

Ranger Wrestling Club See Sports, page 10

January 22, 2003 • VOL. 63, NO. 1

50¢

'I will forever treasure my years as yo

By Carol Klear

In her last State of the City address, Mayor Deanna Hill intermingled both the achievements and disappointments in her two terms as North Ridgeville's mayor, and added what she called "a glimpse into 2003."

Climaxing her speech before the nearly 140 people attending Thursday's Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Hill expressed her appreciation to the city employees, her family and the community for their comfort and strength during her seven years as the city's administrator.

Since she took office in 1995, Hill has made "roads, roads, roads" a priority and in her speech she highlighted the service department's work on North Ridgeville's streets and ditches, reading the name of each of the 64 streets that have been rehabilitated in some way, as well as the funding that paid for the work.

"From 1996-2002 combining grants

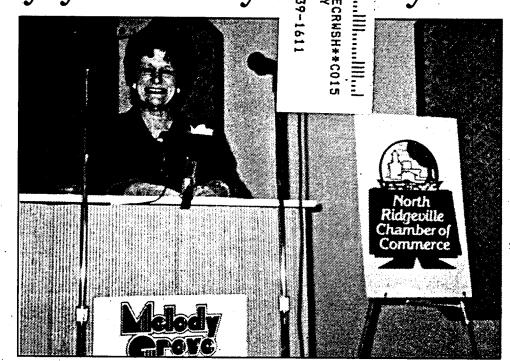
and a few zero percent interest loans payable over 20 years for roads and city hall parking, we have been awarded an astounding \$8,504,000," she said.

Hill said the engineering department dedicated itself to one of the city's most severe problems-flooding, and embarked on aggressive ditch-cleaning and waterdetention programs.

Presently, city officials are awaiting word from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) that the city's flood map has been revised, which is expected to save some property owners hundreds of dollars in flood insurance.

There have been some personnel changes in the police and fire departments since Hill took office seven years ago, as well as additional hires leading Police Chief Rick Thomas and Fire Chief Rick Miller to begin looking into the possibility of constructing a multi-

SEE MAYOR, PAGE 8



Mayor Deanna Hill

North Ridgeville City Schools achieve 'Effective' rating from state

By Melissa Linebrink

For the second year in a row, North Ridgeville City Schools (NRCS) have achieved 18 on the State Report Card, making its rating "Effective." However, last year there were 27 indicators and this year there are 22.

As a result of Senate Bill 1, signed by Gov. Bob Taft on June 12, 2001, this year's district designations are based on 22 performance indicators.

Five 12th-grade proficiency tests have been eliminated. Senate Bill 1 directs the State Board of Education (SBOE) to adopt statewide academic standards, create model curricula, develop achievement tests, develop diagnostic assessments and establish school performance indicators.

According to the Ohio Department of Education website, the status of "Effective" means that a school met 17-20 of the 22 indicators. Only 191 out of 608 rated districts achieved the "Effective" status in Ohio. Three years ago, NRCS achieved a 10, placing them in the category of "Academic Watch."

The 22 indicators include: fourth grade citizenship, math, reading, writing and science proficiency testing; sixth grade citizenship, math, reading, writing and science proficiency testing; ninth grade citizenship, math, reading, writing and science proficiency testing; 10th graders passing the ninth-grade citizenship, math, reading, writing and science proficiency tests; student attendance rate; and student graduate rate for the year 2002.

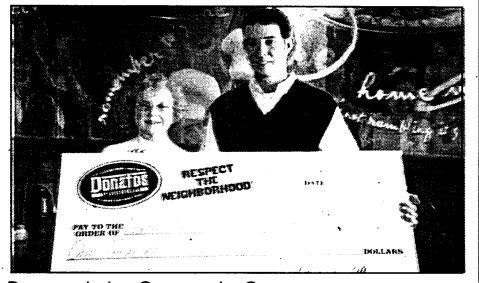
The attendance rate for 2002 was 94.3 percent and the graduation rate was 96.1 percent.

Based upon the number of state standards met, North Ridgeville is

now rated among the top four districts in Lorain County which include Amherst Exempted Village, Avon Local, Avon Lake City and North Ridgeville City. Amherst Exempted Village and Avon Local each received an "Excellent" rating with 22 out of 22 indicators being passed while Avon Lake received an "Effective" rating by meeting 20 of the 22 indicators.

"The steady improvement over the past few years reflects the community's

SEE **SCHOOLS**, PAGE 8



Donatos helps Community Care

Donatos Pizzeria marked the grand opening of its newest location at 33701 Center Ridge Road, at the corner of Lear Nagle. Following a welcome by Mayor Deanna Hill, Ken Stablein, general manager presented a \$1,000 check to June Yost for Community Care.

Sheetz Inc. applies to city, ready to join community

By Carol Klear

Planning commission gave its approval, last week, to a proposal by Sneetz inc. to construct a 5,000square-foot gas station, convenience store and car wash on Lorain Road at Lear Nagle.

The Altoona, Pennsylvania-based company is a 50-year-old, familyowned and operated business and boasts more than 285 locations throughout Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Mary-land, Virginia and Ohio.

The company's mission statement includes a commitment to a tradi-tion of TCF-Total Customer Focus. In 1994, Sheetz was named the

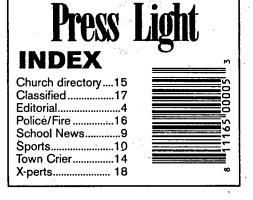
"Convenience Store Chain of the Year," and the following year was inducted into the Convenience Store Industry Hall of Fame.

The BP Station located on Lorain Road at Cook offers a car-wash facility and a new car wash is under construction on the northwest corner of Lorain and Lear Nagle roads, which led planning commission member. Richard Jaenke to ask Sheetz representatives if a third car wash is a good idea at that intersection.

"I also question the wisdom of another car wash," councilman Bob Olesen said. "We'll have the cleanest cars in town."

SEE **SHEETZ**, PAGE 8







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Butkowski trying for another at-large council term

Republican at-large councilwoman Bernadine Butkowski said she will run in the May Primary to retain her present seat on council.

The veteran legislator had been mulling the idea of a run for mayor in the 2003 election, but last week said she enjoys her work on council and plans to seek another

The incumbent is



Butkowski

and chaired several council committees including utilities, administrative, finance and streets, sidewalks and bridges.

Butkowski is a member of St. Peter Church, the North Ridgeville Corn Festival Committee, the North Ridgeville Women's Club, North Ridgeville High School Alumni Hall of Fame and a charter member of the

presently in her sixth year on coun- North Ridgeville Kiwanis Club.

Democrat Rothgery seeks vacated council-at-large seat

By Carol Klear

When Democrat James Rothgery made his first run for council-at-large as a political newcomer in the 2001 Primary Election, he surprised everyone by garnering the most votes of the Democratic hopefuls.

However, in the November contest, Rothgery lost the spotlight when the GOP candidates swept all the at-large seats.

Last week, Rothgery filed petitions with the Lorain County Board of Elections to run once of Columbus

again as a Democratic candidate for an at-large council seat. His toughest chal-

lenger two years ago was Republican Dave Gillock. This year Gillock is running as a candidate for mayor and Rothgery

The small business owner/operator has never held public office, but is excited at the prospect of winning a council seat. He is a member of the Knights

said, "I want his seat."

St. Peter to celebrate Catholic Schools Week

By Melissa Linebrink

Press Light

Catholic schools around the nation will soon have the opportunity to participate in Catholic Schools Week-one week designated out of the year to celebrate religious education.

According to Barbara Keebler, spokesperson for National Catholic Education Association (NCEA), up until 1974, Catholic schools were rarely recognized. The idea to have Catholic Schools Week was spearheaded after someone noticed that other organizations have one week set aside to commemorate their existence, but the Catholic faith did not.

"A lightbulb went off and (someone) wanted to have the opportunity to focus on Catholic school education," Keebler said.

Today, approximately 8,200 Catholic schools participate in the

St. Peter Catholic School in North Ridgeville will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week Jan. 26 to Feb. 1, Sister Patricia Vovk, SND said.

Vovk said various activities will take place for students and parents during the week.

Beginning at 9 a.m. on Jan. 26, Vovk will speak with parents who are interested in enrolling their children at St. Peter's.

During the evening of Jan. 28 there will be an open house for parents to ing the past six months in their society," Vovk said.

"A lightbulb went off and (someone) wanted to have the opportunity to focus on Catholic school education." -Barbara Keebler **NCEA Spokesperson**

respective classrooms. There will also be a junior high science fair from 6:30-8 p.m. during the open house.

On the morning of Jan. 29, there will be a special Mass for Teacher Appreciation Day.

Vovk said the Mass, as well as the entire day, honors teachers. During the Mass, members of student council will present the teachers with a certificate and a flower. A small reception will follow to honor the teachers.

There will also be a Student Appreciation Day, and on that day, student council members will be holding a school-wide bingo game.

Vovk said that celebrating Catholic Schools Week gives students the chance to "toot their horn" and be proud to be part of Catholic education.

"The annual Catholic Schools Week celebration gives St. Peter's School, which began in 1876, an opportunity to celebrate the purpose for our existence, sharing gospel valtour the school and see what their ues, fostering academic excellence children have been working on dur- and promoting a peaceful and caring

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Now that's the kind of 'report card' to be proud of

By Carol Klear

BRAVO....Kudos to the North Ridgeville City Schools for bringing home a great report card from Columbus with an "effective" rating.

B-R-R-R....I think we're in the middle of one of those old-fashioned winters, where the temperatures don't go over 15 degrees or so. I keep thinking the aconites should begin raising their little heads above ground, but it's probably way too early. Whattaya think? They may not be able to push up through the frozen terrain

ALMOST FORGOT.....Santa gave me a little extra something to stave off winter's chill-a brand new soft pink robe. I hated KLEARLY SPEAKING

to give up my other fuzzy friend, but after a while, there was a hole here and a hole there...oh, well. Now when I go to the edge of the road to collect the morning news, I'm dressed in style.

WONDER.....A former Ridgeville resident moved to Michigan a few months ago and I wonder how she likes her new home. She had always wanted to visit me while I lingered over my morning java in my pink, fuzzy robe. Oh, well.

WONDERFUL.....If you read last week's P&L, you know another mayoral hopeful has been added to the list, and Primary could turn out to be some kind of horse race after all, to say nothing of the November battle.

TREKKED EAST Finally got into the new Porter Library in Westlake. As I watched and waited for the whole thing to come together, I was anxious to step inside. It's nice, but awfully, awfully big. Now I'm really looking forward to our new North Ridgeville Branch Library to open...just a little more than four months

TOO BAD With the weather so frrrrrigid, it's too bad we can't ice skate on the fishing lake in South Central Park. I remember years ago when one of the

there are a couple more council candidates thinking about running. The May (Of course I stayed safe and sound on the shore, very content to just watch the glides and spins.)

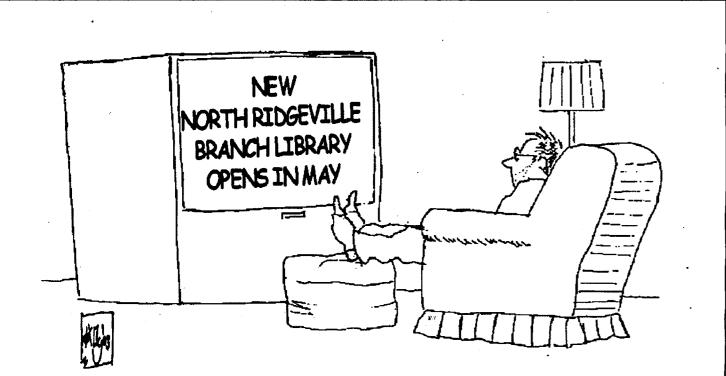
> HUMMMMMM?.....What the heck does LeBron James need with a \$50,000 Hummer? I remember when Daughter No. 1 was a college freshman and paid \$125 for a VW. She kept it so long, the floor rusted through and her feet got soaked every time she hit a puddle. When she moved up to her next car, a guy paid her \$100 for the "Bug."

PRESSLINE

Caller: I was wondering what good it is we have an ordinance in our city that says you can't park between the hours of 2 and 6 a.m. On Westfield Drive, especially on the weekend, it looks like a parking lot. It's especially dangerous during the snowplowing season when the trucks have to go around these vehicles. When they eventually do move them, we've got these big patches of snow and ice on the street. I've called the city numerous times and they come and do it and then they just let it go and we get back to where we were and end up with another parking lot. I just wondered why we can't do something about that and why the snowplows they can't report it. It just seems crazy. Response: Streets Department

Supervisor Jerry Krueger agrees there is a law prohibiting vehicles to be parked on the street between the hours of 2 and 6 a.m. In checking with the police department we learned that there is also a snow ban and when the snow reaches a depth of 2 inches or more, vehicles are not to be on the street. Krueger said the snowplow crew has a difficult time doing its job when these laws are not upheld, however they do not have time to report the problems.





From the moment of conception, every baby has the right to life

For the past several months, our office staff has watched Melissa Linebrink grow, not only in her capacity as a reporter, but physically as well, as she prepared for a much more important role-that of mother.

Melissa's baby is expected any day, in fact as you read this, she and her husband, Seth, may have become parents. It's been a very exciting time for the two of them, and for all of us, as Melissa told us the day she first heard the rhythmic thump-thumping of her baby's tiny heart as it nestled inside of her to grow and develop. When the obstetrician took the little one's verv first picture. Melissa brought the photo to the office and proudly exclaimed she was expecting a

For the most part Melissa's pregnancy has been textbook, with the exception of the few weeks right before Christmas when she had a slight setback and was

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Editor's Notebook

By Carol Klear

confined to bed. But she followed her doctor's orders and as we heralded the New Year, we welcomed Melissa's return to her desk and to writing North Ridgeville stories for us.

Melissa and Seth are thrilled to be having a child and are ready to take on the responsibilities inherent with being parents, and we share their happiness, but not every girl or woman who becomes pregnant is as overjoyed at the prospect of motherhood, as Melissa is.

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Cartoonist: Ed Kelly

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There may be no husband with whom to share the event. The girl may be in her teens, barely able to make her own decisions, let alone take on the responsibility of a baby. The pregnancy may come at an inconvenient time. The woman might have a spouse and a home, but she might also be devoting her energies to carving a career for herself, or she might have several other children and unable to cope with the prospect of one more.

The scenarios are many, but none of them change the fact that another human being, no matter how small, has been conceived and has a right to life. Thirty vears have passed since the Supreme Court legalized abortion. The decision to allow even the littlest of lives to be taken was wrong then and it remains wrong

Mayor Deanna Hill presented her last State of the City address on Thursday.

The crowd attending the annual Chamber of Commerce luncheon was large-somewhere around 140.

The first inkling that this year's address might be a tad longer than usual came when the mayor checked to make sure a more comfortable pair of shoes was tucked behind the podium. The 40-minute monologue was in fact lengthier than other years, but the mayor's remarks encompassed her entire tenure, which seemed only fair.

She touched on the accomplishments in each of the city's departments, though it's too bad the department heads and councilpeople were not introduced prior to the speech.

Whatever opinion anyone may have of Deanna Hill and her administration, the department-by-department summary of her seven years in office highlighted what a complex job being the Mayor of North Ridgeville really is.

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The Press & Light reserves the right to accept o 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 Press & Light office on the prior Thursday at 5 p.m.

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

ETTER TO THE EDITOR

Proud of North Ridgeville

Wednesday, January 22, 2003

To the Editor:

I am writing to give my thoughts on the article that appeared in your paper Jan. 15 "My Wish List for the City of North Ridgeville...." by Melissa Linebrink. As a resident, business owner and someone who spends a good sum of money every year advertising in this paper, I feel that I need to share my opinion.

I look forward to getting the Press & Light in the mail on Wednesdays. In fact, it has become a tradition with me that on Wednesday evenings, after the kids are in bed, I sit in my favorite chair and read the paper cover to cover. I enjoy reading the paper, however, I sensed a real bent towards negativity that is gaining momen-

news, good or bad, but I feel that it is a waste of space for you to be publishing articles such as this, and it certainly did nothing for the city, which supports you financially with advertising and subscriptions. There are so many wonderful things happening in North Ridgeville. Why must we continue to read in your paper about petty things that do nothing but promote negative thoughts?

Several of Ms. Linebrink's wishes were boring and not creatively thought out or written. Many of them are the result of being an "outer rim" suburb of a major metropolitan area. Every community around us is dealing with most of these same problems. I want to take issue with two of her wishes, numbers six and 10. Ms. Linebrink, I'll tell you what the Corn Festival does with the money it raises. It I realize that you need to report the gives back to the community in many

forms. The gazebo in South Central Park, scholarships for college-bound young people and significant gifts to organizations such as Community Care are examples of how the money is spent. It is time to turn the page Ms. Linebrink, and leave the Corn Festival alone because there is no big story here. I really take offense with wish number 10. Ms. Linebrink, the citizens of North Ridgeville are some of the most wonderful people you'll ever meet. We're not trying to impress anyone in Avon or Avon Lake. We know that this is a great place to live and raise a family.

You talk about "class." There's evidence of it all over the place. We are the only community in Lorain County to have an arts council recognized by the state of Ohio, which is wholly dedicated to the promotion and education of the arts. We have a stunning new library under con-

struction opening in the spring. We have a highly respected organization known as Community Care, which is completely operated by volunteers, including the very capable director, Mrs. June Yost. North Ridgeville's Community Care is a model of how an organization can truly help those of the community who are in need, in an efficient and respectable way. That, Ms. Linebrink, is class.

There are so many more examples, but time and space will not permit me to go on. I am proud to say that I live and own a business in North Ridgeville and there is no other place I would rather be. I challenge you, Ms. Linebrink, and the rest of the editorial staff at the Press & Light to think twice before you place such material in your paper in the future. Thank you.

NR City service department is always "On Call"

It was mid-evening and the worried caller said a broken water main was flooding his street and he needed help. I asked if someone had reported the problem to the city. He answered that a neighbor had called the police. I assured him that the neighbor had made the right move and help would be available shortly. Pretty strong words for a potentially disastrous situation, I thought, so I jumped into the car and went to the scene, the condominium area off Mills Road. Arriving, I spotted two, perhaps three city vehicles already on the scene. The service department was already on top of the situation.

Water shutdowns can totally disrupt the normal activities of families. Another caller told me about the city worker coming to the door early in the morning to

the that water would be shut off because of a water line break. Then began the

Corner By Bob Olesen Ward IV Council

struggle to get the kids off to school. She suggested that since her area had experienced a number of water line breaks, why didn't the city just replace all the pipes and be done with it? This is probably the best solution, but far beyond the reach of the city's pocketbook.

The truth of the matter is that the city has more than 100 miles of water pipe underground, much of it installed over 25

years ago. Areas with more frequent problems have been Council North Mills Creek Lane. Mildred, Rhonda, Laurel and Paula streets, but no area has been immune. More than a million gallons of water were lost in a water line break on Chestnut Ridge

> a few years ago. Recently, a main break a Center Ridge and Stoney Ridge blew out a crater 12-feet deep and flooded a business office. Another recent break spewed water over and onto a residence causing extensive interior water damage before it could be shutdown.

> North Ridgeville is one of only a few cities that makes an effort to alert residents affected by shutdowns. When possible,

workers alert neighborhoods by going door-to-door, but only in daylight hours. The service department's prime concern, however, is to get the water shut off to avoid property damage and to stop the flow of water purchased for residents.

Service department superintendent Jerry Krueger is justifiably proud of the 28 employees who provide 24/7 coverage for the people of our city. When the snow flies, these are the same people who are plowing the 124 miles of city roads and getting rave reviews for their work by both residents and non-residents. They are the same group that has repaired and paved many city streets, laid drainage pipe, cleaned creeks, sewers and ditches and performed a host of other jobs to keep our city running efficiently.



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Ask Dr. Arndt

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



NITROUS OXIDE AND ANESTHETICS

What is nitrous oxide?

Nitrous oxide is a compound of nitrogen and oxygen that your dentist may have you inhale as a sedative or anti-anxiety agent. It's one of the tools he has for reducing the stress of a trip to the office. For many patients,

nitrous oxide produces giddiness (hence its nickname, laughing gas) or a feeling of euphoria. Generally Dr. Arndt will have you inhale it through your nose. One of the benefits of nitrous oxide is that it leaves the patient conscious. You'll be awake and capable of responding to questions. It can even seem to make time pass more quickly. Dr. Arndt has other anesthetics at his disposal as well. They include aspirin and anti-inflammatory medications, like ibuprofen and acetaminophen. A dentist also might use topical anesthetics that are applied directly to mouth tissue with a cotton swab. Some procedures, however, might require sedation and a general anesthesia, under which patients lose consciousness. Deep sedation and general anesthesia maybe recommended for children or for a patient who has severe anxiety about undergoing a procedure. Whatever is recommended for you, be assured that tens of millions of patients undergo some form of anesthesia safely every year. Ask Dr. Arndt about what's right for you!

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Christ Chapel opens its doors to new pastor and worshippers

By Carol Klear

Daylight streams in the windows of Christ Chapel, bathing the muted green and beige decor in a serenity befitting a house of the Lord. Above the doorway leading into the church are large gold letters that read, "Only one life will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last."

As they worship, members of the congregation can focus on the huge cross at the front of the church. Though it seems to be lighted from behind, in reality the effect is due to the glass blocks on the outside wall, allowing the natural light to outline the cross.

Christ Chapel, a non-denominational church located at 36300 Center Ridge Road at the entrance to The Cottages at Savannah, was dedicated Nov. 17, 2002 and just a few days before the formal opening, Ralph L. Palmer, arrived in North Ridgeville to serve as its pastor.

Palmer, a Canton, Ohio native, spent 22 years in San Antonio, Texas as a chaplain, a bible teacher and the director of ministries for the Christian Jew Foundation, which was founded by Charles Halff.

He also did regular 15-minute sermons on the radio for the National Radio Broadcast System, on the Messianic prospective and were broadcast locally on WHK.

The pastor, 67, said he saw an advertisement for the position of pastor of Christ Cl. in Christianity Today. The ad said the church was looking for a spiritual leader who was innovative and a bible teacher.

"It sounded like something I could do," Palmer said. He discussed the idea with a min-

ster friend in Ravenna, who sent a letter of recommendation on Palmer's behalf, along with his resume.

"I came here in September for an interview," Palmer said. He was hired and returned to North Ridgeville Nov. 12 to begin his ministry.

On June 20, 2000, Maurice Shave, who developed The Cottages at Savannah, broke ground for Christ Church, though he had known for two decades that he was going to build it, after having accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior.

At the groundbreaking ceremony, Shave told those gathered that at one time he tried to run his own life. 'now I let Him (Christ) run it."

Admittedly to begin a congregation takes a lot of work, Palmer said, and the pastor said he was "kind of scared." But he is beginning to adjust to the small town community and the job he was hired to do.

Though Palmer sometimes finds the city a bit confusing, he is hoping to sort it out.

"I was lost 90 percent of the time at first," he said, "Now I'm only lost 85 percent of the time.

He related that when he first came, he decided to drive to Elvria to visit a sister-in-law who lives on Beebe Avenue off Cleveland Street. However, when he reached Route 57, he followed Route 20, rather than continuing straight on Cleveland. He eventually retraced his steps, but arrived late at his destination.

Walking into the church vestibule, a visitor cannot help but be awed by its size. A secretary's office is off to one side and a cry room for little ones is located at the back of the church.

A short distance from the church is a fellowship hall done in the



Ralph Palmer, the new pastor of Christ Church, stands in the front of the church with the large cross illuminated by the natural outside light is seen behind him.

same sea foam green and beige as the church. Palmer said it is called "The Gathering Room" and is furnished with chairs and tables to be used for various events, and also has an outside entrance.

There is a stage at one end of the room and the pastor's office at the opposite end, as well as two additionrooms study classes.

Palmer said he is hoping to plan some activities for senior citizens and also "to reach out to single adults, like those in college."

Though he was apprehensive about the transition from the large city in Texas to a community like North Ridgeville, he has found "many friendly people.'

The focus of Christ Church, Palmer said, is to become "the center of evangelism and bible teaching in North Ridgeville."

On Sunday, bible study is held at 9:30 a.m., with worship following at 10:45 a.m.

Bible study and prayers are held on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Everyone is

noting that the city has received letters from the city's safety forces, as well as school officials and school bus drivers asking that the light remain.

Should it stay or should it go; no decision yet

should stay or be removed, continued She said that in 1997 Assistant during council's safety committee meet-Superintendent Dave Livingston cautioned city officials about the possible ing, Jan. 16, with heated arguments for consequences if the light at Dyke Road The session ended with no decision, were removed. but safety chairman Josanne Pagel recom-

"Please be aware that this would make it very difficult for our school buses to turn left on Center Ridge Road," Livingston said. "We request that the traffic light remain in operation during the hours when our school buses are on the road.'

Hill also read a memo from former safety service director Dan Zirzow to then engineer Stewart Lovece that stated, "While a small majority may argue that the lights are a nuisance, inconvenience and/or do not meet warrants for the installation of traffic signals, the safety of our driving public and school children must be our priority."

The mayor offered council three options; pass legislation allowing the light to stay, appropriate \$6,000 to do another traffic study or do nothing, which would mean both the light at Dyke and the one at the intersection of Center Ridge Road and Case would remain.

Council President Dave Gillock questioned whether allowing the light to stay is legal.

ELSEWHERE IN THE PRESS & LIGHT

RANGERS SEEK REVENGE AGAINST BEREA

Streets Supervisor Jerry Krueger said he was glad Crobaugh had brought the issue to the public because there are several things wrong with the light, including the length of the trip switch.

Dyke Road resident Karen Evans said she contacted ODOT in 1998 when the issue surfaced and said that when the light was installed, it did meet the state warrants, but she said it should stay for safety's sake.

Evans also told the committee the speed limit should be dropped to 25 mph in the area and a crosswalk should be provided.

Nancy Buescher, R-I, said that if the law director and the mayor said the light is legal, council should take

Denny Johnson, R-at-large, said the question is, "Is it enforceable?"

"I support a traffic study," he said. Johnson said he favored an expanded traffic study which could cost as much as \$85,000 and include the intersection at Center Ridge and Stoney Ridge roads.

Crobaugh maintained that the light was paid for by the Chapin Trucking Company and never made the warrants.

Zagrans said that if council does nothing, Crobaugh is likely to sue the city, however if an ordinance is in place the city's position will be "stronger and

Karaoke

Every Thurs. 9:30-1:30

GIANT TACOS

\$2.50

JAGER

FEB. 13TH • 9-11

Dyke Road resident Gene Kleinholz noted there are 16 traffic signals on Center Ridge Road, with 10 for private businesses.

Kleinholz called council's position "knee-jerk reaction" to the traffic light controversy.

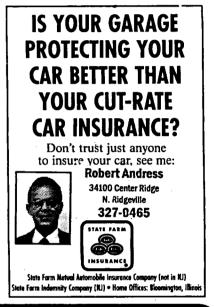
"The warrants and criteria do not matter," Evans said. "They did 31 years ago." "A traffic study will put this to bed

one way or another," Crobaugh said. "To ensure the safety of residents, pass the ordinance," Zagrans said.

Pagel said she would like to post pone a decision for two weeks, which would allow time to contact ODOT.

Following the meeting, Crobaugh said if an impartial study is done and there are no warrants, "it's over."

He also said the idea that because the light has been there for 31 years does not mean it can be "grandfathered."



DART

LEAGUES

3:00-7:00PM

ALL DOMESTIC BOTTLED

BEER \$1.50

IMPORT DRAFTS \$1.75

IMPORT 1202 \$2.00

What's new at NR Branch Library

Toddler story time

Sign up for toddler story time, a free, weekly 20-minute program. The story time will feature songs, stories and finger plays and is open to 2 and a half to 3 and a half-year-olds and their caregivers.

Sign up for one of the following weekly sessions: Mondays, Jan. 20-Feb. 24 at 2 p.m.; Thursdays, Jan. 23-Feb. 27 at 2 p.m.; or Saturdays, Jan. 25-March 1 at 11 a.m.

Registration is limited to 10 adult/child

registration is required by calling the library at 327-8326.

Pre-school story program

Register now for the pre-school story program, a free, weekly 30minute program at the library. The story program is open to 3 and a half to 5-year-olds. Sign up for one of the following sessions: Mondays, Jan. 20-Feb. 24 at 7 p.m.; Tuesdays, Jan. 21-Feb. 25 at 10:30 a.m.; or Thursdays, Jan. 23-Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. Preregistration is required by calling the library at 327-8326.

A Message From Your **Tops Pharmacist**

Angie McGuire, RPh.

The health benefits of eating more fruits and vegetables just keep growing. Studies show that the more, the better. Initially, research indicated that eating a combina-

tion of five servings of fruits and vegetables a day reduce

risk of developing certain types of cancer and heart disease. Now more evidence confirms that even higher intake of fruits and vegetables decreases blood pressure, diabetes and stroke. Color is important too. Eating a variety of colors ensures consumption of the many phytochemicals that protect against cancer, cataracts and macular degeneration.

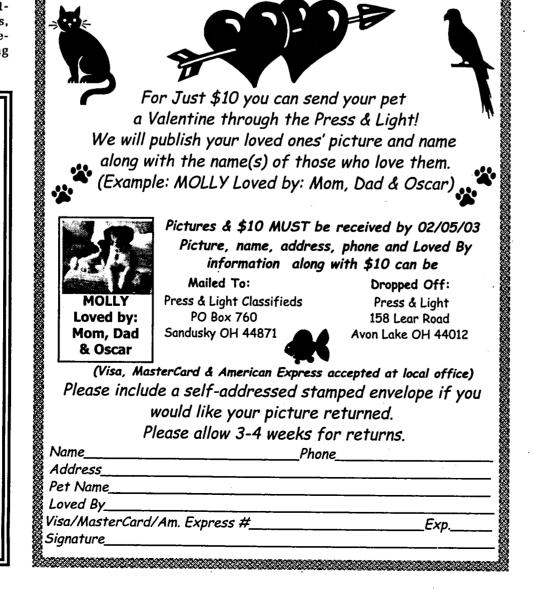
Eating dark leafy greens such as kale, spinach and collards may help support the health of your eyes. One of the most common causes of vision loss in the United States is age-related macular degeneration (AMD). AMD refers to a group of diseases that causes the sight-sensing cells in the center of the retina (the macula) to lose function resulting in the loss of central or detail vision. The condition may be hardly noticeable in its early stages. But when both eyes are affected, driving, recognizing faces, watching TV and reading can become difficult. For more information on eye health, log on to www.eyesight.org or visit your North Ridgeville Tops Pharmacist, Angie McGuire.



The Ohio Coin Exposition will be held Feb. 7-9 at the Holiday Inn, 15471 Royalton Road, Strongsville. The public hours are Friday from 1-6:30 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Sunday from 10

a.m.-3 p.m. Admission is \$5. Parking is free.

For more information, call Ronald Nelson at (216) 292-7744 or Joe Bowen at (440) 442-1776.





IN-STORE/NET® Browse the current list

Wednesday, January 22, 2003

The debate over whether the traffic

signal on Center Ridge Road at Dyke

mended contacting the Ohio Department

Otten Road resident Chris Crobaugh,

who is also an attorney, has insisted for

some time that the light is illegal and

several weeks ago made a taxpayer's

demand that the traffic signal be elimi-

nated. He also indicated that if the

demand were not met, he would go to

council has the right to "legislate in

the area of traffic signals and traffic

control devices," based on North

Ridgeville's status as a home rule

municipality, if it does not conflict

Mayor Deanna Hill planned to

introduce legislation concerning the

light, however the proposal was delet-

ed from the Jan. 6 council agenda prior

During the safety meeting, Hill read a

lengthy statement regarding the light

that has stood at Dyke Road for 31 years,

with the Ohio Constitution.

Law Director Eric Zagrans said city

of Transportation (ODOT) for input.

By Carol Klear

and against the light.

court over the issue:

to the meeting.

of available styles then we access the net for quick response availability and shipping.

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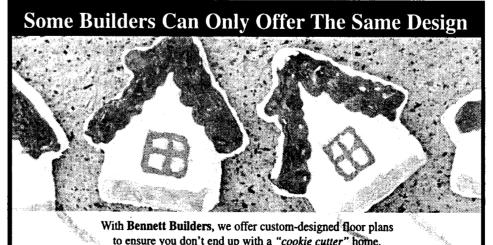
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Solomons donate late son's wheelchair to MetroHealth Foundation

Joanne Court residents, Bob and Karen Solomon, recently donated their late son's wheelchair to the MetroHealth Foundation Cleveland. Andrew Solomon died Jan. 1, 2001 following a courageous battle with spinal cord cancer that left him a paraplegic.

The 21-year-old had spent two months in the spinal cord rehabilitation unit of MetroHealth Hospital where he underwent physical and occupational therapy as part of his rehabilitation.

Solomon's custom-built wheelchair was manufactured by Invacare and includes an E-Fix power system that permitted the chair to be either hand-powered or motorized. It is valued at nearly \$16,000 and will be used in the spinal cord rehabilitation

Dr. Gary S. Clark, chairman of the physical medicine and rehabilitation department and Dr. Karen H. Knight, a spinal cord injury physician, who

was Solomon's primary care physician for his rehabilitation, accepted the chair, which will be used in the rehabilitation unit. Nancy Utter represented the MetroHealth Foundation at the presentation. The Solomons also presented a copy of a commissioned portrait of their son, which will be displayed in the community area of the spinal cord rehab unit.

Andrew Solomon's brother, U.S. Navy Petty Officer First Class David A. Solomon also attended the ceremony. His sister, Audrey, was unable to attend. Nurses and staff members of the hospital's spinal cord, physical therapy and occupational therapy units were on hand for the presentation, as were several other representatives of the MetroHealth Foundation.

Dr. Gary S. Clark, left, and Dr. Karen H. Knight, right, of the MetroHealth Foundation accept a wheelchair and portrait of Andrew Solomon from his parents. Karen and Bob Solomon.

The Press & Light

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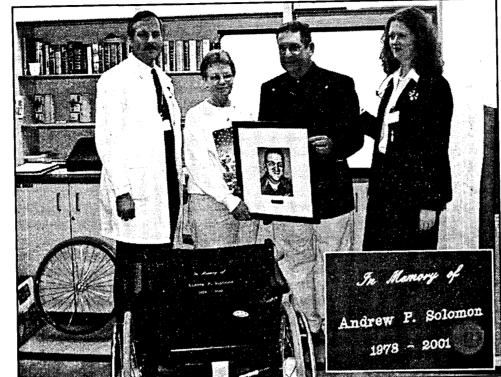
Call Carol Klear

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thepress@bright.net



SCHOOLS, from page 1

commitment to providing staff with the resources and tools needed to help children achieve," Superintendent Larry Bowersox said.

Bowersox attributes the increased improvement to the team effort put forth by the North Ridgeville Board of Education, as well as the hard work and dedication given by the students, parents, teachers and administrators. He also gives credit to the goals and objectives of the district's Strategic Plan for Continuous Improvement.

"Through hard work and dedication, North Ridgeville City Schools have achieved an 'Effective' rating while maximizing the community's tax dollars without any new operating revenue for the past seven years," Bowersox said.

School Treasurer Biagio Sidoti said the financial stability the district has benefited from over the past few years has enabled investments to be made in books.

curriculum, support programs and staff. In order to increase the ranking

within the district, Bowersox said three key areas have been focused on more diligently.

First, the district has invested a great deal of time into curriculum alignment to ensure that what the schools teach has a direct relationship to the critical skills and grade level indicators that are contained in Ohio's Academic Content Standards.

Second, the expectations have been increased for the students.

"Our students today have made significant strides in academic achievement," the superintendent said.

The third area involves the teachers. Bowersox said the teachers have spent many hours in graduate classes, summer workshops and in-service programs to learn the most effective instructional strategies and methods to teach the students.

"All of these accomplishments are instrumental in our success." Bowersox said.

SHEETZ, from page 1

Steven Augustine, director of real estate for Sheetz, said company officials had discussed it, but are not worried about competition for car washing.

Poplar Street resident Ron Joseph expressed concern about the traffic at Lorain and Lear Nagle and said, "That area is a bottleneck.

Joseph asked if there are any plans to ease the flow.

"The whole area is a disaster," Joseph said. "I've been traveling it for 15 years and that area is becoming more and more of a bottleneck. I see it getting worse."

Planning Commission Chairman Ron Schwachenwald advised council and the administration to look into the issue.

Commission members approved a request by Gilfether & Associates for a final review to subdivide and extend Sandlewood Avenue and also to approve 12 buildable lots. K.C. Gilfether said none of the properties have been sold yet and the project may take one or two years to complete.

Don Pincombe, of Rhonda Avenue, asked Gilfether to explain the preparation for a development, noting that he enjoys the present natural setting of the property to be developed. He also asked about the fate of the trees.

Gilfether said he couldn't keep the trees with the exception of those along the rear lot line and possibly some along the side lot line.

Responding to Pincombe's query about water, Gilfether said he planned

Stradford received approval by a narrow 3-1-1 vote. The 13-lot subdivision is to be built on vacant land on Mills Road, between Barton Road and the Cuyahoga County line.

lem" in that area.

spared, Lee said the area's been logged parcel."

"Guy's (Guy Fursdon, chief building inspector) the only one that listens," Lee

inary and suggested Lee and Bobkovich discuss the situation following the

agreed that water is a problem in that area and said he is building a home at 31925 Mills Road.

In other business, commission mem-

bers approved a request from All Purpose Construction Inc. for a re-subdivision of a portion of Meadow Lakes Subdivision No. 2. They also agreed to postpone a request by FJD Properties for approval of a concept plan until

EDUCATION

Hutchinson (Class of 1965), Carl Noll (Class of 1963);

(Class of 1973), Ernest Doebelin (Class of 1948);

1994-Patricia Drapcho (Class of 1971), Walter

1995-Curt Bolin (Class of 1963), Karen Cochran

1996-Dana Bowman (Class of 1981), Russell

1997-William Comerford (Class of 1959), Jim

1998-June Yost (Class of 1955), Kenneth Noll (Class

2000-Robert DiFranco (Class of 1964), LuAnn Light

2001-Bernadine Noll Butkowski (Class of 1961),

2002-Charles Hobaugh (Class of 1980), David Traut

Mark Millar, principal at the North Ridgeville

Education Center, announced that the school district

wants to identify all children who will be eligible for

admission to kindergarten for the 2003-2004 school

year. To be eligible, a child must be 5 years old before

ing process, parents are asked to pre-register their

child by completing a kindergarten pre-registration

form. Forms are available at any elementary school in

the North Ridgeville School District or at the North

Ridgeville Branch Library. It is also available on the

one of the North Ridgeville elementary schools: North

Ridgeville Education Center, 5490 Mills Creek Lane;

Liberty Elementary School, 5700 Jaycox Road; Lear

North Elementary School, 5580 Lear Nagle Road or

described and parent questions answered at a half-

hour Kindergarten Information Night, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m.

The screening and enrollment process will be

The PTA Council is looking for past PTA presidents

for its Founder's Day ceremony Feb. 3. If you are a past

president who has not been contacted or know where

to locate one, contact Maria Sycz at 327-7806 or Sue

In January and February, Lorain County

Community College (LCCC) will host a series of four

free workshops on how to find financial aid for col-

lege. The workshops are open to all prospective col-

Workshops will be held from 4-7 p.m. Jan. 28 and

Wilcox Elementary School, 34580 Bainbridge Road.

The completed form must be returned by Feb. 14 to

district's website www.nrcs.k12.oh.us.

PTA looking for past presidents

LCCC financial aid workshops

lege students and their parents.

Community Center in Lorain.

in the Education Center.

Beitler at 327-4235.

In order to ensure a smooth registration and screen-

DiNardo (Class of 1985), Barbara Finegan (Class of

NOTEBOOK

Hoffstetter (Class of 1964);

MacGiven (Class of 1981);

of 1975);

(Class of 1976):

(Class of 1973).

1930), Sandra Gast (Class of 1972);

Wayne Diederich (Class of 1950);

Kindergarten registration

1999-Doug Beach (Class of 1988);

Bay Nursery School open house

Bay Nursery School, located at 493 Forestview Road, Bay Village, is currently accepting registration. To register 3-year-olds, call Sara Chappel at (440) 892-79437 or call Cathy McPhillips at (440) 808-0016 to register 4-year-olds.

North Ridgeville Co-Op Nursery School

North Ridgeville Co-Op Nursery School, located at Fields United Methodist Church, is currently accepting applications for the 2003-2004 school year. The 3year-old class will meet Fridays and the 4-year-old class will meet Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. For more information and an application, call Kim at 353-0598 Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Lorain County JVS open house

The Lorain County JVS, located on the corner of SR 58 and SR 20 in Oberlin, will sponsor an open house Feb. 9 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. The open house is designed for eighth, ninth and 10th-grade students and their parents.

During the open house, visitors will have the opportunity to explore post-secondary educational options with college and technical school representatives, learn about enrollment procedures by talking with student services staff and register for spring semester adult education classes.

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

Visitors interested in the adult programs can visit the CISCO Network Systems Technology lab, tour a house completed by students in the construction trades program and have a free blood pressure screening in the medical assisting lab.

Former IVS students are invited to visit the alumni booth in the front lobby to register for the JVS alumni directory.

For more information, call the JVS at 774-1051.

Make nominations for Hall of Fame

The North Ridgeville High School Academic Recognition Committee (ARC) is accepting nominations for the 16th annual Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame induction. To be eligible for this nomination, the person must be a graduate of North Ridgeville High School for a minimum of five years. Nominations for the Alumni Hall of Fame should include the following information: alumnus name, current address, year of graduation from the North Ridgeville school system, age, occupation and biographical information about the nominee listing distinguished honors, community service and other accomplishments. The nomination must also include the nominator's name, address and phone number. Nominations should be sent to Patricia Bahr, principal, North Ridgeville High School, 7000 Pitts Blvd., North Ridgeville 44039. The deadline for nominations is Feb. 21.

Past Hall of Fame recipients are: 1988-Cindy Traut (Class of 1972);

1989-Father Allan Laubenthal (Class of 1952); 1990-Jav Blackshire (Class of 1981); 1991-Michael Alfultis (Class of 1978), Betty Davis

(Class of 1966), William Gardner (Class of 1965); 1992-Ronald Bauer (Class of 1964), James Hull (Class of 1965):

1993-Jerry Canterbury (Class of 1981), Robert

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What's for lunch?

NR Middle School/High School Thur: Salisbury steak w/gravy or breaded porkchop, roll,

whipped potatoes, peaches, milk. Fri: Beefy cheesy nachos or steak-um sandwich, veggies,

applesauce, milk. Mon: Pizza, salad, soft pretzel, green beans and carrots, peach-

Tue: Lasagna w/ a roll or rib sandwich, salad, fruit, milk.

Wed: Sausage links w/French toast sticks or sausage and cheese on an English muffin, hashbrown, orange juice, milk. **North Ridgeville Elementary**

Thur: Salisbury steak w/gravy, roll, whipped potatoes, peaches,

Fri: Beefy cheesy nachos, roll, veggies, applesauce, milk. Mon: Pizza, soft pretzel, green beans and carrots, fruit, milk. Tue: Toasted cheese sandwich, carrots, fruit, milk.

Wed: Sausage links, French toast, hashbrown, orange juice,

St. Peter Catholic School

■ Thur: Boneless chicken drumstick w/ roll or hamburger, potato cheese bake, dessert, milk.

Fri: Cheese lasagna w/ Italian bread or cheese pizza, salad,

Mon: Pork chop or chicken nuggets, lemonade, milk. Tue: Chicken alfredo pasta w/ roll or hotdog, broccoli, fruit

Wed: Meatball sub sandwich or chicken patty, fries, fruit, milk.

ACADEMIC NOTES

Casper earns master's degree

Edward Casper of North Ridgeville recently graduated from the University of Findlay with a master of science degree in environmental, safety and health management.

Ross on Dean's List

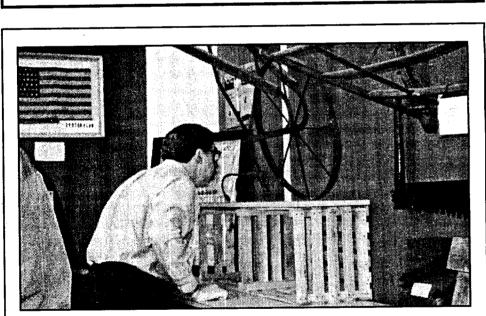
Jason Ross, of North Ridgeville, has been named to the Dean's List at Bowling Green State University. He is a junior majoring in art education.

Ross is a 2000 graduate of North Ridgeville High School. He is the son of Robert and Carol Ross of North

Kent State Dean's List

The following North Ridgeville residents have been named to the Kent State Dean's List: Lora Schneider, Jamie Qualkinbush, Jason Jacobs, Jason Mould, Melissa Ramaley, Laura Robbins and Jessica Rothschuh.





Ready for visitors

Jeff Sigsworth, president of the North Ridgeville Historical Society, makes sure everything is in place at the newly-renovated Community Museum, located in the Old Town Hall, 36119 Center Ridge Road, when it opens to the public, Jan. 26 from 2-5 p.m. Visitors will see new paint, carpet and curtains and glimpse at earlier times in North Ridgeville. Historical Society members will be available to answer questions.

MAYOR, from page 1

use public safety building to house both departments, she said.

"In discussions between the chiefs and me, we are exploring the possibility of creating a community campus and saving money by building on the vacant city land next to the library," the mayor said.

In the 2001 May Primary Hill had pushed for voters to support a Community and Senior Center to be constructed on the property, noting that the failure of the issue "had been a disappointment for many."

New construction in North Ridgeville is on the rise, Hill said, and between 1996 and 2001, 1.118 new dwelling permits were issued, as well as 189 condo permits and 75 new or expanded business permits. The fees collected totaled more than \$5.6 million, and the total fees for 2002 will "top \$1.7 million," she said, with nearly \$87,000 going to the parks department.

"While we see closing businesses, failing businesses and the loss of jobs all around us and across the nation, we have succeeded in bringing employment and funds for city services and our schools to North Ridgeville," Hill said.

accomplishments in the city under her watch including computerized water meters, the expansion at the French Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, the first master plan, the construction of the two-million gallon water tower, the new library which is slated to open in May and what she called "one of our greatest achievements," the Westerly Sewer which is underway.

Concluding the 40-minute speech, Hill told the crowd that within a few months she will be moving on, "but wherever I go or whatever I do, I will forever treasure my years as your mayor."

The mayor stressed a number of other

to install a retention basin. "The more retention, the better." A proposal by Gary C. Case of Avon for preliminary approval of the Woods of

Vincent Bobkovich, land development manager, promised a retention area would be part of the project, however Mills Road resident Ed Lee told the commission that flooding is a "major prob-

Responding to Bobkovich's assurance that as many trees as possible would be and "there are just 15 trees on the whole

Lee also stressed that when a drain was put in, the drain tiles were smaller than the ones already installed.

Schwachenwald reminded Lee several times that the meeting was prelim-

meeting. Another man told the panel he

"This underscores the need for engineering for the property and for a storm water management study," Olesen said.

TIME OUT Dispirito faces former team

This Saturday, the Lake Ridge Academy girls basketball team will host St. Augustine Academy for a 6 p.m. showdown. It's more than just your average game for LRA coach Jim Dispirito.

Before landing the position at LRA last fall, Dispirito coached at SAA the past six seasons, winning the Private School League Conference in 1997-98. Dispirito



Joe Ostrica

planned on retiring after coaching a special player at SAA and starting a new job as program coordinator for Westlake Recreational Department. Dispirito said Laura Harshman, who got a full scholarship to Urbana University, is probably the best player he will ever coach and was the most talented player from an athletic standpoint he ever worked with.

But leaving the game he loves and worked at for 16 years was more difficult than Displate and when LRA Athletic Director Steven Anderson called about the girls basketball position, Dispirito was given the chance to coach in a league he was already familiar with and return to coaching without actually taking a season off.

Facing a former team is nothing new to Dispirito who also did so in

"When I left St. Joseph Academy to coach at SAA, my first game that season was against my old school, he said.

Although he will be facing seniors that he coached for three years at SAA, Dispirito won't let sentimental feelings interfere with the task at

"I've talked to the kids and I'll be facing my old team, however I'm the coach of the Lake Ridge Academy Royals now," he said. "These are my kids, this is my team and we're going to do everything we can to beat

As for LRA's chances against SAA, Dispirito says it can go either

"They're probably the third or fourth best team in the conference. he said. "They're a team that likes to run and that will be difficult to stop. But they're struggling a bit. It's a game we could possibly win if we play well. We have to be able to pass well and break their press. They have one very good player in Megan

In addition to looking for a win Saturday night, Dispirito expects to have a good time.

"I know those kids have got some things planned," he said. "I'm called Coach D here and there and I heard they were going to call it D-Day. They're going to have some fun with it and that's what it should be. It should be fun and no hard feelings."

Lady Royals win two straight

After defeating Median Christian Academy 33-28 with a dramatic fourth quarter comeback, the Lady Royals got their first Private School League victory with a 31-23 win at Andrews last week, marking the first back-to-back wins for LRA this year. Megan Gardner, Morgan Szulewski-Francis and Yanna Voutsioutis led the way with six points apiece.

pressostrica@hotmail.com

Ranger Wrestling Club puts pride in kids and community

It appears the future of wrestling in North Ridgeville will be strong for years to come, thanks to the Ranger Wrestling

Club. Now in its fifth year, the RWC wrestles in the Ohio Youth League with kids participating from kindergarten through sixth-grade.

"It's basically set up for second through sixth grade, but they lowered the weight classes so younger kids can wrestle," RWC director Jim Ray said. "Sectionals, districts and states start at 56 pounds. It's been expanded so we can have younger kids in the

Prior to the RWC, city youth wrestlers participated in an intramural group that didn't travel or face squads from other

"This is good for the

kids and it gives them more exposure," Ray said.

Ray has been an assistant at North Ridgeville High School under Ed Haller since 1992. Prior to coaching at NRHS, Ray worked with Haller at Lakewood, where he grew up wrestling. Before working with Haller, Ray coached at St.

"Five years ago my son was wrestling for Westshore, and when I moved to North Ridgeville I wanted to make sure he had a program to go to, so I just started the program here and it just took off," Ray said about the origin of the RWC.

The numbers have nearly doubled since last year, with 76 kids involved this season, the biggest group since the club was formed in 1998. Twenty-two of the wrestlers are varsity members while the second-team, called the All-Stars, are in their first year in the program. The club participates in seven meets through the Ohio Youth League and holds four exhibitions each year at NRHS. At the end of the year there is a

tournament for both the varsity and JV levels followed by sectionals, districts and state competitions, just like the high school squad.

"It's just incredible watching some of these kids," Ray said.

"There are four-year-olds out there and they go out there like it's nothing. It's a lot of fun but, it's got to be something you want to That's the whole point, to enjoy wrestling.'

Wednesday, January 22, 2003

Ray has been impressed with all the help the RWC gets from the parents, as well as other members of the community.

"The parents do so much to help us out," he said. "I have 15 different guys helping out by volunteering as coaches. It's a great effort by a good group of people. Even parents of kids who already graduated still come and help us out."

Last year's state qualifiers include sixth-

graders Danny Accorti and Derek Lozano and fifth-grader Steven Lopez. Accorti is in his fourth year and Lozano is in his third year with the

"Derek has real natural ability for the sport," assistant coach Dale Koberna said. "He held his own against an eighth-grader that was a city CYO place winner. Steven uses constant movement and never gives up.'

Two wrestlers who just missed qualifying for state last year include Matt Smith, 11, and Tommy Zeigler, 7. Smith missed qualifying by one point in an overtime match while Zeigler just missed being nationally ranked with a one-point

"It's tough to get Tommy competition because he's so good and so little," Koberna said. The 7-year-old Zeigler, who weighs 44 pounds, started

SEE CAMP. PAGE 11

Rangers seek payback against Berea

North Ridgeville's Danny Accorti (left), who is in his fourth year with the

Ranger Wrestling Club, was a state qualifier last year.

By Joe Ostrica

Friday is going to be a bad time for Berea to come to North Ridgeville and face the boys basketball team. Not only are the Rangers looking for payback against the Braves for a 68-66 loss they suffered on the road early in the season, they're also looking to bounce back from their biggest loss of the season.

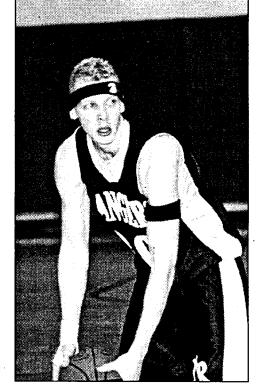
Last Friday the Rangers traveled to North Royalton to face the best team in the Pioneer Conference. The team arrived confident they could go home with a victory. After all, in early December, Ridgeville took the Bears the distance for their PC opener at home before losing 71-67.

Last week, it was a whole different outcome as Royalton handed the Rangers their biggest defeat of the season, 87-69, dropping NRHS to 4-4 in conference action and 8-4 overall.

The Bears improved to 10-2, 7-1. Strongsville is right on their heels (9-3, 6-2) after defeating Brunswick (10-2, 6-2) last Friday. Royalton's only loss in the PC came against Strongsville, which has won six in a row after losing at North Ridgeville in an overtime thriller. At 4-4, the Rangers have to have a lot of luck to come out on top in the PC, but they can still win several of their final eight games to secure the school's first winning record in 20 years.

"I told them they can either be upset about this loss and let it carry over or put it behind them and focus on Berea," head coach Mark Rechin said. "If they want to finish the season out strong, they have to forget about this one and take each game one at a time."

The loss at North Royalton is defi-



North Ridaeville senior Anthony Mayweather looks for his options against North Royalton last week. The Rangers didn't have many options as they fell behind early on and suffered their biggest loss of the season, 87-69.

nitely one to forget as the Bears' Mark Friscone scorched the Rangers for 38 points, including four three-pointers. The 6'5" Friscone, who is probably close to 265 pounds, put on an unbelievable shooting clinic, going 15-of-16 from the field, mostly from mid-to-long range.

"There was nothing we could do about him," Rechin said. "We threw everything we could at him and we still couldn't stop him. I told the kids this is just one of those games when someone is unstoppable and there's nothing we can do about it. We just have to put this one behind us and move on.'

The Rangers were playing catchup from the beginning as Royalton marched out to a 12-2 lead in the first three minutes of the contest. The Rangers got within four at the end of the first quarter (18-14), but the Bears opened the second period with an 8-2 run. The closest the Rangers got was 29-27, but Friscone responded with a three-pointer to put the Bears up by five.

"Every time we got within two or three points, Royalton would just put together another run and keep us out of reach," Rechin said.

Andrew Rothacker led the Rangers with 21 points, followed by Josh Rigsby (16) and Adam Montgomery (15).

The Rangers have been looking forward to playing Berea every since their 68-66 road loss on Dec. 13. Ridgeville saw a 50-41 lead with under two minutes remaining in the third quarter disappear as Berea responded with 10 unanswered points to take the momentum and a 51-50 lead. In the fourth quarter, Berea hit 12-of-16 free throw attempts to seal the win.

"That's a game we definitely know we let get away," Rechin said. "The kids have been looking forward to playing Berea since then and they'll be ready on Friday."

The Braves (4-8, 3-5) are coming off a 59-52 loss to Midpark, who owns the worse record in the PC at 1-7.

HOOP STATS

(Through Jan. 16)

Rebounds

Szulewski-Francis (LRA) 15.8

Lilly Walleck (LRA) 10

Cottrill (NRHS) 4.4

Whiteman (LRA) 3.7

Dowdell (NRHS) 3.1

Whiteman (LRA) 4.7

Durst (NRHS) 2.1

Gardner (LRA) 1.8

Kearney (NRHS) 1.2

Walleck (LRA) 3.25

3-pointers made

Gardner (LRA) 10

Steals

Blocks

Georgia DiOrio (LRA) 5.5

Simonne Benoit (LRA) 4.5

Montgomery (NRHS) 3.5

Kori Zurawski (LRA) 3.6

DiOrio, Walleck (LRA) 3.5

Montgomery (NRHS) 2.7

Cottrill, Jill Hansen (NRHS) 1.5

Szulewski-Francis (LRA) 3.3

Dowdell (NRHS), Yanna Voutsiotis (LRA) 2.8

Stacey Arbogast (NRHS) 3.4

Boys Basketball Scoring leaders

Adam Montgomery (NRHS) 14.9 Andrew Rothacker (NRHS) 12.2 Dan Nelson (NRHS) 12.1 Court Flannery (LRA), Josh Rigsby (NRHS)

Brian Shimko (LRA) 9.9 Aalap Narichania (LRA) 8.6 Rvan Schroeder (NRHS) 8.4 Sam Maczuzak (LRA) 7.6 Asad Butt (LRA) 6.7

Rebounds Rothacker (NRHS) 5.3 Flannery (LRA), Nelson (NRHS), Shimko

(LRA) 5 Maczuzak (LRA) 4.5 Rigsby (NRHS) 3.8 Butt (LRA) 3.6 Montgomery (NRHS) 3.4 Andrew Tyson (NRHS) 3.3

Assists Montgomery (NRHS) 4.3 Nelson (NRHS) 2.5 Schroeder (NRHS) 2 Narichania (LRA) 1.6 Flannery (LRA) 1.5 Butt (LRA) 1.3

Steals Rigsby (NRHS) 3.1 Montgomery (NRHS) 2.4 Nelson (NRHS) 2 Schroeder (NRHS) 1.8 Flannery (LRA) 1.3 Rothacker (NRHS) 1.1

Tyson (NRHS) 1 3-pointers made Schroeder (NRHS) 15 Flannery (LRA) 14 Montgomery (NRHS) 11 Narichania (LRA) 10 Nelson (NRHS) 8 Rigsby (NRHS) 6

Girls Basketball

Scoring leaders Morgan Szulewski-Francis (LRA) 7.4 Kristy Montgomery (NRHS) 6.8 Erin Dowdell (NRHS) 6 Megan Gardner (LRA) 5.4 Erin Kearney (NRHS) 5.25 Becky Durst (NRHS) 5.1 Caitlin Whiteman (LRA) 4.7 Tiffany Cottrill (NRHS) 4.6

Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2003

6 p.m.: NRHS vs. North Olmsted (Away)

6 p.m.: Cornerstone Christian vs. LRA (Home)

7:30 p.m.: LRA vs. Cornerstone Christian

Friday, Jan. 24, 2003

6 p.m.: Berea vs. NRHS (Home)

Saturday, Jan. 25, 2003

1 p.m.: NRHS vs. Brecksville (Away)

6 p.m.: St. Augustine vs. LRA (Home)

Girls Basketball

Girls Basketball

Boys Basketball

Girls Basketball

(Away)

North Ridgeville's Adam Montgomery leads the Rangers in scoring (14.9) and assists (4.3) and is second in steals (2.4) and three-pointers made (11).

Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2003

6 p.m.: NRHS vs. Brecksville (Away)

5:30 p.m.: LRA vs. Orange Christian (Away)

7:45 p.m.: Fuchs Mizrachi vs. LRA (Home)

Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2003

6 p.m.: Lorain Catholic vs. LRA (Home)

6 p.m.: NRHS vs. Strongsville (Away)

6 p.m.: NRHS vs. Strongsville (Away)

7:30 p.m.: Canton Heritage vs. LRA (Home)

Friday, Jan. 31, 2003

Girls Basketball

Boys Basketball

Girls Basketball

Boys Basketball

Wrestling

ON DECK

Soccer Tryouts

Dan Blagojevic and Larry Coreno are holding U11 soccer tryouts for a North Ridgeville boys travel team for ages 9-11. Tryouts will be held at the NRHS auxiliary gym Feb. 12 at 7 p.m. Players will play eight-on-eight on a modified soccer field. Call 353-0128 for any further questions.

Winter sports

The North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Department is offering the following sports this

Open gym co-ed volleyball at the NR Middle School for ages 18 and up on the second Friday of every month until May from 7-9 p.m. Cost is \$1 each night. Women's open gym volleyball at Wilcox Elementary every Monday until May 19 from 6:15-8:15 p.m. Cost is \$2 per night.

Register for all sports at the parks and recreation office, 7307 Avon Belden Road, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or call 353-0860 for more information.

NRASL spring registration

The North Ridgeville Amateur Soccer League spring registration for boys and girls ages 4-14 will take place Jan. 25 from 1-4 p.m. at the North Ridgeville Senior Center. Cost for NR residents is \$35 per player or \$100 family rate for three or more players. Non-resident cost is \$40 per player with a \$105 family rate. Optional \$10 "snack-a-week program" will be collected at registration.

Games are scheduled for Saturdays between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. and will be played from April 5 through June 7. There will be no games April 19 and May 3. Final date for mailin registration is Feb. 15. Forms available via website (www.nrasl.com) or parks and recreation office after Jan. 25.

The NRASL will also hold meetings on the & third Tuesday of every month at 8 p.m. at the North Ridgeville Senior Center.

Eighth-graders bounce back against North Royalton

After suffering their worse loss of the season, a 49-34 defeat by Strongsville and 11 rebounds in a 23-18 overtime win over St. Joe's Avon Lake to stay alive in Albion, the North Ridgeville eighthgrade boys basketball team bounced back with a 41-39 win at North Royalton to improve to 8-2.

Jimmy Dutko (10 points, three rebounds, three steals), Josh Kehl (nine points, four rebounds, 10 steals), Dean Hunt (six points, one rebound, one steal), Tyler Bender (six points, four rebounds, three steals), Nick Grazetti (five points, two rebounds, two steals) and Dean Wright (four points, five rebounds) led the Rangers. Kevin Cockburn, Dan McClintic, Ben Frederick and Kyle Sullivan finished with two points apiece.

After traveling to Brecksville on Tuesday (after P&L deadline), the Rangers will host Midpark Ford on Thursday.

Ice sparks St. Peter win

Timmy Ice helped the St. Peter seventh-grade basketball team overcome a lackluster performance with eight points holding St. Joe's scoreless in the extra period. Joe DeCapite and Joe Andulics also played intense defense. St. Peter returned to the court Saturday against the same St. Joe's team in a regular season match-up that the Saints controlled from the start, improving their regular season record to 6-0 with a 25-16 win. Baker (eight points, 12 rebounds), Jayson Graham (eight points, 11 rebounds), Andulics (six points, five rebounds), led the way while Ice con-

the St. Mary Elvria Tournament. Without

Richie Baker in the line-up, and the off-

night play from most of the team, it was

Ice, Matt Healy and Nick Nelson who

took control of the game in overtime,

The Saints get to advance in the St. Mary Tournament and finish regular season action next weekend when they play the undefeated Avon Holy Trinity Red.

tributed eight rebounds and Pat Flanagan

played a well balanced game with three

points, four assists, five steals and five

CAMP, from page 10

out two years ago at just 36 pounds. Koberna thinks Chase DuPratt is a

natural when it comes to wrestling. "Chase is a tough kid," he said. "He has the complete package with balance and the instinct to know where his body should be."

Other wrestlers with high potential that the coaches see as bright spots in Ridgeville's future include Mike Meese, James Meese, Scott Chase, Matt Asp. Nick Asp, Brandon Asp, Mike Moradini, Drew Jynaziak and Matt Zep.

Ray and Koberna find the high numbers encouraging and said the enthusiasm for the program is great for the com-

"I've been waiting for this to happen for four years now and getting this many kids to join is great," Ray said. "If we can keep these kind of numbers, we'll be able to compete with all the strong teams in the area.

"That's important for the community as well as the kids' pride.

"Last year, you could see the spirit starting to build within the program and the community," Koberna said. "Everybody was getting together and helping out. It's like a big family with a dous amount of support, which is what you need to run a successful program.

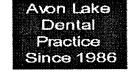
"Hopefully these kids will enjoy the sport and feed the high school system and help the program grow and continue to get even better."



7 p.m.: NRHS vs. Brecksville/Chanel (Away) 7 p.m.: NRHS vs. Brunswick (Away) John T. Webster D.D.S., Inc.

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BUSINESS

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• Know your credit score. The lowest rates, especially for auto loans, go to those with the best credit scores. Start by getting your credit score-you can get it for free at E-LOAN-then order your actual credit report from all three credit bureaus to ensure there aren't any inaccuracies dragging your score down. If you have a high score, leverage it to negotiate lower rates with your credit card companies.

• Refinance your auto loan. When auto rates are low, it is not unusual for people to knock two or more percentage points off their loan by refinancing. Use an online calculator like the one at E-LOAN to find out instantly whether you can save money by refinancing.

If you determine you can save, you can apply and get an approval decision within minutes.

· Close on your refinance before the end of this year and make an extra mortgage payment. If you are in the midst of refinancing your house again, close the deal before the end of the year. That way, you can deduct any points that you have not yet deducted from your previous refinance. Do not forget to make an extra mortgage payment: You may be eligible for a higher mortgage

interest deduction and you will be significantly reducing the interest you will pay over the life of the loan.

Get an instant emergency stash fund. If you are truly concerned about your job security and do not have an emergency stash, it may be a good idea to create one in a jiffy by putting a home equity line of credit in place now.

If you try to get a home equity line of credit after losing your job, you might not be approved.

Tips to protect yourself from identity theft

You may get some big surprises on your credit report someday. The report may show a few credit card accounts you never applied for, all charged to the limit, or a cellular phone account with a whopping

You may even be shocked to learn you have a new address thousands of miles from your home.

If so, you may be a victim of identity theft, a crime U.S. Postal Inspectors say is sweeping the country. Here are some things you can do to make it more difficult for crooks to steal your name:

• Know when your credit cards expire. If you do not receive them in the mail by the expiration date, call the issuer immediately.

• Do not toss out those credit card statements without shredding them first. Criminals do not necessarily need your credit cards-just your account numbers.

· Shred pre-approved credit card applications before throwing them out. If crooks get a hold of these, they can apply for credit cards in your name without

To learn more, or to report a fraud online, visit the Postal Inspection Service Web site at www.usps.com/postalinspectors.

They may be convenient, but credit cards expose consumers to potential identity theft.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Armbruster retains chairmanship State Sen. Jeff Armbruster was recently appointed

by Senate President Doug White to continue to chair the Senate highways and transportation Committee for the 125th General Assembly.

Manning appointed to governor's task force

State Representative Jeff Manning has been appointed to the Governor's Task Force on Impaired Driving.

The Governor's Task Force on Impaired Driving is responsible for holding forums to discuss, plan and coordinate efforts with the Ohio Department of Public Safety to reduce the incidence of impaired drivers on Ohio's roadways.

County Auditor receives award

Lorain County auditor Mark R. Stewart is a recipient of the Distinguished County Auditor Award, presented by the County Auditors' Association of Ohio (CAAO). The award recognizes county auditors who have completed 100 or more hours of continued education during their terms of office.



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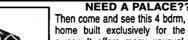
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and immaculate. Price is right! Interest is right! The house is right! Location is great! 3 bdrm, 1st floor master/bath, full basement, lots of light, lots of extras. #5359.

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LIFESTYLE

AROUND NORTH RIDGEVILLE

N.R. Republican Club to meet

Wednesday, January 22, 2003

The North Ridgeville Republican Club will meet Jan. 28 at 7:30 p.m. at FirstMerit Bank, North Ridgeville.

For more information, call Vince at 327-4733.

Events at Sandy Ridge Wetland Center Watercolor class: Winter scenes

Create a variety of winter scenes with Clela Stelnicki. Four sessions will be held Feb. 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Pre-register by Jan. 30 and pay \$25 at the door, plus supplies.

Bird hike

A bird hike will be held Feb. 8 from 1-2:30 p.m. Sandy Ridge Wetland Center is located at 6195 Otten Road, North Ridgeville.

Sweetheart Balls

The North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Department will hold sweetheart balls for parents and their children ages 16 and under at the Senior Center. 7307 Avon Belden Road, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The Daddy/Daughter ball is held Feb. 7 and the Mommy/Son ball is Feb. 14. Each night's activities include dinner, dessert, games and dancing. Attire is suits and dresses. Cost is \$35 per couple and \$10 for additional children.

Register at the North Ridgeville Parks and Recreation Department by Jan. 31.

N.R. Democratic Women's Club

The North Ridgeville Democratic Women's Club is holding a membership drive. Dues are \$10 for the year. Checks can be sent to N.R.D.W.C., 36360 Behm Dr., North Ridgeville. For more information, call Betty at

AROUND LORAIN COUNTY

Lorain Co. Asthma Support group to meet

The Lorain County Asthma Support group will meet Jan. 29 at 7 p.m. at Lorain County Community College room 227A of the College Center building. The meeting will focus on "Starting the year off right. Educate yourself about asthma." The meetings are open to anyone with respiratory disease and their family and friends. For information, call Judy at 926-2179.

Red Cross Water Safety Instructor class An American Red Cross Water Safety Instructor

(WSI) class will be held at the Lorain County Metro Parks Aquatic Facility in Oberlin. The class will run March 11-April 10.

Participants must be 17 years old and be able to swim a variety of strokes. Call the Red Cross Health and Safety Department at 324-2929 to register.



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Shows and auditions

NARI Home Improvement Show

The NARI Home Improvement Show will be at the I-X Center Jan. 30-Feb. 2. Tickets are \$9 for adults and \$4.50 for children. Admission is free for children five

National City Cleveland Home and Garden Show

National City Cleveland Home and Garden Show will be at the I-X Center Feb. 8-16. Tickets are \$11.50 for adults and \$3.75 for children ages six-12.

Shows at the Playhouse Square

Tickets are available at the Playhouse Square Center Box Office, all tickets.com locations, by phone at (216) 241-6000 or (800) 766-6048 or online at playhousesquare.com.

Todd Rundgren

Todd Rundgren will appear at Playhouse Square's Ohio Theatre April 13 at 7 p.m. Tickets went on sale Jan. 17 and cost \$27.75.

Steven Wright

Comedian Steven Wright will perform at the State Theatre Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$29.75 and \$24.75. **Anything Goes**

The play, "Anything Goes" with music and lyrics by Cole Porter will be presented at the Ohio Theatre now-Feb. 2. Tickets are on sale now and cost \$10-45.

Sing-a-Long-a Sound of Music

Sing-a-Long-a Sound of Music will be in the Palace Theatre Jan. 28-Feb. 2. Tickets are \$17.50 each and include the official sing-a-long pack with items needed to participate in the show.

An opening night to benefit the AIDS Taskforce and Cleveland Film Society will be held Jan. 28 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for this event are \$25 and \$50.

Three Mo' Tenors

Victor Trent Cook, Rodrick Dixon and Thomas Young will perform at the Palace Theatre Feb. 4.

John Sebastian John Sebastian will explore his Lovin' Spoonful

past Feb. 7 at the Ohio Theatre.

John Amos will perform the story of an 86-year-old

man reminiscing on his life as he talks to Halley's Comet Feb. 8 at the Ohio Theatre.

African Tales of Earth and Sky African Tales of Earth and Sky will perform at the Allen Theatre for ages 3-8 Feb. 8 at 10:30 a.m. in the Allen Theatre. Tickets are \$12.

The Cab Calloway Orchestra to perform

The Cab Calloway Orchestra, under the direction of

Cab's grandson, C. Calloway Brooks, will perform at the Playhouse Square Center's Palace Theatre Feb. 10 at 1:30 p.m. for one show only. Tickets are \$15 plus handling.

Sesame Street Live

Sesame Street Live's Monsters Making Music will be at the Palace Theatre March 20-23. Tickets are \$24. \$18 and \$12. Opening night, all seats are \$12.

Shows at Lorain Palace Civic Center

Tickets are available by calling the Lorain Palace Box Office at (800) 889-4842 Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Laughter Arts Festival

Laughter Arts Festival with comedians Bobcat Golthwait, Richard Lewis and Kevin Meany will perform Jan. 24 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are currently available.

Smothers Brothers

Dick and Tommy Smothers will perform Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now.

Attention Class: Late Night Catechism

"Attention Class: Late Night Catechism" will be presented at the Hanna Theatre in Playhouse Square eginning Jan. 21 with shows Tuesday-Sunday. Tickets range from \$33-\$36 and are available online at tickets.com or by calling (216) 241-6000.

Paragon Brass Quintet

The Paragon Brass Quintet will perform Jan. 20 at 8 p.m. at West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church, 20401 Hilliard Blvd., Rocky River, There is no charge for admission.

In the service

Nicholas McMillen of North Ridgeville graduated from the U.S. Navy Boot Camp on Sept. 26, 2001. He is currently enrolled in the Combat Systems Advanced Electronic Technical Core (AETC) program in Chicago, Ill. and plans to pursue his Navy career as a Nicholas and Joseph Fire Controlman (FC).



McMillen McMillen graduated from North Ridgeville High School in 2000. He is the son of Joseph and Linda McMillen.

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TOWN CRIER

These boys and girls are enjoying the first-ever Children's Bingo Night held at Lear

North School, Jan. 10. There were lots of prizes and lots of fun.

THURSDAY

VISITOR'S BUREAU COMMITTEE, 8 a.m., 34845 Lorain Road

N.R. PARKS & REC. DEPT., 6-7:30 p.m. Ongoing Body Sculpting class at the Senior Center multi-purpose room. Cost is \$40/month. Call 353-0860/info.

HARVEST LIFE BEREAVEMENT CENTER, 6:30-8 p.m. "Harvest Hope" support group for anyone who has experienced the death of someone close. Located at 5255 N. Abbe

Road, Elvria, Call 934-1482/info.

ZONING BOARD MEETING, 7 p.m., Council

RECOVERY INC., 7:30 p.m. Self-help for people dealing with fears, phobias, panics and depression. Meets weekly at Lorain County Community College, 1005 N. Abbe Road, room CC114 (faculty lounge), Elyria. Call Bob MacIntyre at 236-8841/info.

THURSDAY NIGHT CARING AL-ANON, 8 p.m. New Life Church, 38079 Center Ridge Road. Call 366-6913 for more details.

FRIDAY

ST. JOHN WEST SHORE HOSPITAL 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Low cost immunizations at Community Outreach Dept., bldg. #2, Westlake. Sponsored by CSA/St. John Ministries.

N.R. PARKS & REC. DEPT., 9:30-11:30 a.m. Ongoing Fencing class for children and adults at the Senior Center multi-purpose room \$7/class. Call 353-0860/info.

ROTARY CLUB, noon at the Office For Older

FOOD ADDICTS ANONYMOUS, 7 p.m. St. John West Shore Hospital, bldg. 2, auditorium B. Call Gloria at 327-9492 or Kay at 960-5384 for more information.

SATURDAY

N.R. PARKS & REC. DEPT., 9-11:30 am. Ongoing Fencing class for children and adults. Cost is \$7/class. Held in the Senior Center multi-

purpose room from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Ongoing Karate class for children and adults. Cost is \$20 for four lessons. Held in the Safetyville Building. Call 353-0860 for more information.

KARATE FOR TOTS, for ages 4-6, 10-10:45 a.m. at the Safetyville Building. Cost is \$20/month to meet once per week or \$30/month to meet twice per week. Fees are due at the beginning of each month. Register at the class.

SUNDAY

FOOD ADDICTS ANONYMOUS, 9 a.m. St. John West Shore Hospital, bldg. 2, auditorium A. Call at Gloria 327-9492 or Kay at 960-5384 for more information.

OFFICE FOR OLDER ADULTS, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Craft club, quilting, computer classes.

Bingo!

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If you have been married fifty years or more join us fo our:

Fourth Annual

Solden Valentine Dance

This years Golden Valentine Dance is

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From 3:00 until 7:00 p.m.

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Join us for this special time to renew old friendships and

make new ones while you dance to the sounds of The

Bell-Aires and sample fine foods throughout the evenng.

We invite new couples and previous attendees from our

communities Westlake, Bay Village, North Olmster,

Rocky River, Fairview Park, Olmsted Falls, North

Ridgeville, Avon Lake and Avon.

Call in your reservations to:

Keith Jenkins at Jenkins Funeral Chapel,

440-871-0711

(names, address and anniversary date)

We encourage new couples to call early. February 2, 2003 is the cut off date for all reservations.

"Over the past years we have all had our share of laughter.

And with the laughter at these dances comes a friendship that

we sincerely cherish."

-Keith and Mary Beth Jenkins

believe in the beauty of their dream:"

Soup for 35 cents. Call 353-0828/info. ST. JOHN WEST SHORE HOSPITAL

12:30-2 p.m. Free blood pressure screenings. Free hearing screenings are held from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Both held at Community Outreach Center, bldg. #2, Westlake. Sponsored by CSA/St. John Ministries.

FOOTBALL BOOSTERS CLUB, 7 p.m. High School cafeteria.

HARVEST LIFE BEREAVEMENT CENTER, 7-8:30 p.m. "Mourning Hearts" support group for parents who have lost a child to death. At 6:30 p.m. "Harvest Hope" support group for people who have experienced the death of someone close. Located at 5255 N. Abbe Road, Elyria, Call 934-1482/info.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP. 7 p.m.

Gates Medical Bldg. 125 E. Broad St., Elyria. **TUESDAY** KIWANIS CLUB OF N. RIDGEVILLE, 7-8

a.m. Community Care. OFFICE FOR OLDER ADULTS, 1-4 p.m. Watercolor classes.

N.R. PARKS & REC. DEPT., 9:30-11a.m. Ongoing Fencing class for children and adults. \$7/class. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Ongoing Body Sculpting class. Cost is \$40/month. Both classes held at the Senior Center multi-purpose room. Call 353-0860 for more details.

TOPS CLUB #656, 7 p.m. North Ridgeville Baptist Church, 5400 Lear Nagle Road. SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDE, 7 p.m. EMH Conference Room A on the 8th floor.

FOOD ADDICTS ANONYMOUS, 7 p.m. Peace Mennonite Church, 9300 W. Ridge Road, Elyria. Call Kay at 960-5384 or Gloria at 327-9492.

WEDNESDAY

OFFICE FOR OLDER ADULTS, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Quilting, cards, bingo. Lunch \$3.25 by reservation. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Watercolor class. Call 353-0828/info.

WESTLAKE TOASTMASTERS #497, 12:15-1:15 p.m. Webster's Place.

KARATE FOR TOTS for ages 4-6, 4-4:45 p.m. Safetyville Building. Cost is \$20/month to meet once per week or \$30/month to meet twice per week. Fees are due at the beginning of each month. Register at the class.

N.R. PARKS & REC. DEPT., 5-6:30 p.m. Ongoing Karate class held at the Safetyville

WEIGHT WATCHERS, 6-7p.m. First Congregational Church, 36363 Center Ridge Road. Call (800) 487-4777 for further details. PARK AND REC. COMMISSION, 7:30 p.m. Multi-purpose room.

VFW #9871 MEN'S MEETING, 8 p.m.

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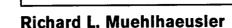
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Wednesday, January 22, 2003

Richard L. Muehlhaeusler, 71, of North Ridgeville, died Jan. 7, 2003 at his home following

He was born in Cleveland and had been a resident of North Ridgeville since moving from North Royalton in 1956.

He served in the Marine Corps during the Korean

He worked as a welder for General Motors Chevy Plant, Parma, for 25 years before retiring in 1994. Mr. Muehlhaeusler was a former member of Moose Lodge, Elyria, and enjoyed motorcycles,

stockcar racing, roller-skating, woodworking and Survivors include a son, Dan of North Ridgeville; daughters, Donna Harris of Elyria and

Preceding him in death were his wife, Jean (nee Baker), in 1998; and his parents, Charles L. and

Phyllis McKay of Cleveland; and three grandchil-

Amanda B. (nee Jenke). Arrangements were handled by David Bogner Family Funeral Home, North Ridgeville, where funeral services were held Jan. 8. The Rev. Bill Shomo officiated. Burial was in Resthaven Memory Garden, Avon.

Memorials may be made to Cleveland Clinic Foundation, 9500 Euclid Ave., Cleveland 44106.

Thomas J. Auner, 83, of Elyria, died Jan. 9, 2003, at St. John West Shore Hospital, Westlake.

He was born Nov. 17, 1919, in Cleveland, and had lived in North Ridgeville for 53 years before moving to Elyria in 1992.

Mr. Auner served in the U.S. Army during World He retired in 1982 as superintendent for City of

North Olmsted Service Department, where he worked for 28 years.

He was a member of St. Peter Church, North Ridgeville, St. Peter Holy Name Society and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1079, Elyria.

Mr. Auner was an avid golfer and enjoyed bowling Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Viola "Vi" (nee Fassinger); sons, Thomas of Fairview Park, Ray and Joe, both of North Ridgeville and James "JC" of North Royalton; a daughter, Kathryn "Katy" Dodge of Chicago; and 12 grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Thomas and Catherine Auner and brothers, John and William Auner.

Arrangements were handled by David Bogner Family Funeral Home, North Ridgeville. A Mass was held Jan. 12 in St. Peter Church, North Ridgeville. The Rev. Thomas J. Pajk officiated. Interment was in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Billie Marie Fagan

Billie Marie Fagan (nee Marchand), 77, of Lewisburg, Tenn. died Jan. 13, 2003 at her home. Mrs. Fagan was born April 25, 1925 in Birmingham, Ala.

She was retired from Petersburg Manufacturing and a member of the Baptist Church.

Mrs. Fagan enjoyed gardening, reading and cook-

She is survived by sons, Roger (Helen) Fagan of Lewisburg and Randall (Janice) Fagan of North Ridgeville; a daughter, Janice (Phil) Willis of Lewisburg; six grandchildren; and two great grand-

Preceding her in death were her husband, Paul and parents, William and Jimmie Marchand

Arrangements were handled by the Chapel of London Funeral Home, Lewisburg. Services were held Jan. 15. The Rev. James Hickey and Rev. Paul Woodford officiated. Burial was in Lone Oak Cemetery, Lewisburg.

Donations may be made the library of the donor's

Sheldon D. Fortune

Sheldon D. Fortune, 71, of Grafton, died Jan. 14, 2003, at EMH Regional Medical Center, Elyria, following a brief illness.

He was born July 4, 1931, in Columbia Station. He grew up in North Ridgeville and lived most of

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his life in LaGrange.

Mr. Fortune was employed as a carpenter for 40 years with Carpenters Local 305, Elyria.

OBITUARIES

He enjoyed hunting, fishing and woodworking.

Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Mary (nee Wolf); a daughter, Melinda Anderson of Rhode Island; sons, Brian Fortune of Wellington and Bruce Fortune of LaGrange; a sister, Erma Yost of North Ridgeville; a brother, Don Fortune of Florida; and five grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Harris and Edna (nee Ohmes) Fortune.

Arrangements were handled by Bauer-Laubenthal Funeral Home, Elyria, where services were held Jan. 18. Burial was in River Road Cemetery, LaGrange.

Albert F. Jurco

Albert Frank Jurco, 81, of North Ridgeville, died Jan. 16, 2003, at New Life Hospice Center of St. Joseph, Lorain, following a lengthy illness. He was born in Cleveland and moved to North

Ridgeville in 1946 from Brunswick. He graduated from Brunswick High School and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Mr. Jurco owned and operated Al's Market in North Ridgeville for more than 50 years.

He was a member of St. Peter Catholic Church, North Ridgeville, where he was president of the Holy Name Society and was its past secretary and treasurer and served as a lay Eucharistic minister. He was a charter member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9871, North Ridgeville.

Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Wanda (nee Zbydnowski); daughters, Lorraine Glass of Cleveland, Mary Jurco of North Ridgeville, Margaret Ashwill of Dublin and Theresa Jurco of Encinitas, Calif.; sons, John of Elyria, Paul and Albert, both of North Ridgeville, and James of Palm Harbor, Fla.; a brother, George Jurco of Columbia Station; 12 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were a daughter, Joanne Jurco; and his parents, Frank H. and Catherine E. (nee Shirosky) Jurco.

Arrangements were handled by David Bogner Family Funeral Home, North Ridgeville. A Mass was held Jan. 18 in St. Peter Catholic Church, North Ridgeville. The Rev. Thomas Hyland and the Rev. Thomas Pajk officiated. Burial was in St. Peter Cemetery, North Ridgeville, with military honors by VFW Post 9871.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Peter Church Renovation Fund, 35777 Center Ridge Road, North Ridgeville 44039.

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This Church Directory sponsored by these community-minded Business men & women

Calvary Ridge Church of the Nazarene. 34881 Center Ridge Rd. David Woods, Pastor. Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Worship Service 10:45 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. 327-1687.

Church of Christ. 36350 Chestnut Ridge Rd. Jason Hardin, Evangelist. Bible Study 9:30 a.m.; Worship Service 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening Services 6 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 7 nm.

Springs of Life Church. 31860 Bagley Rd. N. Ridgeville. Family wor-ship and children's church. Sun. 10:30 am; Sun. eve 6 p.m.; Wed. eve 7 pm Springs of Life Bible College and Shalom Seminary Tue. and Fri. at 7 pm., Sat. at 9 am. NATIONWIDE INSURANCE

Church of God. 6000 Lear Nagle Rd. Rev. Larry Sheffler, Pastor. Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; Worship Services 11 a.m.; Sunday Evening Services 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Evening Services 7 p.m.

Faith Baptist Temple. Rt. 10 & Root Road, Sunday School for Children & Bible Study for Adults 10 a.m.; Worship Services 11 a.m.; Sunday Evening Services 6 p.m.; Wednesday Evening Services 7 p.m.

Flelds United Methodist Church. 34077 Lorain Rd. C. Michael Gibson, Pastor. Sunday worship service is at 9 & 11 a.m. with church school for children ages 3 through 6th grade beginning at 10:00 a.m. Crib and toddler room

Harvest Ridge Assembly of God. 35600 Lorain Road. Pastor Kevin L Crow. For details or direc-tions, call (440) 327-0024. Sunday tions, call (440) 327-0024. Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:45 am (Childreis Ministry & Nursery Provided) - Sunday School 9:45 am - Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 pm (Royal Rangers, Missionettes & Youth Ministry)

Hosanna Christian Fellowship, 34869 Lorain Rd. Located on the corner of Lorain & Island Rds. Pastor Jim Neece. Sunday Worship Service 9 &11 AM; Wednesday Service 7:00 PM; Small Groupsmeet throughout the week (call for times/locations). Youth Ministries - Wednesdays, Timothy House, ages 3-12, 7:00-8:00 p.m. - H20 (Here To Christopha) ages 1-18 at the Teen 3-12, 7:00-8:00 p.m. - H2O (Here To Overcome), ages 12-18, at the Teen M.A.D. Concert Club (Teens Making A Difference), 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. - Includes free arcades, pool, refreshments and radical truth, God's Word. H2O (Here To Overcome) Youth Ministry meets at 6890 Avon Belden Road/NW corner of 83 & Center Ridge. Call (440) 327-7723. Northridge Christian Life Church, 8877 Avon Belden Rd., North Ridgeville, Ohio 44039, Phone (440) 353-0758. Pastor William Falk. Sunday Services: 10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Cathedral of Life. 5375 Jaycox Road. Rev. John Helms, Pastor. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship Service 9:50 a.m.; Sunday Eve. Service 6 p.m.; Wed. Eve. Service 7 Sugar Ridge Baptist Church. 36600 Sugar Ridge Rd. Rev. Bill Shomo, Pastor. Sunday School 10 a.m.; Worship Service 11 a.m.; Sunday & Wednesday Evening

New Life Community Church.
38079 Center Ridge Rd., No.
Ridgeville. Sunday Worship Service
10:00 a.m.; Bible Study 7 p.m. on
Wednesday nights; Youth Group at
6:45 on Wednesday.

Calvary Christian Center Pentecostal Church of God. 6001 Lear Nagle, North Ridgeville (440) 353-3593. Rev. Scott Nicoll. Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m., 7:00 p.m.; Sunday Wednesday: 7:30 p.m.; Sunday School 10 a.m.

North Ridgeville Baptist Church.
5400 Lear Nagle Rd. Rev. Gerald
Flury, Pastor. Sunday Services Sunday - Worship Services 8:30 &
11:00 am; Sunday School & Adult
Bible Study 9:45 am; Children's
Church 11:00 am; Evening Service
6:00 pm; Wednesday Evenings 7:00

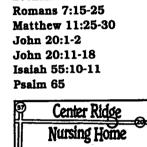
North Ridgeville First Congregational United Church of Christ. 36363 Center Ridge Rd. Worship 10:00 a.m.; Children's Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Pastor - Rev. Ellen Palm

St. Julie Billiart Catholic Church, 5500 Lear Nagle Rd. North Ridgeville, Ch 44039. Phone: 327-1978. (Located between Center Ridge and Mills Road; on the north side of Lear North p.m.; Sunday Worship Schedule: Masses: Morning 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.; Saturday Confession 3-4 p.m. in Chapel or by appointment. Richard Gonser, pastor. St. Peter Catholic Church. 35877 Center Ridge Rd. Saturday Mass 5 p.m.; Sunday Mass 6, 8, 10:00, 12 noon. Reconciliation Saturdays 4-

Shepherd of the Ridge Lutheran Church. 34555 Center Ridge Rd. Rev. Paul Oberhaus, Pastor, Sunday Worship Services 10:15 a.m.; Family Education 9 a.m. Midweek Worship

New Heart Community Church, 34899 Lorain Rd. (in Butternut Plaza) 327-7449. Service: 10:00 am Sun. Nursery/Children's Church. Bible Study: 7:00 pm Sun. Eve., Counsel: Marriage, Divorce, Relationships

Christian Soldiers Apostolic Church, 5298 Lear Nagle Rd. Rev. Patty Kisner. Sunday School: 10 a.m.; Worship: 11 a.m.



Zechariah 9:9-12

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David, Mary Beth Bogner

By Carol Klear

Entry through a sliding glass door

A police officer answered a call to a Cornell Boulevard residence. When he arrived, the resident told him that when she got home around 7:30 p.m., she found her rear sliding glass door partially open. She searched her home and then called police.

She said she and her roommate left the residence at approximately 5 p.m. and secured the rear sliding glass door with the latch. In addition, a small ironing board was placed in the track of the sliding door to prevent it from being fully opened, however when they got home they found the sliding door opened approximately 3 inches and the ironing board pushed upward in the track. The door could not be opened any farther.

The police officer was shown how the sliding door could be opened from the outside even though the latch was secured. The officer did not see any damage or pry marks to the door, nor any fresh footprints in the snow. The rear sliding door faces east and opens out to the power lines on Cornell. The resident advised that this was the second time the door has been opened within the last two weeks and she feels that juveniles playing along the power lines are responsible. Nothing was taken from the home. The resident asked for extra watch on the residence.

There were no suspects and the investigation cannot continue without future leads.

Don't take that car

A patrolman went to the Mills Industrial Parkway storage units to take a report on a vehicle trespass. When he arrived, he met the complainant who said that someone broke into his vehicle and looked through the glove box, but took nothing. He saw fresh footprints in the snow and was able to follow them through the woods south of the storage units over to a field at the intersection of Lewis Street and Cornell Boulevard.

On the same date, he and another officer were sent to Olive Street where the complainant had chased away four juveniles who attempted to steal his vehicle. When the officers arrived at the scene, he had caught one of the teens that is from Cleveland, and was visiting his father. He said he was with his brothers. All three juveniles were taken to the North Ridgeville Police Department. Their father was contacted and asked to go to the station.

At the station, the complainant and his son wrote out statements indicating they had observed two juveniles in the vehicle. They had a device in their hand like a key or small screwdriver. When they were confronted they got out of the vehicle and apologized saying they thought the vehicle was abandoned. They took off running with two other juveniles who were by the wood line.

On being interviewed, the juveniles advised of a fourth juvenile, and said they weren't trying to steal the vehicle and no devices were found on them.

The three brothers were released to their father and were to be referred to Juvenile Court. The fourth juvenile was to be

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

All real estate transfers listed here can be found on the internet at www.loaincounty.com/real_estate_data/. Data provided by Lorain County Auditor's Office, Mark Stewart, Auditor.

Sales listings for 1/4/03 to 1/10/03

NORTH RIDGEVILLE

| TOTAL | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----|-----------|
| COOPER ROBIN L | SUPERS ELLIOT F | 6142 CREEKSIDE LN | 2 | \$155,000 |
| THIES KENNETH A JR | KESKA MARY ANN | 5837 TREE MOSS LN | 1 | \$120,000 |
| COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOAN | S GUDDY DANIEL P | 5265 LEAR NAGLE RD | 1 | \$73,000 |
| FETZER MATTHEW N | SORMAZ NADA | 5830 BROAD BL | 1 | \$115,000 |
| LAWN JASON R | WILLIAM THOMAS HOMES INC | 8263 HALLE CR | 1 | \$200,651 |
| FANNIE MAE | SAPP RICHARD S | 35021 CLEAR CREEK DR | 1 | \$190,000 |
| FERA PETER JR | TAYLOR SCOTT F | 34947 NORTHVIEW CR | 1. | \$113,500 |
| PIGMON TOMMY D | ASPERY MARY C | 5983 ROSEBELLE AV | 1 | \$115,000 |
| B F REED ENTERPRISES INC | HRACH ILSE H | S R 83 | 1 | \$100,000 |
| SPEIDEL WILLIAM F TRUSTE | E COTTAGES AT SAVANNAH LTD | 6855 SAVANNAH DR | 1 | \$161,885 |
| REYNOLDS CHRISTOPHER J | KRESAK JOHN D | 5514 STONEY RIDGE RD | 1 | \$172,000 |
| DICKSON THOMAS N | PULTE HOMES OF OHIO | 9220 VICTORIA LN | 1 | \$249,520 |
| LAPPE LESLIE K | NVR INC | 38432 COUNTRY MEADOW | 1 | \$254,325 |
| NVR INC | ALL PURPOSE CONSTRUCTION | COUNTRY MEADOW WAY | 1 | \$44,600 |
| SHEFCHECK MICHAEL A | NVR INC | 5503 AUTUMN LN | 1 | \$168,825 |
| | | | | |

EIRE

By Carol Klear

Steamy situation

The fire department answered a call to a Lorain Road residence about smoke, however on arrival nothing was showing. The homeowner said there was smoke coming from the basement, but none was found. It was decided that it might have been steam from a dryer that might not have been vented properly.

It's "flue" season

A passing motorist noticed flames coming from a chimney on a Root Road home and called the fire department. Firefighters observed light smoke, but no there was no fire visible from the chimney flue. The homeowner said there had been a build-up of creosote the previous year. The owner was advised to extinguish the wood-burning device and have the chimney flue checked.

Firefighters were called to Shady Moss Lane to investigate a problem with dishwasher wiring and found that a plastic spoon had melted in the heating element built into the dishwasher. They removed the base cabinet per the homeowner's request to check behind the unit. There was no smoke and no fire.

One too many logs on the fire

Firefighters were called to Rosebelle Avenue for a problem with a chimney. On arrival they found a nervous babysitter who had thrown a log into the fireplace. The fire became larger and started to smoke up the glass in front of the fireplace. Everything returned to normal and the babysitter was calmed.

Putting some teeth in the situation

A Center Ridge Road resident called the fire department to investigate why his carbon monoxide (CO) detector had gone off. Upon arrival, firefighters discovered that a cup of water containing the homeowner's teeth had been knocked over and water spilled through the floor onto the CO detector in the basement causing it to go off. After the water was removed from the detector, the alarm stopped.

Transports

Between Jan. 9 and Jan. 15, the North Ridgeville Fire Department had nine fire runs and 29 EMS runs. There were 13 transports to EMH Regional Medical Center, nine to St. John West Shore Hospital and seven "no transports."

ELSEWHERE IN THE PRESS & LIGHT

RANGER WRESTLING CLUB see story page 10

Determining when a defendant is mentally retarded

by Justice Paul E. Pfeifer

Last summer, the United States Supreme Court ruled that executing mentally retarded criminals violates the Eighth Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishments.

Presumably, even the most enthusiastic proponents of the death penalty would find it difficult to argue with this ruling. After all, it seems reasonable to conclude that someone with limited mental capacity who commits a crime should not be subjected to e same punishment as others. The problem with the ruling, then, is not one of

intent but rather of practice. In other words, how is it to be resolved that a criminal defendant is mentally retarded? The Supreme Court ruling, Atkins v. Virginia, did not establish procedures for determining whether an individual is mentally retarded for purposes of escaping execution.

Instead, the Supreme Court left it up to the states "to develop 'appropriate ways to enforce the constitutional restrictions' on executing the mentally

Here at the Supreme Court of Ohio, we got our chance to begin developing the appropriate ways to enforce the new ruling with a case involving a man named Gregory Lott.

In 1989, Lott was convicted of the aggravated murder of John McGrath and sentenced to death. Through his attorneys, Lott appealed his conviction and sentence. Both were affirmed, first by the court of appeals, and then by our court. We set his execution date for Aug. 27, 2002.

But then the United States Supreme Court issued its ruling on executing mentally retarded criminals in June of 2002, and that gave new life to the case of Gregory Lott.

Just a week after the United States Supreme Court ruling, Lott's attorneys filed a motion in our court seeking to vacate his death sentence, claiming that

Lott was mentally retarded. In the event that we did not vacate his death sentence, Lott's attorneys asked for at least a stay of execution, and that he be provided the assistance of psychiatric experts and an evidentiary hearing. We granted the motion for a stay of execution.

In September, we heard oral arguments during which Lott's attorneys submitted test results showing that he scored a 72 on an IO test administered in Aug. 1986. Lott also submitted affidavits from family friends showing personality problems and behavioral indicators of early-life trauma

But other evidence did not work in Lott's favor. Test results introduced during Lott's trial indicated that his IQ actually ranged in the low average categories, with IQ tests "yielding results of 77-81, 83-91 and 87-97." Plus, the state had submitted a test from 1984 showing a full scale IQ of 86.

All of this information matters because in most states, the laws prohibiting the execution of the mentally retarded require evidence that the individual has an IQ of 70 or below. If the test results that showed Lott with an IQ in the mid-80s range were correct, he would not be considered mentally retard-

His attorneys argued that the 72 IQ result was the correct one, and that since the test has a five-point margin of error, Lott was well within the mentally

You get the picture. It is not an easy call to determine that someone is mentally retarded for the legal purposes of escaping a death sentence. That is why. while IQ tests are one of the many factors that need to be considered, they alone are not sufficient to make a final determination on the issue.

Clinical definitions of mental retardation provide a standard for evaluating an individual's claim of mental retardation. To fulfill these definitions, three criteria must be met. Number one, an individual must function at significantly subaverage intellectu-

al levels. Number two; an individual must show significant limitations in two or more adaptive skills, such as communication, self-care, and self-direction. And number three; there must be an indication of the onset of these limitations before the age of 18.

This three-part test provides the trial court with the constitutional standard for reviewing the evidence to determine whether a defendant is mentally

So here is how we decided Gregory Lott's case: by a seven-to-zero vote, we denied Lott's motion to vacate the death penalty. But we did agree that whether Lott is mentally retarded is a disputed factual issue, which we believe is best resolved in the trial court. And his attorneys should have the opportunity to present additional evidence on his mental retardation before a final decision is made.

Therefore, we sent his case back to the trial court where it can be determined if Lott is indeed mentally retarded.

The trial court should rely on professional evaluations of Lott's mental status, and consider expert testimony, appointing experts if necessary. The trial court shall make written findings and set forth its rationale for finding the defendant mentally retarded or not. These matters should be decided by the court and do not represent a jury question.

We also held that Lott-through his attorneys-bears the burden of establishing that he is mentally retarded by a preponderance of the evidence. We reached that conclusion because sanity and competence are generally presumed. Thus, someone who challenges the presumption of sanity or competence must bear the burden of proof to challenge that presumption.

Placing the burden of proof on Lott does not violate constitutional principles. The United States has held that a state may presume that a defendant is competent to be tried and require him to shoulder the burden of proving his incompetence by a preponderance of the evidence.

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Spacious 4BDHM, 2:58TH Colonial on beautifully landscaped 100'x159' lot. Lovely decor. LR, DR; eat-in kitchen, den, FR w/gas log FP vaulted w/skylights, basement, 2 porches, deck w/stone patio, storage barn, AC, 2-car garage. \$233,000.

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Starting the week of Monday biarring the week of Monday, August 19th, 2002 all CLASSIFIED ADS will

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