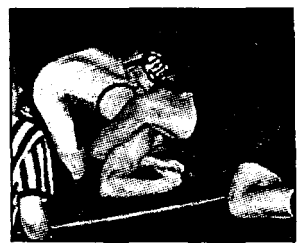


Rangers rally to knock out Midview

See Sports, page 10



Barker nears school record for career wins

See Sports, page 10

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NORTH RIDGEVILLE
Press

January 25, 2006
VOL. 66, NO. 2

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Your Hometown Newspaper Since 1983 50¢

Lear North to become first-grade school with opening of 2006-07 year

By Carol Klear

When the 2006-07 school year begins, all first-grade students (this year's kindergartners) will attend Lear North Elementary School and children from Lear North in grades two through five will be divided and assigned to Liberty and Wilcox schools. Presently Lear North houses grades one to five.

School Superintendent Larry Bowersox said this is the first phase of the district's planning for the future that will include realignment of all grade levels. There are nearly 280 students in this year's kindergarten class.

"We have been experiencing a lot of growth and we must maximize all our resources including staff and buildings and expand our capacities," Bowersox said. "Lear North has not been as impacted by the growth as the other schools. Lear North has about 20-22 students in each class, while the other schools have about 27-29. This will be fair to all the students.

"Because of its geographic location, Lear North Elementary has been fortunate to maintain much lower class sizes," he said. "However, given the circumstances that are facing the district the situation must be addressed. The district will continue to be impacted by growth. With over 500 new housing permits issued by the city's building department in 2005 and plans for 4,000 additional homes, the district will be faced with increased enrollment."

The district has been preparing for these changes for the last two years, with the Cost Reduction Plan, the Assessment of Facilities by Ohio School Facilities Commission, and two Enrollment Studies (2003 and 2005) which projects significant growth in student population over the next 10 years. Plans call for the construction of new schools and classrooms to replace aging facilities and provide for growth.

"This realignment is the last component of the Cost Reduction Plan," Bowersox said.

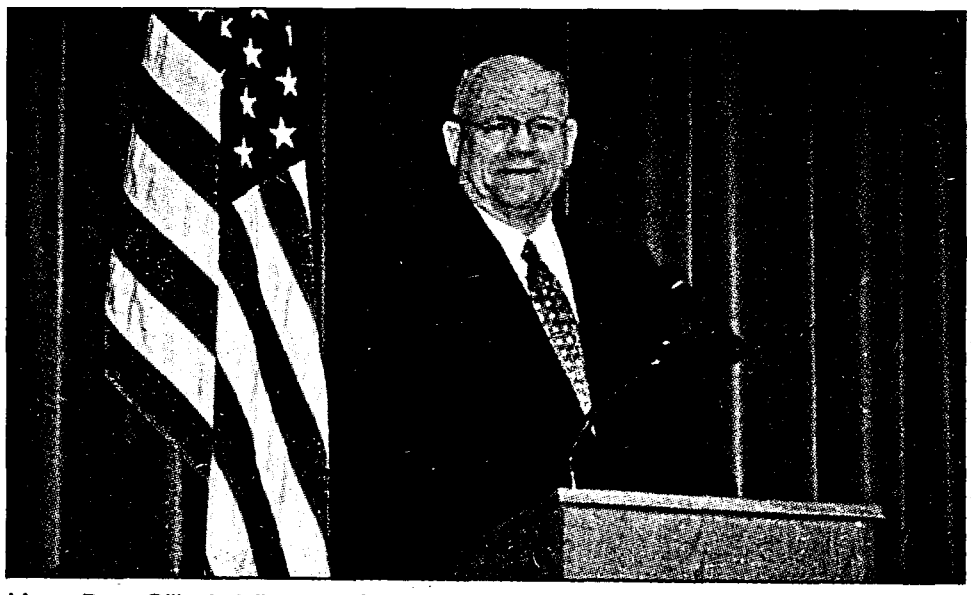
These changes will better enable the district to provide quality educational programs while preventing larger class sizes, loss or reduction of educational programs, or layoffs of staff. The change will also provide a number of educational advantages such as maintaining and absorbing new growth for stable class sizes, better allocating Title One services for grade one and better utilizing special education resource rooms at all elementary buildings. It will also improve the capability for gifted education services, enhance collaboration for teachers within grade levels, provide opportunities for staff development, and coordinate services.

Bowersox said he announced plans for the realignment to the Lear North staff on Friday.

"There was some emotion as expected by the staff, but they understand that we need the ability to manage class sizes. It will make it a little easier that the teachers will move with the students.

State of the City address

'I am starting a nice collection of groundbreaking shovels in my office'



Mayor Dave Gillock delivers his State of the City address, during the chamber luncheon.

Covering all the bases seemed to be Mayor Dave Gillock's goal as he delivered his State of the City address on Thursday, stressing the projects that are being planned or are underway, while not overlooking the achievements of the various city departments.

Sprinkling his remarks with bits of humor, Gillock gave his 15-page review in the affable, easy-going manner that has become almost his trademark, announcing that 2005 was an "interesting" year.

"It was full of positives and I am starting a nice collection of ground breaking shovels in my office," he joked.

The planned widening of Center Ridge Road is high on the list of the administration's priorities and today (Wednesday) the second public meeting on the project will be held at the library. Gillock said cost estimates for the expansion ranged from $30 to $39 million.

Plans are also underway to widen another major thoroughfare, Lear Nagle Road. NOACA (Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency) has it scheduled for 2009 at an estimated cost of $3.3 million, with the city paying 20 percent of the cost plus the right-of-way acquisitions, the mayor said. Discussing Lear Nagle subsequently led Gillock to the Staubach property, which has continued to stand vacant.

"I can tell you that there are parties interested, offers to purchase have been made but not accepted for one reason or another, some offers are still outstanding, but there isn't anything happening there at the moment," he said.

After several delays, Walgreens finally opened its doors and the Lear Nagle connection was opened to traffic, as well.

Community Health Partners contin-

SEE **STATE OF CITY,** page 9

New Medicare drug plans create confusion for some seniors

By Carol Klear

The much-touted drug plans for senior citizens went into effect the first of the year, however many seniors still have not enrolled in a specific plan, due to confusion as to which one is right for their needs.

Kitty Wawszkiewicz, case manager for the North Ridgeville Office for Adults, agreed that "confusion" over the plans has added to indecision for senior citizens.

"I have tried to help some muddle through," she said, adding that she has spoken to pharmacists about the situation.

Wawszkiewicz said people can enroll online, however not everyone has access to a computer and some seniors who have attempted to sign up for a particular plan are "not receiving their prescription cards in a timely fashion." Or, in some instances if they have a card and visit a pharmacy, they learn that their information is not in a data base and the prescription cannot be filled. Some local pharmacists said they would dispense a small amount of drugs if the physicians provide authorizations, she said.

"Some older adults can't afford their medications," Wawszkiewicz said. "So they juggle the medications and ask themselves, 'Should I buy medicine or groceries.' I would love to help them all and the clients trust me, but I am not at liberty to select plans for them."

Anthony Kitchen, a pharmacist at Walgreens, said many senior citizens that come to his store are "confused," and pharmacy employees try to help.

"We print out a list of medicines they take, along with what plans are available in Ohio and what's covered," he said, however, like Wawszkiewicz, he said they cannot make the decision for people.

Walgreens offers a booklet designed to help determine which plan is best for the patient's needs, along with a $50 coupon booklet, he said.

"We want what's best for everyone," Kitchen said.

A representative at Tops' pharmacy said they are not having problems with the new plan, however if a person does not have a card, they give them Medicare's 800 Help Line number where someone can help them through the selection process.

"In the long run I think it (drug plan) will work," Wawszkiewicz said. "But my heart goes out to them (seniors)."

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NORTH RIDGEVILLE Press

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Ridgeville Remembered...

A car is parked near the intersection of Avon Belden and Center Ridge roads after a snowstorm in the early 1950s. The Bean Hole Restaurant can be seen in the background and was located on the southwest corner of the intersection from 1920s until it closed in 1957. *Photo courtesy of the North Ridgeville Historical Society.*



Cafaro announces candidacy for 13th District seat

LORAIN COUNTY

By Lori E. Switaj

Democratic U.S. congressional candidate Capri Cafaro's residency in Lorain County is expected to be permanent, her spokesperson Vic Rubenstein said last week.

"She is running for the 13th District, I can confirm that," Rubenstein said Jan. 20. "We are waiting to formally announce it. Right now she is renting an apartment in Sheffield Village but she is looking to buy a house in Lorain County."

Congressional candidates are not required to reside in the district they are running. Cafaro, 28, is seeking the seat vacated by long-time congressman Sherrod Brown (D-Avon), who is seeking to represent Ohio as a U.S. senator. Rubenstein said a formal announcement will be made this week.

Cafaro made headlines in 2004, when she ran to Republican Steve LaTourette in a bid for the 14th District seat in a race that, at times, became personal.

Her spokesperson said her race this time will focus on saving jobs in the 13th District, through job creation and economic development. The 13th District includes parts of Summit, Medina, Lorain and Cuyahoga counties.

"She will maintain two professionals on her staff," he said. "A professional economic development person and a professional grant writer.

"The district needs to be wholly focused on this, including affordable health care and protecting retirement."

In her first-ever race, Cafaro "won the hearts of 120,000 Democrats in a Republican district," Rubenstein said. Capro lost the race 63 percent to 37 percent.

Cafaro will enter the race with at least one endorsement. The UAW 1714, out of Lordstown, said it was strongly urging Cafaro to run on Dec. 20.

Rubenstein said Cafaro will be talking in "terms of solutions."

"She's not just rehashing talk of protecting retirement security and health care," he said. "She is going to put forth positions and innovative solutions that will affect not just the 13th District, but the entire nation."

Although touted in the media as "shopping mall heiress," her spokeperson said referring to the candidate as a "businessperson" is a mistake.

"She is not a businessperson," Rubenstien said. "She is a public policy advocate."

Cafaro has been working for the past yar as a state advocate for a national committee to preserve Social Security and Medicare.

"She is shooting holes in alternative solutions," he said. "She wants to secure Medicare and is teaching retirees about the Medicare part D. She is working with local UAW unions on this."

Rubenstein said in the past year she has been working with a non-government organization called Global Action on Aging based out of the United Nations, one of Bill Clinton's global initiatives that brings world leaders together.

Cafaro graduated high school at 15, Stanford University at 19 and Georgetown University at 21.

"She is honest to God the most brilliant person I've ever met," Rubenstein, who is a lifelong family friend, said. "She is economically focused, looking at job creation and preservation, [illegible] There's going to be a tremendous economic focus."

The district is drawing significant interest from candidates including Betty Sutton, who announced her candidacy last month, and Tom Sawyer, who said he will most likely announce his candidacy later this month. Akron attorney John Wolfe (featured in the Dec. 21 edition of The Press) and former 7th Congressional District candidate Jack Shira have also signaled their intentions to run for the seat.

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Ask Dr. Arndt

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



GENERAL TOOTH BRUSHING TIPS

What are some general guidelines for proper brushing and tooth care?

Here are some general tips on brushing and tooth care: Use a toothbrush that has soft nylon bristles and replace it regularly. Every three months is recommended. If your toothbrush is heavily worn within three months, you may be brushing too hard. Brushing too hard can damage your enamel and your gums. Talk to Dr. Arndt about the right technique. Brush at least twice a day, and after every meal if possible. Floss at least once a day to remove plaque the brush can't reach or dislodge. Never share a toothbrush with anyone. Children should use only a pea-sized dab of toothpaste so that they don't swallow too much fluoride. Adults can use more, but the same rule applies: don't swallow toothpaste. Provide a child with an appropriately sized toothbrush for a small mouth. Up to age 6, a child's tooth brushing should be supervised by an adult. Most importantly, though, visit a dentist regularly and have your teeth cleaned professionally on a regular basis.

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.

I made two stops at the Ed Center last week and both included lunch

KLEARLY SPEAKING

COUNT 'EM; ONE, TWO.....Two luncheons in three days ain't bad and both of them held at the Education Center. School officials presented one for realtors and developers and the second one, two days later, same place, same time was the annual State of the City address by Mayor Dave Gillock and sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

BIGGER AND BIGGER.....There must have been nearly 160 people at the chamber event, including some from businesses, from the school district, as well as chamber members and guests. State Rep. Earl Martin was on hand, as was State Sen. (and former North Ridgeville mayor) Jeff Armbruster with his wife Lee. Although this winter wasn't exactly the type of winter Ohio is used to, Lee was hobbling around with a bum knee, thanks to the kind of mishap that comes along when skier meets snow...and then some. She said surgery is in the not too distant future and the last time I looked, the senator was handing her a crutch to help her get to the car.

GET-TOGETHER.....The State of the City event gives me a chance to say hello to people I don't get to see often, like developer Bob Schmitt–although I did see Bob at the luncheon two days before. I was glad to say at least a few words to Marian Stafford and to Ken Cromer, director of the Lorain Public Library System. Seeing people is half the fun of the annual luncheon.

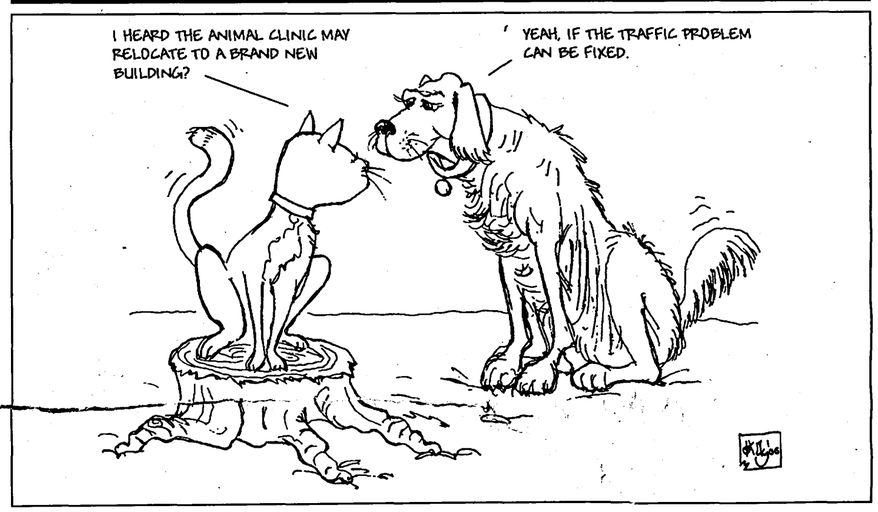
MOST SHOWED UP.....It looked like most council reps showed up for the luncheon, as did a number of department heads. Speaking of council reps, during last week's council meeting, Dick Jaenke, liaison to the Planning Commission, did a quick overview of each issue that commission members voted on, to give council a heads-up on the topics. Good idea, since he attends the meetings and not everybody does–new idea for a new year.

POSIES.....The tables at the State of the City luncheon were very festive and decorated with lovely cyclmen plants. I am so glad I didn't win one of them, though. For some reason they always look so pretty, but a couple of days in my house and they dry up and wilt. Never fails.

WOULDN'T HAVE MINDED.....I wouldn't have minded Tom Worcester's prize. He walked away with $95 from the 50-50 raffle. Lucky him.

ANOTHER PLACE TO BE.....Don't forget that tonight (Wednesday) is the Center Ridge Corridor Study open house from 4-8 p.m. at the North Ridgeville Library. It's an important meeting so try to be there.

North Ridgeville Press — Ed Kelly



PRESSLINE

Mr. Miller: *(In reference to Editor's Notebook in the 1/18 issue) If I ever make a council meeting, I'll come with a fire extinguisher. I don't want nobody being on fire. I always thought a toastmaster was a toaster.*

E-mail: *To Ms. Linebrink, I thought your articles in the North Ridgeville Press on Sean Crum and on the service department's work on snow removal and on the treatment of young children in hospitals were quite well written, informative and timely. Keep up the good work.*

REMINDER
Center Ridge Corridor Study Open House Today
Wednesday, Jan. 25
1-4 p.m.
North Ridgeville Branch Library

Life's lessons should include doing your best to better the world



Reporter's Notebook

By Melissa Linebrink

When you were younger, what did you want to be when you "grew up?"

Think about that question.

Did you do all that you had hoped you would do one day?

Did you "grow up" to be a doctor, a firefighter or an astronaut?

Are you satisfied with what you are doing now?

I think as young children, our imaginations opened a whole new world to us. One day a child may want to be a police officer and the next, a teacher. And, for more children, they don't know what the "real" world is like.

As parents, we often may see our children coloring, thinking to ourselves, "I wonder if Jack will be an artist some day, maybe studying abroad, in France?" Or, maybe your child is extremely smart and you think to yourself, "Maybe Jessica will be a professor at Harvard University when she is older." Or, maybe you see your daughter playing the violin at a young age and you wonder if she will compose her own music someday.

Everyone is given a talent. Something they can call their "own" that was given to them by God. (At least I feel that way.) Some people were given the ability to crunch numbers and they are using that talent now by serving society as accountants. Some were "called" to serve the Lord and are doing so by studying to become a priest or a nun. And, some were given the gift of being compassionate and are volunteering their time at local hospice centers.

It's also important to say that not everyone may be "college" material, but may find his/her talent is working with people on a daily basis as a customer service representative because they are cheerful and always positive. And, some may find they enjoy working with their hands, such as fixing cars, trucks or other vehicles as mechanics.

Not everyone is the same. We all have something different that we can bring into this world to make it a better place for our children who are just now dreaming of what they want to be when they grow up. It's important that while we all want our children to succeed in life, we should never disapprove of what they choose to do with the life they are given.

If your child realizes, upon graduation from high school, that he/she would rather enter the workforce than go to college, it's up to the parent to stand behind that choice, even if they had hoped their child would select something different.

So, again I pose this question to you, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Have you given it your all and are you using your talent everyday to help make this world a better place? If not, what are you waiting for?

Do you have a story idea or comment? Maybe you have a special talent or "calling" in life that you would like others to know about. Feel free to send them my way via e-mail at melissalinebrink@excite.com or call the newsroom at (866) 732-1240.

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NORTH RIDGEVILLE Press

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The North Ridgeville Press reserves the right to accept or reject any Letter to the Editor. Each letter requires a name, address and daytime phone number for verification purposes. Letters and e-mails that do not provide a phone number for verification purposes will not be published. All letters are subject to editing for brevity and clarity.
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

Five instructional priorities aid NRCS on the road to excellence

NRCS

By Craig Phillips
Assistant Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

The goal of the North Ridgeville City Schools is to be recognized as an "excellent school district." We are often asked by members of the community, "What does excellence look like?" This article gives you a look at our instructional priorities.

Priority 1–Achieve an "Excellent" rating on the Ohio Department of Education Local Report Card and meet the mandates of No Child Left Behind

Meet and exceed Ohio targets in the following areas:

- Reading and math achievement tests: Grades 3-8
- Writing achievement tests: Grades 4 and 7
- Social studies and science achievement tests: Grades 5 and 8
- Ohio Graduation Test-Grade 10: Tests in reading, writing, math, social studies, and science
- Attendance rate: Grades K-12
- Graduation rate: high school

All children in all educational groups will achieve 100 percent mastery in reading and math by 2013-14. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) must be shown each year on all federal learning targets by the following groups:

- Economically disadvantaged students
- Limited English proficient students
- Minority students
- Students with disabilities
- All students

Priority 2–Implementation of Ohio's Academic Content Standards from preschool-12th grade

Develop local courses of study based on the following Ohio content standards:

- English/language arts
- Fine arts (visual arts and music)
- Foreign language
- Library
- Mathematics
- Pre-school
- Science
- Social studies
- Technology

Standards are locally developed for business, family/consumer science, guidance, health, and physical education. The North Ridgeville City Schools have adopted a five-year course of study revision schedule, which ensures that curriculum, textbooks, and materials in all areas are reviewed and updated.

Priority 3–Implementation of the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) instructional philosophy

UDL is a research-based instructional framework that provides teachers with tools to anticipate and eliminate instructional barriers for students. It allows teachers to consider the individual learning styles of their students as well as their own teaching styles as they plan for daily instruction. Our UDL plan will allow for excellence and expertise for all staff in the following areas:

- Content
- Pedagogy (presentation)
- Assessment
- Use of Technology Tools

Priority 4–Implementation of co-teaching and inclusive practices to support student intervention

Co-teaching is a concept that pairs regular education teachers and intervention specialists together during an instructional period to enhance services to both at-risk and high achieving students.

- Develop a pre-school through 12th grade vision for creating co-teaching teams in each building
- Implement high quality differentiated instructional strategies in each classroom
- Create a seamless system of intervention for all students

Priority5–Assessment Literacy for All Staff

In order to meet all of the state and federal testing requirements, we need to effectively analyze data and use a variety of assessments:

- Develop a district-wide assessment literacy training and implementation plan
- Effectively use alternate and authentic assessments
- Use of short cycle and common assessments in each department and grade level
- Use research-based grading and reporting practices

Please join us on our journey to excellence!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Told you so

To the Editor:

Back before the November election, I had written to advise voters that what they thought they would get from the passage of the $1.095 million per year tax increase for the police department would not be what they thought. I hate to say it but "I told you so!"

We were bombarded with warnings about how the police department was understaffed by as much as a dozen officers and that they couldn't protect our growing community without additional help. So the voters approved the levy by a significant margin.

One week later, Chief Richard Thomas thanked the voters and said that he would hire two officers, an assistant records clerk, buy new police cars, computers and other equipment. Two officers! For better than a million dollars, they must be getting paid pretty good. Nowhere before the election did they talk about new cars and computers.

Two officers increase staffing by 6 percent. Feeling 6 percent safer doesn't do a lot for me. And why do we need new cars? They say some of the cars have a lot of miles on them. Well, duh, if you let the officers use the cars as personal vehicles of course they are going to have a lot of miles on them.

But the real telling tale came just recently with the request for an assistant law director. It's not the assistant law director's job that is the issue, but a comment published in the article in the North Ridgeville Press attributed to Auditor Chris Costin.

It said, "Although the police levy will generate $800,000 and $600,000 will go back to capital projects."

What does this sound like to you? To me, it means of the $1.095 million, $800,000 stays in the general fund. That means that only $295,000 of the tax increase actually goes to the police department. And further, Nancy Buescher is quoted in the Jan. 11, 2006 issue as stating, "Now with the police levy (money), everybody wants to dive into it."

I don't think that's what people voted for, and it's what I warned you about. With all this extra money, all of a sudden they are ready to spend like they won the lottery! Wasn't this money advertised as going to help improve safety? Hah! I just got my tax bill, and municipal taxes went up 30 percent. That's a 30 percent increase for the city!

So, did we get hoodwinked? Of course.

Will it happen again? It will if you believe the politicians. So what can we do? Well, here are a couple challenges. Let's see how our city government responds.

First, I challenge the mayor and police chief to publish in the North Ridgeville Press the actual police department budget for 2005 and the proposed budget for 2006. This will show you how much of the $1.095 million tax increase actually went into the police budget. If their answer is that the budget is a public record and you can see it at city hall, then they are trying to make it as difficult as possible for all citizens to see where the money is going. If they are not trying to hide it, they will publish it. I give them three weeks from the publication of this letter.

Second, I challenge our City Council to end the police car entitlement program immediately. It is a waste of resources and a misuse of tax money. There is no conceivable benefit to the community for this program and there is no reason to allow it to continue. I challenge you to end this by July 1, 2006.

If you don't stop the program, what can we do about it? Well, maybe it's time for the voters to do something. It should be possible either by charter amendment or the initiation of a ballot issue to end that program–but not just that program. If push comes to shove, the change should read something like, "The use of any city owned vehicle by anyone shall be prohibited except for official duties performed during regularly scheduled working hours." Period! That would mean nobody could use a city vehicle outside of their regular shift, not police, not firemen, not service department, not building inspectors, not the dogcatcher, and not the mayor. Of course, violations would be punished by an escalating scale of loss of pay.

I think it's time that the voters start telling the city government what should be done and expect it to be done. Remember that the city administration works for us, or at least they are supposed to.

Robert F. Solomon
North Ridgeville



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- All services except walk-ins should be scheduled by calling: *440-960-5870*

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Liberty Woods Professional Park
550 N. Leavitt Road
Amherst 440-988-2688
- Monday – Friday: 8:30am – 4:30pm

Vermilion Health Center
1607 State Route 60, Suite 6
Vermilion 440-967-0144
- Monday – Friday: 8:30am – 4:30pm

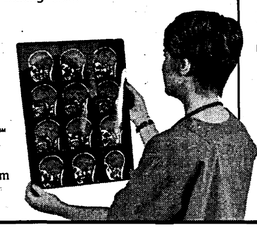
Imaging services are also available at Community Health Partners Regional Medical Center, 3700 Kolbe Road in Lorain and Allen Medical Center, 200 West Lorain Street in Oberlin.

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Scouting is a way of life; just ask a Girl Scout

By Melissa Linebrink

"I will do my best to be honest and fair,
Considerate and caring,
Courageous and strong, and
Responsible for what I say and do,
And, to respect myself and others,
Respect authority, use resources wisely,
Make the world a better place, and be
A sister to every Girl Scout."

These are the words of the Girl Scout Law and each girl who participates in Girl Scouts takes these words to heart.

According to Girl Scouts of Erie Shores Communications Director Carrie Abahazi, there are more than 700 Girl Scout members in North Ridgeville, which includes 500 girls and more than 200 adults. And, Girl Scouts of Erie Shores serves nearly 6,000 Girl Scouts in Lorain County.

Daisies–Ages 5/6

For 6-year-old Ruthie Puckett, who is a member of Daisy Troop #620, Girl Scouting has allowed her to have fun with her friends, while also making new friends along the way. Ruthie heard about Girl Scouts from a notice at school and then decided it would be something fun to join.

"I liked going to the apple orchard and making a sweatshirt," Ruthie said, adding she also enjoys receiving some of her "petals" after she completes an activity that corresponds with each line of the Girl Scout Law. There are 10 petals, one for each line of the Girl Scout Law; and a center, which they receive once they memorize the Girl Scout Promise.

Ruthie said that being part of Girl Scouts has helped her become a better person, because through "Kindness Keepers," it helps to remind her to be kind to others.

Ella Habyl, 5, is also a Daisy in Troop #620, which is lead by her mother, Jeanette Habyl. Ella became a Daisy because she thought it would be fun to make crafts and make new friends.

"I like earning my petals and when we sing songs," Ella said, adding she has learned to make new friends with people that are different from her.

Jeanette Habyl, a troop leader for the Daisy Troop and a co-leader for Brownie Troop #981, said she wanted to be a leader because it was an activity that she could share with her two daughters, Riley, 7, and Ella.

"I was a Girl Scout growing up. I started as a Brownie and remained a scout all the way through high school," she said, adding that she traveled abroad to England when she was 16-years-old as part of Girl Scouts.

Habyl, who has 22 Daisies in her troop, said she enjoys seeing how excited the girls get when they learn or do something new.

"I really try to teach them to express themselves and to share their ideas," she said. "It's very rewarding to do an activity and have them say, 'I loved that.'"

She believes Girl Scouting provides a support structure for many girls, especially in a society where both parents usually work to make ends meet and it becomes more difficult for parents to spend quality time with their children.

"Girl Scouts gives girls a solid foundation, it promotes independence, nurtures their individuality while at the same time showing them how important it is to work as a team," she said.

The troop leader said Girl Scouts focuses on "girl power."

"I love that it helps girls stand tall and proud," she said.

Some of the activities Troop #620 has participated in recently include apple picking and visiting Sandy Ridge Reservation Wetland Center. And, a major highlight of the year has been when they visited a troop of Junior Scouts who helped the Daisies make their first "sit-upons."

"They (Juniors) taught the girls songs, how to fold an American flag properly and spent time with our troop," Habyl said. "The Daisies were excited to see older girls still having fun in scouting."

Brownies–Ages 6 to 8

On a recent Thursday night, Kimberly Freeman, 7, attended a Girl Scout meeting with Brownie Troop #578, lead by Sheri Cassidy, Lisa Antic and Krista O'Neill.

"It's really fun to be a Girl Scout," Kimberly said. "Tonight (Jan. 19) we made paper cat faces to take home, a bookmark and we looked around for different shapes of things in a book."

Kimberly admitted that her favorite Girl Scout activities include crafts, selling Girl Scout cookies, snack time and camping. Plus, she loves making new friends.



A member of Brownie Troop #578 spends quality time with a resident at Harbor Court Retirement Community, located in Rocky River, in November of 2005.



A Junior member of Girl Scout Troop #811 practices archery.

Olivia Yunis, 8, is also a member of Troop #578. This is Olivia's second year in Girl Scouts.

"I joined because I thought it would be fun," she said, adding that her favorite Girl Scout activities are camping and selling Girl Scout Cookies.

To date, Kimberly has earned between 15 and 20 badges, while Olivia said she has "many."

Cassidy said she, Antic and O'Neill decided to serve because they all believe in the mission of Girl Scouts–"Girl Scouting build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place." However, before the three stepped forward in leadership roles, there was not a leader for the first graders. Today, the three women are the leaders of 22 Brownies who range from second to fourth grades in the North Ridgeville School District. All three were Girl Scouts growing up and have fond memories of being scouts, especially participating in the more "traditional" activities, such as camping, crafts and hiking.

As for serving as leaders now, "We really enjoy watching the girls progress with their confidence and self-esteem as they try different activities," Cassidy said. "Each girl has her own unique and special personality and it is great when they feel comfortable in expressing it with the rest of the group."

Some of the social service activities Brownie Troop #578 has taken part in include collecting paper products for Community Care and donating the profits ($150) from the nuts and candy sale to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The troop has also gone camping at Camp Singing River in Huron County where they cooked over an open campfire, hiked, learned a flag ceremony and simply enjoyed the outdoors. They also visit Harbor Court Retirement Community in Rocky River several times a year. And, they also go roller-skating and bowling; take part in the annual tree lighting ceremony at South Central Park; have a father/daughter dance; and winter fun days and a "thinking" day.

"It is critically important for girls to be involved in confidence building activities separate from boys," Cassidy said. "The girls not only learn about camping and hiking, they learn the importance of problem solving, communication, basic skills (such as math and science) and setting education and career goals for themselves. They learn they are unique and can accomplish anything they put their minds too."

Cassidy believes one of the most important aspects of scouting are the friendships created among the girls.

"They really are a support for each other," she said. "We especially like the fact that our girls come from all three elementary schools which should make the transition to middle and high school easier."

Gail Case is a leader for Brownie Troop #581 at St. Peter where she has 18 registered girls; 18 registered adults and five junior helpers in her troop.

"I decided to become a troop leader because I wanted my daughter and the other girls to have a positive scouting experience that they can look back on and say, 'I've become who I am today because I had a Girl Scout leader who cared about me,'" Case said. "My mom was my Girl Scout leader for some of my years in scouting and because of her I am who I am today through the experiences she was able to provide me through Girl Scouting."

So far this year, Case's troop has had a cookout at the Lake Erie Science and Nature Center; toured Dean's Greenhouse; attended the U.S. Army's "Spirit of America;" earned badges at a badge lab at the Lake Erie Science and Nature Center; toured Giant Eagle in North Ridgeville; made Christmas coloring books for pediatric patients at Fairview and St. John West Shore hospitals; donated food and toys to Community Care; and received a blessing for the Family of God award at St. John's Cathedral and awards from Father Stephen Kaminski at St. Peter Church.

"Girl Scouts is a unique organization because not only is it based locally, but there are girls all around the world that belong to the scouting movement through the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts," Case said. "You can join a troop in which many of the girls from your school or church might belong."

Juniors–Ages 8 to 11

For three North Ridgeville girls, joining Girl Scouts has been a great experience.

Alexandra Ridel and Becky Szabo are both members of Junior Troop #237; and Shannon Turner is a member of Troop #811, all out of North Ridgeville.

SEE **GIRL SCOUTS,** page 7



Members of Junior Troop #577 on a field trip to a local butterfly house.



Members of Brownie Troop #578 work on building a campfire.

Wagler hosts a preview of homes at Stonegate

Red ribbons and colored balloons announced the preview opening of Wagler Homes at Stonegate, on Danforth Court, on Jan. 12. Several models were on display, including two, three and four-bedroom styles.

The detached cluster homes are located in Stonegate at Waterbury, one of North Ridgeville's newest and largest developments and offer buyers unique designs and floor plans.

Some houses feature combined living and dining rooms as well as a master bedroom and walk-in closets, while others add a large family room with fireplace, and island kitchen and dinette.

Wagler Homes has been in the building business for more than 40 years and is a second-generation family organization.

Wagler Sales Consultant Therese Gallagher said there are 80 cluster homes and noted that basements are optional.

As a grand opening special, Wagler Homes at Stonegate is offering $5,000 to be spent on a variety of ways of the homeowner's choice, including such items as closing costs, insulated garage, decks, furniture allowance or monthly maintenance fees. The offer is valid on contracts signed through Feb. 12. For more information, contact Gallagher at 327-1911.



Therese Gallagher wields an oversize pair of scissors to snip the ribbon marking the preview opening of Wagler Homes at Stonegate, as members of the Chamber of Commerce assist. From left, Sue Sawyer, second vice-president, Dayle Noll, executive director of the chamber, Gallagher and Tom Klear, chamber member.

GIRL SCOUTS, from page 6

Alexandra heard about Girl Scouts through her mom.

"My mom wanted to be a leader," Alexandra said, adding that since joining Girl Scouts, she has learned to put others first and has become more responsible.

Becky's friends from school were part of Girl Scouts and that is what sparked her interest in the organization. Becky said she has become a more caring person and more responsible since becoming a Girl Scout because they participate in a lot of community service projects.

Shannon's mom, Linda Turner, started a Brownie Girl Scout troop in Cleveland when Shannon was in the first grade because there was not a troop for her to join at the time.

"I wanted to join because it sounded fun," Shannon said.

All three girls agreed that the activities the troops share are the highlights of being Girl Scouts.

Turner is now the leader of North Ridgeville Girl Scout Troop #811 and said the reason she chose to serve as a leader was because she wanted to get girls involved in a lot of activities that they may not have been able to do otherwise.

"A leader can assist the girls with experiencing many unusual learning activities, such as cooking on outdoor stoves made out of coffee cans; sleeping over at the Lake Erie Nature and Science Center in Bay Village; sewing; outdoor camping; and the good part is that they don't even know they are learning," Turner said.

She also enjoys the fact that the girls are engaging in community service tasks.

Cathy Ebenschweller is the leader for Junior Troop #577 where there are currently 15 members. Ebenschweller said she was a Girl Scout when she was growing up and the troop needed a leader, so she volunteered.

Junior Troop #577 enjoys the father/daughter weekend camp-out because it allows the girls to partake in activities with their dads, like archery, sledding and hiking. Many of the girls also attend the Girl Scout of Erie Shores Resident Camp in the summer where they can stay all week at camp and hike, swim, learn how to cook and simply bond with other girls.

"I think helping them (the girls) grow and learn is a very important task," Ebenschweller said. "We have often said to the scouts that 'Scouting is a way of life-You need to be one at all times, not just on meeting nights.'"

Teen–Ages 11 to 17

For girls who are ages 11 to 17, Girl Scouts has a way for them to make a difference in not only their lives and world, but to have fun while they do it.

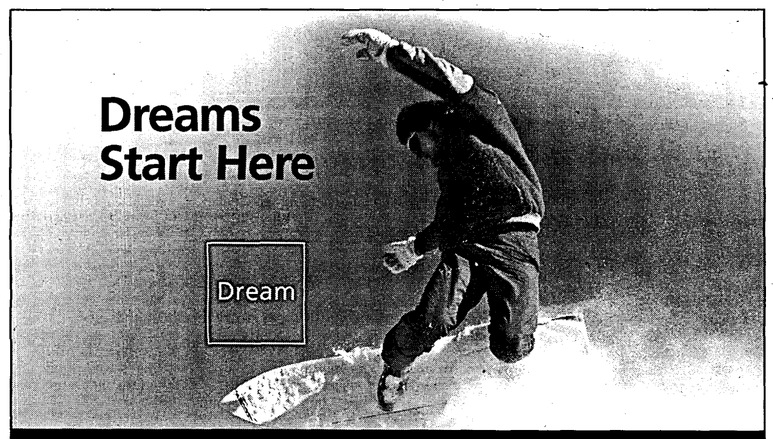
STUDIO 2B is a mixture of all components of Girl Scouting, from traveling to camping or just hanging out with girls who have the same interest and goals in life.

"Girl Scouts is important to girls in America because it is the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls–all girls–where, in an accepting and nurturing environment, girls build character and skills for success in the real world," Abahazi said.

If you'd like information about becoming a Girl Scout, a part of STUDIO 2B or Girl Scout volunteer, contact Girl Scouts of Erie Shores at (800) 222-6119 or visit www.girlscoutserieshores.org.

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For residents and business, tax bills bring no good news

LORAIN COUNTY

By Lori E. Switaj

Recipients of commercial and residential tax bills are all in for bad news this week, when tax bills, all of them higher, make their way to mailboxes this week.

"This is the first time in 10 years that every tax bill in the county is higher," Lorain County Auditor Mark Stewart said Jan. 20. "And most of it is not due to property value increases."

The culprit, is the spate of levies approved of in 2005, which are now being collected on as of Jan. 1, 2006. Some cities fared worse than others.

In 2005, North Ridgeville approved a replacement and decrease fire levy of 1.9 mills, a replacement and decrease road and bridge 1.9 mill levy and a replacement 1.95 mill levy in addition to the countywide-approved levies for a net increase of 4.04 mills.

The increase equates to a net increase of $123.81 cents per $100,000 valuation for the 2005-06 year.

North Ridgeville did not get hit as hard as some Lorain County districts.

"Sheffield Lake and Village got crushed," Stewart said. "They are paying on a large school levy and several county levies that were approved in 2005."

Stewart said residents in both cities will see an increase of $221.66 per $100,000 of home valuation, an increase of 7.23 mills (including 5.99-mills of new school taxes and a 1.41-mill increase in county levies.) The two cities were the hardest hit in the county.

In 2005, voters approved county levies for the Lorain County Metro Parks and the Lorain County Children Services.

Some commercial venues across the state will also see an increase due to the recently passed state law, HB 66, which eliminates the 10 percent rollback for any property currently taxes as commercial, industrial or mineral property. (Agricultural property, leased property with single-, two- or three-family dwellings will continue to receive the rollback.)

The county sent out letters to commercial and industrial property owners Jan. 13 advising them of the 10 percent increase.

Other tax changes are in store for commercial and industrial property owners in the upcoming years. The personal property tax is being phased out as is the corporate franchise tax. The state added a new commercial activities tax (CAT) which will affect businesses whether they provide goods or services (companies with gross receipts less than $150,000 will be exempt.)

Real estate taxes mailed; due Feb. 10

Lorain County Treasurer Daniel J. Talarek, announced that 144,897 real estate tax and special assessment bills were mailed Jan. 12. All county taxpayers should have received their bills by now and any property owner who many not have received their bill(s) should contact the treasurer's office at 329-5787 without delay.

The closing date for the first half 2005 collection is Feb. 10. The treasurer's office is open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Payments may be mailed and will be considered timely if postmarked on or before Feb. 10. These tax bills may also be paid at most local full service banks within the county. Ohio law requires a 10 percent penalty be added for payment received after the closing date.

Talarek estimates that approximately $145 million dollars will be collected during the first half 2005 tax period.

If you're planning a frog gigging trip, go to Buescher's first



Joe Buescher shows off the long pole specially made for frog gigging.

By Carol Klear

This is the do-it-yourself age.

You want to change your décor, you grab some paint and in a few hours your living room has gone from blah beige to passionate plum...or...some other hue.

If you've got a taste for fish, skip the frozen fins and head for the lake where you can reel in supper with a rod, a bit of time and a lot of patience.

And if you're really hankering for some good old-fashioned frog legs, Buescher's Hardware can fix you up with some frog gigging equipment and the hunt is on.

You take off to some well-known frog country, like maybe along the eastern shore in spring and when you hear the croaking of the froggy chorus, you know you're in the right place at the right time.

That's when you grab your 10-12 foot pole (the gig) with the pronged thing-a-ma-jig on the end and you start searching for frogs:..night time's best. When you find a big fat one, with legs that would be oh-so-good deep-fried in butter, you skulk along silently, take aim...and then spear him through.

Frog-gigging at its best.

Wood stove could save money, but cost your health

By City Engineer Larry Griffith

January thus far has been warm but winter is far from over. Because of high energy costs many people have chosen to burn wood in a wood stove. A properly installed correctly used wood stove does not release smoke in your house. If you smell smoke, that means the health of everyone at home could be affected. A fire that is burning properly produces little or no smoke from the chimney. If you see a lot of smoke coming from a chimney that's air pollution, which also will contribute to water pollution and can affect the health of everyone in your neighborhood.

The fine particles from wood smoke can aggravate heart or respiratory problems. Even limited exposure to smoke can be harmful particularly to the health of children, the elderly and those with chronic conditions.

To protect your health:

- Never burn household garbage, cardboard, plastics or the colored ink on magazines, boxes and wrappers.
- Never burn coated painted or pressure-treated wood.
- Never burn ocean driftwood, plywood, particleboard or any wood with glue on it.
- Never burn wet, rotten, diseased or moldy wood.

Wood smoke results from incomplete burning. EPA certified wood stoves burn wood more completely; therefore they emit 60-80 percent less pollution.

If you smell smoke in your house, shut down the stove, open a window, check that the flue is open and check the venting system (which is usually the chimney). Burning clean, dry, well-seasoned hardwoods (such as oak or maple) in your wood stove will produce less smoke. Hardwoods also provide more heat energy than softer woods because hardwoods are denser and burn more slowly and evenly. Poplar and birch are also good for firewood.

McGrew to make bid for 13th Congressional District seat

LORAIN COUNTY

By Beth Mlady

The 13th Congressional District spans a large area in Northeast Ohio, but David McGrew believes his campaign goals address the main issue facing all localities: jobs. If elected, McGrew will represent people from Lorain to Elyria, Strongsville to Brunswick, and Akron to Cuyahoga Falls.

"I'm tired of seeing jobs originally in Northeast Ohio leave the area," McGrew told The Press. "People in Lorain County have suffered more than any other area in Ohio. We have to turn that around."

McGrew, a 47-year-old west Akron resident, small business owner (MCS Marketing, Inc.) and Republican, knows the job of winning voters in the Lorain area, a heavily Democratic population, won't be easy. The stimulus for creating more jobs, McGrew said, will be attracting other businesses to the area, particularly where empty factories currently sit. He believes he will be able to do that as a congressman by developing a strong rapport with business leaders and by "partnering with local leadership."

Other issues about which McGrew feels strongly, according to his web site, davidmcgrewforcongress.com, are student truancy, advocating No Child Left Behind initiatives, and collective bargaining. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from Clemson University and was a youth soccer coach in Akron.

Though he does not plan to move his family (he has a wife, Shari, and two small children) north from Akron, he said he has made several trips to the Lorain area and plans to make many more. Visibility might well be critical since as many as six other candidates (both Democrats and Republicans) may run for the 13th District seat.

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LAKE POINT CONSTRUCTION...
Wow - dramatic open foyer with split staircase, hardwood floors, crown moldings, glamour bath, his and her walk-in closets, gas fplace, sprinkler system, beautiful kitchen cabinetry, and much more. Amy Krall 327-6511. #5191. $299,950

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on over half acre lot, lots of space in here–4 bdrms, 2.5 baths, 1st floor has formal living room and dining rm and den. Master suite has private bath w/separate shower and tub. Enjoy the deck and the large fenced backyard. Tom Pycsit 327-6511. #5069. $279,900

ENJOY THE GOOD LIFE!
Say goodbye to outdoor maintenance. Sit back, relax and enjoy the landscaping. Brand new 2 bdrm, vinyl-sided condo is ready for you. Lots of oak cabinets w/pull-outs, pantry and plenty of counter space. Spacious living rm & dining rm, laundry rm, 1.5 bath, 2-car att. garage. Great value. Immediate occupancy. Darleen Crow 327-6511. #5002. $135,900

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This 2800 sq. ft. 4 bdrm Colonial is all done. Many upgrades. 3 car garage for all your toys. Master bdrm w/luxury bath, gas fplace, flowing floor plan, 1st floor laundry, 90% efficiency furnace, fin. garage w/openers, 9 ft. high 1st floor ceilings, lawn & landscaping in. Darleen Crow 327-6511. #5027. $242,900

GREAT INVESTMENT PROPERTY...
many possibilities for this 2/3 bdrm Ranch on half acre wooded lot. Newer siding, roof, and windows. Dick Brent 327-6511. #5004. $94,900

CUSTOM BUILT!!
Practically new custom built 4 bdrm, 2.5 bath home, vaulted ceilings in living rm and 2nd bdrm, skylights and fplace in living rm, maple cabinets & breakfast/lunch bar in gourmet kitchen, formal dining, 1st floor master bdrm, full bsmt. A home to be proud of – move in quality. Joe Lacinak 327-6511. #5859. $225,900

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Lovely 3 bdrm builders home w/no expense spared! Oak kitchen, oak trim, built-in entertainment center, tasteful neutral colors and carpet, composite deck, totally fenced with lovely perennials. A great place to call home. Janet Sprecher 327-6511. #5105. $142,900

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Colonial, featuring 3 bdrms, 2.5 baths, 2 story foyer, living & dining rms, lg. kitchen w/breakfast area that leads onto 12x30 deck, privacy fenced yard, and partially finished bsmt. Ready to move in and enjoy. Pat McGowan 327-6511. #5103. $179,900

CUSTOM BUILT HOME...
on .65 of an acre! Relax on the deck in the secluded, fenced backyard, newer carpet and vinyl flooring throughout, freshly painted, corian countertops, Andersen windows, crown molding & so much more. Amy Krall 327-6511. #5058. $219,000

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STATE OF CITY, from page 1

ues to move along, Gillock said, as does the Ridgeville Towne Center at the west end of Center Ridge Road.

"On a faster track, and believe me, nothing in government seems to happen fast, we are continuing to take the necessary steps to remove the eyesore at the corner of SR 83 and Center Ridge Road, also known as the old gas station," he said.

He went on to detail the discussions with the station's owner, whose asking price was $250,000. However, the city had the property appraised and was told the current market value is $90,000.

"We are currently obtaining an estimate of what the clean-up costs will be and then we will file for eminent domain," Gillock said. "In our opinion the net market value will be a negative amount. We can then begin removing this eyesore."

Highlighting the departments, the mayor noted the "strides" being made in the utilities department, including the implementation of online billing. To date more than 170 customers have signed for the new system. In addition there is a new computer kiosk in the lobby at city hall that is designed to facilitate bill paying and information about the city. The department also has made greater headway in the area of recycling, Gillock said.

The safety forces continue to be an asset to the city as members strive to continue to serve the ever-increasing population, he said. The mayor noted that after nine years, the Stacey Balas case was solved, calling it "a direct result of the dedication and perseverance of our department and particularly Lt. Barry Accorti."

It nearly went without saying that the engineering and building departments have been on overload, but employees try to keep up with the new housing developments and construction that is going on.

"Financially, 2005 was a good year for North Ridgeville," Gillock said, adding that thanks to changes in the city's insurance program, a savings of $139,569 was realized on medical and prescription costs. Municipal income tax was up 11 percent at slightly over $7 million.

He also noted that money matters seem to be heading in the right direction.

"When we arrived here at the end of 2003, our first budget report showed a deficit in our general fund spending of approximately $781,000," Gillock said. "Last year, we had reduced that deficit to $450,000. This year, for the first time in many years, our revenues actually exceeded our expenses by approximately $150,000."

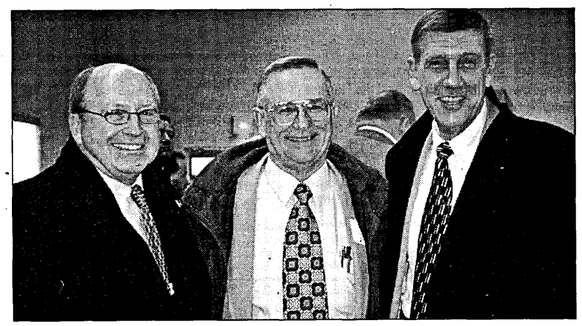
Acknowledging that is not a large amount of money, the mayor said the financial picture is heading the right way.

Gillock's hopes for 2006 include razing the gas station at SR 83 and Center Ridge Road, demolishing the buildings at the old Ridgeview Shopping Center, the appointment of a Charter Review Committee, groundbreaking for Community Health Partners, the opening of the SR 83 overpass and the rebuilding of the intersection at Lorain and Root roads.

"I look forward to working with our new council and continuing to move North Ridgeville forward," he said. "It's a great place to live and do business, as all of you know. Last year 896 new residents and 19 businesses also decided it would be a great place to live and work, realizing what all of us already knew."



State Rep. Earl Martin and North Ridgeville City Schools Superintendent Larry Bowersox chat a few minutes before the luncheon begins.



Building inspector, Paul Blanchette, City Engineer Larry Griffith and Chief Building Inspector Guy Fursdon take time to pose for a photo.



A foursome enjoys some conversation at the event. From left, Streets Supervisor Chris Rangus, Bob Slovak, Terri Tyson and Peggy Knight.



Regenia Comerford and June Yost get ready to take their seats for the event.



Assistant Fire Chief John Reese, Councilwoman Bernadine Butkowski and Assistant Fire Chief Scott Bement get some refreshments to go with their luncheon.

North Ridgeville Chamber of Commerce



Nicole Howard, administrator of Northridge Health Center, chats with Toni Musgrove, sales representative for the North Ridgeville Press.

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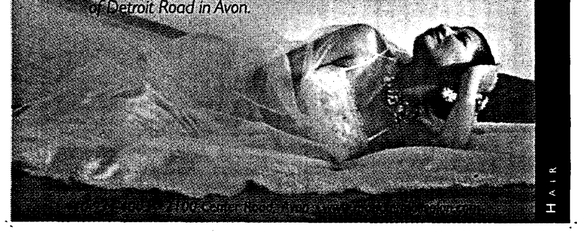
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Sports

TIME OUT

Ridgeville vs Midview rivalry renewed



Joe Ostrica

Last Friday's boys basketball game was living proof that the classic North Ridgeville vs. Midview rivalry is alive and well. The student body of Ranger fans was easy to spot: in addition to being the loudest bunch in the gym, even when their team was down by double digits, they also all wore white to represent the home team.

"As far as a crowd and the intensity, you couldn't ask for anything better," NRHS head coach Mark Rechin said. "When we were there for warm-ups and stuff, right at the beginning of the game, I said to the other coaches 'This is everything right here. This is awesome.' You couldn't hear anything it was so loud. The crowd was great. The students were there all dressed the same and screaming their lungs out for their classmates.

"It just brought out everything that's great about high school sports."

When the game announcer reminded the crowd that the Rangers were the West Shore Conference football champs, Ranger fans went into a frenzy while Midview fans fumed. The Middie basketball team, which features several football players that lost by one point in overtime to the Rangers with the football WSC title on the line, seemed to feed off of that anger from the opening tip.

Maybe that's when Ridgeville senior point guard Mike Nelson's warmup got torn in half. According to Rechin, Nelson left his warmup on the visitor's bench immediately following the JV game. When he went back to retrieve it, he discovered it had been ripped in half right down the middle.

The Middies tore through the Rangers in the first half of the contest, taking a 35-22 lead at the break. Midview outscored North Ridgeville 22-11 in the second quarter.

Rechin and his assistants gave their players a tongue lashing in the locker room for their first half play. Telling his team this was a major gut check and that they were about to educate him on exactly what kind of team they were, the Rangers had one more piece of inspiration to get them fired up for the second half.

Rechin made sure Nelson's torn warmups were hung up on the lockers. Consider point taken to heart. The Rangers held the Middies to just 10 points in the second half and walked off the court with a 56-45 win.

Rechin was amazed at the electricity running throughout the gym during the game.

"One of the things I told our seniors was this is the first time Midview has come here since the early 90's, I believe," Rechin said. "That's back when they were in the same conference, so it's been almost 15 years. I told the seniors 'You are the guys that get to experience it first. What a way to go out. We need to get out and at least get a split for this series and not let them have two wins in your senior year.'"

The message was received loud and clear, a game was won and the rivalry rocks on.

pressostrica@hotmail.com

Rangers halt losing streak with win over Midview

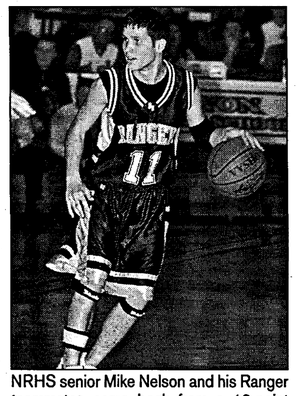
By Joe Ostrica

After hitting rock bottom with a 73-47 West Shore Conference loss at Firelands the night before, the North Ridgeville boys basketball team knew it had to step it up. Not only were the Rangers in the midst of a three game-losing streak, they were also hosting WSC rival Midview the next night.

With a packed-house and a spirited home crowd behind them, the Rangers didn't disappoint. After a lackluster first half in which they trailed the Middies by 13 (35-22), the Rangers that emerged from the locker room for the second half were an entirely different team, holding Midview to just 10 points in the second half. The Rangers put up 34 points to win 56-45.

"Giving up just 10 points in the second half is huge, that's first," North Ridgeville head coach Mark Rechin said. "Strategically we didn't really do anything different. We just had to challenge them to get out there and get after it because they didn't do it (in the first half)."

After witnessing an abysmal first half in which everything went right for Midview and everything went wrong for North Ridgeville, Rechin admitted his team received an earful in the locker room.



NRHS senior Mike Nelson and his Ranger teammates came back from a 13-point halftime deficit to defeat the Middies. *Photo by Pro Photography*

"What they received here in this locker room at halftime was pretty brutal," he said. "I told them that was a gutless, non-existent performance in the first half. Midview got every loose ball, ripped down rebounds and had seven layups. It was very reminiscent of the Firelands game and it was just gut-check time at halftime.

"(Assistant) Coach (Bill) Noggle came in here first and screamed his lungs out and kicked a few things. It was just an education. I told them 'I'm going to get an education in the second half on exactly what kind of team we are. I don't know what you've got inside of you, but it's got to be guts and it's got to be heart.'"

Playing with a new-found passion to start the third period, the Rangers opened the second half with a 7-0 run to pull within six (35-29). In those opening two-and-a-half minutes, Midview committed two turnovers, missed a few shots, and committed two fouls, including a charge.

A few plays later center Chris Pataky was whistled for a technical foul after junior Josh Kehl outhustled him for a rebound. The 6'6" Pataky was caught off guard that the 5'11" Kehl ended up with the ball and was whistled for the protest he shout out at the official.

SEE ***NRHS BBALL,*** *page 12*

Lady Rangers snap losing streak, defeat Midview

By Joe Ostrica

The North Ridgeville High School girls basketball team snapped an eight-game losing streak last week with a thrilling come-from-behind 35-31 home victory over Midview. After trailing 31-30 with a minute remaining, the Lady Rangers closed the game out with a 5-0 run to win the West Shore Conference contest.

North Ridgeville coach Steve Kelly called a timeout near the final minute mark of the fourth quarter to set up a play with his team down by one point (31-30).

"It was a play we used last year to get Kristy Montgomery open for a shot at the end of the game," Kelly said.

Senior Amanda Bier knocked down a 3-pointer to put the Lady Rangers up by two (33-31). Bier is shooting 39 percent from behind the arc this season and leads the team with 12 treys. She finished with a game-high 11 points. Senior Melissa Turner sealed the victory by hitting two free throws with 12 seconds remaining in the contest.

"I am very proud that the girls were able to stay calm and execute the play, as well as Amanda hitting the big shot," Kelly said. "The shot did not have to be a three, but that just happened to be where she was when she squared up to shoot.

"We then played good man-to-man defense and rebounded their missed shot. After a couple of fouls to get us in the bonus, Melissa Turner stepped up and knocked down two big free throws to seal the win."

Jaime Frindt finished with eight points for the Lady Rangers. Turner scored six points. Adriana Bier finished with four points. Liz Frindt and Marissa Hausler scored three points apiece.

Kelly was pleased to see his team hold the Middies to 31 points. The last time the two teams met the Middies won 41-28.

"Our defense, for the most part, has been solid this year," Kelly said. "It has been our inability to make open shots that has really been a problem and has made us work even harder on the defensive end to stay in games.

"It was a nice win. The girls have been working hard on their shooting over the past few weeks and we are all waiting for the shots to start going down for us. We have a tough stretch of games coming up and are going to have to begin scoring some more points if we are to be successful."

North Ridgeville (3-11 overall, 2-7 in the WSC) will host conference leaders Bay (12-2, 9-0) tonight for a 7:30 p.m. home contest. Saturday the Lady Rangers will host Avon (8-5, 5-4) for a 4:30 p.m. contest. Avon defeated North Ridgeville 43-40 in the first meeting on Dec. 17.

Lady Lions drop heartbreaker to Cornerstone Christian

By Joe Ostrica

The Lake Ridge Academy girls basketball team watched helplessly as a five-point lead (36-31) with 2:30 remaining in the fourth quarter turned into a one-point loss (37-36) at the end of the buzzer. Despite poor free throw shooting and mental mistakes preventing the Lady Lions from walking off the court with a victory, head coach Malisha Richardson was proud of how her team kept fighting the entire game when things didn't seem to go their way.

"They compete as a team the entire time," Richardson said. "They never got upset with each other, they never argue with each other. A lot of the officiating could have taken them out of the game, but it didn't. That really shows the maturity of a young team. They were able to play through that.

"They came out stronger in the second half and decided they were going to play like a Lake Ridge team."

After trailing Cornerstone Christian 20-18 at halftime, the Lady Lions went on an 18-11 run over the first 13:30 of the second half. LRA junior Katie Gardner scored eight of her team-high 11 points during the run. She also had seven rebounds and one steal.



Lake Ridge sophomore Alex Hansen led the Lady Lions with eight assists and seven steals to go along with six points. *Photo by Pro Photography*

After taking a 36-31 lead with 2:30 remaining, the Lady Lions could not get anything else going offensively. With four trips to the free throw line in the final 42.8 seconds, the Lady Lions failed to convert any from the charity stripe. LRA shot just 5-of-14 from the line the entire contest.

Senior Georgia DiOrio finished with 10 points, one 3-pointer, five steals, two blocks and one assist. Sophomore point guard Alex Hansen led the team with eight assists and seven steals to go along with her six points. Alisha Bouzaher scored seven points, eight rebounds and two steals. Mary Elise Topp rounded out the scoring with two points, four rebounds and three steals.

Richardson was happy to see the team knock down shots to help give Hansen the eight assists she racked up.

"Alex had a good game and the team helped her out," she said. "The team actually made the baskets. Sometimes that doesn't always happen, but they are starting to gel. It's not a bad time for them to begin to play well together."

Despite the loss, Richardson is still happy to see her team with a winning record at 7-5.

SEE ***LRA HOOPS,*** *page 12*

Barker nears school record, has eyes set on districts

By Joe Ostrica

When a high school wrestler surpasses 100 career victories and approaches the school record, a lot of factors have come into play. First off, it helps to wrestle all four years of ones high school career as a member of the varsity team. Second, being healthy is a major key. Finally, the individual must get the job done and close out matches.

North Ridgeville High School senior Alec Barker has been fortunate enough to be among the rare individuals who can say all three of those items have come to fruition for him. Barker, who has spent the majority of his career wrestling at heavyweight and more recently at 215 pounds, is on the verge of accomplishing something special. With a 25-3 record thus far his senior year, Barker has 104 career wins, just nine victories shy of Matt Rabung's school record (113) set in the 2002-03 season. Barker also has 16 pins, second best on the team.

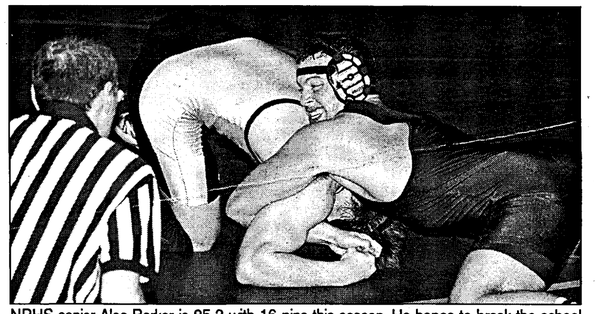
Barker said being mentally strong and not looking ahead is what's important.

"You go one match at a time," he said. "You can't look ahead and think 'Oh this kid is good. That kid is good.' You just have to take it one at a time and not put all of your eggs in one basket.

"I've wrestled all four years and have matured. I've had the experience and in the close matches that really helps. Without the experience you don't know what to do."

North Ridgeville head coach Ed Haller said Barker's record has come with hard work.

"At this point to be injury free and in the lineup week after week after week for four years, that's quite an accomplishment," Haller said. "When the record was set by Rabung, we didn't have as many duals as we do now. We've picked up maybe six to eight more matches on our schedule, but it's still quite an accomplishment to reach 113 wins. It could go on from there."



NRHS senior Alec Barker is 25-3 with 16 pins this season. He hopes to break the school record for career wins (113) in the next few weeks. *Photo by Pro Photography*

Coming into his final season, Barker had some major goals he set for himself.

"I wanted to break the (career) record, get over 100 career wins, at least make it back to districts, have 500 total team points in a career and stay in single digit losses," he said. "So far I'm doing well. I want to continue doing what I'm doing and then hopefully continue wrestling at the college level."

Barker is considering John Carroll, Gannon Unversity in Pennsylvania and a NAIA school Northwestern in Iowa to continue his education.

Barker said having the team (now 11-4 overall and 5-0 in the West Shore Conference for a first-place lead) experience such a good season his senior year is making it extra special. The addition of transfers Mike Janik (27-0, 21 pins) and Josh Counts (20-5) has also given the Rangers a nice lift.

"I love it," Barker said. "There's no other place I'd rather be. It was nice to have Janik and Counts come back. We grew up wrestling together when we were younger and now we're wrestling together for a championship. We hope to have at least three (WSC) champions. Janik, Counts and I are hoping to take first. Whoever can place helps us. Anybody who wins a match will help with points.

"I think the proudest thing to do would be to raise two banners in one year, one for football and one for wrestling."

Barker is also hoping to leave with a better effort in the postseason.

"Last year I got sick and didn't do anything in districts," he admitted. "This year I've stayed in the house, I haven't gone out. I've just really been concentrating on wrestling. Not that I didn't last year, but this year I've really been focused. I want to place at districts."

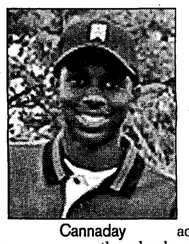
North Ridgeville 2005-06 Wrestling Records

	Wins	Losses	Pins
Mike Janik	27	0	21
Alec Barker	25	3	16
Josh Counts	20	5	3
Kyle Amaro	14	6	8
Kyle Beaune	14	9	6
Shane Friend	14	11	7
Greg Byrd	12	5	9
Josh Wall	11	9	4
Matt Phillips	11	11	4
Rex Rozar	10	10	5

Cannaday to continue academic, golf career at Carnegie Mellon

By Joe Ostrica

After making perhaps the most difficult decision of his life, Lake Ridge Academy golf standout Brett Cannaday went with Carnegie Mellon University to continue his academic and athletic career next fall. Cannaday applied the last day of the early decision period after deliberating the decision with his college counselor at Lake Ridge.



Cannaday

"I went back and forth so many times between colleges it was insane," Cannaday admitted. "I was talking to my college counselor to see if I wanted to go early or not and ended up applying on the day of the deadline to Carnegie Mellon. I was pacing back and forth in my principal's office just trying to decide. I talked to my college advisor for over an hour. By the end of the day I figured Carnegie Mellon would be the best fit, I would have a great life there and it would be good for my career."

By applying for the school as early as Cannaday did, if accepted to Carnegie Mellon, he would not be able to change his mind and look at other schools. Other schools he considered attending included the University of Michigan, Northwestern University, University of Rochester and Lafayette College.

"If you know where you want to go, you can apply early and find out early (if you are accepted)," Cannaday said. "I signed out early. If I got accepted, then I am committed to that school. That's the reason I was debating so much on that final day. If I did decide early and was accepted, I would have to go there."

Cannaday, who averaged a 36.7 on nine holes his senior year and was a medallist in eight of his 11 dual matches, said it all turned out fine because he felt Carnegie Mellon was the best fit for him.

"It had everything I was looking for," he said. "I'm able to play on the golf team and the coach was one of the nicest ones I met. It seemed like we clicked. It's also one of the best academic schools and is ranked in the top 25 national universities. They have a great business program, which I'm interested in. Their business school is ranked in the top 20 for national universities too.

"I'm looking forward to meeting new people, but also it's going to be a wonderful experience to play golf at the collegiate level. Only two percent of the college population plays a collegiate sport. It will be a wonderful opportunity to travel around the country and play the sport. I'll also get to meet new people sooner by being on a team. It should really help with my transition to college."

Finding out he was accepted proved to be a bit anticlimactic for Cannaday. He accidentally saw he was accepted when checking out the school website online, days before the official letter arrived in the mail.

"I saw it online, but still had a slight doubt," Cannaday admitted. "It really didn't hit me that night. You can check out the progress of your application online and under decision it said accepted. It said they mailed my notification on Jan. 5 but it was already the ninth and I hadn't gotten it yet.

"I was relieved to see I was accepted on the website, but it didn't hit me until I got the letter. When I saw that then I was excited. Finding it out online made it less nerve-wracking to open the letter, but it was still nice to see it on paper. That made it more official."

The Lake Ridge Academy record holder in lowest nine-hole score (30) and lowest sectional score (72), Cannaday was medallist in 38 of the 49 matches he competed in throughout his four-year varsity career, giving him the top score in 78 percent of the matches he played. He averaged a 37.1 over that time in nine-holes and 77.8 in 18 holes. He's hoping to carry that success over to the next level.

"I hope to be able to play on the starting four or five and hopefully post some good scores next year," Cannaday said. "I'd like to continue the success I've had at high school at the college level. I want to stay in the mid 70s when I go to college.

"I hope when I go there that Coach (Rich) Erdelyi is proud of the decision he made to invite me to play there for him. Hopefully he'll be happy with the decision he made."

Cannaday, who has attended Lake Ridge all 13 years of his academic career, said finishing out his senior year with a strong record was among some of his highlights at the school.

"I've been here for 13 years, so that's an achievement," he said. "Only a few other kids have done that. I guess winning the team MVP and being the captain on the golf team all four years has been a big accomplishment. Finishing my scores in the 30s all four years is something I'm proud of too.

"Being my senior year, it was nice to see the team finish 12-2, which is one of the best records Lake Ridge has ever had. We had a great group of players and played our hearts out, so it was nice to be rewarded for it."

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Sports Schedules

Wednesday, Jan. 25
Girls Basketball
7:30 p.m.: Bay at NRHS
7:30 p.m.: LRA @ Elyria Catholic

Thursday, Jan. 26
Wrestling
7 p.m.: Fairview/Bay @ NRHS

Friday, Jan. 27
Girls Basketball
6 p.m.: Open Door @ LRA
Boys Basketball
7:30 p.m.: NRHS @ Vermilion
7:30 p.m.: Open Door @ LRA

Saturday, Jan. 28
Wrestling
10 a.m.: NRHS @ Cardinal Duals
Girls Basketball
1 p.m.: LRA @ Columbia
4:30 p.m.: Avon @ NRHS
Boys Basketball
7:30 p.m.: Bay @ NRHS

Tuesday, Jan. 31
Boys Basketball
7:30 p.m.: LRA @ Fuchs Mizrachi

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

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

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 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.

Hot Stove baseball registration

egistrations 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 tryouts

Joe Auner is looking for eight year olds that do not turn nine before May 1, 2006 for a summer travel baseball team. For more info call Joe at 327-6397.

NRHS wrestling alumni

The Ranger wrestling boosters are actively pursuing more involvement from the community and are trying to contact as many Ranger wrestling alumni as possible. Please contact the North Ridgeville Wrestling Boosters at 327-3867 to get on the mailing list.

Youth basketball

The North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Department is now taking signups for the Junior Ranger Basketball Program. Cost is $45. Boys and girls in grades 3-6 can register at the parks and recreation office Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or call 353-0860 for more information.

Mini Ball tourney

North Ridgeville High School will be hosting its Annual Mini Ball (Futsal) Tournament March 4. This event has been the longest running tournament of this kind in the area. Space is limited (there are two full size gyms). Winning teams will receive a commemorative Ranger Shootout Futsal Tournament shirt. A concession stand will be available for breakfast and lunch items. Cost is $140 with a $50 deposit due by Feb. 25. Cost for two teams is $230. Three teams cost $300. For more info, e-mail Dan Blagojevic at blago4@alltel.net or call 327-0959.

LRA HOOPS, from page 10

"We're doing well," she said. "I think they've definitely acclimated themselves to a different coach with somewhat of a different system, but they are definitely working hard for me and I have no complaints about them. I think they're going to make a name for this program."

Richardson said the goal from this point is simply to get more wins than losses and finish over .500. They will have two challenges this week. First up is a trip to Elyria Catholic tonight for a 7:30 p.m. contest. Friday the Lady Lions will host rival Open Door Christian for a 6 p.m. game. The LRA boys team will follow up with a 7:30 p.m. game against Open Door.

"EC will be a tough game, but we're looking forward to it," Richardson said. "When we play team-by-team, we don't do anything special. We win every game the same way with every team. If we play defense, rebound, work hard as a team and communicate, that's the way you beat teams. You just might have to step it up against certain teams.

"We're just going to practice like we always practice and work hard like we always do and try to get a win and surprise some people along the way."

NRHS BBALL, from page 10

By the end of the third quarter, the Rangers had pulled within five points (41-36). The Middies scored just six points and only two field goals in the quarter. With 20 points scored in the fourth quarter, nearly as many as they scored in the entire first half, the Rangers ran away with the game. A layup by Sean Bunevich followed by a 3-pointer by Nick Carpenter, his third for the night, tied the game 41-41 with 6:55 remaining in the contest.

A shot by Pataky and a free throw put Midview back up by three (44-41), but it would be their last lead of the night. The Rangers closed out the game with a 15-1 run from that point, in which all five starters scored from either the field or the free throw line. North Ridgeville closed the game by hitting 7-of-8 from the free throw line.

"I think our kids think that if it's at home and they've got all their buddies screaming for them maybe that's all they need, but it's not as that first half proved," Rechin said. "They have to want it. Those people didn't come here to see how they played in the first half. They came here for exactly what they did in the second half. It was a tremendous turnaround. It was a Jekyll and Hyde performance."

Midview coach Troy DiFranco was stunned to see his team walk off the court with a loss after such a strong first half.

"We played good team basketball the first half and came in as individuals in the second half," he said. "Mentally we were not tough enough tonight. If you score three baskets in the second half you're not going to win many games."

The Rangers had four of its starters finish with double figures in scoring, while a fifth starter, Kehl, finished with eight. Carpenter led the Rangers with a game-high 14 points and three 3-pointers. He also grabbed three rebounds and had one steal and one assist. Bunevich finished with 12 points, 10 rebounds, one steal, one assist and one block. Jordan White (12 points, four rebounds, one steal), Mike Nelson (10 points, one 3-poniter, five assists, three rebounds, two steals) and Kehl (eight points, four rebounds, three steals, two assists, one block) rounded out the scoring.

"To see four of our guys reach double figures is perfect," Rechin praised. "That's all you can ask for."

Rechin was also pleased with the way Kehl has been playing, especially on the defensive end, since being moved to the starting lineup after Joe Faragher went down for the season with a foot injury.

"Josh is getting more minutes now with Joe out and he's doing a great job," Rechin said. "Josh is our best defensive player, so that allows us to get him on the floor a lot more. He's usually got the team's best player. In the second half we had Josh on (Joe) Harder and that was a great effort on his part."

The Rangers are now in a four-way tie for third place in the WSC with a 4-4 record. They are 6-6 overall. Rocky River, who suffered its first loss of the season to Firelands last Saturday, continues to lead the pack with a 7-1 conference record and 11-1 overall. The Middies, who dropped to 5-3 in the WSC and 8-5 overall, still remain in second place. The Rangers, along with Bay (4-4, 8-4), Firelands (4-4, 7-5) and Vermilion (4-4, 7-5) are tied for third. Fairview (3-5, 6-8) and Avon (1-7, 3-9) hold the last two spots.

North Ridgeville will travel to Elyria Tuesday (after NRP deadline) for a non-conference contest. Legendary coach Bob Walsh hopes to capture career win number 600 against the Rangers. The Rangers will resume WSC action with another back-to-back weekend of games. After traveling to Vermilion on Friday, they will host Bay on Saturday for a 7:30 p.m. contest.

ATTENTION COACHES!

Send your team's results to:
JOE OSTRICA
Phone:
440-933-5100;
Fax: 440-933-7904
e-mail:
pressostrica@hotmail.com

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Education

Nominate an educator for Teacher of the Year

Nominations for the Ohio 2005-2006 "Teacher of the Year" award are being accepted through March 1. The announcement came from the award sponsor, Teachers' Insurance Plan, a car insurance program exclusively for members of the educational community.

The award will include $1,000 to the winning teacher and a $500 grant to the teacher's school The state winner will also be eligible for the National Award that includes a special recognition and a $2,500 travel certificate.

Teachers, students and parents can nominate any of the state's more than 155,000 accredited teachers. Nomination forms are available online at www.teachers.com/toty. To nominate an educator, explain in 250 words or less why this teacher should be the Teacher of the Year. Nominees will be judged on their ability to motivate students, their special talents and their contribution to their school, students or educational community.

Winners will be announced at the end of the school year.

JVS open house

Are you and your child puzzled about future career opportunities? Are you wondering whether college, a tech school, and/or apprenticeship training is the best path to a successful career?

The Lorain County JVS is hosting its 35th annual open house on Feb. 5 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Planned specifically for eighth, ninth and 10th grade students and their parents, this year's open house is designed to help young people begin thinking about all the careers that are available to them.

While still in high school, Lorain County JVS students have the opportunity to obtain advanced technical skills, earn college credits, receive industry certifications, and participate in structured internships leading to jobs with local business partners.

The Lorain County JVS Adult Career Center staff will also be on hand to talk with anyone interested in changing careers or upgrading their skills.

During the open house, visitors will have the opportunity to:

- Speak with faculty on a one-to-one basis about our career-technical program options and the academic courses that are emphasized.
- Learn about enrollment procedures by talking with recruitment/enrollment staff.
- View JVS student demonstrations on state-of-the-art equipment used daily in training labs.
- Register for spring semester adult education classes.
- Discover how the JVS Adult Career Center can customize training programs to meet the needs of business and industry.

Lorain County residents are invited to see how the JVS is helping to provide high school and adult students with advanced technical skills that lead to career success.

Lorain County JVS is located on the corner of SR 58 and 20 in Oberlin. For more information call the JVS at 774-1051 (Elyria, Oberlin), 986-6601 (Lorain), or visit www.lcjvs.com.

Academic Notes

Mike Ols and **Kevin Vogel**, eighth-graders at St. Peter School, are recipients of academic scholarships awarded by St. Edward High School based on their performances on the student entrance exams.

What's for lunch?

For Jan. 26-Feb. 1, 2006

North Ridgeville Middle School/High School

Thurs: Soft taco/roll, cheeseburger/bun, baby carrots, pears, milk
Fri: Fish patty/bun, chicken patty/bun, potato & cheese pierogies, coleslaw, applesauce, milk
Mon: Pizza/cheese slice, steak-um/bun, baby carrots, warm cinnamon apple slices, milk
Tues: Sloppy Joe, chicken fingers/roll, tator tots, pears, milk
Wed: Chicken fajita/roll, cheeseburger/bun, corn, mixed fruit, milk

North Ridgeville Elementary

Thurs: Soft taco, dinner roll, baby carrots, pears, milk
Fri: Fish treasures or chicken nuggets, wheat roll, French fries, applesauce, milk
Mon: Pizza/cheese slice, baby carrots, warm cinnamon apple slices, milk
Tues: Chicken fingers, dinner roll, tator tots, pears, milk
Wed: Soft taco, wheat roll, corn, mixed fruit, milk

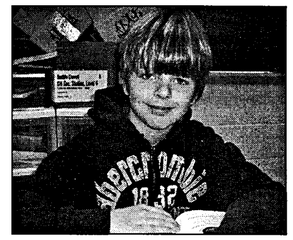
Sixth-grader earns perfect score on Math Olympiad

Sherry Dearth's sixth grade COSMOS class participated in the Math Olympiad, national math competition, on Jan. 10. There were a total of five problems, each with a specified time limit and all required mathematical reasoning. Sixth-grader Nicholas Vilagi, 12, earned a perfect score of five out of five.

"Math has always been my favorite subject," Nicholas said. "I was able to find shortcuts to the problems so that I finished long before the allotted time," adding that long multiplication and division are his favorite math problems.

"Nicholas is a fantastic student," Dearth said. "He's been working on independent math projects for me for quite some time."

Dearth prepares the students for the math competition in a variety of ways and the competition enhances the math standards for the state of Ohio. Recently the class worked in small groups on problem solving and then presented to the class in the form of a PowerPoint presentation. Additionally, there are 25 practice problems made available from each of the last two years which Dearth had the students practice prior to administering the test.



Middle school sixth-grader Nicholas Vilagi

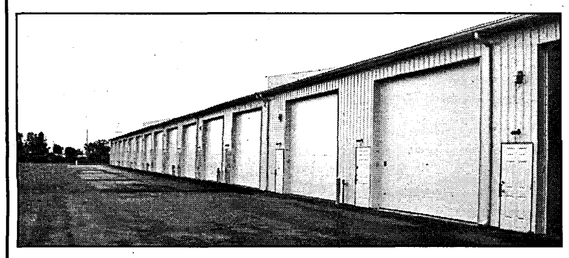
There are a total of five Math Olympiads scheduled for 2005-06 and this was the third competition. Sixth-grader Kenny Schmitt earned five out of five on the December competition. At the end of the fifth Olympiad, scores will be totaled per participant and also by school teams. Awards will be presented and both Nicholas and Kenny are hopeful they will be on the receiving end of one of these awards.

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Town Crier

Thursday
7:30 a.m. Visitors bureau committee-VB office
Noon Super Thursday luncheon-Senior Center
1-4 p.m. Cards/games-Senior Center
1 p.m. Toddler story time-NR Library
6:30-7:30 p.m. Cardio-fit kickboxing-Safetyville building
7 p.m. Zoning board-Council chamber
7 p.m. Preschool story time-NR Library
7 p.m. ARC meeting-NRHS media room

Friday
Report card day at NRCS
9:30-11 a.m. On Target fencing-Senior Center
Noon Rotary luncheon-Senior Center
5-7 p.m. Spaghetti dinner-Senior Center
4-5 p.m. Theater workshop-NRHS
5-6 p.m. Magic class, grades 1-8-NRHS
6:30-7:30 p.m. Women's self defense-Safetyville building
7:30-8:15 p.m. Family self-defense-Safetyville building

Saturday
9-11:30 a.m. On Target fencing-Senior Center
9:30-10:30 a.m. Body sculpting/kickboxing-Safetyville building
10:30 a.m. Toddler story time-NR Library
11:30 a.m. Preschool story time-NR Library
2 p.m. Beginner's guide to e-mail-NR Library
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Reiki I-Senior Center
7:45-8:45 p.m. Tae Kwon Do-Safetyville building

Sunday
11 a.m. Open house-St. Peter School
1:30-3 p.m. Self defense-Safetyville building
2 p.m. Weather forecasting in NE Ohio-NR Library

Monday
9-9:50 a.m. A New Wrinkle-Senior Center
10 a.m.-2 p.m. Crafting/quilting-Senior Center
1 p.m. Toddler story time-NR Library
2-4 p.m. Computer Class Basic II-Senior Center
6 p.m. Windows II computer-NR Library
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
7:45-8:45 p.m. Tae Kwon Do-Safetyville building

Tuesday
10:30 a.m. or 1 p.m. Preschool story time-NR Library
1-4 p.m. Watercolor classes-Senior Center
4-5 p.m. Bowling, ages 3-adult-Brunswick Zone
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
8-9:30 p.m. Fencing-Middle school

Wednesday
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Watercolor classes-Senior Center
Noon Lunch, cards/bingo-Senior Center
6:30-7:30 p.m. Cardio-fit kickboxing-Safetyville building
7 p.m. Step-Up club-NR Library
7 p.m. Ranger parent club-NRHS
7:45-8:45 p.m. Tae Kwon Do-Safetyville building

Lifestyles

Super Thursday lunch
Join the North Ridgeville Senior Center on Jan. 26 for the Super Thursday Luncheon featuring entertainment by the Sweet Adelines.

Lunch is served at noon. The $5 cost includes roast beef, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, salad, rolls, beverage and cherry pie. The Sweet Adelines will entertain from 12:30-1:15 p.m.

Reservations can be made by calling 353-0828 by Wednesday morning.

First spaghetti dinner
It's spaghetti dinner time again. On Jan. 27 from 5-7 p.m. the Senior Center will hold a spaghetti dinner, including homemade sauce, meatballs, salad, garlic bread and beverage. Dessert is $1 extra. Adults are $6; seniors, $5 and children under 10, $4. All proceeds go to the North Ridgeville Office for Older Adults to help maintain senior services in the area. If you enjoy your meal at the Senior Center, you may see the strolling musician, but carryout meals are available. The Senior Center is located on the corner of Avon Belden Road (SR 83) and Bainbridge Road. For more information, call 353-0828.

Valentines on display at OTH
The public is invited to visit the community museum in the Old Town Hall, 36119 Center Ridge Road on Jan. 29 from 2-5 p.m. Valentine cards from the 1800s through the 1950s will be featured in a special display that day. Long time and new residents will enjoy learning about the history of North Ridgeville by viewing the many items on exhibit in the museum. There is no admission charge and free refreshments will be served.

Tax help
Starting Feb. 2, the Senior Center will again have trained volunteers from AARP available on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from noon-3 p.m. to help with taxes. Call 353-0828 to schedule an appointment. The service is provided at no charge, however, donations are accepted to North Ridgeville Seniors Inc.

Dinner and show
The Cascade Chordsmen Babershop Chorus presents its annual dinner and a show on Feb. 4 at 6 p.m. at the Community United Methodist Church, 680 Abbe Road, Elyria. A chicken dinner will be served following the concert. Tickets are $15. Call (440) 897-4655 or (440) 915-7091 for tickets or information.

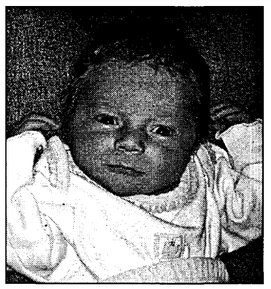
Cascade Chordsmen
The Elyria Cascade Chordsmen, an award winning men's acapella chorus will host an open house guest night at the Community United Methodist Church, located at 680 North Abbe Road in Elyria on Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m. Master Director Al Downey will teach vocal techniques. Chapter quartets will also perform. Men and students of all ages are invited to attend.

If you like to sing and would like free music lessons to improve your craft, this is the place for you. All you need is a desire to sing and have fun. For more information, call Paul Centric at 327-5195 or go to www.Harmonize.com/CascadeChordsmen.

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Birth Announcments



Olivia Jean Nagorka
Olivia Jean Nagorka was born Dec. 13, 2005, to Jim and Kelly Nagorka, of Brooklyn. She weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and was 20 inches long at birth.

Her grandparents are Joseph and Linda McMillen of North Ridgeville, Paul and Betty Murmann, of Parma, and Jim Nagorka.

Business News

Scott earns P.E. license in state of Ohio


Scott

KS Associates Inc., a civil engineering and land-surveying firm headquartered in Elyria, announced that James Scott, project engineer for KS Associates' Transportation Group, has become a registered Professional Engineer (P.E.), licensed in the state of Ohio. His responsibilities include design and project management for all phases of KS Associates' transportation projects.

Scott joined KS Associates in June 2005. His project experience includes designing and preparing plans for highway projects, most recently in Sheffield Lake, Sandusky and for the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) District 3.

Scott received a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Cincinnati. In addition to earning a four-year degree in engineering from an accredited university, Ohio law requires that graduates have a minimum of four additional years of professional experience before taking the P.E. exam. Scott has more than five years of engineering experience.


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Obituaries

Rose Mary Green
Rose Mary Green (nee Leonard), 76, of Belleville, Ill., and formerly of Avon Lake, died Jan. 1, 2006, at Memorial Hospital, Belleville.

Born in Avon Lake, she was a former music teacher at Ludwig Music Store in Belleville and Fairview Heights, Ill., and former owner of The Music Studio in Fairview Heights.

Mrs. Green was a member of Faith Family Church, Shiloh, Ill., a member of the Mid-America Music Association, the Illinois Music Teachers Associations Gateway Arch East Chapter and a member of PSOP. She was a volunteer for the Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.

Survivors include sons, Robert T. Green Jr. of Pittsburg, Calif., and Thomas M. Green of Belleville, Ill.; a daughter, Kathleen Hartmann of Belleville; two grandsons; three great-grandchildren; brothers, Walter Leonard of North Ridgeville and David Leonard of Nocono, Tex.; and a sister, Pat Walko of Grafton. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert T. Green Sr.; her parents, Walter P. and Truvie (nee Shripka) Leonard; a son, Michael Green; and a sister, Leona Shank.

Services and burial were in Fairview Heights, Ill.

Nicholas Daniel Ferguson
Nicholas Daniel Ferguson died at birth on Jan. 18, 2006, at Community Health Partners Hospital, Lorain.

He is survived by his parents, James and LaVerne (nee Halfhill) Ferguson, of Amherst; brothers, Brandon James Ferguson and Andrew James Ferguson; maternal grandmother, LaVerne Halfhill, of North Ridgeville.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, James and Helen (nee Light) Ferguson and maternal grandfather, Daniel Halfhill.

Burial was in St. Peter Cemetery.

Arrangements were handled by the David Bogner Family Funeral Home.

Vaughn Carl Thompson
Vaughn Carl Thompson, 59, of North Ridgeville, died Jan. 18, 2006, in Fairview General Hospital after a short illness.

Born in Memphis, he moved from Cleveland to North Ridgeville 15 years ago.

He was a 1964 graduate of East Tech High School and attended Central State University in Wilberforce. He was a supervisor for the Brook Park Ford Motor Co. plant for the last 39 years. Mr. Thompson also was a member of Second Baptist Church of Elyria, where he worked with the Men's Committee, and the Honey Sweet Coffee Hour Ministry of the church. He also was a former equipment coach for the P.A.L. 5 Football League of Cleveland.

Survivors include his wife of 36 years, Antoinette (nee McCurdy); and brothers Willie of Florida and Alvin of Cleveland.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Willie Sr. and Emmie Thompson.

Burial was in Resthaven Memory Gardens in Avon.

Carter Funeral Homes Inc., Elyria handled arrangements.

Toni Kapri Allison
Toni Kapri Allison was stillborn Jan. 21, 2006, at Community Health Partners in Lorain.

Survivors include her parents, Anthony Lee and Mary Frances (nee Whitfield) Allison of Elyria; a brother, Bryce Anthony Allison of Lorain; a sister, Aasya Rochelle Spraggins of Lorain; maternal grandparents Billie and Maxine Whitfield of Lorain; and paternal grandmother Lavonne Allison of North Ridgeville.

Recordkeeping advice from the IRS

With tax season underway, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is encouraging taxpayers to take the time now to gather and organize their tax records to reduce stress at tax time.

The IRS expects to receive 5.4 million tax returns from Ohio filers during the upcoming 2006 tax season. About 33 percent of Ohio taxpayers claim itemized deductions such as state and real estate taxes, home mortgage interest, medical expenses, and charitable contributions. Good recordkeeping can help avoid a missed deduction when tax season arrives.

To assist you in your organizing and planning efforts, the IRS has posted the 2005 tax forms and publications on the IRS.gov Web site. The IRS has many forms and publications on a wide variety of topics to help you understand and meet your tax obligations. Of particular interest is IRS Publication 17, "Your Federal Income Tax Guide," which provides a wealth of tax information and is your one stop for tax help.

If you hire a tax professional to complete your return, the records you have will assist the preparer in quickly and accurately completing your return. In most cases the IRS does not require you to keep records in any special manner. Generally speaking, however, you should keep any and all documents that may have an impact on your federal tax return. Such items would include bills, receipts, invoices, mileage logs, canceled checks, or any other proof of payment, and any other records to support deductions or credits you claim on your tax return.

Generally, tax records should be kept for three years, but some documents, for example, records relating to a home purchase or sale, stock transactions, IRAs and business or rental property, should be kept longer. For more information on what types of records to keep, see Publication 552, "Recordkeeping for Individuals," and Publication 17, "Your Federal Income Tax Guide for Individuals." Both publications are available on the IRS Web site, www.irs.gov or by calling toll-free 1-800-TAX-FORM. 2005 tax forms and publications now available on IRS.gov Web site.

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Michael Hecht, Rabbi
440-282-3307

CALVARY RIDGE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
34881 Center Ridge Rd.
David Woods, Pastor
440-327-1687

CATHEDRAL OF LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
5375 Jaycox Rd.
Jamie Howell, Pastor
440-327-7774

CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS APOSTOLIC CHURCH
5298 Lear Nagle Rd.
Rev. Patty Kisner, Pastor
440-327-5642

CHRIST CHAPEL
36300 Center Ridge Rd.
A non-denominational church
440-327-6020

CHURCH OF CHRIST
36350 Chestnut Ridge Rd.
Bobby Blackburn, Evangelist
440-327-2777

CHURCH OF GOD
6000 Lear Nagle Rd.
Rev. Larry Sheffler, Pastor
440-327-4761

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
23500 Center Ridge Rd.
440-331-0834

FAITH BAPTIST
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Ray Carpenter, Pastor
440-327-8563

FIELDS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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Neriah G. Edwards, Pastor
440-327-8753

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
36363 Center Ridge Rd.
Rev. David Connor
440-327-2921

HARVEST RIDGE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
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Kevin L. Crow, Pastor
440-327-0024

HOSANNA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
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(Lorain & Island Rds.)
Jim Neece, Pastor
440-327-7723

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Scott Dempster, Pastor
440-353-0993

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Rev. Gerald Flury, Pastor
440-327-0228

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Rev. Dr. Richard Gonser, Pastor
440-327-1978

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH
35777 Center Ridge Rd.
Fr. Stephen Kaminski, Pastor
440-327-2201

SHEPHERD OF THE RIDGE LUTHERAN CHURCH
34555 Center Ridge Rd.,
Rev. Paul Oberhaus, Pastor
440-327-7321

SPRINGS OF LIFE
331860 Bagley Rd.
Amer Shab, Jason Hunter,
Pastors: 440-748-0011

TRUTH AND LIFE MINISTRIES
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Jeremy Gannon, Pastor
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Police and Fire Blotters

By Carol Klear

Left child to smoke crack

The police department was notified that a woman left her child with the caller earlier in the day and by evening had not returned. The complainant believed the woman might be smoking crack in a room at the Ridge Motel. Officers went to the motel to check and found three adult females. They searched the room and found drug paraphernalia. One adult female was arrested for drug possession and was taken to the police station.

Cops caught the driver

Officers checked a registration of a vehicle observed at the SR 10 and Alternate 83 and learned that the owner was under suspension. The vehicle was towed and the driver was issued a citation.

Didn't get the messages

A Case Road resident complained that someone had accessed and deleted her voice mail messages. She also said she had been receiving phone calls and then the person calling does not speak.

No marijuana sold there

Police observed a subject leaving Giant Eagle and walking west. The officer made contact in the parking lot and the subject was found to be in possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. The subject was arrested.

Check-mate

A complainant called police on Dec. 22 about a male that he suspected had stolen a check from his checkbook while he was at the complainant's home. The complainant went to the bank on Dec. 23 and learned he was overdrawn by $1,900 and was advised that a $2,000 charge was pending on an account through an electronic check to a wireless service and was endorsed by the suspect. The wireless company advised that the check had been approved for the suspect's account on Dec. 26.

Deterrent to driving

An officer was following a vehicle on Cook Road south of Lorain Road and noted marked lane violations. The officer tried to make a traffic stop and the defendant veered off the road, almost striking a mailbox, and swerved back. When the defendant was stopped the officer noted that the defendant's glassy eyes, slurred speech and that there was an odor of alcohol from the vehicle. The vehicle was towed and the defendant was taken to the police station and released to a family member.

Gas up and go

An employee at Sheetz reported that someone got gas and drove off without paying.

No fire, but plenty of water

Someone reported to the fire department that they heard a smoke detector going off at a neighbor's house for days. When firefighters arrived they found that a police patrolman had gone through the residence which was vacant, foreclosed and practically empty house before they arrived and disconnected the malfunctioning smoke detector. There was a lot of water damage and mess due to frozen water lines. No utilities were turned on in the house. They cleared the scene. There was no hazard.

MVA at railroad bridge

Firefighters went to SR 10 westbound at the railroad bridge to respond to a motor vehicle accident. One car hit the bridge abutment on the north side of the road and bounced across two lanes and hit the south bridge abutment. Radiator fluid and engine fluid spilled and leaked across the road. The crew cleaned the road and put a pumper on an angle to protect the scene.

Smoking motor

Firefighters went to Taylor Parkway for an overheated, smoking motor from two mounted heater and air units at the north end of the building. The units were shut down.

Reading too high

A CO detector was going off intermittently at a Mills Creek residence. The homeowner denied running the car or using any heat source. The only gas appliances were the hot water tank and the furnace. The CO reading was 6-20 ppm (parts per million) throughout the residence. Underwriters Laboratory has stated that up to 10 ppm of CO in a house is an acceptable level and 35 ppm is acceptable in the work place. An aluminum front panel on the furnace was closed and had come loose. It was unknown if it had any affect on the CO readings. The homeowner was advised to get the furnace rechecked. The filter was clean, but it was the incorrect size. The homeowner said she would contact a furnace repair company immediately. She was advised to open the windows occasionally until the problem was corrected.

Holy smoke!

A person at a Center Ridge Road church saw smoke from behind the church on Noll Drive. It turned out to be a wood-burning stove with a smokestack that could not be seen from the rear of the house.

Transports

The North Ridgeville Fire Department had 12 fire runs and 32 EMS runs from Jan. 11-17. There were 16 runs to EMH Regional Medical Center, eight to St. John West Shore Hospital and eight "no transports."

Real Estate Transfers

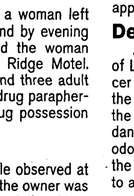
N. Ridgeville Real Estate Transfers between 01-07-06 and 01-13-06

Buyer	Seller	Address	Lots	Price
HENNINGER DENNIS L	BOB SCHMITT HOMES INC	32408 BLUFFSTONE CR	1	$231,057
SULLIVAN JAMES F	SPICER RICHARD S	4889 BARTON RD N	1	$200,000
NORWELL EC	MERRITT MICHAEL G	5262 MEADOW MOSS LN	1	$137,600
BANASZAK KENNETH J	DUDZIAK ERIC M	32966 MEADOW CREEK OV	1	$169,000
CENDANT MOBILITY	SCAGLIONE LOIS	33833 MORNING GLORY LN	1	$148,750
NVR INC	WHITLATCH & CO	9221 STONEBRIAR LN	1	$50,950
DANCY JEREMY L	SALOPEK PAUL J	5047 AVON BELDEN RD	1	$136,500
H & K PARTNERSHIP	LICKME INC	STONEY RIDGE RD	4	$956,106
H & K PARTNERSHIP	LICKME INC AN OHIO CORP	36458 CENTER RIDGE RD	4	$956,106
H & K PARTNERSHIP	LICKME INC AN OHIO CORP	36444 CENTER RIDGE RD	4	$956,106
H & K PARTNERSHIP	LICKME INC AN OHIO CORP	36400 CENTER RIDGE RD	4	$956,106
GLYNN ERIC A	WELLS FARGO BANK	36223 CENTER RIDGE RD	1	$80,000
NVR INC	FJD PROPERTIES LLC	5845 OVERLOOK WAY	1	$46,476
NVR INC	FJD PROPERTIES LLC	6153 WEST BREEZEWAY DR	1	$46,476
NVR INC	FJD PROPERTIES LLC	WEST BREEZEWAY DR	1	$48,864
SIKON ERROL L	ALL PURPOSE CONSTR.	6067 WEST BREEZEWAY DR	1	$197,125
NVR INC	FJD PROPERTIES LLC	6160 WEST BREEZEWAY DR	1	$46,476
GRAHAM KENNETH E	K HOVNANIAN OSTER HMS	37349 SUGAR CREEK LN	1	$259,900
RHENIUM ALLOYS PROP.	WHITLATCH & CO	37075 FAIRFIELD LN	1	$161,130
CHEN GUI ZHEN	HARVEST CLASSIC HMS LLC	8817 BAUER CR	1	$326,049

N. Ridgeville Real Estate Transfers between 01-14-06 and 01-20-06

Buyer	Seller	Address	Lots	Price
STRAUB EMIL F & C T	BOB SCHMITT HOMES INC	33053 PEBBLE BROOK	1	$512,761
DEUTSCHE BANK NATL	SAS LUCINDA	6094 OAKWOOD CR	1	$145,000
LONG LISA M	DEUTSCHE BANK NAT'L	5214 ORCHARD LN	1	$144,900
YEHLIK DEBORAH L	RADABAUGH-BENNIE C	33987 GLORIA AV	3	$156,500
YEHLIK DEBORAH L	RADABAUGH-BENNIE C	33987 GLORIA AV	3	$156,500
YEHLIK DEBORAH L	RADABAUGH-BENNIE C	33987 GLORIA AV	3	$156,500
SYMONS EUGENE P	LEWIS BARBARA U	8673 GATEWOOD DR	1	$290,000
NVR INC	WHITLATCH & CO	STONEBRIAR LN	1	$50,950
MCDONOUGH WILLIAM F	GREEN LINE FED. CREDIT	35888 CENTER RIDGE RD	1	$85,500
NVR INC	FJD PROPERTIES LLC	5951 GREENVIEW TR	1	$47,073
HERNANDEZ CARLOS A	WHITLATCH & COMPANY	37640 TERRELL DR	1	$224,865
NVR INC	ALL PURPOSE CONSTR.	5303 OTTEN RD	1	$47,033

Fear not, Mr. Funnyman is on the road to recovery



The Final Word

By Doug Warnke

I have often heard, and rarely believed, the notion that artists need time off periodically to recharge their batteries and get their head straight. While overall I still feel it is a bunch of bologna, I have to admit lately I'm coming around a bit. During my normal winter hiatus, my generally out of control life took so many different twists and turns, I have completely lost my sense of humor.

There are many who read my columns for the biting social commentary. Still others read for enlightenment on the pathway to self-awareness. The majority read the column looking for something worthwhile and before they can realize there is absolutely nothing of any value at all and I am completely full of it, they are finished and all they can say is "I will never get those five minutes back."

There are, however, the minute few who read because the thoughts in my head and events of my life, when put down to paper, are flat out funny. Funny on several levels. Funny as in "look at those wacky guys." Funny as in "I can remember when that happened to me". Funny as in "praise the Maker she's not married to me." Funny as in "what a complete idiot."

Sometimes not funny as in "what a complete idiot". Nonetheless, on a lot of levels, funny. So I have tried, over the past few weeks, to find something funny inside me. I figure it's gone away for awhile.

My family, bless their souls, have tried several times to provide appropriate material.

For the Santa shop at school this year, my son and daughter were both sent off with $20 and instructions to buy things for their siblings for Christmas Day. My son came back with his four gifts all neatly wrapped and $9.50 in change. My daughter bought three of her four siblings the exact same present, skipped her other sister, bought herself something, and returned $1.

Which is, if you look at it like I do, funny as hell.

Two of my three friends nearly put themselves into shock over the Fiesta bowl. So white hot was their hatred of all things Notre Dame they nearly could not speak until the game was over. My attorney personally prepared for the game by getting tipsy, like, 16 days in a row. I know because I was there, like, 15 of those days.

I had a relative get a DUI and go into deep, deep depression.

On Christmas Day. Not so much funny ha ha, but like I said there are lots of different kinds of funny from the mind of Doug.

In the past, I could have stretched any or all of these into a mind stirring concoction of humor, tragedy, and sorrow that would have easily filled the page. I just don't feel it right now. I hope it comes back soon.

Fear not, young readers. He may be taking some me time for awhile, but Mr. Funnyman is on the road to recovery. I sure hope he comes back soon. I could really use a laugh.



The North Ridgeville Press wants your news!

Call Carol Klear with your news and events.

Phone: (440) 930-5923

Fax: (866) 732-1240

Email: thepress@bright.net



Send your sports news to

Joe Ostrica

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2 home sites, close to schools, shopping and RTA. Still time to select cabinets, counters and carpet.
Each ranch-style home features
3BDRM/1BTH, eat-in kitchen, C/A, attached garage and neutral decor.
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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

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2BDRM/2FBTH, all appliances, and 2-car attached garage. $1450/month. Like brand new.

AVON
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Position is part-time (2 days a week) to start; then full-time after 1 year. Send resume to:
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155 Cemetery Lots

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230 Garage Sales

GARAGE SALE ADS
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Ads must be prepaid. We accept, VISA, Mastercard, American Express, personal check or money order
Remember: Deadline is Monday by 3:00pm!

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345 Miscellaneous For Sale

"BALLY'S" Playball machine $500, kitchen cabinets $100, leather game table $100, computer desk/&printer stand $100, exercise bike $50, antique wicker bassinet $200, bar cash register/crank $200. 440-934-3318

BARBER CHAIRS. Two Koken hydraulic barber chairs. Decent condition. $150 each or best offer. Cannot ship/deliver - must pick up. 419-625-3285.

HOT TUB 2005. Fully loaded, Digital, waterfall, neckjets, etc. Never used, still wrapped. Cost $7,900, sell $3,895. 440-793-0099

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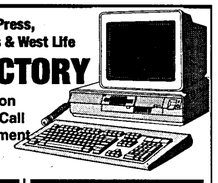
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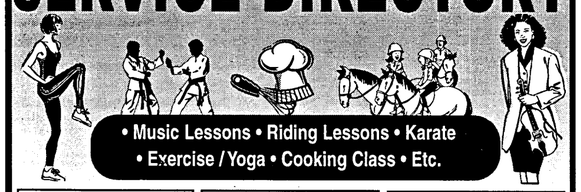
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