6:30-7:45 p.m. Yoga-Senior Center
7 p.m. Preschool story time-NR Library
7:30 p.m. City council meeting-Council chambers
7:45-8:45 p.m. Tae Kwon Do-Safetyville building

Tuesday

10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Cleveland Home & Garden Show trip-meet at Senior Center
10:30 a.m. or 1 p.m. Preschool story time-NR Library
Noon-3 p.m.-Tax time-Senior Center
1-2:30 p.m. Better Breathers Club- Community Education Room, University Hospitals Westlake
1-4 p.m. Watercolor class-Senior Center
1:30 p.m. Mall trip/Red Hats-Senior Center
4-5:15 p.m. Bowling, ages 3-adult-Brunswick Zone
5:30 p.m. BOE work session-Conference Room, Ed Center
5:15-6:15 p.m. Beginner Tae Kwon Do-Safetyville building
6:30-8:30 p.m. Boot camp for new dads-Community Health Partners, Lorain
6:30-7:30 p.m. Cardio-fit kickboxing-Safetyville building
7- 9 p.m Cancer Support Group "I am Whole"-SJWS Community Outreach
8-9:30 p.m. Fencing-Middle school

Wednesday

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Watercolor class-Senior Center
Noon Lunch, cards, bingo-Senior Center
6:20-8 p.m. AWANA meeting-North Ridgeville Baptist Church
6:30 p.m. Pregnancy at 30 Something- SJWS Hospital
6:30-7:30 p.m. Cardio-fit kickboxing-Safetyville building
6:30-8:30 p.m. New Beginnings-SJWS Community Outreach Center
7 p.m. Step-Up club-NR Library
7:45-8:45 p.m. Tae Kwon Do-Safetyville building

Lifestyles

Go Red on National Wear Red Day

Go Red for Women is a nationwide movement celebrating the energy, passion and power to band together and wipe out heart disease. Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women–and of men–but the good news is that heart disease can largely be prevented. Spreading the Go Red for Women message empowers women to love–and save–their hearts through lifestyle choices and actions.

National Wear Red Day is Feb. 3 and millions of Americans will be wearing red to show their support for women and the fight against heart disease. By wearing red on National Wear Red Day, you can help the American Heart Association raise awareness of heart disease and inspire women to take charge of their heart health. Go red in your own fashion and wear your favorite red clothes or accessory or sport a red tie and red socks. Show some heart for heart disease prevention.

Multi-family resale for Oberlin Choir

To benefit the Oberlin Choristers, a community childrens' choir organization serving northeast Ohio, a giant 300-family resale will be held on Feb. 4 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the New Russia Township Hall, 4628 Butternut Ridge Road, Oberlin. Thousands of items will be for sale. Admission is free. For more information, call (440) 774-4079.

North Ridgville Library events

Amelia Earhart Program

Record-breaking aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart will be portrayed by Carol Starre-Kmiecik in a free program Feb. 5 at 2 p.m. The one-woman show features an original script using many of the actual words of Amelia Earhart. Starre-Kmiecik has been performing on stage for over 35 years. All ages are welcome to attend.For more information, call the library at 440-327-8326.

Reading Party for Children

A Reading Party will be held Feb. 11 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Three year olds through fifth graders are invited to this free program. Kiwanis and High School Key Club members will read to 3-year-olds through second graders. Third through fifth graders can bring pillows and blankets to use while reading independently. Free popcorn, snacks and prizes will be provided, and certificates will be given to children who read at least one half hour. Come anytime during the three hour time and stay as long as you want to read. The Reading Party is co-sponsored by the North Ridgeville Kiwanis and the North Ridgeville Branch Library. For more information, call the library.

Steel Drum Band Program

Come listen to the unique sound of the Steel Away Drum Band Feb. 12 at 2 p.m. The program is free and for all ages. For more information, call the library.

Valentine date and dance

Couples tune up your communication skills, play games and participate in ballroom dance lessons and demonstrations, Feb. 11, noon-3 p.m. at the Senior Center. Refreshments will be provided. The cost is $35 per couple.

To register for any of the above programs, call 353-0860 or stop in at the North Ridgeville Parks & Rec office.

Infant Death Support Group

An Infant Death Support Group will be held the second Thursday of each month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Community Outreach Center at the St. Joseph Community Center, 205 West 20 St., Lorain. This support group is for parents, family members and friends who are experiencing grief due to miscarriage, stillbirth, neonatal, or postnatal infant death. For more information, call Community Health Partners at (440) 233-1047.



Family affair

The Rev. Neriah Edwards, pastor of Fields United Methodist Church joins several members of the Worcester family at the State of the City event held Jan. 19. Standing from left, Edwards, Alan and John Worcester; seated, June, Shirley and Del Worcester.

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"Oh, My Aching Knees!"



Michael G. Hritz, M.D.

Do your knees hurt? Attend this educational presentation given by Michael G. Hritz, M.D. of Orthopaedic Associates and learn more about new diagnostic techniques and treatments for osteoarthritis in the knees.

Monday, February 6, 2006
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
At
BRADLEY BAY Health Center
605 Bradley Road, Bay Village, OH 44140
Assisted Living Dining Room
RSVP (440) 871-3474
This presentation is co-sponsored by:
ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION Take Control. We Can Help.
Genzyme BioSurgery

CLASSIFIEDS

5 Commercial Property

LONG TIME SMALL BUSINESS
Person looking to purchase 1 acre of commercial property in **Avon/Avon Lake area.**
Vacant or with Building
440-371-7705

10 Homes for Sale

AVON LAKE 32825 Fox Chappel Lane. Beautiful area. 4BDRM/2½BTH, newly finished basement, neutral decor, built 1996, huge deck and gazebo, new stainless steel appliances stay, sprinkler system. Must see. $289,000. 440-930-2572

AVON LAKE cul-de-sac. 4BDRM/2.5-BTH, deck, gourmet-kitchen w/stainless steel Kitchen Aid appliances, glamour master bath w/jacuzzi whirlpool tub. 2FP, lots more. $319,000. 440-933-5709.

Avon Open House
Sat. 2/04/06 12:00-3:00pm
Sun. 2/05/06 12:00-3:00pm
36918 Lakeland Drive
(off of Stoney Ridge)
Unique Avon Cedar Ranch
Sitting on almost 1-acre
Wooded lot w/pond
MUST SEE this 3BDRM/2½BTH, full basement, fireplace, deck, gazebo, 2+car garage. **$239,900**
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NORTH OLMSTED By appointment only. 23953 Amesbury Drive. Elegant 3BDRM split on quiet residential street. Totally renovated, new bath, ceramic tile in kitchen/foyer, carpeting, roof and A/C. Near schools and shopping. 2½ car garage. Easy access to 480 & I90. Priced at $159,900. 440-823-3388

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Newly Updated 3BDRM/2FBTH
New kitchen/baths, furnace, roof, windows, C/A. 2-car garage
Great deal. Won't last long.
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52 Commercial Space For Rent

10 Homes for Sale

VERMILION 924 Bryant Drive. Move right in. 3BDRM/2FBTH ranch. 2-car garage, C/A, full finished basement w/FBTH, fenced yard. Very nice neighborhood. $176,000. NextHome 888-565-4100 ext. 8202

20 Lots & Acreage For Sale

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123 Lakeview Drive
$65,000 each
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3.5 ACRES
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30 Out of Town Property

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1 MONTH *FREE* RENT
NEW LISTING-Condo For Rent. North Olmsted 2BDRM. Remodeled-new carpet, appliances, floors, bath. Walk to GN Mall & restaurants. Elevator, party room, pool, laundry. No pets. $650/mo plus deposit. 440-779-6023.

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AVON LAKE
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3 bedroom, 1½ bath ranch with Central Air and all appliances. Close to park, shopping and schools. $850/month + security deposit. No pets & no smoking.
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NORTH OLMSTED 2BDRM ranch, updated kitchen, 2-car attached garage, familyroom, large wooded lot. $850/month. Available immediately. Call 440-225-9670

VERMILION Fabulous lake view condo. 2BDRM/2½BTH, den. $1200/month. Will consider option to buy. 330-502-3399

VERMILION Ferndale area. Attractive 2BDRM ranch, appliances, $550/month plus deposit. 440-749-3621

Vermilion: S. Shore
2BDRM/1.5BTH Townhome
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$550/month
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80 Help Wanted

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125 Notices and Announcements

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230 Garage Sales

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345 Miscellaneous For Sale

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345 Miscellaneous For Sale

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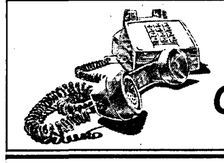
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