HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA

TCHS archer competes at Nationals

See B6

Thermal drone capture

See A10

'Buckwheat' Memorial race June 28

See B3

Ohio news
Pages A5, A10, A11, A12, B3, B4, B8, B9, B10, B11

INNformer

Visit us online @ MOVinformer.com

Still Free!

Volume 12, No. 13 | The Wells Inn, 316 Charles St. Sistersville, WV 26175 | June 27, 2025

Inside
Real 'No Kings' Day
Pages A6-A7

Monroe Co. Commission hears ideas on Cochransville property

By Charles Winslow

WOODSFIELD, Ohio - Work at Powhatan 7, a new riverfront industrial park north of Hannibal on Route 7 is progressing, Jason Hamman, who heads Monroe County economic development, said during an update Monday, June 23, at the regular Monroe County Commission meeting.

He said he is working on getting a roadway lighting estimate and working with South Central Power to increase electrical service to the site, which only has single-phase power available now.

"Things are plugging away at Hannibal Industrial Park. Our core tenants are doing very well," he said. "Gas Field Services is settling into their new area and have moved in an office trailer to accommodate their staff."

Also, American Heavy Plate and Bitdeer, the bitcoin mining operation planning a large facility at Hannibal, met recently to coordinate construction and address issues, like separating out electrical services.

That meeting went really well and Bitdeer has an option on an additional 12 acres of the property, he said, noting after he spoke to the company he believes they will adding that to their leasehold footprint. "So that's good. You know, all indications are that their development plans are still moving ahead as they hope, and as we hope."

While work is progressing at Powhatan 7 and Hannibal Industrial Park, Hamman said he is looking for what to do with the Port Authority-owned acreage farther south on Route 7, near the Washington County line, where Cochransville once stood.

Hamman said he gave some thought to developing the nine-acre riverfront property into a wetlands

Continued on page A2

Municipality funding, QRT top Tyler Co. Commission

By Charles Winslow

MIDDLEBOURNE – Tyler County may soon have another resource to address overdose and drug abuse and added 15 percent to annual aid to municipalities earmarked for parks, recreation and special interests, such as fairs and festivals.

At the Tuesday, June 24, Tyler County Commission meeting Sara Ingram-Soles, director of newly re-

Continued on page A2

INDEX

Riverboat	A3	Why celebrate July 4th?	A6	Music Fest	A12	Frontier BOE	B8
Patriotic paint	A3	History refresher	A8	RECIPES: Mediterranean	B1	Matamoras Council	B8
Tunnel of color	A3	Fireworks safety	A9	Area dirt tracks	B3, B5	Swiss Local BOE	B9
OP-Ed by Sen. Rose	A4	Heroes Day	A9	Area pools & splash pads	B4	Wetzel Co. Commission	B9
Cops & courts	A5	Tyler BOE	A11	TCHS archer	B6	July 4th events	B10
		Woodsfield Council	A11	JediCon WV	B7	Event calendar	B11

Tyler Co.

Continued from page A1

formed Tyler County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition is forming a Quick Response Team.

"We have been working with West Virginia's state-level prevention coalition called Health and Folk West Virginia. They are assisting us in getting started, and we have been collaborating with 10 other coalitions across the state," Ingram-Soles said.

"QRTs were developed around 10 years ago in response to the opioid epidemic. Huntington developed one of the first QRTs, and now over 20 counties in West Virginia have them," she coontinued.

"The team is a multi-disciplinary partnership aimed at providing crisis stabilization and support for people who recently experienced an overdose. The team can consist of emergency medical providers, mental health specialists, plainclothes law enforcement and the faith community.

"The team will reach out personally, going to the residents within 24 to 72 hours after an overdose to assess each individual's needs, develop a personalized plan for intervention, and connect them to local resources," she said, adding "It is important to reduce the stigma that surrounds substance abuse and mental health issues."

She also said that in most counties 25 to 40 percent of the people who interact with the QRT seek treatment, with one county reporting 70 percent.

While Ingram-Soles didn't request commission funding at the meeting, she did caution she would do so in the future. "Ultimately, the discussion leads to funding," she said. "There are state and federal grants available but many are reimbursive or partially reimbursive grants. Which simply means that you need some startup money to get going, then the grants act as a way to sustain and maintain funding."

Tina Rucker from New Martinsville's 5 Loaves Food Pantry requested $30,000, stating in the past two years the cost of filling her pantry's stockroom has doubled and her team of volunteers feed people who just have enough money to make it every day.

"We feed a lot of the elderly and a lot of the veterans, a lot of people like us, as well, and a lot of families, grandmothers who are raising their grandkids," Rucker said. Speaking of her clients, she continued: "We're just not a food pantry. They are also like our family. If they have problems, we talk with them and also pray with them. I have a team of 16 volunteers who volunteer their time twice a month to do this work for the Lord."

In May, 5 Loaves fed 105 people from Tyler County, 24 of which were children, with Tyler Countians making up about 27 percent of the total of those helped.

In tabling the request until another meeting, Commissioner Eric Vincent said: "I just think that we need to look at the numbers a little harder, go over them and see what we can do."

The saga of the $949,712.92 filing system continues after it was tabled again. Prosecuting Attorney D. Luke Furbee asked if the price given was in the form of a quote or a contract. "The comment I would have or the question I would ask is, I mean, it appears to be a price quote. I don't know that it's really in the format of the contract," he said.

"I'm accepting the price would form some sort of contract, but I don't know about their service, what kind of service you're going to be getting as part of this package of materials. But beyond that, that's a substantial sum.

"And the question I had was, who brought this to us to start with? Because, I mean, was this a bid?," Furbee asked with Vincent responding: "This was part of the construction package."

"But was it part of the bid in the contract for the construction," Furbee asked, "because if not, then I think you're going to have to bid it separately."

Commissioners also set the municipal funding for the upcoming fiscal year. For the past four years the commission set aside additional money for the four municipalities in the county to use, with Sistersville receiving $90,000, Middlebourne and Paden City each receiving $75,000 and the tiny town of Friendly, $60,000.

One condition of the money is it had to be spent or committed by the end of the fiscal year, June 30, which all the municipalities did.

Commission President Michael Smith said he wouldn't be opposed to adding an extra 10 to 15 percent allocated toward parks, recreation and charitable organizations.

"I think the communities, the municipalities, have a better pulse on how that should be spent," Smith said.

Speaking on the difference between the commission granting money and municipalities, Vincent said: "Our vision and our policy has always been that, first and foremost. Whatever activity it is, it needs to benefit all the Tyler County citizens, and just not a community.

"But this gives them the ability, if we give the cities their particular little grant, then they can spend the money as they see fit. And as Mike says, they know better what's going on in their communities than we do," Vincent added.

The commission unanimously voted to maintain the funding at the same levels as last year, with an additional 15 percent dedicated to parks and recreation and special interests. And those special interests could include festivals.

During the last commission meeting commissioners suggested to Josh Rice, organizer of the Mountain Mama Music Festival, he should approach Sistersville for funding, instead of the county commission.

Tyler County Commission typically meets the second and fourth Tuesday of month. The next regular meeting of the Tyler County Commission is Tuesday, July 14, at 9 a.m. at their temporary location at the Tyler County Senior Center, 504 Cherry St. in Middlebourne. The public is encouraged to attend.

Monroe Co.

Continued from page A1

mitigation area, but after talking to his environmental consultant, he is weighing the options.

These mitigation areas are basically undeveloped land parcels that are environmental set-asides and swapped for similar land scheduled for development, he explained.

After receiving an updated cost estimate to create wetlands in that property, Hamman said: "Unfortunately, my ideal plan for that won't work given the existing grant programs available."

Because part of Powhatan 7 is wetlands, if a developer needed that area then they could either buy wetland credits, valued at roughly $50,000 per acre, or spend the money developing wetlands at the Cochransville site.

"So there's H2Ohio; there's Clean Ohio, if we access those grant fundings to create wetlands, it has to be used specifically for that project," he said. "We couldn't get grant money to build them, then use that as a trade-off for development at Powhatan 7."

After noting there isn't a lot of utility access, but there is a lot of existing wetlands already at the Cochransville property, Hamman said it could qualify for a CleanOhio grant.

CleanOhio also partially funded last year's Appalachia Ecotone purchase for a section that is to remain forever wild.

"I'd like to have that property be productively used. You can get bonus points on your [grant] scoring if you have the access available publically, like for walking trails," he said. "I even thought that it could be a Broken Timber opportunity for them to utilize, not just the conservation area for their programs, but the riverfront acreage between the Township Road and the river for outdoor activities or even potential future buildings if they're needed. So the way that would work is likely through a donation from the Port.

"The Port could maintain ownership of it, or we could just flat out donate the property. The Park District would probably be the best kind of partner to help facilitate the project. I know the Park District is involved in the golf course opportunity as well, so I don't know what their appetite and capacity is to take on something.

"But, you know, it could be one of those things where there's very little, if potentially no, out-of-pocket cash match. The match would be the donation or what they call the conservation easement. The value of that could be the match," Hamman continued.

"Part of me thinks that a developer is just going to want to pay the wetlands credit fee instead of time and effort developing wetlands," he said.

Hamman also said he is working with a nondisclosed company to add a rail siding parallel to the existing tracks at the Hannibal Industrial Park. The Port Authority previously received grant funding for engineering and design for the mile-long rail spur. "The thought is we could store a unit train there," he said.

A conditional notice of award was approved relating to Ohio and Lee Township Water and Sewer Authority's wastewater project. The contract, for $3,942,201.64, was given to Border Patrol LLC, a construction company based in Hopedale, Ohio.

Emma Yeager, development specialist with Buckeye Hills Regional Council, presented a slate of eight projects that are either from or include Monroe County being put forward for area development grant funding.

"The only reason we're here today is purely just to inform you," Yeager said. "We are not expecting you to rank these, score these or anything," she explained before noting Buckeye Hills likes to go around and let county commissioners know what was applied for.

"All of these projects are either from Monroe County or include Monroe County," Yeager said. "Altogether, there are 46 applications this year. The total ask for Monroe is just about over $4 million."

The proposed projects specifically for Monroe County include the Appalachia Ecotone trails, the extension and water interconnection of the Switzerland of Ohio Water District with the Monroe Water System, Phase III of the Sardis Wastewater Collection project, improvements at Monroe County Parks and Ohio River Valley Workforce Development.

Commissioners also voted on resolutions to put Senior Services, 911, Health Department and Soil and Water excess levies on the ballot.

The Monroe County Commission meets every Monday at 9 a.m. in room 34 of the Monroe County Courthouse, 101 N. Main Street in Woodsfield. The public is encouraged to attend.

Paden City Music in Park schedule announced

PADEN CITY – The 2025 season of Paden City Music in the Park is underway. — Ben Tharp & Shortline Junction will play July 10; — Follansbee's Paul "Smokey" Robinson will play July 17; — Tammy Jo & Iron Horse will play July 24; — Barbara Lynn & The Silver Eagle Band will take the stage July 31. In August Rick Tencher & Jessica Anderson are scheduled Aug. 7 and the concert season wraps up Aug. 14 with The Carriers. Rain dates are Aug. 21 and 28.

All shows are on Thursdays, start at 6 p.m. and will generally end by 8 p.m. Admission is free, bring a lawn chair. Paden City Park is at the end of West Main Street, next to the Ohio River.

Riverboat American Melody to pass through area

SISTERSVILLE – While the first of the large passenger river boats of the 2025 cruising season will be coming up the Ohio River in a few days, it may not be what most local boat enthusiasts are used to seeing.

The American Melody, owned by American Cruise Lines, will make its first visit to Marietta Wednesday, July 2, before heading upriver to Pittsburgh. It will be passing through the Hannibal Locks during the wee hours July 3.

The 380-foot American Melody is the fourth river boat in ACL's "Modern Series" of vessels built by Chesapeake Shipbuilding in Salisbury, Maryland, and entered service in 2021. It has five decks, four with cabins, a 175-passenger capacity in its 91 staterooms. It first visited our area in June 2024.

Aesthetically, ACL has abandoned the traditional grace and grandeur of the sternwheelers with their Modern Series – in favor of a straight bow and side elevations featuring motel-style floor to ceiling glass windows, sliding glass doors and private balconies. These boats also have a multi-deck high glass atrium.

The American Melody will again stop in Marietta Monday, July 7, and return on its next voyage to the City of Bridges July 16.

Sternwheeler fans will have to wait until July 23 to see the American Heritage, the last sternwheeler with overnight accommodations that travels the Ohio River.

Gone are the American Queen and the American Countess, which in years past would travel through our area several times during the season.

In 2024 American Queen Voyages went bankrupt and its three river boats, including favorite American Queen, the largest paddlewheeler ever built, was purchased by American Cruise Lines and scrapped.

Wheeling and Lake Erie regional railroad unveils patriotic paint scheme

BREWSTER, Ohio – The Wheeling and Lake Erie, the regional railroad with trackage in West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania, unveiled their patriotic locomotive Friday, June 20, to celebrate the nation's 250 anniversary. This one-of-a-kind unit was designed entirely inhouse, drawing inspiration from the iconic Norfolk & Western bicentennial locomotive of 1976. But this is no replica – it features a bold Wheeling twist, including chevron striping and their signature flying letters. Every detail of the paint job was carefully considered and expertly applied, resulting in one of the most striking finishes on the 840-mile-long railroad. Shop personnel spent countless hours sanding and buffing the clearcoat to eliminate any blemishes, also adding a polished brass bell, vintage "raised letter" number boards, and a restored Leslie air horn, bringing back an audio-visual aesthetic largely vanished from the modern railroad scene. A standout design feature is its red, white and blue color palette purposefully arranged to be fully visible from the front — so when it's rolling down the tracks, you know the 1776 is coming.

Fresh look for tunnel at Monroe County Fairgrounds

WOODSFIELD, Ohio – Visitors to the Monroe County Fairgrounds are sure to notice that the pedestrian tunnel under the track has been painted to celebrate the fair's 175th year. "This has got to be the brightest painting I've ever done," Scott Hagan, "The Barn Artist," said in a social media post. "This painting really stands out as you drive into the fairground's entrance."

Brick-by-brick demolition of former Hundred VFD

HUNDRED – Demolition of the former Hundred Volunteer Fire Department's building on Pennsylvania Avenue in Hundred is underway.

The three-story 1920's era cinderblock building is being taken down by hand due to its proximity to adjoining buildings. It was originally built as an automotive shop and the fire department and the United Emergency Unit's ambulance moved there around 1975, Chip Goff, mayor of Hundred, said.

In the years before the countywide 911 center became operational, there was an around-the-clock radio dispatch on the second floor.

The busy rural volunteer fire department broke ground on their new building, just down the street, in August 2015.

OP-ED:

WV's bright future powered by HB 2014

By Senate Energy Chairman Chris Rose

As West Virginians, we've always known the strength of our land lies in its resources and the grit of its people. With the passage of House Bill 2014, the Power Generation and Consumption Act, we've taken a bold step to harness those strengths, positioning West Virginia as a leader in the digital age while preserving the heartbeat of our energy heritage: coal and natural gas.

HB 2014, signed into law by Governor Patrick Morrisey, is a game-changer. It creates a Certified Microgrid Program and a High Impact Data Center Program, designed to attract cutting-edge data centers to our state by allowing them to build independent microgrids. These localized power systems can tap into West Virginia's abundant coal and gas resources, ensuring reliable, affordable energy to fuel the artificial intelligence and tech industries knocking on our door. This isn't just about keeping the lights on – it's about lighting a path to economic transformation.

For too long, our coal and gas industries have been under siege from federal overreach and misguided environmental policies. HB 2014 fights back. By loosening restrictions on microgrids and allowing them to use any energy source – including coal and gas – we're sending a clear message: West Virginia's fossil fuels are not only viable but vital to our future. The bill's removal of a renewable-only mandate for microgrids ensures flexibility, letting market demands, not government mandates, drive innovation. This pragmatic approach respects our energy legacy while embracing the technological revolution.

Data centers are the backbone of the modern economy, powering everything from cloud computing to AI. They're also incredibly energy-intensive, requiring stable, baseload power that renewables alone can't provide. West Virginia's coal and gas are perfectly suited to meet this demand. HB 2014 streamlines development by offering regulatory exemptions in designated microgrid districts and creating a special tax structure for data centers. This makes our state a magnet for investment, promising thousands of high-paying jobs and billions in economic impact. This legislation positions West Virginia to compete nationally and globally, even against powerhouses like China.

Critics, often from out-of-state, claim HB 2014 prioritizes industry over communities. They're wrong. By spreading fixed energy costs across more customers, data centers can stabilize rates for everyday West Virginians. The bill also establishes a fund for grid stabilization, ensuring our utilities can maintain infrastructure without burdening ratepayers. While some worry about local zoning, the reality is that data centers will be built in carefully designated districts, balancing growth with community needs. We've learned from our history – unlike the one-shot deals of the past, HB 2014 creates a sustainable environment for long-term prosperity.

Let's be clear: Coal and gas aren't just part of our past; they're key to our future. HB 2014 leverages this strength, encouraging data centers to use our resources to meet soaring energy demands projected to triple by 2028. This isn't about clinging to the past – it's about using what we have to win the future.

I see HB 2014 as a rejection of the left's war on fossil fuels. It aligns with President Trump's vision to revive "beautiful, clean coal" and unleash American energy dominance. By cutting red tape and empowering our industries, we're taking control of our destiny. This bill isn't just about data centers or microgrids – it's about restoring pride in West Virginia's energy heritage and building an economy that works for our people.

The world is watching, and West Virginia is ready to lead. HB 2014 is our declaration that we'll power the future on our terms, with coal, gas, and the unwavering spirit of the Mountain State. Let's seize this moment and show America what West Virginia can do.

Senator Chris Rose (R-2, Monongalia) is chairman of the West Virginia Senate's Energy, Industry and Mining Committee.

THE NEXT ISSUE IS COVER DATED JULY 11. DEADLINE IS ASAP!

The INNformer

A publication of The Wells Inn and Rinard Mills Co. Inc.
The INNformer is published every other week

316 Charles St., Sistersville, WV 26175

Follow INNformer on Facebook

For information please contact
Charles Winslow, 304-652-1312
or 740-590-3505

Email:
thewellsinn@gmail.com
innformer.editor@gmail.com
advertising@movinformer.com
editor@movinformer.com
news@movinformer.com

EDITOR: DEBBIE BROWNING

Visit us online at www.movinformer.com

Letter Policy

The INNformer welcomes letters to the editor of general interest.

To be considered for publication, letters must be no longer than 400 words, and must contain the writer's complete address and phone number. This information will not be published, but is required for verifications before publication.

All letters should be written to the editor, not to a third party. The INNformer reserves the right to edit letters for length and content at our discretion. Letters written to the exclusivity of the INNformer will be given priority.

Write us at:
Letters to the Editor
The INNformer
316 Charles St.
Sistersville, WV 26175

Email: editor@movinformer.com

INNformer political policy

The INNformer will publish, free of charge and at our convenience, a qualified political candidate's announcement that they are seeking an elected position. These announcements can include personal information, political platform and a photo of the candidate. Announcements are not to exceed 450 words and will run only once.

The INNformer may, at our discretion, further profile a candidate with an interview in the weeks before an election. We will not, however, publish political award announcements or print photographs of candidates giving awards or donations in the edition immediately preceding election day.

Political advertising is accepted. It must include the name of the person or organization paying for it and must be paid in advance.

Letters to the Editor endorsing candidates are accepted and are subject to the discretion of the editor. All contact information must be provided as it will be verified prior to publication. Letters to the Editor with political content will not be published in the edition immediately preceding election day.

CONTACT INFO FOR OHIO LEGISLATORS

Rep. Jay Edwards (R)
District 94
Phone (614) 466-2158
Fax (614) 719-6992

Rep. Don Jones (R),
District 95
Phone (614) 644-8728
Fax (614) 719-6993

Rep. Ron Ferguson (R),
District 96
Phone (614) 466-3735
Fax (614) 719-6995

Senate District 30
Counties: Athens (part), Belmont, Carroll, Harrison, Jefferson, Meigs, Monroe, Noble, Vinton (part), Washington
Sen. Brian M. Chavez (R)
Phone: (614) 466-6508

Ohio legislators may be emailed through a form on the website: https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/

CONTACT INFO FOR WV LEGISLATORS

SENATE DISTRICT - 02

Chris Rose (R - Monongalia)
chris.rose@wvsenate.gov
Capitol Phone: (304) 357-7902
District Phone: (304) 314-2656
Office #: 209W

Charles Clements (R - Wetzel)
charles.clements@wvsenate.gov
Capitol Phone: (304) 357-7827
District Phone: (304) 455-5339
Office #: 417M

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

HOUSE DISTRICT — 007

Charles R. Sheedy (R-Marshall) includes top portion of Wetzel

charles.sheedy@wvhouse.gov
Capitol Phone: (304) 340-3111
District Phone: (304) 686-240
Office #: 205E

HOUSE DISTRICT — 008

~~**David Kelly (R-Tyler) includes western half of Wetzel, top half of Tyler and Doddridge**~~

~~david.kelly@wvhouse.gov~~
~~Capitol Phone: (304) 340-3226~~
~~District Phone: (304) 652-3343~~
~~Office #: 246M~~

HOUSE DISTRICT — 009

Trenton Barnhart (R-Pleasants) includes lower half of Tyler, Pleasants and Ritchie

trenton.barnhart@wvhouse.gov
Capitol Phone: (304) 340-3195
Office #: 208E

HOUSE DISTRICT — 072

Clay Riley (R-Harrison) includes top portion of Harrison and eastern half of Wetzel

clay.riley@wvhouse.gov
Capitol Phone: (304) 340-3144
District Phone: (304) 844-5679
Office #: 472M

HOUSE DISTRICT — 077

Joe Statler (R-Monongalia) includes western 2/3rds of Monongalia and eastern tip of Wetzel

joe.statler@wvhouse.gov
Capitol Phone: (304) 340-3265
District Phone: (304) 376-7336
Office #: 434M-A

COPS & COURTS

Tyler Grand Jury returns June indictments

MIDDLEBOURNE - According to a press release by Tyler County Prosecuting Attorney D. Luke Furbee, the following persons were indicted by a grand jury sitting in the Circuit Court of Tyler County on June 10, 2025.

An indictment is a mere accusation, and all of these persons are presumed by the law to be innocent of any crime unless and until they are determined to be guilty in an appropriate legal proceeding.

Austin Trevor Bledsoe, 30, S. Wells St., Sistersville: One felony count of child neglect resulting in serious bodily injury.

Mackenzie Jade Bledsoe, 28, S. Wells St., Sistersville: One felony count of child neglect resulting in serious bodily injur.y

Robert Howard Owens, 51, Sellers Road, Middlebourne: 1 felony count of retaliation against public officer; one misdemeanor count of obscene telephone call.

Patty Kay Baker, 67, 4th Ave., Paden City: One felony count of financial exploitation of an elderly person; One felony count of fraudulent use of an access device: One felony count of fraudulent use of an access device; One felony count of fraudulent use of an access device and one felony count of financial exploitation of an elderly person.

SOMERTON MAN ARRESTED ON DRUG-RELATED CHARGES

MALAGA, Monroe County, Ohio – As part of Monroe County Sheriff Derek Norman's focus on deterring drug trafficking and criminal activity in Monroe County, deputies assigned to his Criminal Interdiction Unit have arrested a Somerton man on drug-related charges.

According to a release by Sheriff Norman, the CIU made another significant arrest in Malaga Township when Gary M. Henthorn, 55, of Somerton, Belmont County, was arrested during a traffic stop Tuesday, June 3, and charged with possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug abuse instruments and obstructing official business.

"Upon taking over as Monroe County Sheriff, I established the county's first Criminal Interdiction Unit," Normal said in the release. "My goal was to focus on locating drug traffickers and criminal activity on our roadways. We have been able to accomplish this at no added cost to the taxpayers, and our team has already been extremely successful. The effort that has also been put forth by the patrol deputies, and sergeants on a daily basis has been very impactful as well.

"The Sheriff's Office is committed to proactively deterring drug trafficking and criminal activity in Monroe County. This should serve as a warning: If you bring drugs here, you will be caught and jailed." he warned.

"For those battling addiction, the Sheriff's Office is here to help find treatment options. We will assist anyone seeking sobriety, whether during an arrest or by reaching out to us," Norman said.

TWO POWHATAN MEN ARRESTED FOR DRUGS

CLARINGTON, Ohio – Two men from Powhatan were arrested by Monroe County Sheriff deputies following a traffic stop Monday, June 2, according to a release by Sheriff Derek Norman.

John Tyler, 46, and Joshua Rushak, 43, were arrested after deputies initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle traveling on State Route 7, near Beautiful Ridge Road, for a moving violation.

During the course of the traffic stop, K-9 alerted to the presence of narcotics in the vehicle. During the search of the interior that followed deputies located suspected methamphetamine, baggies and digital scales.

As a result, both Tyler and Ruschak were arrested and transported to the Monroe County Jail.

TWO FROM ASHTABULA ARRESTED FOR DRUGS

CLARINGTON – Two people from Ashtabula, Ohio, were arrested for drugs Monday, June 9 after a traffic stop along Route 7.

According to a release by Monroe County Sheriff Derek Norman, George Bradford, 55, and Deborah Waits, 54, were arrested by deputies and detectives with the Monroe County Criminal Interdiction Unit following a traffic stop during which Bradford initially provided multiple false named to deputies due to having multiple active warrants out of Ashtabula County for his arrest.

K-9 Max alerted to the presence of narcotics in the vehicle and an interior search was conducted. Deputies and detectives located methamphetamine, digital scales and drug-related paraphernalia inside the vehicle.

Both Bradford and Waits were taken into custody and transported to the Monroe County Jail on various drug-related charges.

PADEN CITY COPS, COURTS FOR MAY

During May, Paden City Police Department, under the command of Chief Anthony Lauer, responded to 76 calls, conducted 76 traffic stops and issued 16 citations.

The calls included: 911 hang up 1, 911 open line 1, animal complaint 3, breaking and entering 3, disabled vehicle 1, domestic violence 2, driving complaint 1, fireworks 1,follow up investigation 3, MAEMS 1, misc. notification 2, mutual aid 4, noise complaint 1, officer out at 10, prisoner transport 2, rapid SOS call 4, speak with an officer 23, stolen property 2, suicidal threats 2, suspicious 1, suspicious person 4, theft 1, tow 1, uncon/ unknown reason 1, warrant service 1.

The following citations were issued: Four for no or expired Motor Vehicle Inspection; three for expired registration; two each for the following, for speeding, failure to obey a traffic device, no insurance, and possession of a controlled substance. One citation was issued no or expired driver's license.

In Paden City Municipal Court, Judge David Howell presiding: Lukas Henderson, Main Street, Middlebourne, failed to appear on a citation for expired registration. Bond was $327.

Cody A. Turner, North Fork Road, Pine Grove, had his citations for no/expired MVI and no proof of insurance continued until June 17.

Kaden L. Danielson, McElRoy Run Road, St Marys, failed to appear for a citation for defective equipment. Bond was $127.

Storm Young, Thorn Ridge, Friendly, pled no contest to expired registration and forfeited a $327 bond.

Barbara E. Bidwell, 3rd Avenue, Paden City, failed to appear for a citation for expired registration, bond was $327.

Robert L. Lynch, Highland Avenue, New Martinsville, pled no contest for a citation for no or expired motor vehicle inspection and forfeited a $127 bond.

Charles Chamber, Main Street, Clarington, failed to appear for citations of possession and failure to maintain control of a vehicle. Bond was $696.

Jordan T. Longwell, Susan Street, New Martinsville, pled guilty to a citation for no insurance and set up a payment plan. Bond was $127 and there is a $25 administration fee.

Tara Brookover, Mound Street, Sardis, pled no contest for speed and forfeited a $169 bond.

David Fowler, Waverly Acres Circle, Waverly, failed to appear for citations for expired motor vehicle inspection and expired registration. Bond was $454.

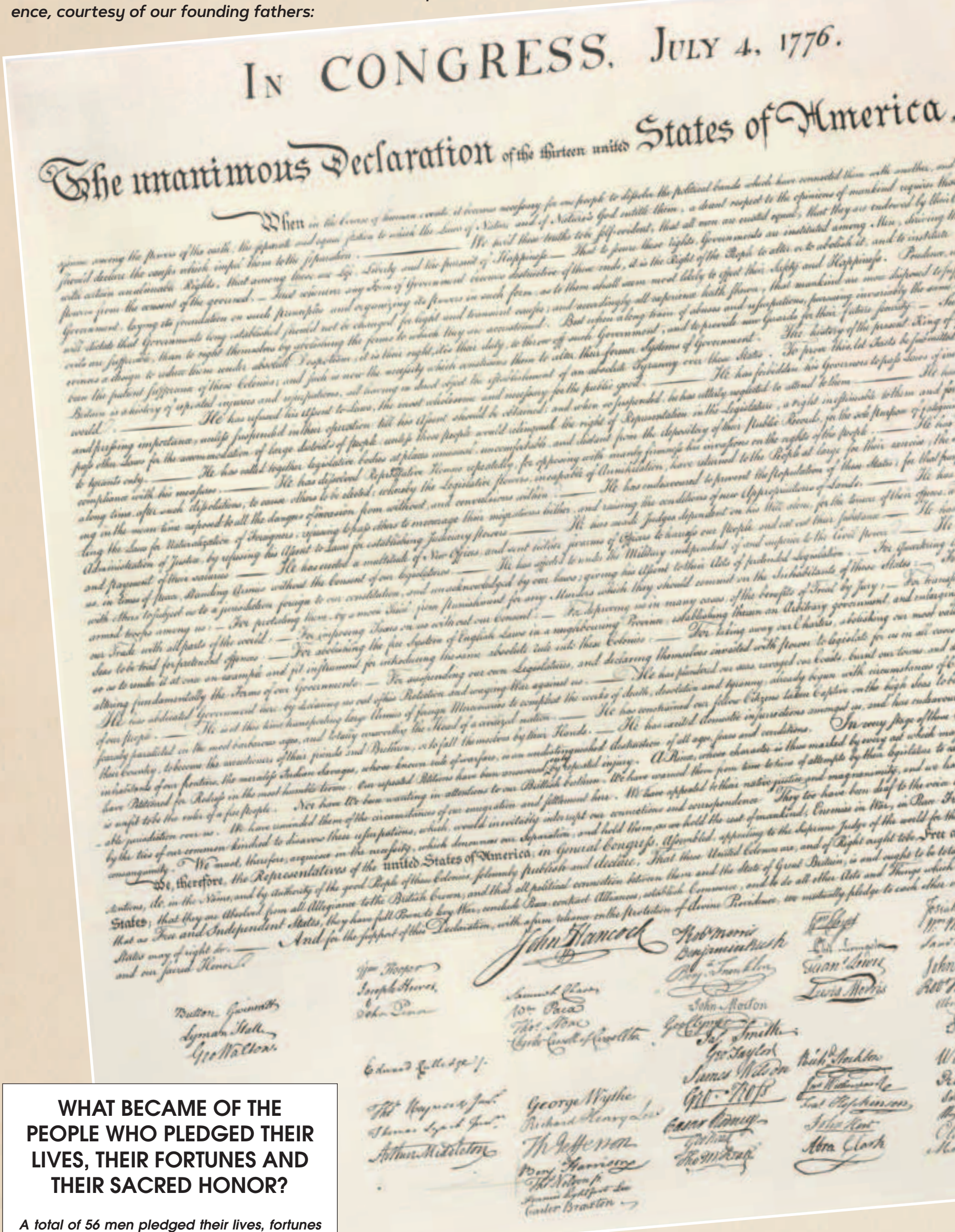
Why do we celebrate Fourth o

While most of us will be eating hot dogs and watching a spectacular fireworks show to celebrate the 4th, we think it's only proper to remember why we observe our independence from England. Let us revisit the document that gives most of us an extra day off to spend at the river, lounging around the house and celebrating with our friends and families. Below is The Declaration of Independence, courtesy of our founding fathers:

IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's



WHAT BECAME OF THE PEOPLE WHO PLEDGED THEIR LIVES, THEIR FORTUNES AND THEIR SACRED HONOR?

A total of 56 men pledged their lives, fortunes and their sacred honor by affixing their signature to the Declaration of Independence. They knew that they were putting themselves, their families and the fortunes at risk. To the British the document was treason.

Here is the price they paid:

– Five of the signers were captured by the British and tortured as traitors before they died.

– One was captured and imprisoned. He was subjected to torture and harsh treatment until his health broke. He was paroled and died two years before the war ended.

– Twelve had their homes looted and burned. Two had their sons killed while fighting for the revolution. Another had two sons captured.

– Nine of the 56 fought for the cause and died.

– One of the signers, Thomas Nelson Jr, discovered that during the Battle of Yorktown his own home was serving as the headquarters of General Cornwallis. History records that he personally took command of a Continental artillery battery and trained the cannons on his own home. He fired the first cannon shot. His home was destroyed and he later died in poverty.

– Most of the signers continued to be active in the "cause" after they affixed their signatures to the Declaration. Several worked to set up the institutions that a government needs to function.

# of July as Independence Day?

God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness; that, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

■ He has refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

■ He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and, when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

■ He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature, a right inestimable to them, and formidable to tyrants only.

■ He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

■ He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing, with manly firmness, his invasions on the rights of the people.

■ He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise; the state remaining, in the meantime, exposed to all the dangers of invasions from without and convulsions within.

■ He has endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.

■ He has obstructed the administration of justice, by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.

■ He has made judges dependent on his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

■ He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people and eat out their substance.

■ He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies, without the consent of our legislatures.

■ He has affected to render the military independent of, and superior to, the civil power.

■ He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution and unacknowledged by our laws, giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation:

■ For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us;

■ For protecting them, by a mock trial, from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these States;

■ For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world;

■ For imposing taxes on us without our consent;

■ For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury;

■ For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offences;

■ For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these colonies;

■ For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments;

■ For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

■ He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection and waging war against us.

■ He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

■ He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.

■ He has constrained our fellow citizens taken captive on the high seas to arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.

■ He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have we been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace friends.

WE, THEREFORE, the REPRESENTATIVES of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in General Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name and by the authority of the good people of these colonies solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that, as free and independent states, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

New Hampshire: Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton

Massachusetts: John Hancock, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry

Rhode Island: Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery

Connecticut: Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott

New York: William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris

New Jersey: Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark

Pennsylvania: Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross

Delaware: Caesar Rodney, George Read, Thomas McKean

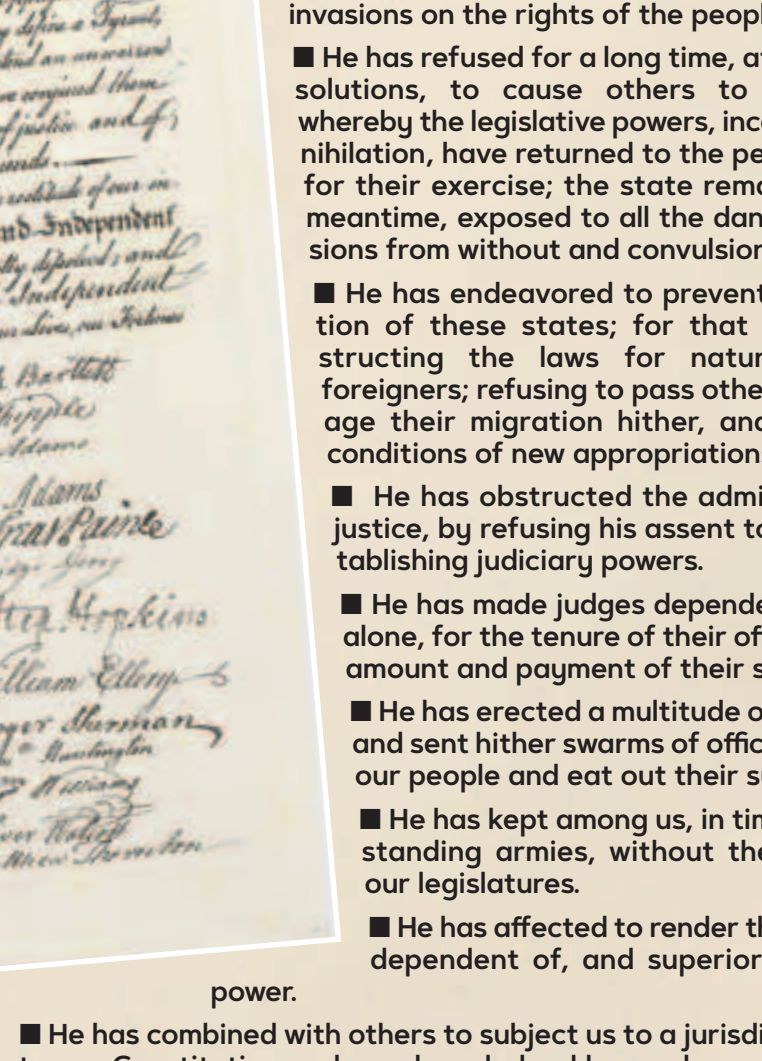
Maryland: Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, Charles Carroll of Carrollton

Virginia: George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, Jr., Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton

North Carolina: William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn

South Carolina: Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward Jr., Thomas Lynch Jr., Arthur Middleton

Georgia: Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, George Walton.



History refresher: Declaration of Independence

The colonies had been in conflict with England for over a year in June of 1776. A Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia June 7 of that year. Richard Henry Lee from Virginia offered a resolution with these now famous words:

"Resolved: That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved."

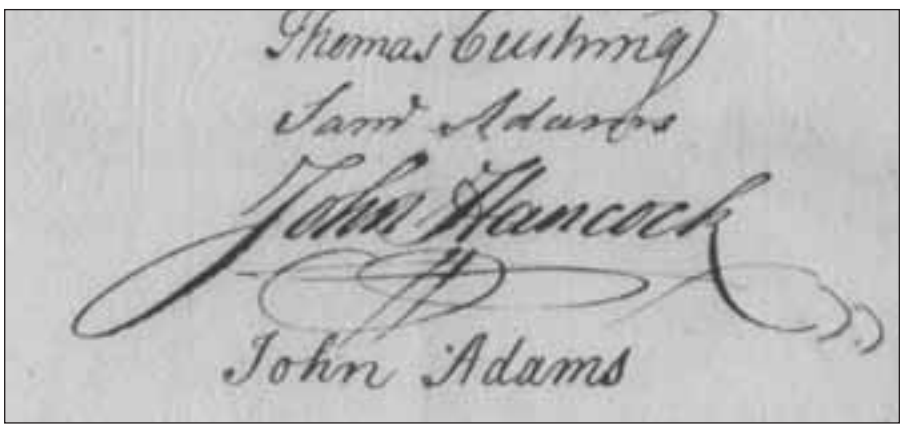
Lee's words spurred the drafting of the Declaration of Independence. A committee of five was appointed to draft a statement making the case for the colonies, a statement to the world of the intent and the reason behind that intent.

Members of the Committee were John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Robert R. Livingston of New York and Thomas Jefferson of Virginia. Jefferson took on the task of actually drafting the document as we know it today.

The Continental Congress reconvened July 1, 1776, and on the following day, the resolution for independence by Lee was adopted by 12 of the 13 colonies, with New York not voting. Minor changes were made to the Jefferson document.

Work on the document continued through July 3 and into the afternoon of July 4, when the Declaration was officially adopted by the Congress. Of the 13 colonies, nine voted in favor of the Declaration, two – Pennsylvania and South Carolina – voted No, Delaware was undecided, and New York again abstained.

As we all know, John Hancock, President of the Congress, made his signature large enough for King George to read "without his spectacles."



IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776. The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America,

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. – That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, – That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. – Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

The complete list of those who signed were: John Hancock (president of the Continental Congress), Josiah Bartlett, William Whipple, Matthew Thornton, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Elbridge Gerry, Stephen Hopkins, William Ellery, Roger Sherman, Samuel Huntington, William Williams, Oliver Wolcott, William Floyd, Philip Livingston, Francis Lewis, Lewis Morris, Richard Stockton, John Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Hart, Abraham Clark, Robert Morris, Benjamin Rush, Benjamin Franklin, John Morton, George Clymer, James Smith, George Taylor, James Wilson, George Ross, Caesar Rodney, George Read, Thomas McKean, Samuel Chase, William Paca, Thomas Stone, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson Jr., Francis Lightfoot Lee, Carter Braxton, William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, John Penn, Edward Rutledge, Thomas Heyward, Jr., Thomas Lynch, Jr., Arthur Middleton, Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall and George Walton.

For the sobering fate of many of those who so pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor, see the inset box on A6.

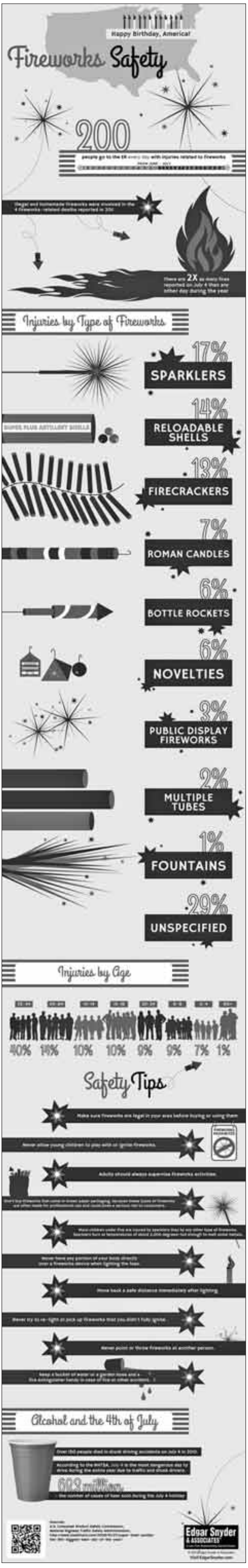
Those are the facts about our Declaration of Independence, the history we as school children have learned since the creation of this great nation that we celebrate, that we love and honor so.

Usually we humans can't adequately find words to express our own sentiments, let alone those of a nation and successive generations to come, but Jefferson and that Continental Congress did just that.

The words have stood throughout several centuries as a clarion call for freedom, for breaking free of tyranny, for men to put aside their individual causes and join together to battle for the right of every man, woman and child together to become a people united in goal and resolve.

As we celebrate, as we pledge allegiance to a flag that has gone from 13 stars to 50, may we remember not only the sacrifice, but the resolve. May we honor not only the words, but the unity and deeds of our forefathers. May each of us dig deep into our hearts and work out our differences for the betterment of our nation and our children and grandchildren.

Say a prayer for America. Rekindle hope. Honor the past by determining the future.



Fireworks safety tips for fun 4th holiday

While fireworks may be an important part of a fun Independence Day celebration, it's important to note they can also be dangerous.

The number one rule, according to Andy Weekley, chief of the Sistersville Volunteer Fire Department, "is that fireworks and alcohol do not mix. An adult who hasn't been drinking should be designated to set off all fireworks. Coming in a close second was: Children should never play with fireworks.

"I realize that sparklers are fun but they can also reach 1,800 degrees, which is hold enough to melt gold," Weekley said. "Every once in a while there is a firework injury related call, but a lot are self-transported to the hospital."

According to Weekley, a national average of 18,500 fires per year are caused by fireworks, including 1,300 structural fires, 300 vehicle fires, and about 17,000 outdoor fires such as grass or rubbish heaps. Always use fireworks outside and have a bucket of water or a charged water hose nearby in case of an accident.

"We have had several fireworks related fires over the years," Weekley, who has been on the volunteer force for 12 years and fire chief for the past three, recalled. "There was a vacant garage a bottle rocket flew into, burnt down the garage and did damage to a house and a trailer. The incident probably could have been prevented through proper use, by maintaining a clear right-of-way when shooting off fireworks."

Weekley citted several recommendations by the National Fire Protection Agency: Buy only legal fireworks bearing a manufacturer's name and never try to make your own. Obey all laws regarding fireworks and read all caution labels and warnings before using them. If there is a fire, call 911 immediately.

There are no authorized dealers in Sistersville, the closet permanent vendor is Eagle Fireworks in Marietta and the seasonal vendors in New Martinsville.

Weekley also suggested putting your pets in an interior room away from the load sounds.

The National Council on Fireworks Safety also offers some tips on how to enjoy the show, injury free:

- ☐ Wear safety glasses when shooting fireworks.
- ☐ Light one firework at a time then quickly move away.
- ☐ Use fireworks outdoors in a clear area; away from buildings and vehicles.
- ☐ Never relight a "dud" firework. Wait 20 minutes then soak it in a bucket of water.
- ☐ Always have a bucket of water and charged water hose nearby.
- ☐ Never carry fireworks in your pocket or shoot them into metal or glass containers.
- ☐ Do not experiment with homemade fireworks.
- ☐ Dispose of spent fireworks by wetting them down and place in a metal trash can away from any building or combustible materials until the next day.
- ☐ FAA regulations prohibit possession and transportation of fireworks in your checked baggage or carry-on luggage.
- ☐ Report illegal explosives, like M80s and quarter sticks, to the fire or police department.

"A designated shooter should prepare a shooting area, carefully read the label of each firework and understand exactly what the firework will do and refrain from consuming alcohol," Nancy Blogin, president of the National Council on Fireworks Safety, said. "Planning makes for a safe and fun backyard fireworks display."

Heroes Day 5K, Wellness event June 28 Shadow Lake

WOODSFIELD, Ohio – Shadow Lake Campgrounds in Woodsfield will host to 5th Annual Heroes Day 5k Trail Run & Walk and Wellness Event Saturday, June 28.

Sponsored by Hoops for the Heart VFD, the event honors first responders while also helping to keep them healthy by providing heart-related screenings.

"We will have another fun-filled day planned for the whole family to honor our First Responders," Nikki Lude, event organizer, said. "The mission of our organization is to help with the early detection of heart related issues by offering multiphasic blood screenings. This blood screening can provide a comprehensive blueprint of your blood to detect warning signs for early-stage heart disease," Lude explained.

"And most importantly, we are looking for the silent killers that do not present symptoms until many years later. We have again partnered with Ohio Hills Health to offer heart health screenings to the public beginning in May. The multiphasic blood tests offer a comprehensive metabolic profile, checking the levels of different enzymes and minerals in the blood, along with a lipid profile that checks for cholesterol and triglyceride count.

"Since 2014, we have provided these blood screenings annually to the public in honor of the two individuals whose lives were lost to undetected silent killers from heart disease. The lives of Chief Gregory Baker (Lewisville Fire Department) and Bryn Lohrey (Woodsfield Fire Department) serve as examples of how each of us need to be proactive about our health. Heart disease is still the leading cause of death in the United States today and we hope to raise awareness for early detection in our community one screening at a time.

"Since our inception we have been able to screen over 2,100 individuals. We have also started a scholarship fund for students of first responders and plan to award scholarships in the amount of $1,000 each to area students. Without the generous support of local businesses and individuals, none of this would be possible," she said.

Registration runs 7 a.m. to 8 a.m., with the 5K Trail Run & Walk starting at 8:30 a.m., with the Kids Fun Run at 9:30 a.m. At 11 a.m. Lewisville VFD will have chicken dinners and at 12:30 p.m. watch the VFD Water Battle!

Costs: $35 for the competitive 5K Walk and Run, $15 for noncompetitive and $15 for Kids Fun Run.

Shadow Lake RV Park and Campground is located at 34847 Miltonsburg Calais Road in Woodsfield.

Matamoras man flees from Monroe County deputy

FLY, Ohio – A passenger in a vehicle stopped by the Monroe County Sheriff's Office attempted to flee but was captured by deputies employing a K-9 unit and drones.

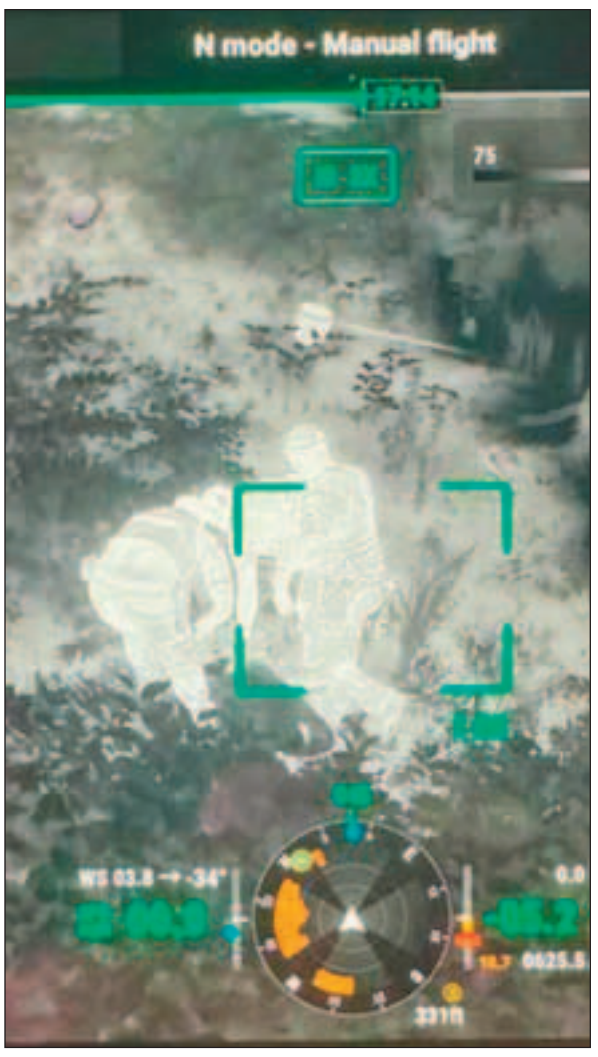
According to Monroe County Sheriff Derek Norman, Deputy Cline, with the Criminal Interdiction Unit, conducted a traffic stop during the afternoon of Tuesday, June 17, near the intersection of State Route 7 and State Route 800 in Fly.

During the stop, while detaining the driver of the vehicle, a passenger fled on foot.

The passenger was later identified as Brent Stottlemier of New Matamoras, whom deputies confirmed had an outstanding warrant out of Washington County.

Upon the arrival of backup, a search of the area was conducted utilizing their K-9 unit, thermal drones and deputies. During the search Stottlemier was located hiding in dense vegetation, ***thermal imaging photo at right,*** along the Ohio River bank, and taken into custody.

"Let this serve as a clear message to anyone considering evading capture that we will find you, and you will go to jail!" Norman posted on social media.



ACADEMIA

Wetzel BOE names new principal for Valley High School

NEW MARTINSVILLE – At a special Friday, June 13, meeting of the Wetzel County Board of Education a new principal was named for Pine Grove's Valley High School effective June 17.

During the 1-minute meeting, Jacqueline Shepard was given the position originally intended for Shane Highley, before the West Virginia Board of Education overruled the Tyler County Board of Education and reinstated Highley as superintendent of Tyler County Schools.

Shepard was the administrator at Reader's Short Line School.

Tyler County Schools BOE names teacher of the year, honors retirees

By Charles Winslow

MIDDLEBOURNE – With Tyler County School District still under the control of the West Virginia Board of Education, the Tyler County School Board met Monday, June 16.

While Superintendent Shane Highley did call in to thank retiring school employees, the meeting was conducted under the direction of Tricia Feldmeier, with the members of the Tyler County School Board observing. All were present with the exception of member Diana Stender, who listened in by phone.

Karla Wells was named Tyler County Teacher of the Year. She is currently a Title 1 math teacher at Boreman Elementary and has worked for Tyler County Schools for 23 years. Tyler County Schools Service Personnel of the year was Joe Kester. Kester works in the maintenance department and has been with the school district for 12 years.

Feldmeier also recognized long-time employees who are retiring:

Connie Stewart, a family and consumer science teacher at Tyler Consolidated Middle and High School, is retiring after being with the district for 35 years. Wendy Carpenter, guidance counselor at Boreman and Sistersville Elementary, has been with Tyler County Schools for 24 years.

Tyler Consolidated High School English teacher Lisa Hartman is retiring after 19 years and Judy Thoburn, who also taught for 19 years at the middle school, Boreman Elementary and finished at Sistersville Elementary, where she taught fourth grade math, is retiring.

Liz Riggs, an art teacher at the middle school, is retiring after eight years.

Herbert Efaw, a bus driver with the school for 16 years is retiring, as is David Smith, in the tech department, who has been with the district for 14 years.

"I just want to thank you all for your years of service and your dedication to the students of Tyler County," Superintendent Shane Highley said, joining by telephone.

"Your experience and wisdom and knowledge and all those things make Tyler County special and will surely be missed," he said.

Jeff Davis, Tyler County School's treasurer, said United Dairy, which has been the milk supplier for many years, was the sole bidder on the milk contract. Their bid for the 2025-26 school year was $149,290.10.

He also said the district is in good shape, financially. "Our total cash and cash equivalents that we have in the bank as of the end of May 31 is $154,941,000. So far year-to-date, we are $123.5 million in revenues and expenses to date is $34.6 million. We will definitely end with a very good fund balance at the end of the 2025 school year," he said.

Addressing concerns raised by the West Virginia Board of Education, Feldmeier said: "Under policy review, under the two-week comment, we're on the second reading for approval is the Tyler County policy, GBC, volunteers, adult volunteers, and the policy BQ, which is public participation in board meetings, and both of those were approved by the state board."

She also said the Tyler Consolidated High School Lady Knights Soccer schedule for the 2025-26 school year was approved.

Under personnel matters: Mariah Ennis resigned from her position as Second-Grade Teacher at Sistersville Elementary School, effective June 30, 2025. Marvin Moore resigned from his position as Substitute Bus Driver, effective immediately, and Mitchell Luke Cooper resigned from his position as Special Education Teacher at TCMS, effective immediately.

Employments or Transfers and Rescissions: Employ Kendra Lydick as Summer School Social Studies Facilitator/Tutor at TCHS, effective June 23, 2025. Transfer David Riggle from his position as SPED Teacher at TCMS/TCHS to Career Exploration CTE Teacher at TCMS/TCHS, effective the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year. Employ Angela Watts as Summer School ELA Teacher at the middle school, effective June 23, 2025. Employ Megan Campbell as Summer School Math Teacher at TCMS, effective June 23, 2025. Employ Anya Glover as Fourth Grade Teacher at SES, effective the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year. The transfer of Shayla Strawderman from her position as Second Grade Teacher at SES to Fourth Grade Teacher at SES, effective the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year. Employ Townsend Midcap as Art Teacher at AIB and SES, effective the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year. Employ Colton Lawrence as Summer School Special Education Teacher at TCHS, effective June 23, 2025.

The next regular meeting of the Tyler County Board of Education is Monday, July 7, at 7 p.m. at the Tyler Consolidated Auditorium. The public is encouraged to attend or watch the meeting on the district's Youtube channel.

Woodfield Village Council appoints new member

By Charles Winslow

WOODSFIELD, Ohio – While some of Monroe County's towns and villages have faced problems filling vacancies, seven Woodsfield residents have stepped forward to fill a vacancy on the Woodsfield Village Council.

By the time the four remaining members of the council met for their regular session Monday, June 16, the village had received seven letters of interest for the council seat that became vacant when member Kaylee Sefert resigned in May and six of the seven candidates were on-hand at the meeting. Present were : William "Bill" Allen, Deborah "Debbie" Day, Larry Jeffers, Alice Rader, Shane Borman and Lindsey Blackstone, while Alicia Gardner was absent.

After the names of the candidates were announced, ballots were cast by the four council members with Deborah Day receiving one vote and Alicia Gardner, four. Gardner will be sworn in at the next council meeting and will serve out the remainder of Sefert's term, which expires Dec. 31.

Village Administrator Kevin Brooks said Barnesville's Stouffers Construction, who was recently awarded the contract to pave Airport Road by the County Commission, was asked to give estimates on paving 10 streets in the village. Because of budget constraints, the only project that can be done at this time is a section of the alley behind the municipal building, between West Church Street and Marietta. Council voted unanimously to approve the paving, which is estimated to cost $58,000.

Despite warnings and cameras, during the Community Clean-Up, held June 3-6, illegal and prohibited materials, such as paint, chemicals, tires, mattresses and electronics, were disposed of in the Dumpsters, causing the contractor, Rosen Enterprises, to hand-separate and remove waste. As a result, the village may face additional dumping fees and possible fines.

Also, even though the Dumpsters were emptied by Rosen three times, people were dumping refuse and debris next to the containers.

Brooks urged council to consider whether they wanted to continue providing Dumpsters in the future. Last year there was also a problem with illegal dumping by both residents and non-residents, causing council to reduce the number of times they provided free Dumpsters from three to just one.

In other business, council approved an ordinance to extend the current contract with Bev Landefeld for the Bureau of Motor Vehicles office on Oaklawn Avenue. The lease on the village-owned building was extended until June 2026.

A resolution to approve the final pay raise increases that were part of the 2024 Police Department Levy was also passed.

Returning to the question of controlling the feral cat population, to spay and/or neuter all of the cats in the village as part of a catch, fix and release program has been estimated to cost around $20,000, $79 per female and $68 for males. As this is not something for which the village has budgeted, it was suggested the village try to organize some fund-raisers and seek donations.

The site of a recently demolished building on the corner of Main and Church streets has been completed to the extent that weather will permit. Before the lot can be completely leveled, the question raised by access to a crawl space under the adjoining building will have to be addressed.

During the public forum section, village resident Ed Martin expressed his appreciation of the council's and village employees' efforts in "making the village look wonderful" for Alumni Weekend.

Also, at the request of Brooks, council went into an executive session at the end of the public meeting to discuss litigation.

The next regular meeting of the Village of Woodsfield Council is Monday, July 7, at 5:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 221 South Main St. The public is encouraged to attend.

Newport, Matamoras secretaries retire

By Charles Winslow

NEWPORT, Ohio – The two Thomases are retiring as secretaries from Frontier Local School District's two elementary schools, each after 45 years of service.

Sisters-in-law who married brothers, Cheryl Thomas, 78, and Susie Thomas, 65, have both put in for retirement after the better part of a half century of service to the local school district, each starting in 1980.

Susie is a 1978 graduate of the district, while Cheryl is Class of 1984. "I should have graduated in 1964 but I quit," Cheryl said. Proving it's never too late, she went back to school when her third child started school and got her GED.

"I always wanted to do college classes, but with raising kids and working, I never got to do that," Cheryl said, adding: "I went to Adult Ed, as they called it. I sat in the classroom one day and one evening and I thought 'I ain't coming back here. I'll get my information and I'll do it at home. And within four months, or so, I got my GED."

She explained one of the teachers and her father had a regular graduation for her, "So my parents got to watch me graduate. And it was very, very, very nice.

"After our retirement date, I thought maybe doing some volunteer work. Maybe I'll just like it,"

she said. "Maybe I won't want to do anything because I'll miss the kids and I have such wonderful staff here at Newport Elementary I'm going to miss them terribly. I don't know if they're going to miss me but I'm going to miss them."

"We both started driving buses in 1980 and I drove up until 2020," Susie said. "But in the meantime, I was also a librarian for five or six years, then an aide." She was then secretary at the high school for six years and most recently at Matamoras for six.

Cheryl added that when she started as secretary at Newport 17 years ago she was also still driving a bus.

When asked what she was going to do after retirement, Susie, who is leaving as secretary at Matamoras Elementary, said: "Wish I was back at work, probably."

Old Washington Music Fest returns July 17-19

OLD WASHINGTON, Ohio — Alabama, Big & Rich, The Band Perry, Sammy Kershaw, Danielle Bradbery and more, are set to perform at Old Washington Music Fest at the Guernsey County Fairgrounds near Cambridge, Ohio.

The Old Washington Music Fest returns slated for the third weekend in July 2025 at the Guernsey County Fairgrounds in Old Washington, Ohio.

"The official festival dates are July 17, 18 and 19, and will feature a blend of both traditional and modern country music" Dustin Knowlton, event organizer and owner of promotion company Big Time Entertainment, said. Knowlton, from Woodsfield originally, put the festival together and brought it to Guernsey County for the second year.

"After last year, we've heard nothing but positive reviews from those who attended the festival. Everyone kept asking 'who's next year'?" he said.

The multi-day fest will feature over 15 acts including country music giants Alabama, Big & Rich, The Band Perry, Michael Ray, Danielle Bradbery, Sammy Kershaw, Aaron Tippin, Collin Raye, David Lee Murphy, A Thousand Horses, The Bellamy Brothers, West Virginia-based The Davisson Brothers Band, Sam L. Smith, Silver Stallion Highwaymen Tribute, Hoard & Jones, Jake Binegar, McKayla Prew and more.

"We announced this year for our 'Kickoff Party' Wednesday night, July 16, at 9 p.m. We will feature Ohio Valley favorite Neal McCoy open to all weekend pass holders," Knowlton said.

Knowlton has worked with dozens of acts over the past decade and promoted shows all around the country. He has worked with a wide array of artists including such Country Music Hall Of Fame legends as The Oak Ridge Boys, Ronnie Milsap and The Gatlin Brothers to such more modern entertainers as Aaron Tippin, Sammy Kershaw, Justin Moore and Lee Brice.

Originally from southeast Ohio himself, Knowlton said he grew up going to the Superbowl of country music " Jamboree In The Hills" and said: "It's time for something similar to come back to southeast Ohio" and what better weekend than the third one in July and with the help of all the country music fans, we are making that happen.

The third weekend in July is the same weekend the legendary festival Jamboree In The Hills was held for over 40 years. "On our inaugural year in 2024 we saw folks come from as far as Maryland, New York, Georgia, Wisconsin and Illinois, just to name a few of our farther away states. People are interested and excited with how our festival is organized and 2025 is shaping up to be a near sell-out year. We are so thankful to have some great sponsors and local businesses supporting us again this year including Riesbecks, Cabela's, Panhandle Cleaning and Restoration, Kennedy's Bakery, King Carpet, Wally's Pizza, The Dockside Restaurant at Seneca Lake Marina and High Street Seneca, just to name a few.

"It takes a team and we are so appreciative of everyone who is excited for our second year. It really just fuels us stronger for the future," Knowlton said.

The three-day Old Washington Music Fest will feature over 15 different acts, has limited on-site camping, and coolers are welcome. "The fest will be open seating, so bring your tarps and lawn chairs to grab a spot on the grass out in front of our giant mobile stage we're bringing in exclusively for this event. This year's event requires an even larger stage than last year because we have some much larger acts," Knowlton said. Different from similar events, the event will have a "pit" type area directly in front of the stage that's standing room only with no coolers or chairs to give all festival-goers a chance for that up-close photo of their favorite entertainers or a place to dance and get their boogie on!" No special pass is needed for this area, just a regular event pass will get you into the entire event.

Everyone coming to the event will need an event pass, a camping pass alone does not gain you entry to the event grounds as the entire event is on one property.

Tickets are on sale now. Single-day passes are currently $110 and are good for either Thursday, Friday or Saturday. No single-day passes are sold for the "Kickoff Party" as that is a "bonus" show for weekend pass holders. Multi-day passes are currently $275 and weekend camping passes are $250 plus processing and ticketing fees.

"We've already had a couple ticket price increases and ticket prices will increase again July 1, then again the week of the event and at the gate." So don't wait, buy them early to save money. Tickets are moving fast. We are already sold out of on-site RV camping with only limited tent sites left over a month ahead of the event.

If you're still looking for RV camping, contact one of the offsite affiliates: **Glamplyfe-Happydale Retreat,** which has RV hookups as well as cabins - (740) 801-0054. **Spring Valley Campground** (Cambridge, OH) – (740) 439-9291 and **Seneca Cabins** – (740) 312-2400.

Transportation will be available also through Regoli Company transport to and from off site properties to the festival by calling (740) 312-5288. Please call Regoli company transport directly for information regarding transportation as they are a separate company providing transport services and are not associated with the festival directly.

This is the event of the summer in southeast Ohio that you don't want to miss.

For a complete lineup of acts including day schedules and more info or to purchase tickets, visit Etix.com or their Facebook event "Old Washington Music Fest" or call their authorized ticketing outlet the WesBanco Arena Box Office in Wheeling. Tickets can only be purchased from Etix.com or by calling Etix directly at (800) 514-3849 or by calling the WesBanco Arena Box Office at (304) 233-7000. Do not fall for ticket scalpers, please only buy tickets from Etix.com or WesBanco Arena in Wheeling.

Accent





Sample Mediterranean area foods without leaving home

Compiled by Mary Crawley

The area surrounding the Mediterranean Sea is famous for its rich history, diverse culture and stunning landscapes. It's also known for its varied cuisine, which is why we're here. While it's a popular tourist destination with its mild climate, beautiful coastlines and ancient ruins, you don't have to leave home to discover these foods can fit – most deliciously! – into any diet. Now, while there is a popular Mediterranean Diet, this is not that! Here are some tasty, light, summery offerings from the region. Enjoy!

GREEK SALAD DRESSING/MARINADE

1/2 cup olive oil
1/4 cup red wine vinegar
2 Tablespoons lemon juice
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano

In a jar with a tight-fitting lid, combine all ingredients; shake well.

WHIPPED FETA DIP

8 ounces feta cheese, crumbled
1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt
1 teaspoon Greek seasoning
1 garlic clove, chopped
3/4 teaspoon grated lemon zest
1 Tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
Fresh mint

Place first 5 ingredients in a food processor; process until smooth. Spoon into serving dish; drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with mint.

HUMMUS

1 can (15 ounces) garbanzo beans or chickpeas, rinsed and drained
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
1 Tablespoon minced garlic
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1/2 cup tahini
2 Tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1/4 cup cold water
Optional: Olive oil, roasted garbanzo beans, toasted sesame seeds, ground sumac

Place garbanzo beans in a large saucepan; add water to cover by 1 in. Gently rub beans together to loosen outer skin. Pour off water and any skins that are floating. Repeat 2-3 times until no skins float to the surface; drain. Return to saucepan. Add baking soda and enough water to cover by 1 in. Bring to a boil; reduce heat. Simmer, uncovered, until beans are very tender and just starting to fall apart, 20-25 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a blender, process lemon juice, garlic and salt until almost a paste. Let stand 10 minutes. Strain, discarding solids. Return to blender; add cumin. In a small bowl, stir together tahini and olive oil.

Drain beans and add to blender; add cold water. Loosely cover and process until completely smooth. With blender running, slowly add tahini mixture, scraping side as needed. Adjust seasoning with additional salt and cumin as desired.

Transfer mixture to a serving bowl; cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. If desired, top with more

Continued on page B2










Recipes

Continued from page B1

olive oil and optional toppings.

ROASTED RED PEPPER HUMMUS

2 large sweet red peppers
2 cans (15 ounces each) garbanzo beans or chickpeas, rinsed and drained
1/3 cup lemon juice
3 Tablespoons tahini
1 Tablespoon olive oil
2 garlic cloves, peeled
1-1/4 teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon curry powder
1/2 teaspoon ground coriander
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1/2 teaspoon pepper
Optional: Fresh vegetables, pita bread or assorted crackers

Broil red peppers 4 in. from heat until skins blister, about 5 minutes. With tongs, rotate peppers a quarter turn. Broil and rotate until all sides are blistered and blackened. Immediately place peppers in a bowl; cover and let stand for 15-20 minutes.

Peel off and discard charred skin. Remove stems and seeds. Place the peppers in a food processor. Add the beans, lemon juice, tahini, oil, garlic and seasonings; cover and process until blended.

Transfer to a serving bowl. Serve with vegetables, pita bread or crackers as desired.

CLASSIC GAZPACHO

2 pounds ripe quality tomatoes, cored and roughly chopped (about 3 large)
1/2 medium cucumber, peeled and roughly chopped
1/2 red bell pepper, roughly chopped
1 Tablespoon minced shallot
1 small garlic clove, peeled
1/4 cup olive oil
2 Tablespoons sherry vinegar (or red wine vinegar)
3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika

Place all ingredients in blender, and blend until smooth. Taste and adjust salt as needed. Refrigerate until cold, about 2 hours, or up to 3 days before serving. Serve topped with additional chopped veggies, a drizzle of olive oil, and toasted bread.

TZATZIKI SAUCE

1 cup finely grated English cucumber* (10 ounces or 3/4 large cucumber)
2 cups (18 ounces) full-fat Greek yogurt
2 medium garlic cloves, minced
1 Tablespoon red wine vinegar
2 Tablespoons olive oil
1 teaspoon kosher salt, divided
1 Tablespoon chopped fresh dill (optional)
Fresh ground black pepper

Grate cucumber using small holes on a box grater (if using a standard cucumber instead of English, peel and remove seeds first). Place grated cucumber in a fine mesh strainer and squeeze out as much liquid as possible. Sprinkle with 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, then allow to stand for at least 10 minutes. Then use your hands to squeeze out as much water as possible from cucumber before adding it to dip.

In a medium bowl, mix Greek yogurt, minced garlic, red wine vinegar, olive oil, remaining 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, fresh dill (if using), and freshly ground black pepper. Stir in grated cucumber.

Serve immediately, or refrigerate for up to 1 week.

Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes before serving. Keeps up to 1 week in the refrigerator.

To serve, drizzle with olive oil; if desired, garnish with olives and a sprig of dill. Serve with pita, crackers or vegetables.

FETA SHRIMP SKILLET

1 Tablespoon olive oil
1 medium onion, finely chopped
3 garlic cloves, minced
1 teaspoon dried oregano
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 cans (14-1/2 ounces each) diced tomatoes, undrained
1/4 cup white wine, optional
1 pound uncooked shrimp (16-20 per pound), peeled and deveined

2 Tablespoons minced fresh parsley
3/4 cup crumbled feta cheese

In a large nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add onion; cook and stir 4-6 minutes or until tender. Add garlic and seasonings; cook 1 minute longer. Stir in tomatoes and, if desired, wine. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, 5-7 minutes or until sauce is slightly thickened.

Add shrimp and parsley; cook 5-6 minutes or until shrimp turn pink, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat; sprinkle with cheese. Let stand, covered, until cheese is softened.

CHICKEN SOUVLAKI

5 medium lemons, divided
4 Tablespoons olive oil
4 garlic cloves, minced
2 teaspoons dried oregano
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
2 lbs. boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch pieces
6 whole pita breads
1 carton (8 ounces) refrigerated tzatziki sauce
Optional toppings: Chopped tomatoes, chopped cucumber, sliced red onion and fresh dill sprigs

Cut 3 lemons crosswise in half; squeeze juice from lemons. Transfer juice to a large bowl or shallow dish. Whisk in oil, garlic, oregano, salt and pepper. Add chicken; turn to coat. Refrigerate 1 hour.

Drain chicken, discarding marinade. Thinly slice remaining 2 lemons. On 12 metal or soaked wooden skewers, alternately thread chicken and lemon slices. Grill kabobs, covered, over medium heat (or broil 4 in. from heat) until chicken is nol o n g e r pink, about 10 minutes, turning occasionally. Serve with pita bread, tzatziki sauce and toppings as desired.

ARTICHOKE CHICKEN

8 boneless skinless chicken breast halves (4 ounces each)
2 Tablespoons butter
2 jars (6 ounces each) marinated quartered artichoke hearts, drained
1 jar (4-1/2 ounces) whole mushrooms, drained
1/2 cup chopped onion
1/3 cup all-purpose flour
1-1/2 teaspoons dried rosemary, crushed
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
2 cups chicken broth or 1 cup broth and 1 cup dry white wine
Hot cooked pasta, optional
Minced fresh parsley

In a large skillet, brown chicken in butter. Remove chicken to an ungreased 13x9-in. baking dish, leaving drippings in pan. Arrange artichokes and mushrooms on top of chicken.

Saute onion in pan juices until crisp-tender. Combine flour, rosemary, salt and pepper. Stir into pan until blended. Add chicken broth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir until thickened and bubbly, about 2 minutes. Spoon over chicken and vegetables.

Bake, uncovered, at 350° until a thermometer inserted in the chicken breast reads 165°, about 40 minutes. If desired, serve with pasta. Sprinkle with parsley.

LEMON DILL SALMON

For salmon:
4 salmon fillets (skin on or off)
Kosher salt
Black pepper

For lemon dill sauce (makes about 3/4 cup)
2 Tablespoons finely chopped dill
1/4 cup Greek yogurt
6 Tablespoons mayonnaise
1 Tablespoon lemon juice
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1/4 teaspoon onion powder
1/8 teaspoon kosher salt
2 teaspoons water

Preheat oven to 450°F. Generously sprinkle salmon with kosher salt and fresh ground black pepper. Place it on a parchment-lined baking sheet.

Bake salmon for about 10 minutes until flaky and just cooked; test with fork to assess doneness. Watch salmon to make sure not to overcook; timing can vary based on salmon thickness and oven variations .

While salmon bakes, mix together sauce ingredients, adding water last. Use water to bring it to a loose, drizzle-able consistency. (You may need a touch more depending on yogurt.)

Serve salmon and garnish each fillet with 2 tablespoons of lemon dill sauce. Refrigerate leftover sauce.

MEDITERRANEAN TILAPIA

6 tilapia fillets (6 ounces each)
1 cup canned Italian diced tomatoes
1/2 cup water-packed artichoke hearts, chopped
1/2 cup sliced ripe olives
1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese

Preheat oven to 400°. Place fillets in a 15x10x1-in. baking pan coated with cooking spray. Top with tomatoes, artichoke hearts, olives and cheese. Bake, uncovered, until fish flakes easily with a fork, 15-20 minutes.

BURRATA PASTA WITH TOMATO BASIL SAUCE

1/4 cup olive oil
4 medium garlic cloves, peeled and sliced
28 ounces whole San Marzano tomatoes
1 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 cup roughly chopped basil leaves, plus more for garnish
8 ounces spaghetti or bucatini pasta
1/2 pint red and yellow cherry tomatoes, sliced in half (or, omit if they're not in season)
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
8 ounces (2 balls) burrata cheese
Fresh ground black pepper, for serving (optional)

Make tomato basil sauce: Add olive oil to a saucepan over medium heat. Add sliced garlic and cook for about 30 to 45 seconds until lightly browned and fragrant. Add whole tomatoes with can liquid, taking care as it may spit as tomatoes hit hot oil. Use a potato masher to break up tomatoes into small pieces. Add kosher salt and chopped basil leaves and bring to a heavy simmer. Cover saucepan with a lid slightly ajar and simmer, bubbling rapidly, for 10 to 12 minutes until thickened. (If you prefer a smoother texture, immersion blend it, but we highly recommend chunky rustic texture.)

Cook pasta: Meanwhile, bring a large pot of heavily salted water to a boil. Add pasta and cook until al dente. Set timer for a few minutes less than package instructions then taste: The pasta should be just done, still with some firmness. Drain pasta and return to the pot. Add a drizzle of olive oil if sauce is not yet done, to prevent sticking.

Serve: Toss noodles with sauce until well coated. Add to a platter and top with grated Parmesan. Add two burrata balls, and arrange cherry tomatoes around them. Top with a drizzle of olive oil, several pinches kosher salt, fresh ground black pepper and additional chopped basil. When serving, have each eater break off pieces of burrata for their portion, or simply break it into pieces and lightly toss throughout pasta.

HERB-ROASTED OLIVES & TOMATOES

2 cups cherry tomatoes
1 cup garlic-stuffed olives
1 cup Greek olives
1 cup pitted ripe olives
8 garlic cloves, peeled
3 Tablespoons olive oil
1 Tablespoon herbes de Provence
1/4 teaspoon pepper

Preheat oven to 425°. Combine first 5 ingredients on a greased 15x10x1-in. baking pan. Add oil and seasonings; toss to coat. Roast until tomatoes are softened, 15-20 minutes, stirring occasionally.

QUINOA TABBOULEH

2 cups water
1 teaspoon sea salt, divided
1 cup quinoa, rinsed
3 cups chopped fresh parsley
1 cup chopped English cucumber
3 plum tomatoes, chopped
8 green onions, chopped
1/4 cup chopped fresh mint
1/4 cup lemon juice
1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
3/4 teaspoon coarsely ground pepper

In a large saucepan, bring water and 1/2 teaspoon sea salt to a boil. Add quinoa. Reduce heat; cover and simmer until liquid is absorbed, 12-15 minutes. Remove from heat; fluff with fork. Transfer to bowl; cool completely.

Add parsley, cucumber, tomatoes, green onion and mint. In a small bowl, whisk lemon juice, olive oil, pepper and remaining 1/2 teaspoon sea salt; drizzle over salad and toss to coat. Let stand 30 minutes before serving. Refrigerate leftovers.

ORZO SALAD

1 cup uncooked orzo pasta
6 teaspoons olive oil, divided
1 medium red onion, finely chopped
1/2 cup minced fresh parsley
1/3 cup red wine vinegar
1-1/2 teaspoons dried oregano
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon sugar
1/8 teaspoon pepper
2 large tomatoes, seeded and chopped
1 medium cucumber, peeled, seeded and chopped
12 pitted ripe or Greek olives, halved
1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese

Cook orzo according to package directions; drain. In a large serving bowl, toss orzo with 2 teaspoons oil.

In another bowl, combine onion, parsley, vinegar, oregano, salt, sugar, pepper and remaining 4 tsp. oil; pour over orzo and toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate until chilled. Just before serving, gently stir in tomatoes, cucumber, olives and cheese.

SPINACH RICE WITH FETA

2 garlic cloves, minced
1 Tablespoon olive oil
6 cups (5 ounces) baby spinach (or chopped standard spinach)
1 cup long grain white rice
3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon onion powder
Juice of 1/2 lemon (2 Tablespoons)
2 Tablespoons chopped fresh dill, optional
1/4 cup feta cheese crumbles

Mince garlic. In a medium saucepan, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add garlic and sauté 1 minute until fragrant (but not browned). Add spinach and cook until it wilts, about 2 minutes.

Add 2 cups water and bring to a boil, then reduce to a simmer. Add rice, salt, garlic powder, and onion powder. Make sure it's simmering, then cover and cook for 15 minutes, uncovering and checking every so often to make sure heat is not too high.

After 15 minutes, check to make sure water is completely cooked out (if not, cook a minute or two longer but it should be done by this point). Remove from heat and let stand covered for 5 minutes. Uncover and fluff with a fork, then stir in the lemon juice and chopped dill. Top with feta crumbles and serve.

Area Dirt Tracks

Kick off Independence weekend at America's Baddest Bullring!

Join them Thursday, July 3, at Tyler County Speedway for an action-packed night of racing and fireworks!

RUSH Late Models – Eaton/Childers KING OF THE RING. $4,000 TO WIN!

MID-SEASON CHAMPIONSHIP NIGHT means All classes race for DOUBLE POINTS!

Also racing: Super Late Models, Modifieds, Tri-State Street Stocks, Sport Mods, Hot Mods, 4 Cylinders, Mini Wedges.

FIREWORKS SHOW to cap off the night!

Gates Open: 4 p.m. Action: 5:30PM

Grandstands: $15 / Kids 10 & under: FREE

Pits: $40 / Kids 5 & under in pits: FREE

Don't miss this explosive night of family fun, fierce competition and patriotic celebration at the Bullring!

5TH ANNUAL PJ "BUCKWHEAT" WRIGHT MEMORIAL SATURDAY, JUNE 28

Join them at America's Baddest Bullring as they celebrate the life of a young man who left a lasting impact both on and off the track. The 5th Annual PJ "Buckwheat" Wright Memorial will honor the kids of the Mini Wedge division – a class close to PJ's heart. PJ grew up racing in the mini wedges and lending a hand around the track with his fireman dad, Jay. As he got older, he could be found helping out in the pits with his racing cousins and buddies, alongside his best friend Nick Gorby – who now proudly races in PJ's memory. In addition to great racing action, The Heart of Gold Scholarship will be awarded in PJ's name – a tribute to a young man known for his kindness, generosity, and love for dirt track racing. PJ never met a stranger and always showed up with a helping hand and a big smile. Now, his spirit lives on through his nephew, Tanner Shepherd, who is carrying the torch as a first-year mini wedge driver. We know PJ would be proud. — *"It's been a long day without you, my friend, but I'll tell you all about it when I see you again."*

June 14 rain outs

TYLER COUNTY SPEEDWAY

By Charles Winslow

MIDDLEBOURNE - Saturday, June 14, was supposed to be Mid-Season Championship Night at Tyler County Speedway but Mother Nature had other plans. A brief but heavy rain hit the track just before gates were to open, canceling racing for the evening.

While the skies cleared and mocked with brilliant sunshine, a few hours later a thunderstorm rolled through and confirmed the right call had been made.

The headline feature for the evening was to be the Ohio Valley Sport Compact Dirt Racing Association's $1,000 to win, $100 to start. Fans of the four-bangers will have to wait until Saturday, June 28, , to see those tires-a-flyin.

During the June 7 SCDRA feature, St Marys' Joe Price, driving the #28J, lost his left rear tire in the second lap and kept going for four more laps, even moving up from fourth to third place, before blowing a front tire.

Referring to the rained-out feature SCDRA's Jody Shannon told The INNformer, "We'd love to find a way to make it up. Tyler County is one of the best FWD tracks in the country and one of our favorite stops on the tour.

"We do know we'll be back for the $5,000-to-win Dark and Dusty 30, where the Ohio Valley SCDRA takes on the SCDRA Northeast during the inaugural Country Roads Weekend on Labor Day weekend," Shannon added.

The next race at America's Baddest Bullring is Saturday, June 28, when Long Reach Federal Credit Union will sponsor Monster Truck Bash and Jeep Rally. The 5th Annual PJ "Buckwheat" Wright Memorial for Mini Wedges and the Muddy Toad 100 Duke Travis Memorial Enduro Race are on tap, in addition to Sport Mods, Hot Mods and SCDRA 4 Cylinders.

BEARTRAX SPEEDWAY

MALAGA, Ohio – The second race in a row was called due to rain at Monroe County's BearTrax Speedway. With rain in the forecast, on race day track owner Bear Tamasovich made the call the morning of Saturday, June 14. His BearTrax Speedway's Malaga Clone Wars race May 31 was also rained out.

The next race for the 1/9th-mile high-banked kart track is the Ohio Valley Predator Championship and the 13th Annual King of the Ridge and is slated Saturday, July 19, weather permitting.

BearTrax Speedway is on Harper Road, off Ohio Route 145 and just west of Malaga, in northern Monroe County, Ohio.

RT 23 SPEEDWAY RESULTS FOR JUNE 13

ALMA – While Friday the 13th may be considered unlucky for some, there was a full night of kart racing in the wilds of eastern Tyler County as the Route 23 Speedway was able to get in the second race night of the season.

During the Friday, June 13, slate, 51 karts participated in nine classes, with the Predator 350 Feature and Clone 350 Feature each split into two sections with 15 karts entered into each.

JUICEBOX: Janessa Leirmo **BABY KARTS:** 5C Corina Spagnuola, 46 Amelia Green **JR MINI WEDGES:** 15 Jaelee Green, 118 Tanner Shepherd. **SR MINI WEDGES:** 30G Khloe Glover, 30 Kyndi Glover, 20 Brentley Carson, 24A Aly Baker, 88 Adley Green, 22 Brittany Garcia. **PURPLE PLATE:** 1 Bentley Thomas, 1H

Continued on page B5

Ready to make a splash?

CHECK OUT THESE AREA SWIMMING POOLS!

Many of the local riverfront counties have a public pool open for swimming and other events.

PLEASANTS COUNTY AQUATIC CENTER IN ST. MARYS

HOURS: Monday through Saturday noon to 5 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Night swim: Monday and Tuesday 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. **ADMISSION:** $5 per person, 3 & under free. The new Lazy River expansion is now open!

SISTERSVILLE POOL

HOURS: Monday through Saturday noon to 6 p.m., Sunday noon to 6 p.m. **ADMISSION:** $4 Ages 2 and up. **UPCOMING:** FREE swim days: June 29, July 2, July 6, July 10, July 14, July 17, July 20, July 25 & July 30; PICNIC IN THE PARK SUNDAY, JULY 6, hosted by the Sistersville Planning Commission. There will be aquatiics in July: Wednesdays 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and Fridays 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

PADEN CITY POOL IN PADEN CITY **CLOSED THIS SUMMER FOR REPAIRS**

MIDDLEBOURNE SPLASH PAD

It's not a pool, but Middlebourne Parks & Recreation has a free splash pad for kids at the town park. Open daily noon to 6 p.m. It's free!

LEWIS WETZEL POOL IN NEW MARTINSVILLE

HOURS: Monday through Saturday noon to 7 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. **ADMISSION:** $6 per person. Seniors (65+) $3, Veterans/ Military and children 2, and under, free.

MATAMORAS POOL

While the opening this spring was delayed due to repair work, the pool is now open.

HOURS: Monday through Saturday 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. **ADMISSION:** Adults $3, Students $2, Pre-schoolers $1. **UPCOMNG EVENT:** Antique car show Saturday, July 12, to benefit the pool. See Matamoras Friends of the Pool Facebook page for details.

MONROE MEMORIAL POOL IN WOODSFIELD

HOURS: Monday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Evening swim Thursdays 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. **ADMISSION:** Students $3, Adults $4, 5 & Under FREE. **UPCOMING:** PUBLIC SWIM LESSONS July 1-5 (message the Monroe Memorial Pool Facebook page for more info; private lessons available.)

HANNIBAL POOL & TENNIS COMPLEX

HOURS: Open Daily noon to 6 p.m. **ADMISSION:** Student $3, Adult $4. **UPCOMING:** WATER FUN FITNESS WITH TERRI Tuesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. starting June 24 and runs for 6 weeks $10 at the door (call 724-272-2741 for more information); the pool also has a new slide and will have swim lessons and glow swim July 2, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

If you want to make a day of it or are looking for more, you might try these pools instead:

MARIETTA AQUATIC CENTER

HOURS: Open Daily noon to 6 p.m. **ADMISSION:** Child $6 (3-12), Youth $7 (13-17), Adult $8, Seniors & Military $7. **UPCOMING:** Call 740-373-2445 for dates and times of swim lessons.

FOUR SEASONS POOL AND SPLASH PAD IN MOUNDSVILLE

HOURS: Open Swim Monday through Friday noon to 6 p.m., Saturday noon to 5 p.m. **ADMISSION:** $5 Adult (13-54), $4 Senior (55+), $3 Youth (Ages 4-12), and Child (3 & under) FREE. **UPCOMING:** WATER AEROBICS Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and Tuesday & Thursday 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.; SENIOR/ADULT SWIM Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 9 a.m. to noon and Tuesday & Thursday 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. & 10 a.m. to noon. (Call 304-845-7733 for pool party scheduling.)

GRAND VUE POOL IN MOUNDSVILLE

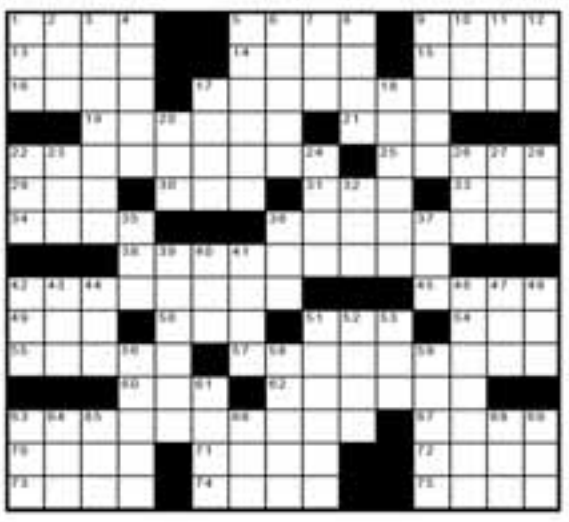
HOURS: Monday through Thursday noon to 6 p.m., Friday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. **ADMISSION:** Adult (18-64), Youth (4-17), and Senior (65+) rates differ for residents of Moundsville versus Nonresidents; Resident rates are: Adult $10, Youth $8, Senior $8; Non-resident rates are: Adult $12, Youth $10, Senior $10; ALL children under 3 are FREE.

POWHATAN POOL AND SPLASH PAD

HOURS: Open Daily noon to 6 p.m. Adult swim from 11 a.m. to noon for $1. **ADMISSION:** Child $3, Adult $4.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

"Ollie Would Be Proud" by Mark McClain



Across

1. Oregano, for one
5. Eurasian sea duck
9. Offshoot group
13. Melville novel before "Moby -Dick"
14. Coffee district of Hawaii
15. Rip
16. Mountain lion
17. "That'll Be the Day" singer
19. South Louisiana cuisine
21. Family boy
22. With 38-Across, Little Richard song
25. Unloads, as stock
29. "Slippery" tree
30. Approves, casually
31. Halloween mo.
33. French water
34. Western plateau
36. Intentionally
38. See 22-Across
42. Timber cutter's tool
45. Turndowns
49. Pronoun for a ship
50. Price holder, maybe
51. Smart __ whip
54. Kind
55. Emcee's words
57. Tom Sawyer's guardian
60. Skater Midori
62. Situation
63. Broadway hit starring Carol Channing
67. "__ to My Lou"
70. Cleveland's lake
71. Sweet palm fruit
72. Run out of steam
73. Garden invader
74. Twinkler
75. Closure on a western-style shirt

Down

1. Kangaroo's move
2. Big bird of Australia
3. Funny love stories, informally
4. Company directors, collectively
5. Craniums
6. Runway figure
7. Wind down
8. Methods
9. Cherry seed
10. Conger, for one
11. Coolidge, to pals
12. Hear, in court
17. Novel
18. Inexpensive lodging
20. Self-esteem
22. Emerald or ruby
23. Grand __ Opry
24. Go up and down
26. Luau garland
27. Time delay
28. Morning riser
32. 450, to Caesar
22. Emerald or ruby
23. Grand __ Opry
24. Go up and down
26. Luau garland
27. Time delay
28. Morning riser
32. 450, to Caesar
35. "Who __?" (riddle ending)
36. Upscale auto
37. Word with the same meaning (abbr.)
39. Fully
40. US agency that makes monthly payments to seniors (abbr.)
41. Multi-generational story
42. Greek X
43. Barnyard mom
44. Museum hangings
46. Water repellent fabric
47. Building addition
48. Pie location?
51. Stag's pride
52. Remain in place
53. Likely (to)
56. Made angry
58. Sports org. founded in 1881
59. Kicks out
61. Race track numbers
63. Chop down
64. Bard's "before"
65. Falsehood
66. Granola morsel
68. George Gershwin's older brother
69. Get-up-and-go

Answer on page B9

FREE crosswords online @ movinformer.com

WORD SEARCH

SUMMER WORDS

L	O	O	H	C	S	O	N	D	O	A	A	L	S	X	H	E	V	I	E
A	O	S	R	O	O	D	T	U	O	S	H	E	G	W	C	S	O	D	S
V	Y	L	U	J	L	L	A	B	E	S	A	B	U	S	E	N	X	P	E
W	P	K	U	G	E	P	N	H	S	F	B	E	B	G	A	O	P	H	I
A	X	D	E	F	Y	R	C	N	Y	F	T	L	Y	O	E	L	R	U	R
T	Y	K	H	E	T	A	N	L	I	M	H	H	D	D	D	E	D	M	R
E	J	A	T	J	E	N	U	R	A	S	L	M	A	T	A	M	W	I	E
R	U	C	H	P	K	Q	E	A	K	H	K	X	L	O	N	T	D	D	B
M	Z	T	O	N	Y	F	T	V	L	P	Z	L	N	H	O	D	F	I	P
E	O	G	N	I	L	I	A	S	E	W	A	K	A	M	M	A	I	T	S
L	E	K	F	I	G	O	L	F	U	Y	W	B	T	U	E	I	S	Y	A
O	I	L	E	R	R	M	A	E	R	C	E	C	I	G	L	S	H	R	R
N	M	S	F	T	D	N	O	I	T	A	C	A	V	G	L	I	I	M	R
Y	M	U	U	Y	O	H	C	A	E	B	C	T	J	Y	Z	E	N	D	S
R	K	C	O	M	M	A	H	B	C	L	U	A	V	P	F	S	G	P	K
T	R	E	N	O	I	T	I	D	N	O	C	R	I	A	O	S	H	V	R
G	G	S	C	A	I	N	R	Q	K	O	B	R	A	F	T	I	N	G	A
Y	N	M	T	R	X	N	U	O	O	P	C	A	M	P	I	N	G	G	P
L	D	N	O	Z	H	Q	O	W	S	Y	V	S	O	Q	X	K	Q	E	M
A	Q	O	L	C	U	C	Z	G	A	R	D	E	N	I	N	G	N	Q	Z

AIRCONDITIONER
CAMPING
EVENTFUL
GARDENING
HOTDOGS
JULY
MELONS
OUTDOORS
POOL
SAILING
BASEBALL
COOKOUT
FIREFLIES
GOLF
HUMIDITY
LADYBUGS
MUGGY
PARK
RAFTING
VACATION
BEACH
DAISIES
FISHING
HAMMOCK
ICECREAM
LEMONADE
NOSCHOOL
PEACHES
RASPBERRIES
WATERMELON

Bullring Top 10 points as of 06/21/25

SUPER LATE MODELS

POS	#	COMPETITOR	HOMETOWN	POINTS	GAP
1	47W	Brandon Weigle	Middlebourne	218	—
2	3	Travis Brown	Jacksonburg	194	-24
3	32b	Brian Baumberger	Jacobsburg, OH	141	-77
4	15D	Donnie Dotson	West Union	120	-98
5	23s	Sonny Leek	Alma	119	-99
6	11A	Allen Clark	Moundsville	110	-108
7	65	Derek Stefanick	Imperial, PA	102	-116
8	53C	Colten Burdette	Parkersburg	96	-122
9	75	Eddie Carrier Jr	Fairmont	95	-123
10	27	Michael Lake	Uniontown, PA	90	-128

RUSH LATE MODELS

POS	#	COMPETITOR	HOMETOWN	POINTS	GAP
1	19c	George Casto III	Reynoldsville	210	—
2	57	Kyle Thomas	Pennsboro	198	-12
3	5A	AJ Spagnuolo	Shinnston	184	-26
4	36s	Santino Loretta	Shinnston	166	-44
5	93	James Cochran	Martins Ferry, OH	166	-44
6	32j	John Johnson		138	-72
7	34	Brian Nethers	Newark, OH	124	-86
8	88	Dalton Adkins	Kenna	110	-100
9	x14	Robbie Scott	Shinnston	102	-108
10	37	Logan Reed	Pennsboro	100	-110

MODIFIEDS

POS	#	COMPETITOR	HOMETOWN	POINTS	GAP
1	7	Danny Thomas	Friendly	242	—
2	1	Kenny Johnson	Washington	236	-6
3	3	Kyle Thomas	Pennsboro	208	-34
4	10S	Chad Smith	Sardis, OH	189	-53
5	18	Travis Thomas	Middlebourne	164	-78
6	17c	Coleman Evans	Mineral Wells	140	-102
7	5	Bobby Bagley	Mineral Wells	138	-104
8	699	Casey Ash		128	-114
9	13	Brandon McGrady	Salem	126	-116
10	22	Doug Carson	Sistersville	121	-121

EDGE HOTMODS

POS	#	COMPETITOR	HOMETOWN	POINTS	GAP
1	50	Steve Magyar	Wileyville	88	—
2	14	Nick Gorby		250	-38
3	21	Kevin Dotson		234	-54
4	15	Jason Todd	Greenwood	220	-68
5	11H	Michael Moreland	Buckhannon	211	-77
6	18	Carson Thomas	Middelbourne	211	-77
7	B1	Virgil Masters	East Canton, OH	206	-82
8	33	Brian Probst	New Martinsville	177	-111
9	79	Leah Brightwell	Middlebourne	172	-116
10	25	David Mackey	Littleton	115	-173

SPORTMODS

POS	#	COMPETITOR	HOMETOWN	POINTS	GAP
1	91	Kendall Hodge	Parkersburg	284	—
2	53T	Tyler Spencer	Middlebourne	266	-18
3	115	Josalyn Hibbard	Poland, OH	212	-72
4	66	Ronald Craddock	Ellenboro	186	-98
5	33Jr	Eddie Probst	New Martinsville	166	-118
6	333	Joey Lattea	Parkersburg	160	-124
7	613	CJ Dotson		158	-126
8	3	Pat Garrett	Reno, OH	150	-134
9	RX1	Jeff Gorrell		143	-141
10	00	Blake Tasker	Oakland, MD	136	-148

SCDRA 4 CYLINDERS

POS	#	COMPETITOR	HOMETOWN	POINTS	GAP
1	8	Joey Price	St. Marys	282	—
2	28J	Joe Price	St. Marys	270	-12
3	3	Dalton America	West Union	264	-18
4	82	Wes Tennant	New Martinsville	181	-101
5	8UP	Shandy Skinner	Parkersburg	128	-154
6	22MWP	Jacob McDaniel		90	-192
7	15R	Bobby Rymer	Middlebourne	88	-194
8	2	Jason Frazier	Anmoore	83	-199
9	81	Bryce Bolden	New Martinsville	82	-200
10	12	Hunter Stephens	Kenna	50	-232

MWRA SENIOR MINI WEDGES

POS	#	COMPETITOR	HOMETOWN	POINTS	GAP
1	22	Eli Smith	Sistersville	290	-
2	7JR	Cruz Thomas	Friendly	270	-20
3	07J	Joey Miller	Ravenswood	270	-20
4	30	Kyndi Glover	New Martinsville	268	-22
5	30G	Khloe Glover	New Martinsville	232	-58
6	22S	Erickson Smith	Sistersville	228	-62
7	20	Brentley Carson	Sistersville	218	-72
8	25	Eli Mackey	Littleton	164	-126
9	57	Kylee Thomas	Pennsboro	139	-151
10	24A	Aly Baker	Alma	108	-182

MWRA JUNIOR MINI WEDGE

POS	#	COMPETITOR	HOMETOWN	POINTS	GAP
1	7JR	Coen Thomas	Friendly	290	—
2	56	Ki Keene	Belington	270	-20
3	79	Rowen Brightwell	Middlebourne	264	-26
4	57	Kolton Thomas	Pennsboro	260	-30
5	22	Greyson Smith	Sistersville	224	-66
6	118	Tanner Shepherd	Alma	194	-96
7	15	James Cromer	Daley	158	-132
8	44	Kaisley Cromer	Montrose	144	-146
9	L7	Benson Long	Beverly, OH	82	-208
10	99	Emma Simmons	Montrose	68	-222

Rt 23 results

Continued from page B3

Gabe Hutson, 3K Colbey Lattea. **GREEN PLATE:** 22 Landry Phillips. **CLONE 400:** 5M Craig McClung, 12 Dan White, 88 Bobby Kimball, 73T Ronnie Thompson, 2X Justin Leirmo

PREDATOR 350 FEATURE ONE: 1 Jimmy Lattea, 11J Jaron Spencer, 3C Chip Clevenger, 5E Jeremy Evix, 1W Mitch Nichols. **PREDATOR 350 FEATURE TWO:** 83 Kendall Cross, 98 Ryan Lattea, 118 Braelyn Nichols, 8 Harry Yoho, 3KJr Ryley Lattea

CLONE 350 FEATURE ONE: 13 Kyle Gist, 22H Harley Phillips, 3R Chance Rine, 30 Austin Wykert, 12 Jeremy Myer. **CLONE 350 FEATURE TWO:** 5M Craig McClung, 22J Jaron Spencer, 33 Jarrett Thompson, 6 Brody Seckman, 23 Caleb Gist.

The next scheduled race is Friday, July 11, weather permitting, of course. Route 23 Speedway is on WV Route 23, about a mile and a half up from WV Route 18 in Tyler County.

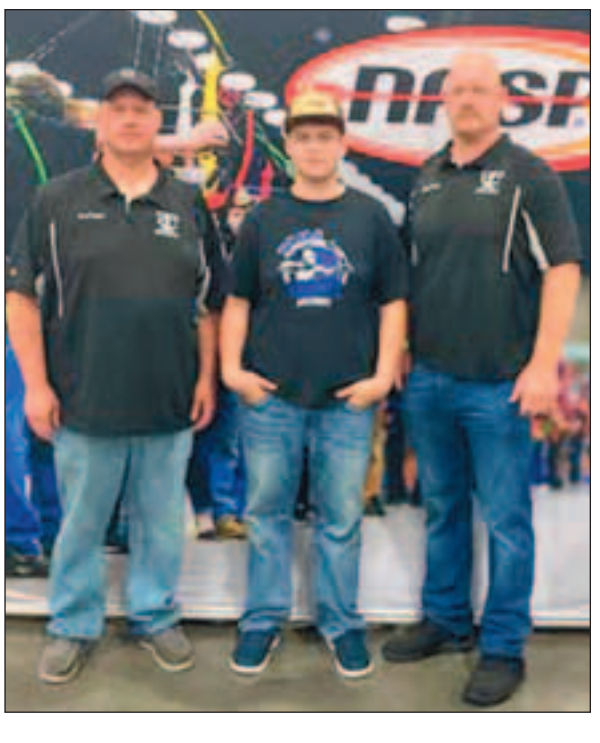
Business Directory

TCHS's Bassett competes at Nationals

Submitted by Coach David Stoller

MYRTLE BEACH – Tristan Bassett stepped up to the line in Myrtle Beach June 5 at the 2025 NASP Championship. It was a wet stormy day in South Carolina but that didn't stop the archers from putting up some impressive points. Tristan lined up at 1:30 p.m. and got off to a great start at 10M then stepped back to 15M.

Then the unthinkable happened, just as archers were finishing up their practice round a loud series of tones followed by instructions to evacuate the building came over the loudspeakers. We made our way outside and after the building was cleared we were able to move back in to continue shooting. We found out later someone pulled the fire alarm unnecessarily and what bad timing as it rattled the shooters who were on the line. He managed to put up 276 points, finish 63rd out of high school boys and represented TCHS in the final step in this 2025 NASP season! Congratulations Tristian on your great season!



Forces gather for 22nd WV JediCon

NEW MARTINSVILLE – For some, Jedicon is a chance to get together with other Star Wars fans, dress as their favorite characters and do some role-playing. For others it's a reunion of old friends who share a hobby, and still others, it's a trade show where collections are completed or a few bucks made.

This year's show had a little something for everyone and for a good cause, as the Saturday, June 14, JediCon WV, Episode XXII, convention raised $2,791.53 for the Children's Miracle Network.

"It's not so much a show, but a reunion," Barry Harter, JediCon WV, explained. "This year is truly going good and there is a lot of foot traffic," Mike McMillan added.

Harter and McMillian are co-organizers of the show, now in its 22nd year and is the original Star Wars convention in the Mountain State. It featured a full day of activities for adults and young Jedi alike. The show was again hosted by New Martinsville's United Methodist Church.

Heavy in cosplay, where people dress the part and immerse in the persona of Star Wars characters, there were demonstrations in swordplay and handling by The Outer Rim Praxeum Lightsaber School of Fairmont and members of the 501st Legion's Garrison Corellia, Rebel Legion's Amancane Base and the Mandalorian Mercs' Black Mountain Guard Clan were on hand.

There were also dozens of vendors selling everything from masks to original hard-to-find collectibles.

"A lot of times people take back more than they bring," Robert Wolfe, a vendor from Morgantown, said.

Frontier BOE OKs teachers' contract

By Charles Winslow

NEWPORT – Teachers in Frontier Local School District will start the school year with a new contract after the Board of Education voted to ratify the agreement at their Tuesday, June 17, meeting.

According to Dallas Tucholski, president of the Frontier Education Association, the three-year contract, which starts July 1 and runs through June 30, 2028, includes a 5 percent salary increase in year one, with a salary opener for years two and three.

"The district wanted this because there is serious concern about what is currently going on at the Ohio Statehouse and the effects that could have on our funding. School funding has long been an issue in Ohio, and it particularly affects rural school districts like Frontier," Tucholski said.

"We added a new MA+30 column to our salary schedule to encourage teachers to continue their education. Previously the highest level was a MA+15," he said, referring to the pay rate for teachers who have a Masters degree, with the +15 and +30 being the pay rate for having 15 or 30 credit hours above the requirement for a Masters.

The contract also creates a new supplemental scale that will promote continuity for extracurricular and coaching and establishes a process where sick days can be transferred between union members in case of need, he added.

Speaking on why the salary for contract years two and three remains open, board member Jeff Knowlton cited Ohio House Bill 335, which would repeal the 10 un-voted property tax mills, which currently fund schools, counties and municipalities.

"We're all as concerned as you all are, and we want to do what's right, but we shall also do what we can. The budget talks are very scary," he said. "They're talking about eliminating inside, which we have to work our way through. We just voted on a really good contract because everyone understood. We all got together and really talked through where we are in the district."

After the meeting, Tucholski said: "I'd like to thank all the members who supported the Frontier Local Education Association, who shared ideas and concerns, and who look after each other and our students.

"I'd like to thank Ms. Brown, Mrs. Howard and the Board for working with us in good faith. We all understand the financial challenges of our district. The Association's vote was unanimous and I think that speaks to the cooperative spirit that we had in negotiations as to how we can take care of our teachers and be fiscally responsible. For us, this contract helps protect teachers against rising costs and also with our ability to recruit and retain new teachers, ultimately benefiting the students and families we serve," he said.

Unlike West Virginia, where salary is largely dictated by the state, in Ohio the teacher's union negotiates the contract directly with a district's board of education.

Troy Hawkins, chief deputy for the Washington County Sheriff's Office, talked about getting a school resource officer into the district and explained the Sheriff has started to prepare a grant application for the Department of Justice's COPS Hiring Grant.

"The way the grant works is basically it pays for the first year. It pays for 75 percent of the officer's salary and benefits, 25 percent of that we would want the school board to pick up.The next year it pays for 50 percent, then the following year 25 percent, then 100 percent would be rested upon the school board," Hawkins explained.

"Now with that being said, that would be 100 percent while they're here for nine months. The three months during the summer, that would fall back onto the sheriff's office." He said they have a memo of understanding with all of the other schools and a total of five resource officers in the county. "This is the last district that would be in our primary jurisdiction that we would like to get one in," he said.

Iin other business, the search to replace Todd Bradford as principal at Frontier High and Middle School continues. Seven applications have been received and four "stood out." Bradford has decided to return to his high school English teaching position.

Three teachers, Amy Kilburn, Amy Powell and Timothy Schenkel, have advanced up the salary schedule from aforementioned MA +15 to MA +30.

The following were listed under non-renewal of supplemental contracts for the completed 2024-25 school year: Athletic Director – Roger Kirkpatrick, HS Head Baseball- Kurt Satterfield, HS Assistant Baseball – Corey Powers, HS Head Softball – Samantha Livingston, HS Assistant Softball – Daniel Hentrix, HS Head Track – Adam Olson, JH Head Softball – Chris Seevers, JH Assistant Softball – Daniel Boone, Dean of Students – Roger Kirpatrick, HS Play Advisor – Zoe Buccella, HS Honor Society – Alissa McPeek, HS FFA – Kurt Bohlen, HS Student Council Advisor – Alissa McPeek, HS/ JH Technology Coordinator – Dallas Tucholski 12th Grade Advisor – Chelsea Warren, 11th Grade Advisor – Jill Cisler, Elisha Congleton, 10th Grade Advisor – Allisa McPeek, 9th Grade Advisor – Jessica Mason, 8th Grade Advisor – Sara Kroll, JH FFA – Kristin Winstanley, JH Student Council – Amy Kilburn, JH Spelling Bee Advisor – Zoe Buccella, MEM Head Teacher – Nicole Reed, NES Headteacher – Jeff Armann, MEM Technology Coordinator – Shama Carson, NES Technology Coordinator – Brad Eddy, MES Spelling Bee Coordinator – Johnny Schmidt, NES Spelling Bee Coordinator – Ashley West, MES Family Nigh Coordinator – Jill Cisler, NES Family Night Coordinator – Bobbie Mendenhall, District Data Manager – Amy Powell, Cafeteria Coordinator – Victoria Cassidy, Transportation Coordinator – William Riggs.

The following were listed under supplemental contracts for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year: Athletic Director – Alissa McPeek, HS Head Baseball – Corey Powers, HS Assistant Baseball – Brent West, HS Head Softball – Samantha Livingston, HS Head Track – Adam Olson, HS Assistant Softball – Daniel Hendrix, Dean of Students – Brian Williams, HS Play Advisor – Zoe Buccella, HS FFA – Kurt Bohlen, HS Student Council Advisor – Alissa McPeek, HS/ JH Technology Coordinator – Dallas Tucholski, 12th Grade Advisor – Chelsea Warren, 11th Grade Advisor – Jill Cisler, 9th Grade Advisor – Ashley Brookover, 8th Grade Advisor – Victoria Cassady, JH FFA – Kristin West, JH Spelling Bee Advisor – Zoe Buccella, MEM Head Teacher – Nicole Reed, NES Headteacher – Jeff Armann, MES Technology Coordinator – Shama Carson, NES Technology Coordinator – Bradley Eddy, NES Spelling Bee Coordinator – Ashley West MES Family Night Coordinator – Jill Cislet, NES Family Night Coordinator – Bobbie Mendenhall, District Data Manager – Amy Powell.

Under retirements: Cheryl Thomas, Newport Secretary, and Marilyn Susie Thomas, Matamoras secretary, will be retiring effective July 31.

The next regular meeting of the Frontier Local School District Board of Education was changed due to scheduling conflicts and will be Tuesday, July 15, at 6 p.m. at the FHMS Media Center.

Matamoras Council asks for, gets help with pool

By Charles Winslow

MATAMORAS, Ohio – Sometimes what it takes is a little help from the community to get things done.

During the 10-minute, regular June 16 meeting of the Matamoras Village Council, a further disappointment about opening of Matamoras' pool was announced. The long-delayed sand tanks, used to filter water, were delivered but not installed.

"We were under the impression the people who delivered the tanks were going to install them, but we got a surprise," Councilman John Schmidt said, adding Mayor Terry Dunn went to Wheeling to buy $1,100 dollars worth of parts.

Dunn said installation was going to be around $2,000. "We thought that they were going to install them. Surprise, big surprise," Schmidt lamented. "There have been a lot of surprises," Dunn added.

Schmidt then asked if there was anybody willing to help to get the pool up and running as quickly as possible. "It's been long enough.

And lo and behold, after the meeting a local man, working for Appalachian Oilfield Services, AOS, as well as other volunteers, stepped up.

rLess than four days after the call went out, the installation was completed Thursday, June 20.

"We are waiting to test the system and see if everything works," Councilman Blaze Amos told The INNformer. "Both sand tanks for the filtration system were hooked up along with one of the pumps that was in need of replacing," he continued. "AOS, Friends of the Pool, honestly, made this possible. Friends of the Pool helped cover the additional unexpected cost and AOS provided parts. Ford Cisler and Mayor Terry Dunn honestly made this last phase of the pool renovations possible! So a huge thank you to them is needed."

Besides money raised at the Memorial Day Carnival in Matamoras, the Marietta Community Foundation announced a $10,900 contribution in May for the pool through their Community Impact Grant, for vital repairs to ensure its safe and efficient operation for public use.

Council also voted to accept a $1,000 grant from the Washington County Health Department supporting the New Matamoras Farmers Market, noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays during the summer at 1200 Park Ave. in Matamoras.

After talking about taking care of weeds, Council Member Jane Beattey said someone has been ripping through town in their vehicle and did doughnuts in the parking lot of the old auction house, "then they ripped back up the road" as well as motorcycles racing through town.

"Luckily, they stayed out of the pool's parking lot," she added.

The next regular meeting of Matamoras Village Council is Monday, July 1, at 7 p.m. at the village hall on Grandview Avenue. The public is encouraged to attend or watch via the village's Facebook page, where they livestream meeting.

New superintendent for Switzerland of Ohio

By Charles Winslow

WOODSFIELD, Ohio – The Switzerland of Ohio Local School District Board of Education has chosen a new superintendent to replace retiring Phil Ackerman.

During their regular session Thursday, June 12, at the Swiss Hills Career Center, the board voted four-to-one to hire Jeremy Beardmore as superintendent of the 1,942 student district.

Board member Jerry Gust was the lone no vote and Beardmore's three-year contract starts July 1.

Beardmore is from Monroe County and is a member of the 2000 graduating class from Monroe Central. He received a bachelors of science from Ohio University, and a masters of education from Salem University.

"I've been the assistant superintendent for the last eight years at Mid-East Career and Technical Centers, which is the Zanesville area," Beardsmore said. "I graduated from Monroe Central in 2000 and after that I got my undergrad at Ohio University. And then I came back and taught high school math at Beallsville High School for seven years." He then went on to Ohio Valley Educational Service Center in Cambridge, where he did curriculum and administrative work before going to Mid-East.

"It's truly an honor to return to a district I consider home and I want to sincerely thank the Board of Education for this opportunity," Beardmore told The INNformer.

"I'm excited to get started. While I'm fortunate to already know many of the dedicated individuals here, I look forward to connecting with the rest of the team and learning more about the outstanding work happening across the district. My goal is to provide strong, supportive leadership that empowers our staff and helps us collectively create the best possible opportunities for every student we serve," he said.

Beardmore replaces Phil Ackerman, who returned in July 2021 to lead the school district after serving as the director of administrative services at the Ohio Valley Educational Service Center and previously retired from the Switzerland of Ohio district after working for 30 years in various positions, including a stint as superintendent.

During the public forum, incoming freshman Lola Moore was the sole speaker to comment on the board's surprise move to suspend classes at Beallsville High School at a special board meeting Thursday, May 29.

At that meeting the board voted unanimously, without discussion, to suspend grades 9-12 and send the students to Woodsfield's Monroe Center and Hannibal's River High School for the upcoming school year, effectively leaving Beallsville as a K-8 school.

"I feel like we were just thrown away, like this was done so dirty. We didn't get any notice. They posted it on our school page right in the middle of school," Moore told the board.

"I would have been the fifth generation of my family that would have graduated from Beallsville and that chance was taken away from me. I don't understand how these people are able to throw us away like trash and not feel any remorse whatsoever," Moore said. "They never gave a real reason why they shut down Beallsville High School."

After the meeting, Ackerman said there wasn't a good time to make the announcement the school would be closed.

"I don't know when there would have been a good time to do that. The Beallsville community loves their school," Ackerman said. "It's three months before the next school year starts, so they've got an opportunity to decide which school they want to go to."

He later said open houses held at both Monroe Central and River High Schools were well attended and a large majority of the students and their parents attended them.

According to information provided by the school district, enrollment at Beallsville High School has declined, in all high school grades, from a total of 91 in 2014 to just 47 in 2024.

A representative from the Barnesville Exempted Village School District also told The INNformer another 47 students, from all grades, cross the county line from Beallsville's service area to attend their schools.

"The decision made by the Board of Education was based on declining enrollment over time," Ackerman explained.

Liza Spence also spoke on her desire to expand LifeWise Academy to the school district. LifeWise provides Bible education for public school students during school hours.

Reminding the board the state's Attorney General said releasing the student for religious-based programs, such as LifeWise, is a state law, Spence said it's a character and moral value teaching class that is Christ-centered. Noting she has to have a minimum of three different churches represented on her local board, she continued it is not just Woodsfield's schools she is targeting. "My goal is in three years all the schools would be incorporated into the program," adding there would be programs in different areas.

"Most of you know how hard I have worked to make this district good and that's what I want to continue to do. Three things that we all know that are negative in our society: depression, anxiety, suicide. They're at the highest levels that they've ever been. The lowest thing that we have is parents being involved with their families. We are having less and less people going to church, doing Christian things, doing any type," she lamented.

"It doesn't have to be just Christian, any religious type things, whatsoever. So I really want to be a positive for these kids in the district. To give them something to fell good about themselves," she said.

During Ackerman's last report as superintendent, he noted 21 students were placed in the early work placement program during the 2024-25 school year. The students worked a total of 6,034 hours and earned over $75,000 while working during the year.

"Currently, there are five students doing internships at American Heavy Plate,"Ackerman said, adding they were making between $10 and $15 an hour.

He also said the district is in the pre-application process of a grant through the Appalachian Regional Commission. If the district is able to participate they will go through an application process for a $500,000 grant for workforce development.

"Most of that money would be used here at the Career Center for workforce development, support those programs, professional development for folks, equipment for some of our classes, for manufacturing, for heavy equipment, whatever the program might be. But we haven't written the grant yet. We put in a pre-application for that much money," Ackerman said.

The next regular meeting of the Switzerland of Ohio Local School District Board of Education is Thursday, July 10, at 7 p.m. at the Swiss Hills Career Center. The public is encouraged to attend.

Wetzel Commission alters magisterial boundaries

By Ashley Johnson

NEW MARTINSVILLE – Changing boundaries of two magisterial districts and preparing to livestream meetings were among Tuesday, June 17, agenda items for Wetzel County Commissioners during a 30-minute regular meeting.

Commissioners approved changing boundaries of magisterial districts 1 and 2 to coincide with boundaries of voting precincts 10 and 11, both of which will now be entirely in Magisterial District 1. Also, the boundaries now follow West Virginia House of Delegates lines for districts 7 and 72.

The stated purpose of the change was to simplify elections because having precincts split between two different magisterial districts was making it difficult for voters to determine where they were supposed to vote.

Samuel Richardson, transportation planning director for the Belomar Regional Council, ***shown at right,*** received commission approval for a requested $2,500 to support their Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Grant application.

The Belomar Regional Council was established by the West Virginia Legislature in 1969 as one of 11 regional councils created throughout West Virginia. Belomar's primary purpose was to foster cooperation for the planning and development of community and economic development and transportation projects. Its service area originally included Ohio and Marshall counties in West Virginia and Belmont County in Ohio. That service area was expanded in 1972 to include Wetzel County.

The Regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan is part of a U.S. Department of Transportation-funded grant to develop a regional safety plan to reduce fatal and severe injury accidents within Belamor's four-county service area.

Richardson explained they must match $50,000 of the $300,000 grant and are asking $2,500 from each of the counties.

Wetzel County Prosecutor Tim Haught asked if installing sidewalks north along Route 2 between the bridge and the plaza could be included in the safety plan. He said the section has seen several vehicle/pedestrian accidents in recent years.

Chuck Clegg, representing the New Martinsville Rotary Club, requested the commission be a sponsor of the club's annual golf tournament. The tournament funds the Rotary Club's scholarships awarded to local high school seniors each year, Clegg explained. Commissioners agreed to pay $125 to be a sponsor.

Commissioner Kelly Nelson clarified that starting in July, the commission will be meeting the first four Tuesdays of every month. The first and third Tuesdays will be for regular commission meetings. Nelson said the second and fourth Tuesday meetings will be called "planning sessions," and will still be open to the public, as required by Sunshine Laws. They will have an agenda posted prior to the meeting, per state requirements. All meetings will

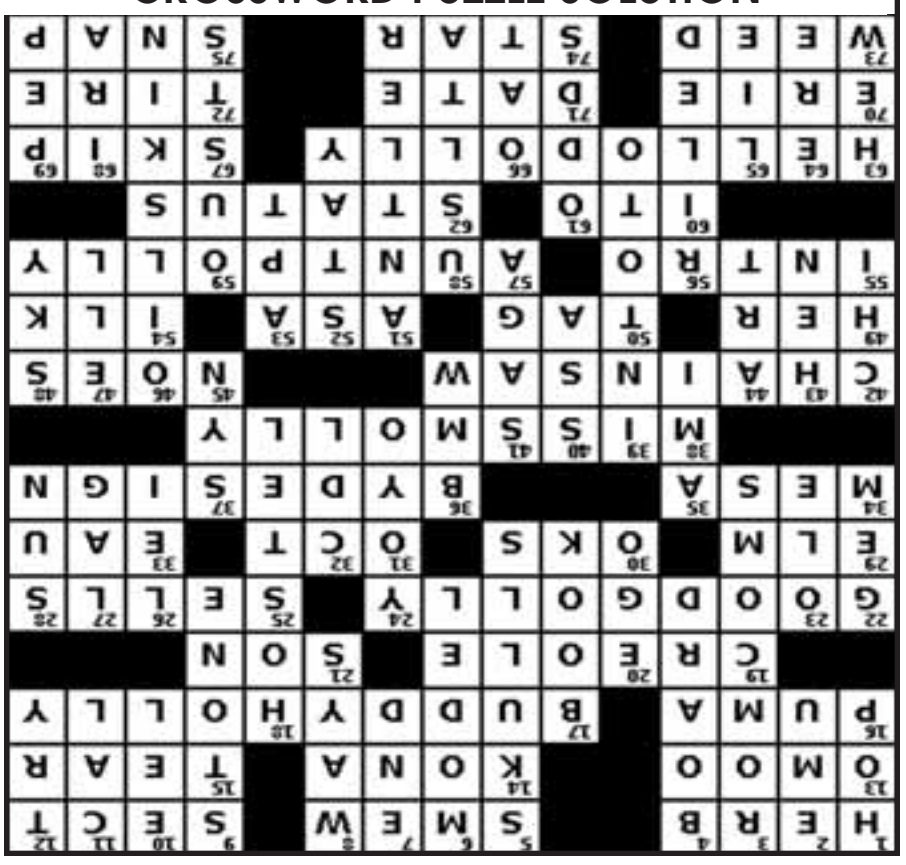
begin promptly at 9:30 a.m in the commission's chamber.

Project Coordinator Bengy Swanson was directed to purchase and set up equipment to livestream commission meetings. The commission has yet to decide which streaming platform they are going to use, but Facebook and YouTube were mentioned as potential candidates.

West Virginia county school board meetings are already livestreamed and Wetzel County Board of Education, as well as Tyler County Board of Education meetings can be viewed on their Youtube pages.

Wetzel County Commission regular meetings are typically held the first and third Tuesday of the month. The next regular meeting is Tuesday, July 1, at 9:30 a.m. at the Wetzel County Commission building, 257 Main St. in New Martinsville. The public is encouraged to attend.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLUTION



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA

JULY 3

ALL-AMERICAN DIRT RACING

Join them Thursday, July 3, at Tyler County Speedway for an action-packed night of racing and fireworks! RUSH Late Models – Eaton/Childers KING OF THE RING. $4,000 TO WIN! Also Mid-Season Championship Night means All classes race for DOUBLE POINTS! Also racing: Super Late Models, Modifieds, Tri-State Street Stocks, Sport Mods, Hot Mods, 4 Cyl., Mini Wedges. FIREWORKS SHOW to cap off the night! Gates open: 4 p.m. Action: 5:30 p.m. Grandstands: $15 / Kids 10 & under: FREE. Pits: $40 / Kids 5 & under in pits: FREE. Don't miss this explosive night of family fun, fierce competition and patriotic celebration at the Bullring!

WOODSFIELD FIREWORKS FESTIVAL

The Woodsfield Fireworks Festival is slated Thursday, July 3, at 6:30 p.m. at Monroe Memorial Park in Woodsfield. There will be a walking parade with a 6 p.m. line up at the Field House, open volleyball, tennis and pickleball. Live music featuring Matt VanFossen, sponsored by Community Strong Committee, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. with fireworks, sponsored by the Woodsfield Volunteer Fire Department at dusk. Food truck offerings will include funnel cakes, elephant ears, deep-fried pizza and deep fried Oreos and Pop-tarts by The Frizzle as well as shaved ice and cotton candy by Penguin Playground. Bring a lawn chair!

JULY 4TH

NEW MARTINSVILLE: ARTS IN THE PARK

The tradition of Arts in the Park on July 4 will continue in 2025 at Bruce Park in New Martinsville. The Friday festivities will last from 1-4 p.m. under the sponsorship of the New Martinsville Parks & Recreation Commission and ArtsLink. Don't forget your lawn chair! Carman Harman will serve again as Master of Ceremonies. Arts and crafts demonstrations, along with exhibits by artists and craftspeople from Wetzel and Tyler counties in West Virginia and Monroe County, Ohio, will be featured. There will be music throughout the afternoon by a live band. New Martinsville Parks & Recreation Commission will provide frozen treats and cold beverages. All activities during the day are free. Food will also available for purchase. Lots of fun for the kiddies, too! ArtsLink is committed to providing universal accessibility wherever possible. Persons with special needs may contact ArtsLink at 304-455-2278 to request assistance.

WHEELING SYMPHONY & FIREWORKS

With food trucks, a beer tent, and a fantastic fireworks show, this Fourth of July tradition is a favorite among locals! Join the Wheeling Symphony Orchestra for its annual Celebrate America Tour, conducted by Maestro John Devlin and featuring patriotic favorites alongside Broadway classics, this year's guest artist soprano Vanessa Beccera will join them to perform a variety of patriotic and operatic songs. followed by fireworks at dusk! The concert will begin at 8 p.m., with the fireworks show at the end of the concert. At Wheeling Heritage Port, 1201 Water St. Admission is free and open to the public but donations to the WSO are appreciated. Contact 304-232-6191 for more information.

MARIETTA: ALL AMERICAN PARADE & PICNIC

Parade starts at 10 a.m. on 4th Street by the levee and ends at Front Street Armory. Followed by the 2nd annual AMVETS Independence Day Family Picnic, which is free and open to the public, at Gold Star Park, 801 Lancaster St. Live music with Billy Reiter, games for children, delicious picnic foods, corn on the cob, desserts, cold beverages, shuttle service for parking. This is a gift to the community from Members of AMVETS Post 1788 of Marietta, with support from DAV Chapter 52, County American Legions, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Washington County Veteran Service Office, and Members of the ELKS Lodge and their youth group, ANTLERS. Everyone is welcome. Come and celebrate your freedoms as Americans, and have a fun time with friends and family.

FAIRMONT: READING OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Event runs from 10 a.m. Friday, July 4, to 4 p.m. at Prickett's Fort in Fairmont. Reading of the Declaration of Independence at noon. Come hear the reading of one of the greatest documents ever written, second only to the U.S. Constitution. Regular admission applies. Half-price admission for all U.S. veterans and active military. Prickett's Fort State Park is 2 miles off I-79 at exit 139, at 88 State Park Road. For more info call 304.363.3030 or https://www.prickettsfort.org/.

WASHINGTON: 4TH OF JULY SPECTACULAR

Celebrate freedom on Independence Day at Ohio Valley Speedway with an amazing night of racing planned featuring the RUSH Late Model Series racing for a $4,000 to win touring event. Plus the recently added USAC Midwest Thunder Midgets and a huge fioreworks display planned for intermission! This is a RUSH Late Models Series touring event, with an average car count of around 40 and names like... Wondering, Drellos, Knowles, Easler, Dillinger (2025 winner at OVS) and more.

PINE GROVE CELEBRATES

Event begins at 5 p.m. with inflatables and food vendors at the Byrd Center park on North Fork Road. Fireworks to follow at dusk.

HUNDRED: LIVE MUSIC

Live music at the C-Note Amphitheater on Pennsylvania Avenue. Wesley Wayman Sayer will play 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Food available, bring lawn chair!

JULY 5

HUNDRED HOMETOWN CELEBRATION

The town of Hundred continues their 4th of July Celebration Saturday, July 5, at the Town Hall parking lot. SCHEDULE: NOON: Independence Day Parade from Dairy Dream to HHS. Lineup begins at 11 a.m., with a cutoff at 11:45 a.m. Participation is free of charge, with prizes awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place; $150, $100 and $75, respectively.1 p.m. Opening Ceremonies by Mayor Charles Goff. 2 p.m. Festivities begin with vendors, crafters, games, food and live entertainment. Magnus' Marvelous Balloon Magic, face painting, bounce house, cornhole tournament, dunk tank and more! Entertainment lineup: 2 p.m. Mike Macyda, 2:50 p.m. Kaylee Jo, 3:30 p.m. Rick & Jessica w/ The Birch River Band, 4:20 p.m. Emily Pendergast, 4:55 p.m. Sam Longwell, 5:25 p.m, Wesley Wayman Sayer, 6:15 p.m. Talan Chambers, 7:10 p.m. Aaron Hostutler & Michael Stewart, 8:05 p.m. Barbara Lynn & The Silver Eagles Band. Fireworks to follow at dark. Bring your lawn chair!

JULY 6

SISTERSVILLE: PICNIC IN THE PARK

Sistersville's annual Picnic in the Park Independence celebration is Sunday, July 6, in the city park featuring entertainment, games, a live entertainment and fireworks by Zambelli about 9:30 p.m. This year's entertainment will be provided by Roger Richards and The Travellers. A free swim at the park's pool is courtesy of the Sistersville Planning Commission. Food concessions and crafters will be available. Bring your lawn chair!

AROUND THE REGION

JOSEPH MILLS

BINGO AT JOSEPH MILLS

They play bingo at the Joseph Mills Community Center on the second Friday of the month, weather permitting. Early-bird at 6:30 p.m. and regular at 7 p.m. Joseph Mills Community Center is at 12522 Middle Island Rd., Alma, WV.

SISTERSVILLE

HEALTHY GRANDFAMILIES & KINSHIP CARE GROUP

Healthy Grandfamilies & Kinship Care Group will meet the second Thursday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Meeting location alternates between the Tyler County 4-H Campgrounds and Sistersville Church of Christ, Annex Building. Call the Tyler County Extension Office at 304-758-2101 for more information or meeting location.

MONTHLY FREE LUNCH, FREE NECESSITIES OFFERED

Faith Hands Free Community Breakfast and Necessities Closet, a mission of Sistersville First United Methodist Church, is cutting out "breakfast" in favor of "lunch" for the summer from 10 a.m. until noon. This free hot meal will be offered in our social hall, or meals can be enjoyed outdoors in the church park, right across the street from Tabitha's Closet.

The community is encouraged to attend the event, on the third Saturday of every month. No proof of income or identity is required to receive a meal or up to 6 free hygiene items from the list. The mission of Faith Hands is to show the love of Jesus Christ by providing items that promote health and well-being to the members of the community and to share a free hot meal in fellowship.

Everyone is welcome to come and share a meal. If you need hygiene items, we will happily assist you. To support this ministry, you can mail a check to S.F.U.M.C.-Faith Hands, P.O. Box 185 Sistersville, WV 26175. Or drop off hygiene items such as dish soap, toilet paper, diapers, etc. at the church during office hours.

MIDDLEBOURNE

4-H FOOD DRIVE PROJECT

Tyler County 4-H holds an ongoing food drive service project for the Stealey Green Center Food Pantry in Middlebourne. All food donations are welcome. Donations can be brought to the Tyler County Extension Office, 311 Main St., from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or dropped off at their door after hours. Questions, contact them at 304-758-2101.

TYLER COUNTY SPEEDWAY

JUNE

Saturday, June 28: Long Reach Federal Credit Union **MONSTER TRUCK BASH** is BACK at Tyler County Speedway! Get ready for an adrenaline-fueled night featuring: National Champion **AMPED UP**, Fan Favorite **RESCUE RACER**, as seen on TV; the legendary **AWESOME KONG**, and the king of the monsters **GODZILLA**! • **Monster Trucks:** Pre-Race 'Meet & Greet' & Ride truck before smashing action! • **Plus:** Jeep Rally, Sport Mods, Hot Mods, 4 Cylinders • **5th Annual PJ Wright "Buckwheat" Memorial for Mini Wedges** • Duke Travis Memorial Muddy Road 100 Enduro! **General Admission:** $20 | Kids (3–10): $10 | Ages 2 & under: FREE. Pit Pass: $30. **Gates open:** 4 p.m. | **Action starts:** 5:30 p.m. Huge thanks to Long Reach Federal Credit Union for sponsoring this wild night of family fun! Don't miss out – it's going to be LOUD, WILD, and UNFORGETTABLE at America's Baddest Bullring!

JULY

Thursday, July 3: 22nd Eaton/Childers King Of The Ring $4,000 To Win Rush Late Models. *See previous page for more details.*

Saturday, July 19: PACK THE TRACK Night – Free General Admission & Autograph Night. Inaugural Scott Irvin Memorial race. Regular racing. Mod Lites added.

Sunday, July 27: 13th Annual Bud Weigle Memorial for Late Models; regular racing all other classes.

TYLER COUNTY FAIR WEEK EVENTS AT TRACK

Monday, July 28: Demolition Derby at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, July 29: Sport Mods, Hot Mods, 4 Cylinders, Mini Wedges starts at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 30: Flat kart racing at 7 p.m.

Thursday, July 31: NTPA Truck & tractor pulls at 7 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 1: CS Promotions Truck & tractor pulls at 7 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 2: ATV drag races, registration 4 p.m., elimination 6 p.m.

AUGUST

Saturday, Aug. 16: Season Championship all classes.

Labor Day Weekend – Country Roads

Thursday, Aug. 28: Open Practice all classes [Steel Block Late Models, Modifieds, EDGE Hotmods, Sportmods, SCDRA 4 Cylinders, MWRA Senior Mini Wedges, SUuper Late Models, RUSH Late Models, Street Stocks, Mod Lites, MWRA Junior Mini Wedges] & Pit Parking

Friday, Aug. 29: $2,000 Country Roads 25 For Late Models — $2,000 Blue Ridge Mountain 30 Modified Mafia Tour — $700 Tri-State Street Stocks — $1,000 Hot Mods — Almost Heaven 20 Mod Lites $550 to win. Complete show all other classes.

Saturday, Aug. 30: $3,000 Country Roads 30 Late Models — $5,000 Blue Ridge Mountain 40 Modified Mafia Tour. 6th Annual Bill Stivason Memorial Almost Heaven 25 Mod Lites $1116 To Win / Old Skool Vintage Tour Prelims / Sport Mod Prelims / Scdra 4 Cyl Prelims.

Sunday, Aug. 31: $20,000 Country Roads 100 ULMS Late Models — $4,000 Back Road Rumble 30 RUSH Late Models — $5,000 Dark And Dusty 30 for SCDRA 4-Cylinders — $1,000 Appalachian Mountains Highway 30 ASMT Sport Mods — Red Clay Rumble 20 For Old Skool Kool Vintage Tour — Rough Road Wheelman Non-Qualifier For RUSH Late Models.

Regular classes/show runs weekly unless specifically mentioned. Those are Super Late Models, Crate Late Models, Modifieds, Hot Mods, Sport Mods, 4 Cylinders and Mini Wedges.

About Tyler County Speedway: Located near Middlebourne, West Virginia, Tyler County Speedway has been thrilling fans since 1974. Known as "America's Baddest Bullring," it offers some of the most competitive dirt track racing in the region, drawing drivers and fans from across the country to its weekly Saturday night racing from March to August. Featuring a high-banked 1/4-mile "bullring" renowned for its thrilling 3- and 4-wide racing action, this motorsports venue is owned by the Tyler County Fair Association and promoted by Next Generation Promotions. The speedway is 3-1/2 miles South of Middlebourne on State Route 18 at the Tyler County Fairgrounds, just 2 hours south of Pittsburgh and 2.5 hours east of Columbus, Ohio.

For more info, visit: Tyler County Speedway's Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/thebullringwv or on the web at tylercountyspeedwayonline.com

FRIENDLY

TYLER ROD AND GUN CLUB SETS 2025 SHOOT SCHEDULE

The Tyler Rod and Gun Club has announced their 2025 Scheduled Shoots and the Defensive Pistol League Shoots. All shoots are open to the public. **Twenty-Two Caliber Shoots** are scheduled for the following Saturdays with sign-up at 9:30 a.m. and shooting starting at 10 a.m.: July 5, Aug. 2 and Sept. 6. **Defensive Pistol League Shoots** will be held Saturdays: July 19, Aug. 16 and Sept. 20. Sign-ups at 9 a.m. to noon with shooting starting at 10 a.m. Tyler Rod and Gun Club is a private 60+ acre facility at 155 Shiloh Road in Friendly. From WV Route 2, go out Friendly Hill Road about 5.8 miles and turn right onto Shiloh Road. The club's driveway is just before the little church on the left. For more information on the club visit their Facebook page or www.tylerwvrodandgunclub.org.

PADEN CITY

PCPL SUMMER READING

Summer Reading Program Schedule Fridays @ Noon. July 11 – Color with LEGO. July 18 – Art Fun. July 25 – Colors of the Universe. And Save the Date! Noggin the Sled Dog is bringing her human, Karen to tell about running the Iditarod in Alaska Wednesday July 30, at 1 p.m.! Paden City Public Library is at 114 South 4th Ave. Phone: 304-337-9333.

TOPS MEETS WEDNESDAYS

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Chapter WV0542 meets Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. at the Valley Church, Paden City. Join their support group and begin your journey to a healthier you. For more information contact Sue at 304-337-8047.

HAPPY TIMERS SENIOR CITIZENS GROUP RESUMES

Regular monthly meetings of Paden City Happy Timers senior citizens group are the 2nd Thursday of each month at Paden City Senior Center, 112 S. 4th Ave. Wetzel and Tyler county residents ages 55 and up are invited to join. The building is available for rent for small birthday, anniversary, baby shower, reunion and get-togethers. Cost is $10 per hour (includes set up, function and cleanup times). Seating is available for 30 to 40 people with stove, microwave and refrigerator. Call 304-337-8130 and leave message.

FAIRMONT

COLONIAL KIDS DAYS SET AT PRICKETTS FORT

2025 Colonial Kids Days at Pricketts Fort are slated Wednesday, July 9, July 23, Aug. 6. One of their most popular programs, this day focuses on 18th-century life through a child's eyes. Bring the kids to the fort to experience a full day of fun and educational activities which will include daily chores in the fort, life in the militia, colonial children's games, and a craft. The child must be accompanied by an adult. Regular admission applies. Tickets must be purchased at the Visitor Center and includes a tour of the Fort and Job Prickett House in addition to all special activities listed. Tickets are $8 for adults, $6 for seniors, and $4 for children ages 6 –12 (Children under 6 and members of the Pricketts Fort Memorial Foundation are FREE). For more information about this or other events visit www.prickettsfort.org or contact (304) 363-3030. Prickett's Fort State Park is 2 miles off I-79 at exit 139, at 88 State Park Road. For more info call 304.363.3030 or https://www.prickettsfort.org/.

- OHIO -

ARVILLA

ICE CREAM SOCIAL JULY 19

The Arvilla CEOS Ice Cream Social is Saturday, July 19, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Arvilla Community Building on Arvilla Road. There will be an auction, live music, kids games and, of course, ice cream!

SARDIS

MT. OLIVE VBS

"True North" Bible School at Mt. Olive Church of Sardis is Sunday, June 29, through Thursday, July 3, at 6 p.m. Classes for toddlers to teens. For more info, call 740-483-1029.

WOODSFIELD

MUSIC IN THE PARK - 2025

Join them for an incredible series of live music and fun at Woodsfield City Park! Mark your calendars for the 1st Friday of May, June and August from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and bring your lawn chair for an evening of entertainment, delicious food, and community spirit.

AUG. 1: Rick & Jessica with the Birch River Band ~Treat yourself to goodies from the Stalder Family Ice Cream Trailer and Shreff's Hometown BBQ. **Location:** Woodsfield City Park (Creamery/Mill Streets). FREE ADMISSION!

This event is proudly brought to you by the Community Strong Committee ~ Bringing Community Together.

GET INVOLVED, JOIN KIWANIS

The Woodsfield group meets every Tuesday at noon at Woodsfield First United Methodist Church (lower level), 136 N. Main St. Lunch is provided. Their current projects include Breakfast with Santa, college scholarships, coats for kids, Thanksgiving dinner and more! Benefits of joining include: fostering friendships, networking, collaboration, positive mentorship, giving back and community connection. FREE 2025 memberships for new members. For more information email Alyssa (A.J.) Stephens at stephens.967@osu.edu.

@ MONROE THEATRE

Unless otherwise noted, all shows start at 7 p.m. at the historic Monroe Theatre, 104 Main St., in Woodsfield. For more info or to purchase tickets, call the Box Office at **866-537-0413.** Box office is open Monday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Get tickets from anywhere at www.monroetheatretickets.com.

Free matinees @ 2 p.m.: Free matinees for all continue each Tuesday and Thursday at 2 p.m. Doors open 30 minutes before showtime.

Check Facebook for WMCR new programming.

MONROE LIBRARY EVENTS

Follow Monroe Country District Library on Facebook for more info on their events. Visit Monroe County District Library, 96 Home Ave. in Woodsfield, Ohio. Phone: 740-472-1954. Hours are: Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday & Thursday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MATAMORAS

MONTHLY BOOK TASTINGS OFFERED

Stop by the New Matamoras Branch between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month for the monthly Book Tasting, a chance to sample different books & authors. Stop in and sample some new authors, you're sure to find something tasty! You'll get to sample excerpts from a variety of books. Hopefully, you'll find something that suits your taste. The goal is to help participants discover something new to read. Let us help you find a new favorite! This event is for adults ages 18+ and no registration is required.

New Matamoras Branch Library is at 100 Merchant St. Have questions about an event or need to register? Call 740-865-3386.

HANNIBAL

BROKEN TIMBER OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER

Consider joining the not-for-profit Broken Timber Outdoor Education Center. Members can use the library, make jigs and sinkers in the lead lab; borrow any of the loaner rod and reels; check out items in the museum. You can take any of the many classes, such as trapper education, making fishing lures or flys, even take a hunter eduction class. You can join a naturalist on a field trip and learn what foods nature has to offer. Want to join Broken Timber? Call Lester Jones at 740-512-5053. Fee is $20 for adults per calendar year. Children are free with adult membership.

The **annual fundraising banquet** is Saturday, Sept 20. For table and ticket pricing, call John Hupp @ 740-213-5232 or email the fund raising committee @ brokentimberfundraising@gmail.com.

Broken Timber Outdoor Education Center is at 2722 State Route 7 in Clarington. Call 740-213-3880. They welcome birthday parties, school field trips, as well as 4-H and FFA events.

*To get your event listed here: Email details to editor@movinformer.com **at least** 3 weeks prior to event. There is no charge for this listing. Be sure the body of your email includes all pertinent information — who, what, when, where and why. Attached flyers are OK.*