



Rangers take third at Avon Holiday tournament

See Sports, page 7



North Ridgeville sports: A year in review

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NORTH RIDGEVILLE Press Light

December 31, 2003 • VOL. 63, NO. 50

50¢



Time to recall special persons, places and events of 2003

By Carol Klear

Today we close the book on 2003 and look forward with anticipation to what lies ahead in 2004, hoping to realize at least some of our dreams. But before we step over the threshold into a new year, let's take a last look at some of the people, places and events that took center stage in The Press & Light during the past 12 months.

January

North Ridgeville's Tax Abatement Board approves Summit Tool's request for a 10-year abatement on personal property, and looks forward to the company adding 40 new jobs to the North Ridgeville site.

Denny Johnson receives the prestigious Charles H. Stuart Award, an honor given to a North Ridgeville Republican who provides exemplary service to the party and to the community.

North Ridgeville High School (NRHS) senior Matt Rabung breaks the school's wrestling record.

The North Ridgeville Fire Department raises \$6,000 for the burn unit at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland.

Larry Bowersox begins his new position as superintendent of North Ridgeville City Schools.

Larry Griffith is hired as the new city engineer to replace Tom Beutler.

Mayor Deanna Hill gives her last State of the City address during the Chamber of Commerce luncheon.

Christ Chapel in Savannah

Estates gets a new pastor, Ralph Palmer.

Councilman Denny Johnson accuses Safety Service Director Jim Johnson of possible impropriety in connection with his sewer tap-in at the North Ridgeville Tire Center.

February

NRHS graduate Maj. Charles Hobaugh, USMC, is the last person to talk with a member of the crew of the space shuttle Columbia, before it apparently disintegrated.

Three Republicans-Tom Dake, Rosemary Berg and Dave Gillock-as well as two Democrats-Jim Johnson and Al Swindig-begin lining up as mayoral candidates in the May Primary.

A court date is set for Ron and Sara Siemientkowski's jury trial.

Just three NRHS girls-Brit Swanson, Sarah Anders and Erika Swanson-represent the school's swim team.

The North Ridgeville City Schools (NRCS) celebrate Ranger Pride with new banners to be hung throughout the city.

Patrick Lange takes over as the new boys baseball coach at Lake Ridge Academy.

March

Three months after being elected to a second term as state representative, North Ridgeville attorney Jeff Manning steps down to take over as Lorain County Prosecutor.

Auditor Chris Costin cautions city officials that 2003 might be the

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A new year; a new term

City council was sworn in for a two-year term, Dec. 19. Seated, left to right, Andy Young, D at-large, Ron Arndt, R at-large, Bernadine Butkowsky, R at-large; Standing, Nancy Buescher, R-I, Allen Swindig, D-II, Richard Jaenke, R-III, Bob Olesen, R-IV. The new term begins Jan. 1.

Holiday lights shut off following fire

By Carol Klear

There will be no twinkling Christmas lights along the city's main thoroughfare this holiday season...at least until city officials learn the cause of a fire that erupted on a utility pole at the northeast corner of SR 83 and Center Ridge Road on Dec. 22.

"There was a lot of sparking and arcing from the wires," Safety Service Director, Denny Johnson said. "We killed the power to the ornament lights." Johnson said it apparently started from a bundle of wires owned by Comcast Cable Communications Inc.

However, Gina Petredis, corporate affairs manager for Comcast said the fire started when one of the lighted wreaths fell against the cable company's fibers, noting that "windy nights and Christmas lights" may have triggered the fire.

Petredis said Comcast was alerted to the problem 8 p.m. that night when the company began getting calls from customers complaining that their cable service was out.

"We sent a team of techs out," Petredis said. "In two hours we supplied service."

After the power was cut, five cable technicians and two supervisors remained on the scene to work on the lines and were still there the

next morning.

Not only did the fire knock out cable service to North Ridgeville customers, but it also "ruined service" to the Bay Village and Avon Lake schools, Petredis said. Fortunately, the school districts are on Christmas break.

Lt. Terry Green of the North Ridgeville Fire Department said the department got a call from employees at the BP Station on Center Ridge Road around 8 p.m. about the fire. Green said it was a small fire, but it continued to burn. After checking it out, he said Ohio Edison was called, as well as Alltel and Comcast Cable, because all companies have lines on the utility pole.

Green said the fire crew did not attempt to put out the fire. "It's standard operating procedure that we don't put out fires on wire poles, because of the possibility they could be energized," he said.

"We cordoned off the area, but the lines never came down," Green said. Green said city officials were called and the power was shut off to the Christmas decorations.

"The fire smoldered," he said. "Then it went out."

The cause is still under investigation.

"In 25 years I have never seen a cable or telephone line on fire," Green said.

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New elevator for handicapped at middle school goes into service

By Carol Klear

Going up?
Going down?
North Ridgeville Middle School students with physical challenges can do either as they make their way through the school day, thanks to the new elevator that had its grand opening, Dec. 11.

Required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the elevator will enable students, employees, parents, grandparents and other guests complete access to the facilities in the building. It has passed all inspections and is in operation.

According to Jon Traut, vice president of Williams Brothers Builders Inc. of Elyria, work began on the elevator in August.

"It was done on time and under budget," Traut said.

Dave Livingston, assistant superintendent of business services, commended both Williams Brothers and contractor Burgess & Niple for a job well done. "William Carlson, engineer (with

Burgess & Niple) followed the project all the way," Livingston said.

The \$196,000 in construction and engineering costs required for the project came from permanent improvement levy funds, Livingston said.

"Federal regulations meant it had to be done," Livingston said. "We have been planning for this project for three years. With the guidance of our treasurer and the cooperation of the contractors, we were able to fund this project without impacting district-wide plans for repairs to roofs, sidewalks and classrooms."

Superintendent Larry Bowersox praised the workmanship that went into adding the elevator to the east end of the building, which meant extending a portion of the school's outside wall to accommodate the elevator.

"Even the brick matches," Bowersox said. "It's amazing...a near-perfect project."

Carlson said the project had the support of the district and everyone maintained the goal of "all working together."



Superintendent Larry Bowersox cuts the ribbon for the new elevator. From left, engineer William Carlson, Assistant Principal Bill Greene and Assistant Superintendent Dave Livingston. Behind Livingston are Tom Terrell and Jon Traut of Williams Brothers.

Because of his physical challenges and having classes on various floors, student Daniel DeLaat has used the new elevator since it was finished.

"It's pretty cool," he said. Sometimes DeLaat uses a wheelchair at school and before the elevator was installed, staff members had to help him from his wheelchair onto a chair lift to get to an upper floor, because his chair did not fit the tracks for the school lift.

Assistant Principal Bill Greene said that while DeLaat was being transported on the lift chair, someone had to carry his wheelchair to the next floor so he could continue to class.

"The old-fashioned way, he was about 5 to 10 minutes late for class," Greene said. "It's amazing how much time this (elevator) saves."

"The completion of the elevator project at the middle school should be seen as another example of the district's commitment to ensure all children have full access to learning resources," Bowersox said. "Teaching and learning is what it is all about."

Academic Challenge program returns to local television

By Carol Klear

A once-very popular program returned to television Dec. 13. The first show in the new Academic Challenge season aired at 6:30 p.m. on NewsChannel 5 and featured three competing high school teams: North Ridgeville, Copley and Padua Franciscan. Students on the North Ridgeville team

were Dennis Terlaak, Erika Swanson and Shawn Miller. The alternates were Andrew Kenney and Chris Halke.

Paula Wanosky, team advisor, said the program had been dropped about four or five years ago for lack of funding. She was the advisor at that time and said the return this year was made possible through the sponsorship of Westfield Insurance.

"Westfield picked it up and did a nice job," she said.

Wanosky said North Ridgeville has had teams competing many times in the past and all have done "very well." This year's team came in third and Wanosky attributed part of it to the students' being a bit younger than those on the winning team, Padua Franciscan.

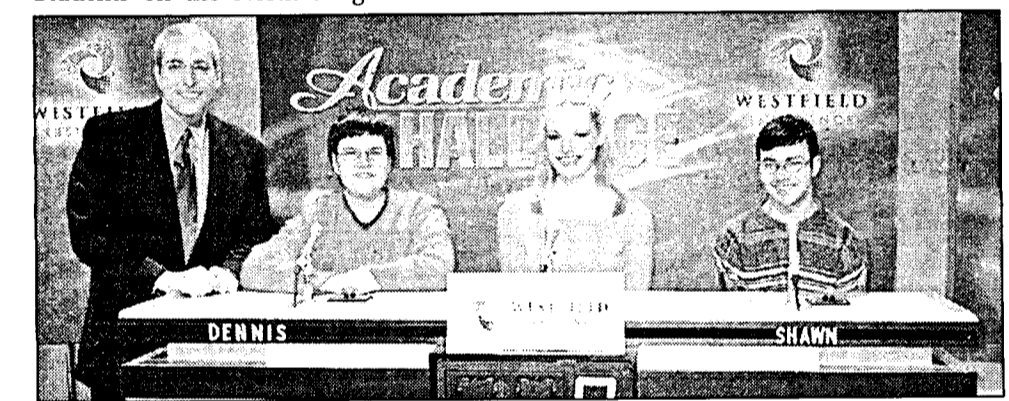
"They (Padua students) were all seniors and experienced (at competing)," she said. "We had juniors and sophomores, but they loved the experience."

The entire high school student body was eligible to take the competitive test

for the three team spots on Academic Challenge, as well as for the two alternate positions, she said.

"All of them did very well," Wanosky said. "We practiced twice a week, but we didn't find out until fall when we would be on, so we only practiced as a team for about a month."

The 2003-2004 season will include a total of 78 high schools from Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga, Portage, Summit, Stark, Wayne, Medina and Lorain counties and will be hosted by NewsChannel 5's Good Morning Cleveland anchor, Adam Shapiro.



Shapiro, Terlaak, Swanson, Miller

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Time to go 2003; come on in 2004, we've been waiting for you

OUT WITH THE OLD.....This is it, the last day of 2003 and as they say, "Out with the old; in with the new." There's at least one "new" in North Ridgeville-city council. The members were sworn in Dec. 19 and actually start their new terms tomorrow, Jan. 1.

ANALYZE THIS.....Actually when you think about it, not all the members are new...oh, I don't mean they're old, it's just that they were on council the last term (well, in Al Swindig's case, several last terms). So, they're not all really new...some are more, um what's the word? Seasoned! How about that? But then, you do have at

KLEARLY SPEAKING

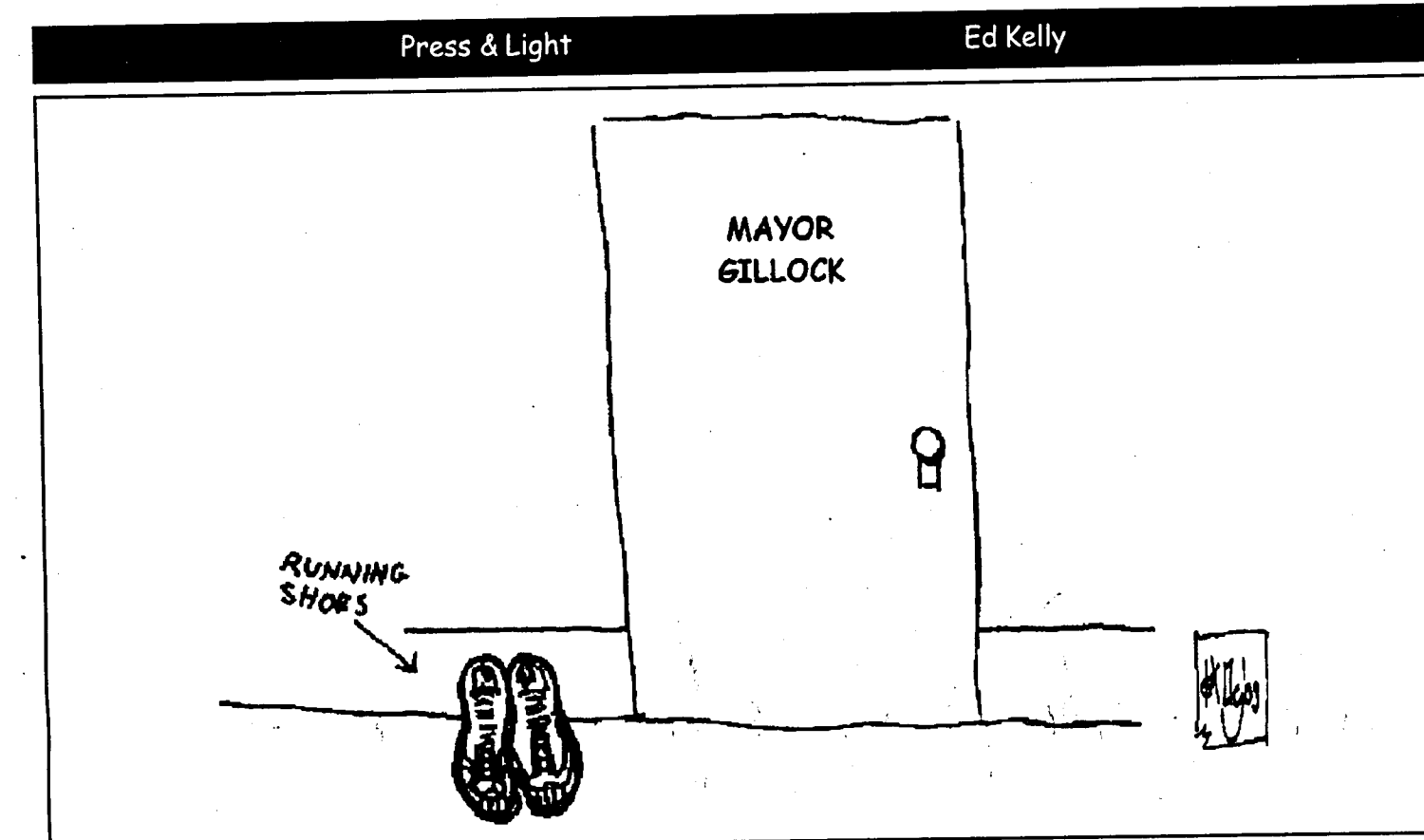
least two new councilmen who are a tad older than the new younger one, so in life experience they're not that new, but in political know-how...well, let's just wait and see.

'TIS THE SEASON.....Isn't this the day we make up stupid resolves, we know we won't keep anyway? Like the ones I made last Dec. 31. For example, I decided I would not allow any more gray hairs on my head. One look will tell you that was a bust. How about

this; I will carry just one pen in my purse for each meeting, plus a spare (you never know how windy those gatherings can get). Right this very minute if you dumped out my bag, I would lay odds, you'd find at least 20 ballpoints. And what about my promise to buy a new umbrella? Here it is a year later and if it happens to rain, you'll see me scurrying around under half an umbrella, cuz the spokes on the other half are all bent.

ENOUGH SAID.....No New Year's resolutions for Klearly for 2004!

DON'T FORGET.....When the holidays are over and the decorations come down, don't toss out those Christmas cards. Instead, if you don't want them, cut off the fronts and send them (fronts only) to: St. Jude's Ranch for Children, 100 St. Jude's St., Boulder City, NV 89005-1618. St. Jude's Ranch is a harbor for children who have been victimized by neglect or abuse. The boys and girls recycle the fronts of the cards and make them into Christmas cards for the next year. They are now also accepting the fronts of all occasion cards. It takes a little effort and a bit of postage, but it means a lot to the boys and girls at St. Jude's Ranch.



PRESSLINE

E-mail from Tom Higgason: Homeowners in North Ridgeville are going to face at least three property tax levies in March. Isn't it time we get away from penalizing homeowners by charging them for virtually all services? Shouldn't ALL residents pay for services rendered? Times have changed in the past 225 years, and taxing methods should change with them.

E-mail from Tom Higgason: I understand that some people claim to love the sound of train whistles, and that's their right. I wouldn't dream of denying them the opportunity of hearing the whistles all day and all night. Can they possibly understand that some others do not appreciate hearing the constant din of whistles? I like train travel. When living in or visiting Europe, I loved to travel by train. I also appreciated the occasional sound of a legitimate

SEE PRESSLINE, next page

A new year starts Jan. 1; time to make those resolutions

Today marks the ending of another year and 2003 will just become a memory. So, here is to 2004 and what better way to start it off than with a list of resolutions!



Reporter's Notebook
By Melissa Linebrink

Resolution No. 1
For the first time ever, I am using Jan. 1 as a date to start getting in shape. It's almost been a year since I gave birth, it is now time to at least attempt to get my post-pregnant body back into shape. Besides, I really need to stop eating those cheese curls I feed my son as a snack.

Resolution No. 2
Going along with Resolution No. 1, my husband and I plan to join a fitness club somewhere on this side of Ohio. Everywhere we have tried thus far is either way too expensive or we don't qualify to go there. For example, in order to be a member at the Westlake health center one must reside in or work in Westlake. It would be wonderful if

North Ridgeville were to build a recreation center. I have a few ideas where one could be located...(hint, hint empty plazas on either side of town would be just fine).

Resolution No. 3
This one is for the city...I think a city resolution should go something like this: "We, the City of North Ridgeville, will attempt to put a light at the corner of Stoney Ridge Road and Center Ridge Road." If planning commission is going to okay the land being developed off Stoney Ridge Road, than those who sit

on the committee should consider the amount of traffic that will be turning out of and onto that road and allow for a stop light to be installed at that intersection.

Resolution No. 4
I will try to be more patient while I drive. I think pretty soon I am going to have to go to a class or seminar for "road rage." I think the last straw was Dec. 19 at Midway Mall in Elyria. I saw three ladies walking near a store, they proceeded to walk in front of me, I slammed on my breaks and then they stared at me like deer in headlights. If you see a car coming, you may want to think twice about crossing the street. Of course, the ladies and I proceeded to exchange a few words, but since my son was in the car, no curse words were used.

Resolution No. 5
I will make it a point to visit my Godmother Kim who lives in Ashland.

There is a reason this lady is still living. For the past 15 or more years she has battled a disease called LAM (lymphangioleiomyomatosis—a rare lung disease that over time the muscle cells of the lungs block the flow of air and blood to and from the lungs, preventing the lungs from providing oxygen to the rest of the body), has had one kidney removed and had a double-lung transplant. She has been through more than most of us in our lifetime and she keeps on going. As I write this column, she is in intensive care at a hospital in St. Louis, Mo., as she continues her battle, this time with pneumonia. I know she will make it through this illness and this spring we will be visiting her.

I hope everyone else sticks to his/her resolutions!
May you each have a safe and happy 2004!
Story ideas or comments? E-mail me at melissalinebrink@hotmail.com

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Welcome to December

To the Editor:
Welcome to December.
Last I checked we live in North Ridgeville, Ohio. North Ridgeville tends to get snowed upon during the month of December. With this riveting fact in mind I found myself driving home this past week treading carefully only when I get to North Ridgeville's borders.

Logic would tell you that with snow predicted and snow on the ground, it may be wise to fire up the trucks and prepare to lay some salt for rush hour traffic. Not once but three times this week alone has the utilities department been caught ill prepared. Sliding home from work at roughly 5 p.m. when snow has been falling throughout the day is simply unacceptable. This problem is not limited to the back roads; major roads such as SR 83 were even covered in ice.

North Ridgeville needs to be wiser with its preparedness or find someone that can get the job done effectively. Cities throughout Cleveland seem to be able to keep up with the

weather, why is North Ridgeville consistently left in the dark? Perhaps it is because they are too busy getting their quarterly income tax bills into the mail. I know each of you slid home to yours today as well.

North Ridgeville Utilities Department: Get with the program.

C.J. Radune
North Ridgeville

Editor's Note: To clarify a couple of items; the Streets/Service Department, not the Utilities Department handles salting and snow removal and the Income Tax Department handles the tax bills. We checked with Streets Supervisor Jerry Krueger and learned that those employees start at 7 a.m. and leave at 3:30 p.m. Krueger said that on Dec. 19, road conditions were fine when the workers left and were still good when he left at 4:30 p.m., but by 5 p.m., the police had called about the roads and the crew immediately returned to work and was out on the road. Although the employees were planning to go back home around 8 p.m., another blast hit and they stayed out until 9 p.m.

MADD urges Ohioans to be safe this season

Last year during the Thanksgiving to New Year's holiday season in Ohio, there were 46 alcohol related fatalities—in total 81 Ohioans lost their lives as a result of impaired driving and lack of seat belt usage. Nationally during this period in 2002, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) recorded 2,646 fatalities resulting from alcohol-related crashes and/or crashes in which victims were unrestrained.

During 2002, 17,419 people were killed in crashes nationally involving alcohol—an average of one every 30 minutes and beyond the tragic death toll, a horrific half a million people are injured in alcohol-related crashes each year.

The season is the perfect time for Americans to work together to help keep families together and roadways

safer. MADD's (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Tie One On for Safety holiday ribbon campaign, a time when roadways are heavily traveled and traffic fatalities typically increase, serves to urge travelers to be safe by driving sober and having all passengers wear a buckled safety belt. Additionally, MADD encourages safe driving through its Safe Party Guide and online pledge, available at www.madd.org.

Remember, "A safe party is the best party."
Responsible party hosts offer a variety of non-alcoholic beverages for designated drivers, never serve alcohol to those under the legal drinking age of 21, cut off service to guests who are intoxicated and never allow drinking guests to get behind the wheel of a car, making sure they have a safe ride home.

PRESSLINE, continued

steam locomotive's whistle. I also have little sympathy for someone who moves next to train tracks, or a highway, or an airport, and then complains about the noise and

demands that the tracks, roads, or runways be moved even though they were there first. Let's be real here though; the train traffic increased considerably several years ago with railroad mergers. Maybe there is a happy medium.

Thank you for reading The Press & Light

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PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF HEARING ON BUDGET
Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.30
Notice is hereby given that the proposed budget of the North Ridgeville City School District, Lorain County, Ohio for the period July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005, is on file in the office of the Treasurer of such district and open to inspection of the public.
A hearing on the proposed budget will be held on January 13, 2004 at 6:30 PM in the North Ridgeville Education Center Community Room preceding the Organizational Meeting of the North Ridgeville City Board of Education.
Biagio Sidoti, CPA
Treasurer
Board of Education
North Ridgeville City School District
Published: 12/31/03

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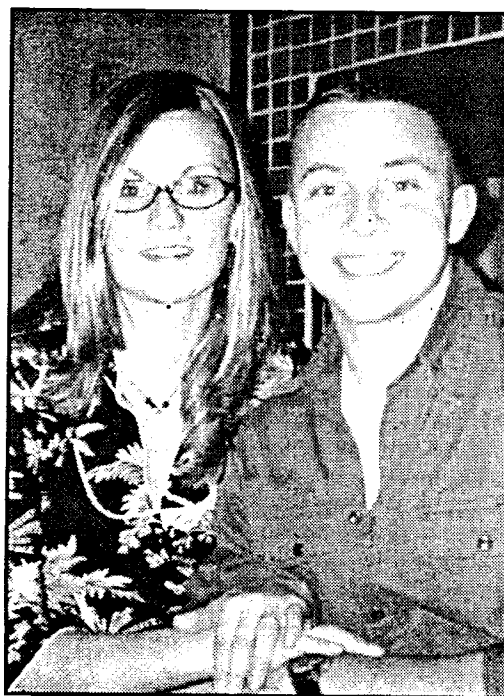
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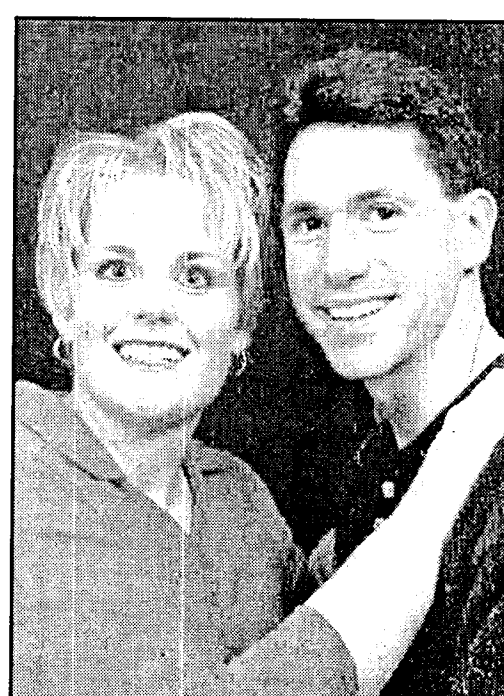
ENGAGEMENTS



Elizabeth Marie Konanec and John Thomas Perry

Konanec, Perry to wed

Bernard and Deborah Konanec of North Ridgeville, announce the engagement of their daughter Specialist Elizabeth Marie Konanec to Sergeant John Thomas Perry, son of Pat and Randy Taylor of Littleton, Colo.



Kelly Maloy and Thomas Fries

Maloy, Fries to wed on Valentine's Day

Patricia Maloy of North Ridgeville and Donald Maloy of Sheffield Village announce the engagement of their daughter, Kelly Maloy of Avon to Thomas Fries of Lorain, son of Diana Fries-Wilhelm of Sheffield Village and Thomas Fries of North Ridgeville.

What's for lunch?

- For Jan. 1 - Jan. 7, 2004
North Ridgeville Middle School/High School
Thur: No school.
Fri: No school.
Mon: Pizza or steak-um on a bun, pasta salad, mixed veggies, peaches, milk.

Lake Ridge Academy involved in service project

Lake Ridge Academy designed a two-part holiday community service project. On Dec. 19, students wrapped gifts, made decorations, rolled coins, and bagged canned food donations.

TOWN CRIER

- Thursday Happy New Year!
Friday 9:30-11 a.m. On Target Fencing-Senior Center multi-purpose room.
Saturday 9-11:30 a.m. On Target Fencing-Senior Center multi-purpose room.

OBITUARIES

John L. Pickering

John L. Pickering, 74, died Dec. 9, 2003, at the Cleveland Clinic, following a brief illness. He was born July 11, 1929, in Lakewood, and was a lifelong resident of Avon.

George L. McElhaney

George L. McElhaney, age 65, of Elyria, died Dec. 12, 2003, at New Life Hospice Residential Center of St. Joseph's, Lorain following a short illness.

Virginia D. Martin

Virginia D. Martin (nee Uphold), age 79, of Amherst Township, died Dec. 13, 2003, at Manor Care Nursing Home, North Olmsted following a long illness.

Barbara Gail Bunton

Barbara Gail Bunton (nee Ross), 55, of Conover, N.C., died Dec. 10, 2003, at Frye Regional Medical Center in North Carolina, following a brief illness.

Lawrence T. Haas

Lawrence T. Haas, 72, of North Ridgeville, died Dec. 10, 2003, at Weber Health Care Center, Wellington, following a lengthy illness.

Felix M. Oliva

Felix M. Oliva, 81, of North Ridgeville, died Dec. 13, 2003, at St. John West Shore Hospital, Westlake, following a sudden illness.

This Church Directory sponsored by these community-minded business men & women. Includes logos for various churches and contact information.

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The Fair Housing Act Protects You Against Violations of Your Housing Rights. KNOW THE LAW! North Ridgeville Fair Housing Board in cooperation with Lorain County Urban League, Inc. 1-800-662-FAIR

Animal Clinic Northview Inc. 327-8282, 34910 Center Ridge Rd.
George M. Shupp Joel W. Shupp Serving the Community for over 10 years. Complete computerized accounting & year-round tax preparation. 365-4010 or 365-7978
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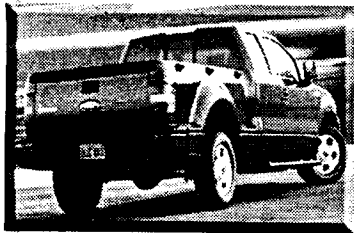


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