



Tornado's 15th anniversary
See pages 4, 6

Changes to tax code credit approved at latest Walbridge council meeting

By Nicholas Huenefeld
Press News Editor

There wasn't a lot on the agenda at the June 4 village council meeting in Walbridge, but it included some important items.

The village currently has a 1.5 percent tax rate, which isn't changing. However, mayor Ed Kolanko said for at least the past 30 years, there has been a one percent tax credit, or reciprocity, for those working outside the village.

With its third reading on June 4, that credit will change to 0.5 percent beginning with the 2026 tax year, so it won't truly affect residents who work outside the village until they file their taxes by the April 2027 deadline.

Kolanko said it's a moving number, but the village's best estimation for revenue generation with the adjustment will be approximately \$30,000 per year. It also brings Walbridge more in line with the rate of other local communities, such as Millbury.

"Millbury has a 1.5% tax rate, and I think their reciprocity is 0.5 percent," Kolanko said. "Most places have a one-percent kind of net effective tax rate. So, with us being at 1.5 with a half percent (credit), we're a net one percent."

Kolanko added that the new money generated will be put back into the community for much needed improvements, and it will help with grant applications.

"We need to do more infrastructure," he said. "We need to do more road improvements. Nothing's getting cheaper. It's definitely a revenue that we're going to put back into the community."

SUPPORTING THE POLICE

The village is sponsoring a campaign to support the police department with yard signs that can be requested for free. The effort is in coordination with National Police Week, which took place in May.

"It's a way for people to visually show that they support police officers."

Continued on page 2

Quote of The Week

Winning these games is the best feeling ever.

Landon Eversman
See page 10

the Press

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Homecoming fun
See page 3

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Prism Awards honor local individuals and businesses

By Press Staff Writer

The Eastern Maumee Bay Chamber of Commerce hosted the annual Prism Awards on May 29 at Maumee Bay State Park Lodge, celebrating the outstanding businesses, organizations and individuals making a difference in our community.

The event, hosted by WTOL's Chrys Peterson and Oregon's Larry Schaffer, was deemed a celebration of the businesses and individuals who inspire, lead, and strengthen our community.

Each winner is making a remarkable impact and shaping the future of our region through dedication and service.

The 2025 winners are:

- Nonprofit of the Year: Oregon

Pictured are: At top (L to R) – Oregon assistant chief of police Ryan Spangler, Oregon councilwoman Beth Ackerman, Oregon councilman Steve Salander, Oregon city administrator Joel Mazur, Oregon fire chief Clayton O'Brien and Oregon recreation program coordinator Hank Fox. Top right – Eastern Maumee Bay Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Kurtovic speaks to the attendees. To the left – Northwood High School's Alexa Urbanyi is pictured with her Young Person of the Year award. (Photos by Omar Smaidy Photography)

Northwood Rotary Club
Large Business of the Year: Hillabrand & Sons Construction

Newcomer of the Year: Happy Hideaway
Small Business of the Year: Pet Finatics
Silver Business of the Year: Alan Miller Jewelers

Person of the Year: Jeremiah Diegel
Young Person of the Year: Juakeen Baker (Lake HS) & Alexa Urbanyi (Northwood HS)

The event also celebrated several milestone anniversaries as a way to thank area businesses for their continued commitment to the community. They included:

- 130 Years: Toledo Refining Company
- 70 Years: Christ UMC Oregon Ohio and Rudolph Libbe Inc
- 60 Years: The GAF Society and Buckeye Broadband
- 30 Years: Oregon Senior Center and Heavy Duty Muffler & Truck Repair
- 15 Years: Hillabrand & Sons Construction
- 5 Years: Cleveland Cliffs

Genoa completes Phase 1 of Town Hall historic roof overhaul

By Nicholas Huenefeld
Press News Editor

Village administrator Thomas Bergman was excited to debut a new finial atop the Genoa Town Hall and Opera House on the first day of the Genoa Homecoming Festival May 29.

As part of a project intended to remove the existing asbestos roofing on the bell tower and replace the roof with a slate and copper version that would match the original roof from the 1800s, Bergman and other area officials worked with state senator Theresa Gavarone to obtain a \$100,000 grant through the state's One-Time Strategic Community Investment Fund.

"Without her help, this project would not have been possible," Bergman said.

The Genoa Opera Hall is listed in the

“Without her help, this project would not have been possible.”

National Register of Historic Places. It is classified as the oldest free-standing municipal building in Ottawa County.

Bergman said the first step was to figure out what type of slate they should use as the only picture they had of the original roof was in black and white.

"Thankfully, contractors reviewed the

few original slate tiles we had on hand and immediately identified their modern version, North Country Black and Vermont Unfading Green."

Precision Slate & Tile out of Columbus was the low bidder for the project, and Bergman said they did a great job.

"These shingles are rated for 150 years, so we will need to reroof in the year 2175," Bergman said. "Tell your great-grandchildren."

For the finial, the goal was to get as close to the original design as possible. Village officials do not have the original finial, as the bell tower was removed some time in the 1950s or 1960s. A new bell tower was constructed in 1978 during the town hall renovation and lifted into place that

Continued on page 2

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Walbridge Police Chief Ken Campbell (right) is pictured with Mayor Ed Kolanko and Kolanko's children with one of the signs thanking police. (Submitted photo)

Walbridge council

Continued from front page

cers," Kolanko said. "As the mayor and having our own police department, it's very important, the job that they do. It's also important that they recognize and feel that what they do out there is important.

"Driving by and seeing somebody that has a yard sign, it's uplifting. It's like, 'Hey, these people appreciate us.' I think that that goes a long way in a small community."

Kolanko said they have already had approximately 15 signs picked up with at least another 10 requests put in. Should a resident like a sign to display, they can send an email to dkohlhofer@walbridgeohio.org.

"We're trying to foster a sense of pride with our police department and with our community, and what better way to do it."

STORMWATER FUND

Highlighting new business was the

first reading of an ordinance authorizing the creation of the stormwater utility fund for the village. Discussed in the May 26 edition of The Press, the idea was something brought up at the last meeting as a fund that would specifically be earmarked for storm sewer repairs and maintenance, and Kolanko said then that a lot of other communities have this type of fund in place already. If approved after subsequent readings, it would appear on the water bills of each tax-paying resident.

PLAYGROUND UPDATE

Kolanko said the playground renovations and updates at Railway Park are "getting there." He said they should know by early the week of Monday, June 9 when they can officially have it open.

The zip line and swings are almost done, and the maintenance team has been moving dirt and prepping for the mulch, of which there are five semi-loads coming in by the weekend.

"That's the last thing that goes in," he

said. "That's a lot of mulch. There's a lot of positive activity. Once we get a ribbon cutting set, we'll let everyone know."

TWO MEETINGS CANCELED

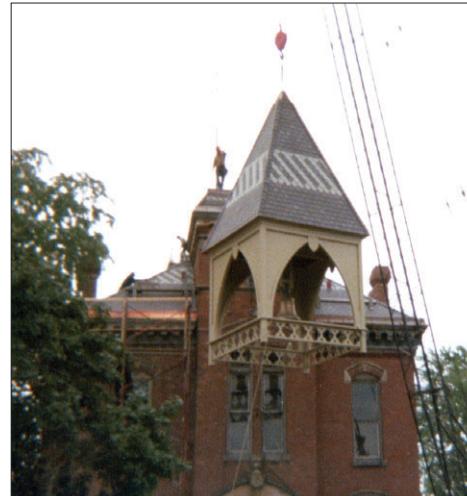
Pursuant to a past ordinance put in place, council voted to use its ability to cancel two meetings on July 2 and Aug. 6.

"Some years ago, council changed our ordinance that allows us to cancel two meetings if there's really not anything legislatively moving," Kolanko said. "It's pretty quiet in the summer and usually

one always falls around the July 4th kind of time frame. Honestly the two meetings during the summer are substantial enough to actually move anything we need to do."

NEW SIGNAGE UPDATE

In the May 21 council meeting, signage for the area entering Walbridge from I-280, along with Loop Park, Railway Park and the front of the administration building, was approved. Kolanko said those signs should be in place within a few months.



The Genoa Town Hall finial is pictured in 1978 (at left) and 2025, at right. (Photos courtesy of Thomas Bergman)



Genoa, and a few days later it was on top of the new steeple, right in time for the Genoa Homecoming Festival.

Bergman said he received numerous compliments from residents and visitors about the new appearance.

"The contractors really hit a home run," he said.

As this was just the beginning, efforts will now turn to Phase 2 of the roof project.

"EJM Copper out of Orlando, Fla. was the only firm that gave us the time it took to take a 2D picture and make a 3D model for a proposal. Over six weeks they manufactured the new finial and shipped it up to

"We will need to come up with about \$500,000 to finish the rest of the roof," Bergman said. "That is no easy task, though we are aiming for 2027 construction if we can pull off the funding."



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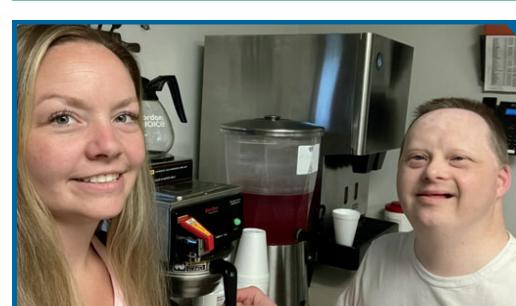
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- Amber, LPN, pictured with Jason



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Genoa Homecoming

The Genoa Homecoming, May 29-May 31, kicked off with a parade. Top photos: Members of Genoa American Legion Post 324 and antique fire trucks make their way down Main Street. Bottom left: Genoa Area Girls Softball Association show their pride. Bottom right: After that it was time to hit the rides at Veteran's park. (Press photos by Russ Lytle)

Beer & Bacon Fest

The 11th Annual Toledo Beer & Bacon Fest is set for Saturday, June 14 — the day before Father's Day — from 3-7 p.m. at The Hungarian Club of Toledo, 224 Paine Ave., in East Toledo's historic Birmingham Neighborhood. Hosted by the Hungarian Club of Toledo and the Glass City Mashers, the festival will showcase more than 40 locally made beers, ciders, and hard seltzers alongside a lineup of Hungarian-inspired bacon dishes, live music and lawn games.

"We're proud to bring people together for a fun and flavorful afternoon in the heart of Toledo's Birmingham Neighborhood," said Peter Ujvagi of the Hungarian Club. "There's nothing quite like beer, bacon and live music to start Father's Day weekend right."

What's on tap

More than a dozen local breweries — including earnest brew works, Findlay Brewing, and Maumee Bay Brewing — will pour fan favorites and new releases. First-time participants include Ottawa Brewing, Bait House Brewing (Sandusky), and Arlyn's Good Beer (Bowling Green).

Festivalgoers can sample beer and ba-



The Beer & Bacon Fest is set for June 14.

con pairings like:

- Bacon on a Stick
- Hunky Turkey Sandwiches
- Birmingham Hot Dogs
- Bacon Popcorn

General admission tickets are \$40, which includes 10 beer samples and event entry (21+ only). Designated driver tickets are \$15, which includes food sample tickets. Additional beer and food tickets will be available for purchase on site.

Tickets available at Eventbrite through the Toledo Beer and Bacon Fest Facebook page (search "Toledo Beer and Bacon").



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Near miss at Millbury's Ground Zero: Talking to the survivors

This story originally appeared in the June 14, 2010 issue of The Press.

By John Szozda

If there's one thing we should learn from the survivors of the Saturday night tragedy is that the sound of a freight train precedes the swirling havoc of a tornado.

Millbury residents know that sound. They wake up to blaring horns and the screech of steel wheels on steel rails. They stop for, dodge around and race to beat the railroad gates. One time, in 2000, a frustrated local man parked his 1986 Chevy Nova on the track to stop the trains that regularly stop him. The protest was short-lived. The 6,700-ton train nudged the Nova down the track.

Jeannine Hughes, 75, knows that sound too, and now she knows the sound of a tornado. She lives in a duplex on Main Street, nine doors down the same block where several homes were destroyed and a mother and her four-year-old son were killed.

Monday morning, 36 hours after the tornado, she recalled those few terrifying moments before the tornado touched ground.

"I moved some shoes out and went into the closet and had a pillow with me, but I didn't think to take my cell phone. I only use it in emergencies. This was an emergency but I didn't think to use it. I took the regular phone, but when the hail came the power went out. Then, I heard the freight train coming and it was so loud I thought it had to be right here."

"I wasn't afraid at all though, I thought, 'Well Lord if it's my time, it's my time.'"

Michael and Deborah Eppard and their three children, ages 8, 6 and 4, live five houses from the destruction. Their home is on a five-foot crawl, but the entrance to the crawl is outside. They have lived here 10 years. When the sirens sounded, Michael yanked stuff from under the stairwell and threw down mattresses, couch cushions and blankets. The Eppards woke the kids and moved them to safety where they fell back asleep.



"Then they (the sirens) stopped for 20 minutes. I started looking out the window and I could hear, just like they say, the sound of a train..."

That drove the Eppards under the stairwell again. They covered the kids. Then the house started shaking. Then they heard a heavy creaking sound, like when you close an old, heavy door hung on rusted hinges.

"I was almost certain our house was going to go, but 30 seconds later, it was all done. I looked out the back and across the field I could see three funnel clouds when the sky lit up."

The Eppards spent the rest of the night in the basement at the home of their former pastor, Jerry Siler. Michael is now considering the best way to access his crawl space from inside the home.

Robert and Sue Okulsky live four houses from Ground Zero. They were at a late-night showing of the movie Robin Hood. When they returned home at 12:30 a.m., the street was cordoned off. They went to their home, assessed the damage as minimal, but less than an hour later they were forced to evacuate due to a suspected gas leak.

William and MaryAnn Wittman live adjacent to the series of homes ripped from her neighborhood. She was home by herself, her husband being at their campsite near Tiffin.

MaryAnn was tired that night. She had been dealing with the issues that accompany moving her mother into an assisted living facility. She went to bed early and woke when the sirens went off. She got up, got a flashlight, her medicines and some water and went into the basement.

She was alone, the hail was plastering the siding and she began to doubt her deci-



Dave and Marie Dunaway credit their cat Jasmine with alerting them to the storm. (Press file photo by Ken Grosjean)

sion. In the past, her basement had sheltered her and her neighbors when sirens warned of approaching tornadoes. She recalled the comments from one who questioned the wisdom of going to the basement. Would the house just fall on them? What would happen if the pipes burst? Would they drown? These fears blew through MaryAnn while the wind blew outside. She descended just to the second basement step and made her stand there.

"As soon as I shut the door, the house shook and I heard a train and I thought when I open that door again our walls are going to be gone."

When the tornado passed, MaryAnn thought, "Well, that's not bad." She opened the basement door and walked into her garage. The wall was bowed. She could see daylight. "The garage was full of blown insulation like someone had a popcorn party," she said.

MaryAnn opened her front door and

looked across the street. She did not expect to see what she saw. "Oh, my God, there was a war out here. And, then I noticed there's no houses over there. Where did they go?"

MaryAnn needed to be with someone. She turned to go next door, but the house was no longer there.

"Where's the house," she said to herself. "Then I panicked and thought, 'Oh, my God, Where are they? Then, I heard them hollering and screaming.'"

MaryAnn joined other neighbors to help the Swartz family climb out of their basement, homeless but alive. The Wittman home was still standing. The damage was minor compared to her neighbors. It included separation of the garage wall, a blown window and water damage in two bedrooms.

Across the street, 40-feet from his
Continued on page 6

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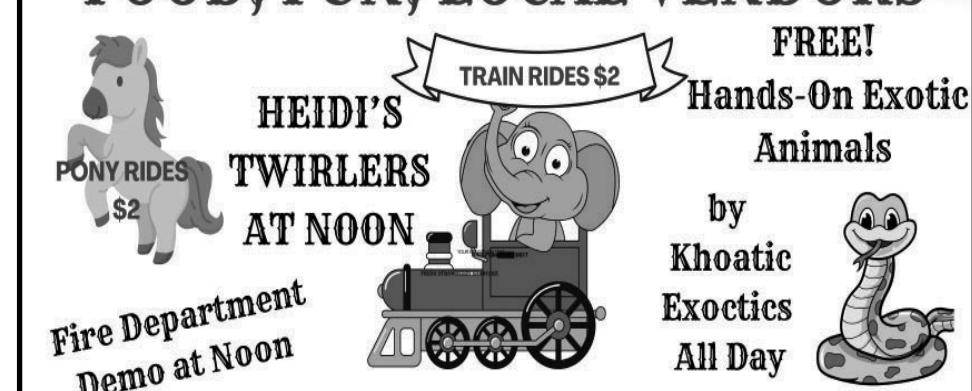
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This week in Toledo's past:

Events in the Toledo area over the past 200 years

June 8

1876: The village of Pemberville is officially formed.

1903: The Toledo Bee and the Toledo News merge to become the Toledo News Bee with a combined circulation of 44,000.

1915: A downtown Toledo drug store on Erie Street is raided by Toledo Police and the owner is arrested after reports that the druggist had been making and selling illegal heroin tablets from his pharmacy.

1929: It's reported by the News Bee that future plans to build a new super-highway on the route of the old Erie Canal (Anthony Wayne Trail) will mean future development in upriver areas of South Toledo.

1933: A heat wave continues in Northwest Ohio as the mercury level reaches 100 degrees in Bowling Green.

1953: Deadly tornadoes hit the Toledo area, killing 13 people and injuring hundreds. Four people are killed in a twister near Temperance, Mich. while eight people are killed in rural Wood and Henry Counties.

1985: More than 600 people evacuated in North Toledo and 75 are injured in a warehouse fire at Willis Day.

June 9

1904: A crackdown begins on houses of ill-repute in Toledo's "tenderloin" district after two 14-year-old girls are found working in the house of Lottie Barker on Lafayette Street.

1921: Two veteran Toledo policemen officers, Harold Mossburger and Harry Dowell, are killed in a shootout with a barricaded gunman at 611 Walnut St. Police squads later arrived and killed the suspect.

June 10

1933: In the mountains near Los Angeles, 20-year-old Toledo-born movie actress Vera Williams (screen name-Claudette Ford), is killed in a plane crash along with actor Harry Sweet. They were said to be scouting movie locations.

1930: Toledo's decrepit Union Station is leveled by flames to the cheers of thou-



sands. Toledo officials officially begin a campaign to force New York Central to build a new station in Toledo.

1961: It is the darkest day in Toledo firefighter history as a gasoline tanker truck on the Anthony Wayne Trail at Collingwood Avenue explodes and burns. The fire and blast kills four Toledo firemen and injures over 60 others.

1978: A railroad flare factory in Fostoria explodes into flames. Twenty-four people are injured as fires spread through city area.

June 11

1782: American Colonel William Crawford is burned at the stake at Tymochtee Creek by Wyandot Indians near Upper Sandusky.

1840: The Great Whig Gathering takes place at Fort Meigs in Perrysburg. Thousands assemble for the national event and nominate William Henry Harrison for president.

1897: Owney, the world famous traveling U.S. postal dog, is shot and killed in Toledo by police after reportedly biting a postal clerk. The beloved animal was mounted and stuffed the next day by a Toledo taxidermist and sent to Washington, D.C., where it remains on display at the Smithsonian Institute.

1920: A Wabash train hits a stalled car near Delta and kills five people inside. A 10-year-old boy who jumped from the car just before impact managed to survive the tragedy.

1943: Public daycare centers in Toledo are at capacity and in need of expansion as more women go to work to support the war effort.

1948: A 17-year-old worker on Catawaba Island is bitten by a rattlesnake on the finger

as he bent down to pick up a stick on the ground. He is expected to recover.

June 12

1857: Convicted killer Return Ward, who was believed to be Ohio's first serial killer, is hanged in Toledo for the shooting death of his wife, Olive, in Sylvania. Ward had been suspected in other murders in New York state before he moved to Northwest Ohio.

1880: J. Lee Richmond pitches baseball's first perfect game for the Worcester Ruby Legs against Cleveland. It was a 5-0 shutout. It is said he had been studying all night and had no sleep and no food before he pitched the game. In 1890, he moved to Toledo and became a teacher at Toledo High School in Greek, chemistry and mathematics. He is buried at Forest Cemetery in Toledo.

1905: A Toledo probation officer, "Beecher," is credited with effective punishment for young shoplifters by forcing them to personally apologize to shop owners as they return the stolen items.

1926: Italian race car driver Peter Phileppo, 23, dies in racing crash at Ft. Miami Race track in Maumee.

1931: Two Chicago National Guard captains are killed in plane crash near Toledo Transcontinental Airport.

1953: An earthquake of 3.5 on the Richter scale rattles the Toledo area.

1962: Toledo Police officer Donald Brown dies in the line of duty on a domestic disturbance call on 14th Street. His partner William Boyle loses an eye in the gun battle.

June 13

1894: As the economy bottoms out, a large group of Polish area men march into the Toledo mayor's office to demand they be given work.

1914: The Toledo Zoo's popular Indian-Asian elephant "Babe" becomes enraged and kills keeper Michael Raddatz in front of horrified crowd. Witnesses say Raddatz slapped Babe with a strap, which

caused the attack.

1915: Perry's Monument at Put-in-Bay is opened to the public amid great fanfare and ceremony.

1917: Three men are shot dead in Dickey Dee's Pool Room at 710 Washington St.. One of the victims was Dickey Dee, a kingpin in Toledo's Black underworld. Police say Dee was able to use his prized revolver in the shooting that he nicknamed the Colly Dee.

1920: Four Toledo children, from 3 to 11 years old, are rescued by the City of Toledo Steamer after being adrift for 24 hours in rowboat on Lake Erie.

1927: A motorcycle stunt driver jumps the guardrail and runs into the crowd at the Sheesley Circus at Detroit and Wolcott Avenue, injuring three people.

June 14

1895: A major drought continues in Northwest Ohio. The Maumee River is running at a mere trickle and most crops are ruined.

1905: The Toledo Police Department begins the practice of taking pictures, or mug shots, of suspects.

1930: Eight prominent Toledo-area businessmen and government leaders die in what appears to be a speedboat accident while on their way to the annual Elks picnic on Pelee Island. The mayor of Toledo requests that all area boaters go out into the lake to begin searching for them. The bodies and the boat are eventually found but no final conclusion is ever reached on just how the "accident" happened. Some Nauts' family members contend it was a murder and not an accident.

1937: Fisherman on Lake Erie show off their 180-pound sturgeon they caught near Camp Perry in Ottawa County. It is one of the largest sturgeon caught in the lake in many years.

1953: Thirty-thousand people attend Walbridge Park for the Ohio Sesquicentennial program in Toledo, featuring music, outboard motorboat races, and speeches.

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Continued from page 4

neighbor's fence, which stood as the demarcation line between minor damage and total destruction, Dave Dunaway checked the generator he was using to provide power for his home and that of a neighbor. He and his wife Marie had just returned home when the sirens went off. They had been at a party to celebrate Marie's retirement from Northwood schools. He remembers hail peppering his windows and siding. Then there was that familiar noise.

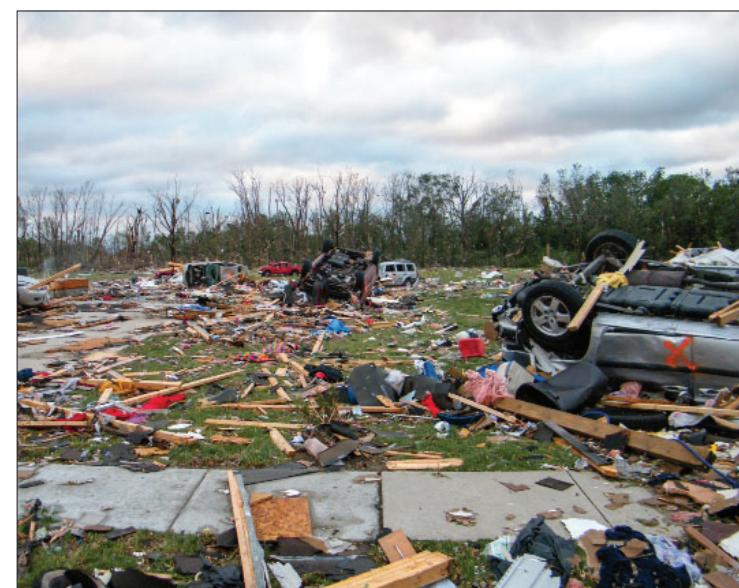
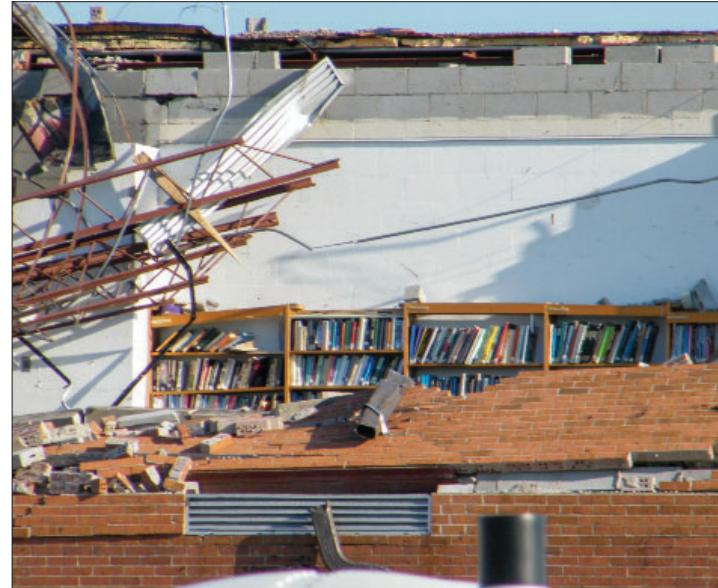
"When they say it sounds like a freight train...It was. A much-louder freight train."

The Dunaways immediately sought shelter in their basement. When Dave emerged from the front of his home, he saw a broken window and some damaged siding, repairs he could handle. So, when he walked around to the backyard and saw three of his neighbors' homes wiped from their foundations, he was stunned, saddened and awed. But, he also felt blessed. Dave and his son Paul, 27, a Senior Airman in the United States Air Force, built the home in 2003 as a project to help Dave through a period of depression following a divorce. His son and his daughter, Amy, also gave Dave a cat, Jasmine.

As Dave chatted with The Press, Marie came out of the house and whispered in his ear. Dave put his head on his wife's shoulder and they hugged each other. When he returned to the interview, tears were in his eyes. Marie had just informed him Jasmine, who hadn't been seen for 36 hours, was found safe, but still frightened. She was under the couch.

"She's part of the family," Dave explained. "She's our weather vane. It's something with her ears. We may not be able to hear lightning and thunder sometimes, but when she cowers, we know bad weather is coming. She took off. She ran for cover before we did. She's our lightning rod."

Monday morning, 36 hours after the tornado, the people who live on Main Street



Top left: Bookshelves that survived the tornado are shown at Lake High School in the aftermath of the June 5, 2010 tornado. Top right and bottom photos: Damage to property and homes on Main Street in Millbury is shown in the early morning hours after the tornado struck. (Photos by Nicholas Huenefeld)

and their families and friends and volunteers were picking up debris and meeting with contractors. Jeannine Hughes was delivering snacks and water to her neighbors. MaryAnn Wittman had returned the credit cards and driver's license she found strewn

in someone's yard, and Dave Dunaway was running across the street to make sure his generator was delivering power to his neighbor.

All were saddened by the deaths of a mother and her four-year-old son, both

of whom lived just a few yards away. All were awed by the destructive power of nature. All were relieved they were spared.

Read more stories from our 2010 tornado coverage at presspublications.com

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CHICKEN DINNER 1PM

ENTERTAINMENT 1PM - 4PM

AYC COCKTAIL PARTY 4:00PM

ENTERTAINMENT 7PM - 11PM

"SKITTLEBOTS"





Agriculture

David Senter: American Agriculture Movement update

Adverse weather continues to hit farmers across the country. I've received pictures of huge hail stones in Texas, some bigger than your hand, others softball size and one picture of a hail stone was as big as a ballcap. Pray for our farmers.

After a nearly all-night session, the House Budget Committee passed the Budget Reconciliation Bill. The bill then went to the House Floor and passed by a 215-214 vote after several reluctant lawmakers decided to support the bill. I'm sure a few of them are wearing a cast on their arm after the arm twisting that went on.

The debate on the so-called Big Beautiful Bill now moves to the Senate where I believe they will make several substantial changes which will lead to a long conference with the House to reach agreement. All this talk about finishing by July 4, I think, is wrong. Congress can't get its act together to do anything that quick, look at the New Farm Bill, it's nearly three years late and no movement to get one.

The House-passed bill would increase

conservation spending by \$13 billion in the spending baseline. The \$13 billion comes from the Inflation Reduction Act and moves it to the Farm Bill. A problem is the Conservation Reserve Program was not included, and unless it is extended, it will expire at the end of the year. CRP is important to many producers, and I think the Senate will try to fix that issue.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins has announced that \$14.5 million will be sent to states for cost-share for state inspections of meat and poultry processing plants. By having a state-federal partnership, it increases markets for producers so their products can move across state lines.

USDA employees working in the South Building at USDA have received notice that June 1-20, they should work from home because the building will house Army troops who will be in Washington D.C. for the June 14 military parade, which celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Army.

A federal Judge has extended for USDA and several other agencies in the court order

to stop planning for agency reorganization and additional Reduction in Force plans. In other news from the courts, a federal judge has ruled that farmers that have sued John Deere over the Right to Repair can depose John Deere officials under oath as part of their discovery for their case. I think this will be a big step forward to ending the practice of denying owners the right to work on their own equipment or to use a mechanic of their choosing. To me this is a profit at any cost for John Deere.

I read today that farm bankruptcies are up 55 percent in 2024, and with low prices and high inputs cost, I'm afraid that 2025 is going to be worse. French farmers are tractorscading again and have surrounded their parliament, protesting low prices and high input costs. Farmers have to stand up and be heard to get the attention of policy makers. The tariff rollercoaster producers are experiencing leaves many wondering how to plan for the future.

The next time you are in your local FSA office, tell them how much you appreciate the work they do. Our offices are severely understaffed and even though we have been told that there is no hiring freeze for frontline employees, there has still not been any movement to advertise or hire new employees. I know NAFEC, the association that represents County Elected Committees, will be in Washington, D.C. next week to support continuing to have local FSA offices with County Elected Committees. The stress on FSA County Office employees is making many consider leaving the agency.

Know that family farmers and ranchers support you and hopefully get through these hard times. AAM continues to work in support of local control through County Elected Committees. It's the best system in government to safeguard taxpayer dollars and deliver services to our producers.

Thanks again to the new members that have joined AAM, we will stay on top of what's happening and keep you informed.

David Senter AAM President
aamincpresident@gmail.com

Soybean farmers tackle planting

By The Soy Hopper

As spring breathes new life into the fields, soybean farmers across the United States kick off another growing season. This crucial time lays the foundation for a successful crop, with many farmers carefully evaluating market conditions.

According to the USDA's Grains and Oilseeds Outlook, soybean acreage may be reduced due to lower prices tied to global supply. Still, spring planting remains a strategic process that requires informed decision-making, and the Soy Checkoff is helping farmers stay ahead with the tools and resources to thrive in this changing landscape.

"Spring planting is about more than putting seed in the ground," Robert Petter, Arkansas farmer and United Soybean Board Director who leads the Health & Nutrition Supply work group, said. "It's about using tools like data and technology to make smart decisions that will impact yields, soil health and profitability for months to come."

To support farmers, the checkoff invests in cutting-edge research, practical tools, and strategic partnerships that promote sustainable production, enhance input efficiency, and maximize profit potential. Experts anticipate that even with reduced soybean acreage, improved crop yields could produce similar overall soybean production levels. The May USDA WASDE report predicts U.S. Soy at 82.7 million harvested acres and average yields at 52.5 bushels per acre.

A key initiative funded by the Soy Checkoff, "Better Together," amplifies these investments through effective cross-disciplinary outreach and collaboration. This initiative delivers unbiased, research-based information to enhance U.S. soybean production. Some of these resources for farm-

ers include:

Crop Protection Network: Delivers timely information to help farmers make informed decisions about soybeans and other crops, and provides important crop protection information across the ag sector.

GROW (Getting Rid of Weeds) and Take Action: Provides strategies to manage herbicide resistance and encourages the adoption of management practices that help preserve current and future herbicide technologies.

Science for Success: Amplifies access to timely, data-driven best management practices so farmers can better manage agronomic sustainability.

Soybean Research and Information Network: Serves as a centralized hub for the latest on-farm production research findings to help farmers enhance the productivity and sustainability of soybean farming.

As planting progresses, weather conditions, soil temperatures and field readiness continue to shape decisions. The Soy Checkoff remains committed to making sure farmers have the tools, insights and resources they need to navigate spring's uncertainties and unlock long-term value on every acre.

"Every seed planted is part of a bigger story, one that feeds the world, supports our economies and drives innovation in agriculture," Carla Schultz, Michigan farmer and Chair of the United Soybean Board's Communication & Education Committee, said. "By sharing educational strategies and providing access to cutting-edge research, we empower farmers to achieve greater success and contribute to a more sustainable future, even during shifting market dynamics."

For more information on Better Together and these resources to grow a more resilient soybean, visit unitedsoybean.org/better-together-overview.

Ask the Ag Expert – June 2025

By Press Staff Writer

Fairly excited about Ohio's fairs

Ohio's 94 county and independent fairs tell the rich story of our number one industry - food and agriculture. ODA is at all of these events, doing everything from inspecting the rides to looking over animals in the barns.

Lab-solutely pumped about Ohio's new lab

ODA's Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory conducted more than 500,000 tests in 2024, yet our state's animal testing needs only continue to grow. Con-

struction is underway on the new Ohio Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory that will increase our testing capacity to keep you safe.

Pinot grigio-ver the moon about Ohio wine month

From the ground to your glass, June is Ohio Wine Month and it's a perfect time to highlight this growing industry. There are more than 400 licensed wine manufacturers across the state that help contribute over \$6 billion to our economy. There's even an app designed for you to earn swag when visiting vineyards and more.



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Health

Published second week of month.

Half of Americans worry about skin aging, but skip sunscreen

A recent American Academy of Dermatology survey of more than 1,000 U.S. adults found that half worry about premature skin aging, yet only half use sunscreen regularly, while nearly one in four don't know it helps prevent early aging.

"Many people realize that sun exposure contributes to skin aging, yet there is a significant gap in understanding how to prevent it," said Elizabeth Houshmand, MD, FAAD, a board-certified dermatologist in Dallas, Texas. "Sunscreen is one of the most effective tools we have to slow premature aging, and unfortunately this survey shows that many Americans either don't use it regularly or don't realize its full benefits."

In fact, more than two in five Americans are unaware of sunscreen's full benefits, including its ability to prevent skin cancer, dark spots, and premature aging, according to the survey.

Unprotected sun exposure is the most preventable risk factor for skin cancer, the most common form of cancer in the United States. Additionally, without sun protection, skin damage can accumulate over time. This can lead to freckles, age spots, and wrinkles.

Unfortunately, many adults are already noticing signs of sun damage. According to the survey, four in 10 adults report wrinkles or dark spots they believe are from sun exposure, and of these, 68% are bothered by the changes to their skin.

Dr. Houshmand recommends the following simple steps to make sunscreen a seamless part of your daily skincare routine:

- Apply every morning – Use a broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher.

- Don't skip cloudy days – UV rays penetrate clouds and windows, so sunscreen is essential.

- Cover all exposed skin – Apply sunscreen to your face, neck, ears, and any other exposed areas. Don't forget commonly missed spots like the tops of your hands.

- Reapply throughout the day – If you're spending time outdoors, reapply every two hours.

In addition to wearing sunscreen, the AAD and Dr. Houshmand recommend the following as part of a comprehensive sun protection plan:

- Seek shade - Seek shade when appropriate, remembering that the sun's rays are the strongest between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

- Wear sun-protective clothing - Wear a lightweight and long-sleeved shirt, pants, a wide-brimmed hat and sunglasses with UV protection, when possible.

To find a board-certified dermatologist in your area, visit aad.org/findaderm.

Red Cross offering Cedar Point ticket for donors

The American Red Cross and Six Flags Entertainment Corporation are teaming up to encourage donors to help save lives this summer.

Those who come to donate blood at select blood drives in the Northern Ohio Region this summer will receive one free Cedar Point ticket, while supplies last, in addition to other Red Cross incentives. Tickets are valid during the 2025 season and other restrictions may apply. Donors are encouraged to check the park website for information on open dates and hours.

Locally, donors can receive a Cedar Point ticket and other incentives at a blood drive set for Thursday, July 3, from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn, 6165 Levis Commons Boulevard, Perrysburg.

In addition, donors who come to give blood at other blood drives through June 30 will get a \$15 Amazon gift card by email and will be automatically entered for a chance to win one of two \$7,000 gift cards. Terms apply. Visit RedCrossBlood.org/June for more details.

Other local donation opportunities include:

- American Red Cross Toledo Blood Donation Center, 3510 Executive Parkway – Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

- Lindsey: June 9, 12-6 p.m., Lindsey Trinity Church, 231 Maple St.

- Oak Harbor: June 13, 12-5:30 p.m., St. John's Lutheran, 122 W. Ottawa St.

- Perrysburg: June 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Zenobia Shrine, 8048 Broadstone Boulevard.

- Rossford: June 10, 1-6 p.m., Rossford United Methodist Church, 270 Dixie Highway.

- Woodville: June 13, 12-5 p.m., Woodville Township Fire Department, 321 E. Main St.

How to donate

To make an appointment, download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in.

Mobile mammogram van

Mercy Health's mobile mammography van will make several stops throughout the region in the coming weeks.

The unit delivers 3D mammograms to women age 40 and older. It is equipped with the newest 3D technology and offers patients the option of self-compression, meaning the patient will have the ability to control the compression once they are in position.

Among scheduled stops are:

- Mondays, June 16 and June 30 – Mercy Health – Perrysburg Primary Care, 1103 Village Square Dr., Perrysburg.

- Tuesday, June 24 – Mercy Health – Starbright Primary Care, 28555 Starbright



Boulevard, Perrysburg.

To view the full list of dates and locations, visit mercy.com/to-ledomobilemamm.

While mammogram screenings may be covered by insurance, for best coverage, please verify if Mercy Health – St. Charles Hospital is an in-network provider with your insurance carrier. Financial need-based assistance programs are available to help those who uninsured or underinsured (have high deductibles). Call 1-800-929-6626 for more information.

Screenings are by appointment only – call 833-MAMM-VAN to schedule.

Certified radiologists read all mammograms, and because a second look can mean a second chance, all mammograms are double-checked with a computer-aided detection system that detects more breast cancer than mammography alone. The patient and her physician receive a copy of the results.

Check-in on health

Mercy Health's monthly "Ask the Expert" series continues Thursday, June 19, with a mid-year check in on health. Dr. Liza Halloran, Mercy Health psychologist, will share tips on how to make health goals and how to stay on track.

The one-hour series is offered the third Thursday of every month from 12:30-1:30 p.m. via Zoom. To join, participants can call 646-931-3860 and use Zoom meeting ID: 975 5220 8436. There is no need to pre-register.

"Ask the Expert" is part of Mercy Health's efforts to address factors that influence the health and wellbeing of the community.

Monthly Lab Screening

The next Magruder Monthly Community Lab Screening will be held Thursday, June 12, in the Magruder Hospital Conference Center, 615 Fulton St., Port Clinton.

Screenings run from 8-11:30 a.m. Participants can enter through the Main Entrance at the front of the hospital and take the Conference Center elevator up to 1.

The main lab test is a CBC, CMP and lipid profile, which includes liver and kidney function, fasting blood sugar, cholesterol, HDL/LDL, triglycerides and a complete blood count (red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets in the blood) for \$50.

Add-ons are also available, including:

- Hemoglobin A1C: \$20
- PSA (prostate specific antigen): \$30
- TSH (thyroid stimulating hormone): \$25

- Vitamin D: \$35

This lab screening is held on the second Thursday each month. Appointments

are required and may be made by calling 419-301-4304. Participants are asked to fast for 12 hours prior to their appointment time but drinking water is permitted. No insurance is accepted – payment can be made by cash, check or credit card (no American Express).

Registration closing for autism

Registration is closing soon for the Spectrum of Possibilities Autism Conference, taking place Wednesday, June 11, from 8:15 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Franciscan Center at Lourdes University, 6832 Convent Boulevard, Sylvania.

Hosted in partnership by Avenues for Autism, Lourdes University and Destination Toledo, this educational event will feature keynote speaker Dr. Kerry Magro, Ed.D. - best-selling author, autism self-advocate and consultant to Netflix's "Love on the Spectrum U.S."

Registration is \$50 for general attendees and \$20 for students. Register avenuesforautism.org.

Continental breakfast and lunch are included with event registration. Free parking is available.

This conference welcomes healthcare professionals, educators, self-advocates and community members who are passionate about autism support and advocacy.

Pep rally set for Special Olympians

The Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities is holding a pep rally Friday morning, June 13, for its Special Olympians, who are competing for state championships in their respective sports.

The sendoff is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. at Lucas DD's headquarters at 1154, 1155 Larc Lane in South Toledo. Teams and individuals will be introduced and cheered on as they board a charter bus bound for Columbus at 10 a.m.

Ninety-three athletes will be representing Lucas County Special Olympics at the Special Olympics Ohio State Summer Games, June 13-15 at Ohio State University. Twenty-four chaperones, coaches, and staff from Lucas County will also be with the team.

Relaxation with Yoga

Relax, breathe and stretch with Yoga in the Grove, which will be offered in evenings and mornings on various dates throughout the summer at Spiegel Grove at Hayes Presidential Library & Museums.

This 75-minute class is designed for all levels, and teachers will create variations to assist in accessibility to students' needs.

Cost for non-members is \$15, and cost for Hayes Presidential Library & Museums members is \$10. Tickets are available at theyogahavenfremont.com.

Class times and dates are:

- Friday, June 27 - 6:30-7:45 p.m.
- Saturday, July 19 - 7:30-8:45 a.m.
- Friday, Aug. 8 - 7-8:15 p.m.

For information, visit rbhayes.org.



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Fight the Bite**Take precautions to prevent mosquito-, tick-borne diseases**

As mosquito and tick season begins in Northwest Ohio, the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department reminds residents to take steps to prevent bites — and the diseases they can carry, including West Nile virus and Lyme disease.

In Ohio, ticks are most active from April through September, while mosquitoes are active from May through October.

Mosquitoes

The most effective way to protect against mosquito-borne diseases is through bite prevention. Be aware of mosquito and mosquito-borne disease activity and take action to protect yourself and others: avoid mosquitoes and mosquito bites, plan ahead for mosquitoes while traveling and stop mosquitoes from breeding in and around your home.

Mosquitoes can bite day or night and live indoors and outdoors. The health department suggests these ways to avoid mosquito bites and prevent mosquito-borne diseases:

- If you are outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, be sure to wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, shoes and socks.
- Wear light-colored clothing, which is less attractive to mosquitoes.
- Use EPA-registered mosquito repellent and follow the label directions.
- Wear clothing and gear treated with permethrin, an insecticide (do not apply

permethrin directly to skin).

- Use mosquito netting when sleeping outdoors or in an unscreened structure.

When traveling:

- Check travel notices on CDC's Travelers' Health website for mosquito-borne and other disease transmission updates for the country or countries you are visiting.

At home:

- Eliminate standing water in items like buckets, flowerpots, bird baths, and wading pools.
- Clear and maintain gutters.
- Keep screens on windows and doors in good repair.
- Change pet water dishes regularly.

Ticks

Ohio is home to about a dozen tick species, but three — the American dog tick, blacklegged tick and lone star tick — are most commonly encountered by people and pets.

"If you find a tick attached to your body, remove it promptly and watch for symptoms like fever, rash, fatigue or muscle aches," said Health Commissioner Karim Baroudi. "Contact your healthcare provider if symptoms develop."

To avoid tick bites and prevent tick-borne diseases:

- Avoid wooded, bushy areas with high grass and leaf litter. Walk in the center of trails.
- Wear clothing and gear treated with permethrin insecticide (do not apply permethrin directly to skin).

- Use EPA-registered tick repellent and follow the label directions.

After outdoor activities:

- Shower within two hours to help find and remove ticks.
- Conduct a full-body tick check, using a mirror for hard-to-see areas.
- Check clothing, gear, and pets for ticks.
- Tumble dry clothes on high heat for 10 minutes to kill ticks.

Tick removal:

- Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick close to the skin and pull upward with steady pressure.

- Clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, iodine scrub, or soap and water.

- Dispose of ticks by submerging them in alcohol, sealing them in a bag, or flushing them down the toilet. Never crush a tick with your fingers.

- Avoid folklore methods like using nail polish, petroleum jelly or heat to remove ticks.

For more tips on this and other health topics, visit lucascountyhealth.com.

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Sports

Clay baseball in regional final, several local softball teams shine

By Yaneek Smith
Press Sports Editor

The Clay baseball team is one step away from the state final four.

Clay, which won the Northern Lakes League Cardinal Division, defeated St. John's, 3-1, to claim a Division II district title. The Eagles, who rallied to defeat Hudson, 2-1, in a regional semifinal, lost a bevy of key players like C.J. Boudreault and Vinny Gallaher from last year's squad, but behind the likes of Landon Eversman and Brandon Vargas have reached the regional finals for the first time since 1979.

The win over the Explorers saw Eversman pitch a complete game and give up just one run in the third inning before Clay, which is now 19-9, rallied for two runs in the bottom of the seventh.

With one out, Darin Fussel hit a double, which was followed up by a triple from Brayden Toneff to tie the score, 1-1, and Alex Goetz drilled a 2-1 pitch to center to score Toneff and win the game.

"Winning these games is the best feeling ever, this group of guys means so much to me and winning with them means the world," said Eversman, who has been arguably the Eagles' best hitter and pitcher this season.

The victory over Hudson followed up a 3-1 win over old Three Rivers Athletic Conference foe St. John's in a district final.

Clay coach Jim Phillips talked about his club getting to this point.

"A lot of people asked how we would be (considering) how much we lost," he said. "I viewed this year as a re-tool, not a rebuild," he said. "There were a lot of new faces, and we understood it would be a process to get that many guys acclimated to varsity baseball at once."

"To their credit, this group bought in and continued to improve each day. I'm so proud of the growth I've seen in this group



2025 Clay Eagles baseball team.

since February."

Eastwood softball shuns naysayers

A team that surprised people in the softball world this season was the Eastwood Eagles.

With just one senior in Ady Bowe and a roster filled with new faces, Eastwood was picked to finish fifth in the Northern Buckeye Conference, but instead shared the league title at 12-2 with Lake and made it to a Division V regional semifinal before losing a heartbreaker to Milford Center Fairbanks, 2-1. That followed up a 4-2 over Archbold in the district final.

The Eagles finished the season 22-3 and sixth in the final state coaches poll.

"We were young and got better each game," Eastwood coach Joe Wyant said. "We played well, and we became a very competitive team. Against Archbold, we had some big hits in that game. Bowe had a two-run home run. She's our best player, and I think she is the best player in the league. We were fortunate to have her, she had another good year."

"We bunted the ball and played some

small ball, and they had an error that helped us take the lead. It was a good win as they're a very good team. We probably over-performed from what most people thought we would do."

Lake softball caps historic season

As for the Lake softball team, they finished the season with 25 wins and won a district title for the first time in 34 years, the highlights of the season being a league title and a 10-9 win in eight innings over Clyde in a Division IV district final.

Lake, which finished the regular season ranked sixth in Division IV rallied to defeat the Fliers in the district final before falling to Lexington in the regional semifinal round.

The Flyers — Lake spells it with a 'y' and Clyde spells it with an 'i' — trailed by five runs heading into the sixth, but scored once in the sixth and put up four runs in the seventh, the key hit being a two-out, two-run double by Ellie Rymers that tied the score and sent the game into extra innings.

It was also revenge for Lake, which lost

its only non-conference game to the Fliers on April 2.

In the bottom of the sixth, Flyer pitcher Kali Bedford worked a 1-2-3 inning and in the seventh, she stranded two runners with a strikeout to send the game into extras.

In the eighth, Norah Demory hit a single to center, which was followed by a pop out and Parker Dart reaching on a walk. There was another pop out, and Kylee Pietrzak lined a base hit to center to score the go-ahead run, and Bedford retired Clyde in the bottom half to end the game.

Clay softball makes regional run

Clay, under the direction of legendary coach Brenda Radabaugh, had a fine season, winning 19 games and claiming their first district title in six years.

Led by the likes of Ellie Haynes (.538, 5 HR, 44 RBI), Madison Franke (.482, 5 HR, 58 RBI) and Olivia Haas (.426, 6 HR, 28 RBI), among others, Clay's highlight of the season was a 7-1 win over Northview in a Div. II district final, a result that avenged a loss to the Wildcats in April.

The Eagles' season ended with a 3-2 loss to Green in the regional semifinals.

In the victory over Northview, Clay scored immediately and rode Haas's fantastic performance in the circle to get the win.

At the plate, Haas had two hits, two RBIs and scored twice. Ellie Haynes finished with three hits, including a double and a triple, while driving in two runs and scoring twice. Franke had two hits and two RBIs.

Oak Harbor, Gibsonburg softball in state semifinals

Two other area teams — Oak Harbor and Gibsonburg — are competing in the state semifinals in Akron just after the print deadline for The Press. Stay tuned to next week's edition for coverage on those results.

Obituaries

Obituaries
can be emailed to
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or call 419-836-2221

DEADLINE:
Wednesday
4:00pm

"When
someone
you love
becomes a
memory, that
memory
becomes a
treasure".

Asman



It is with heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Dennis L. Asman.

In 1966, he married Peggy Dunmyer and together they raised two children, Craig and Amy.

Denny taught instrumental music at schools; Holgate and Sylvania. He then joined his father in his self made business- East Side Sanitation to learn the job.

Later, Waste Management purchased the company and Denny joined the company in sales.

He is survived by his wife Peggy, children; Craig (Tracy), Amy (Andrew) and sister Robin (Gary), three grandsons; Brendon, Nate and Vincent. Also, sister-in-law Karen. Add to the list, many nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in passing were his father, Elmer, mother Dorothy and brother Mike.

There will be no visitation per Denny's wishes. Memorial donations will be welcome at Hospice of NW Ohio or Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.



Lenny Gomulka's
Chicago Push



Randy Krajewski & Badinov



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Letters

Letters should be about 350 words. Deadline Wed. Noon. Send to news@presspublications.com

Support for Poppy Days appreciated

To the editor: The Elmore American Legion Auxiliary Unit 279 would like to thank the Elmore community for its support during the recent Poppy Days, held over the Memorial Day weekend.

We collected more than \$1,800 while distributing the poppies, 100% of which will go to veterans.

We help fund various programs such as The Sandusky Soldier and Sailors Home, Ottawa County Veteran Services, Riverside Nursing Home and HOOVES. These and other programs that we support are all directed at supporting the veterans in our community.

Again, thank you to all the volunteers who made this possible. It is true – it takes a village.

Marilyn Metzger
Poppy Chairman

Letter policy

Letters must be signed, typed, no longer than 350 words and include a phone number for verification. The Press reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, to maintain the word limit, and for legal reasons.

Letters are generally printed in the order they are received but letters pertaining to a current event are given priority.

Email to news@presspublications.com; fax to 419-836-1319, or mail to The Press, P.O. Box 169, Millbury, O. 43447.

Transitions

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Lukas Benjamin Mason 2007 ~ 2020



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Missing you Everyday!
Loving You Always!
Grandma and Grandpa "D"

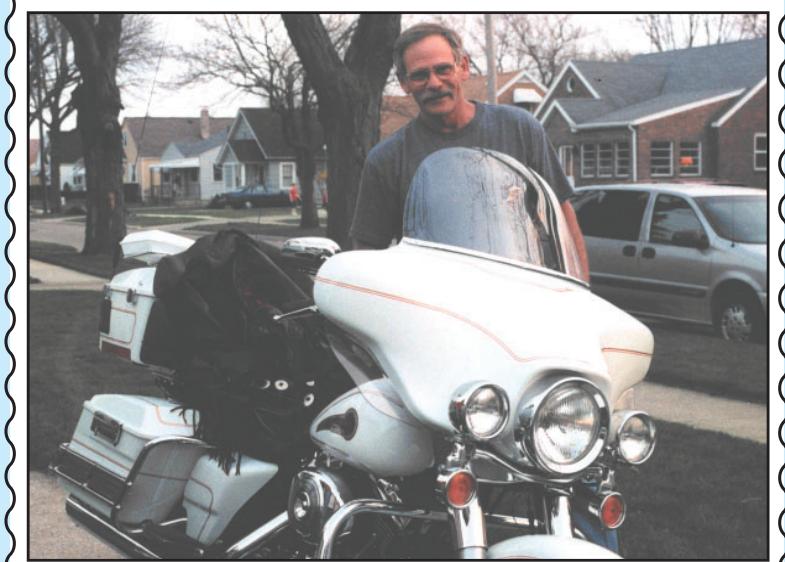
Happy 66th Birthday
Grandpa Bob!
June 8, 2025



Keep Those Tires Rollin!
Love, Lisa, Troy, Kasey,
Little Max, Mom & Dad

Bill Silvis

June 23, 1950 ~ June 10, 2024



One year ago I lost my best friend and the love of my life.
I think of you everyday. I miss you so much.
I Love You, Your loving wife, Cathy and of course Bessie too!

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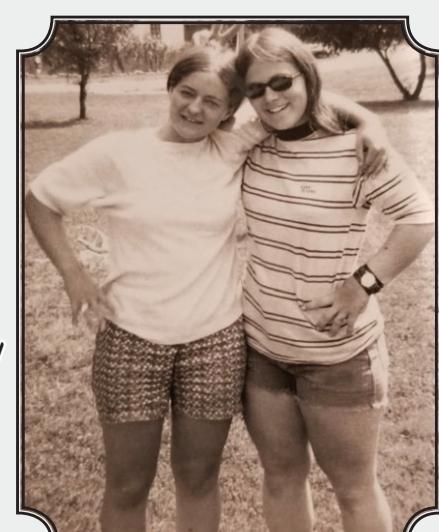


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Jacqueline "Jackie" (Pettit) Lambert

13 June 1953 ~ 27 May 2025
Lake High School, Class of 1971

Of all the special gifts in life
however great or small,
to have had you as
my life-long Friend
was the greatest gift of all.
May the winds of love blow softly
and whisper in your ear
"I love and miss you Jackie
and wish that you were here".



Deep in my heart, your life is kept to love and cherish, not forget.
No more tomorrows we can share but yesterdays are always
there.

A silent thought, a secret tear keeps your memory every near
in my heart forever.

Rest in Peace my Dearest Friend for over 60 Years.

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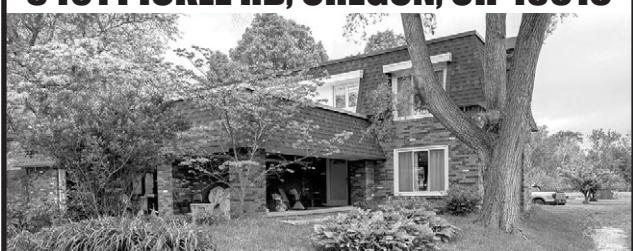
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