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February 12 - 25, 2024

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continues on page 2


Photo, right (L to R): Staci Hall, Administrator, Kim Shook, Hospital Liaison; Barbie Hutton, Social Services; Cierra Smith, Business Office Manager; Joslyn Daniel, Director of Nursing; Allison Hall, Business Development; Director with Stellar Care Group. submitted



Shop & Dine "Around The Lake"
See page 4

TC Connect Home & Business Services
Page 8

AUCTION!
Page 11



- ◆ 24 / 7 ADMISSIONS
- ◆ REHAB
- ◆ SKILLED NURSING
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Deadline for Feb. 26th issue is Feb. 16th
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LUFFA competes in FFA National Convention



Pictured is the Liberty Union FFA chapter after a general session at the Lucas Oil Stadium. submitted

Day one of the National Convention consisted of going to tour at Sugar Creek Packing Co. in Dayton, Ohio. John S. Richardson established Sugar Creek in 1966 as a raw bacon manufacturer in Washington Courthouse, Ohio. In 2023 Sugar Creek now has six major facilities. Their main focus is producing excellent packaged foods for retail, food service channels, providing a wide-ranging, value-added assortment of fully-cooked and raw bacon for their consumers across the world.

Later on in the day the chapter attended the first session of the 96th National FFA Convention & Expo. During the session we heard from Juan Bendaña. His motivational speech was over things that help you to build confidence; bring great energy, and be courageous. He gave some great examples of these topics. His first one was he recently got engaged and on his trip to Hawaii his fiance booked an open water swim with sharks that was non refundable. His other example was "Be like Pepe," Pepe was a miniature pony that he rode when he was on vacation visiting his family. While he was on a ride, there was a very poisonous snake blocking the path to move forward. Pepe faced the snake with absolutely no fear at least from what Juan could tell and stomped the snake. We ended the day with going to a haunted house at the 13th hour.

On day two of convention members got to walk around the expo center and career show. The expo center hosts many clothing stores to advertise agriculture

businesses and small businesses in general. The Career show consists of many different colleges promoting their agricultural programs along with conversing with FFA members on how their colleges and programs can help further their education. Along with colleges there were businesses promoting so that kids were able to see what a job at their business would look like.

Later the chapter attended the second general session of the FFA convention where the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd star chapters were announced. Later on that evening the chapter attended the Buckeye Bash. The Felicity Franklin and Liberty Union FFA chapters hosted the Buckeye Bash at Kelsay Farms. While at the Buckeye Bash, members from numerous FFA chapters in Ohio got the chance to participate in dancing, 9 square, cornhole, bouncy pillow, pumpkin tic tac toe, basketball, or sit by outdoor fires when the night got too cold.

Day three consisted of informational tours for the Liberty Union FFA chapter. The first stop was a trip to Ozark fisheries in Martinsville, Indiana. Ozark fisheries was created in 1926 by F. Lawrence Bailliere and Dr. Charles A. Furrow. Ozark fisheries was originally known as a prolific goldfish hatchery and throughout time their inventory expanded to ornamental goldfish, koi, snails, and crawfish. The hatchery tour guided the students through the process of growing these products and showed the final result of all the work. This tour taught the chapter about the

history of Ozark fisheries as well as how their operation works.

The next tour of the day was at Hunter's Honey Farm also located in Martinsville, Indiana. The current owners of the farm are fourth generation beekeepers and have numerous hives all throughout the state. The tour of the honey farm included information about all the products that can be harvested from a bee hive, how they package honey, honey tasting, and a viewing of an operational hive. Each kid was allowed to take home a honey bottle and two sticks as a part of their tour.

Day four of the FFA National Convention was a short, but important day. The American degree ceremony is on the final day and Liberty Union had 4 recipients receive their American degrees. Those recipients are Sydney Kagey, Alex Shy, Austin Ety, and Gavin Eastep. The requirements to earn the American FFA Degree are set forth in the National FFA Constitution. To be eligible to receive the American FFA Degree, members must meet qualifications such as receiving a State FFA Degree, holding active membership for the past three years, completing secondary instruction in an agricultural education program and operating an outstanding supervised agricultural experience program. Community service, leadership abilities and outstanding scholastic achievement are also required. We are extremely proud of all of their accomplishments and hard work.

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Cover story continued



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Eagle Scout helps bridge the gap



Pictured from left to right are: Joe Carter, Scoutmaster and Eagle Scout dad; Andrew Carter, Eagle Scout; Bill Catte of Catz Excavating; and Noah Akers, Alley Park Caretaker. submitted

Andrew Carter, an Eagle Scout from Lancaster Boy Scout Troop 165, built a wheelchair-accessible bridge at Alley Park in Lancaster, Ohio. This is the first trail of its kind at Alley Park and it will make nature education and exploration accessible to people of any ability. This walkway will provide new opportunities for park visitors to get under the canopy of the trees, enjoy the unique view of Lake Loretta created by the bridge, and experience nature like never before at Alley Park. This walkway connects to a multi-sensory nature education trail being installed by a Girl Scout as a separate project.

This project took Andrew two years of planning, six months of construction, and over 1500 volunteer hours from 25 volunteers. Project cost is estimated at \$75,000. Andrew raised over \$10,000 from service organizations including VFW, American Legion, Lions Clubs, Kiwanis and

Rotary, a grant from South Central Power Foundation, and from friends and family. The remainder of the project budget was donated in-kind from construction companies, suppliers, and skilled individuals. This project was made possible through the generous support of equipment from Columbus Equipment Company, materials from The Shelly Company and Igel Construction, paving by AJ Asphalt, engineering by Sands Decker Surveyors and Engineers, and countless hours from volunteer equipment operators.

The Eagle project is an opportunity for a Scout to demonstrate leadership while completing a project to benefit the community. Carter shared, "The most rewarding part of being the leader was seeing the project from start to finish. This project will be a large milestone in my high school career and one I will carry with me the rest of my life."

The skills are so demanding and the challenges so great, that only six percent of Scouts attain the rank of Eagle. Andrew is the son of Joe and Shannon Carter of Carroll, Ohio, and recently celebrated achieving the rank of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor held at Alley Park Lodge. The ceremony was attended by special guests including Lancaster Mayor Don McDaniel, Fairfield County Commissioners Steve Davis and Dave Levacy, Ohio Representative Kevin D. Miller, and Ohio Senator Tim Schaffer. For all their help and volunteer hours on his Eagle Project, Andrew recognized three project mentors: Noah Akers, Alley Park Caretaker; Bill Catte of Catz Excavating, Inc.; and Jerrod George of Igel Construction.

To learn more about this project, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/eagleprojectallevpark>

Fairfield Federal announces Bob Competti elected Director of the Association



Bob Competti submitted

LANCASTER, Ohio – Fairfield Federal is pleased to announce that Bob Competti has been elected a Director on the Association's Board of Directors. Competti fills the vacancy following Judith M. Root's retirement.

"We are thrilled to have Bob join our Board of Directors," said Mary Snider, President of Fairfield Federal. "In addition to bringing a wealth of business expertise to the Board, it is evident through his seasoned career, leadership and involvements that he shares the Association's commitment to the local community. We are pleased to have him on board to continue our tradition of being directed and staffed by local people for over 125 years."

Competti is a life-long resident of Lancaster Ohio. He is a graduate of Fisher Catholic High School and received his degree in

electronic engineering from DeVry Institute of Technology. Competti has an extensive career in media production and operations. After serving as Operations Manager for WWAT-TV in Chillicothe, he founded IVP Media in 1989, which now serves the central Ohio area and beyond with commercial video production, outdoor live concert venues, and live sports programming for Spectrum Cable and YouTube.

"Fairfield Federal is so involved and well respected in the Lancaster and Fairfield County community," said Bob Competti, Fairfield Federal Board of Directors. "It will be a true privilege to join the Board of Directors and work with this amazing group of people."

In addition to his professional endeavors, Competti is deeply involved in the local community. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Lancaster Fairfield

County Chamber of Commerce, Vice-President of the Fairfield County Board of Developmental Disabilities, a Big Brother Big Sisters Board Member, and is a member and past President of the Lancaster Rotary Club. Bob is also a musician, having recorded in studios in Newark, Columbus and Nashville, and performs locally with the band Bad Influence. He enjoys traveling and spending time with his family, including his wife Beth, his three children Erin, Dominic and Ryan as well as his four grandchildren and his amazing mother Rita, who will be turning 99-years-old this spring.

For more information about Fairfield Federal, visit www.fairfieldfederal.com. Follow @Fairfield.Federal.Savings.and.

Loan on Facebook to stay up to date on the organization's commitment to the community.

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Across

2. Valentine treat

4. Valentine's Day Flowers

6. Shows arrows at people

8. Expression often said on Valentine's Day "Be"

9. The month of Valentine's Day

10. A shape that is a symbol of love

11. Valentine's Day color

12. Sealed with a

Down

1. Valentine's Day is a day of

3. Something you send to people of Valentine's Day

5. Heart-shaped candies with words

7. Red and white mixed together

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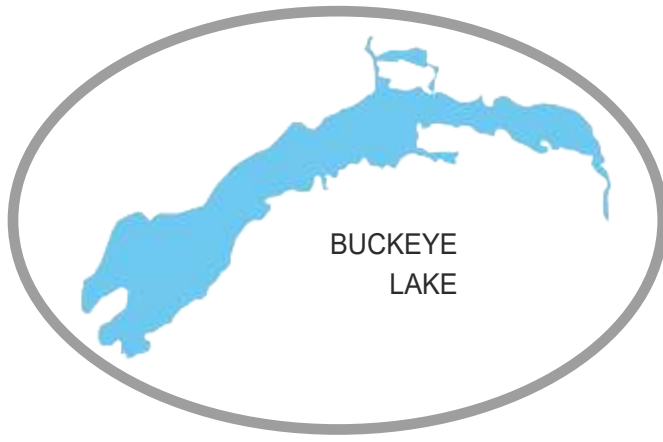
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Millersport Council Report

Village Council met on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 7:00 PM in the Municipal Building. In attendance were Mayor Gary Matheny, Council Members present were President Pro Tem Dustin Bidwell, Elizabeth Butler, Nicole Crosson, Stephanie Helle and Rick Thompson. Also present were Village Zoning Administrator Bill Simpson, Water Superintendent John Wood, Street Supervisor Dan Phelps, Village Administrator Vincent B. Popo and residents Mike Bruckelmeyer, Teresa Ralston and Karen McKittrick.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was said.

Nicole Crosson and Jim McKittrick were issued the oath of office by Mayor Gary Matheny.

Roll call was taken and everyone was present.

Dustin Bidwell was elected President of Council and the committees were the same as last year. Councilor Crossan replaced Councilor Cooperider on the committee assignment. The Safety Committee will be chaired by Stephanie Helle, Dustin Bidwell and Nicole Crossan. The Activities Committee will be chaired by Beth Butler, Jim McKittrick and Nicole Crossan. The Finance Committee will be chaired by Dustin Bidwell, Stephanie Helle and Rick Thompson. The Rules committee will be chaired by Jim McKittrick, Rick Thompson and Beth Butler.

A motion to accept the Tuesday December 12, 2023 council minutes was made by Councilor Rick Thompson and seconded by Councilor Jim McKittrick. The motion carried 6-0.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Councilor Beth Butler and seconded by Councilor Stephanie Helle. The motion carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Water: John Wood reported that the replacement meters are nearly installed with approximately 36 to complete. If you have not had your meter replaced please call Necco to have a new meter. The iron filter project will begin mid-February 2024.

Street: Street Supervisor Dan Phelps has put away the leaf machine for the year and is ready for winter with salt from Walnut Township.

Sewer: No new business to report.

Police Department: Chief Mark Consolo sent statistics for the month of December. The department issued (2) two traffic warnings, (0) zero traffic citation,

(0) zero dispatch runs and (0) zero mutual aid runs and worked (110) One Hundred Ten hours.

Fire Department: Chief Robert Price sent the run totals for the month of December. Station 631 made (40) forty runs; Station 632 made (18) eighteen runs; Station 633 made (28) twenty-eight runs; and Walnut Township made (26) twenty-six mutual aid runs.

Councilor Beth Butler followed up to go over the steps needed to establish rules, guidelines, fees and 3% bed tax on short term rentals. The Lancaster City ordinance is one of the models we are looking to implement. After much discussion it was agreed to set a follow-up meeting to move forward on a Millersport Ordinance for bed tax and registration fees and then with the input from the residents of the Village of Millersport discuss effects upon the village.

Bonnie Stutske will take over the Miller Park and Holiday Events that require decorations and flowers will be under her supervision. Tom Nebbergall will still be the Code Enforcement officer and maintain the ball field. A resolution will be provided in February.

A discussion revolved around Music In The Park and the responsibility of paying the musicians, setting up and meeting the musicians, advertising the events. The dates for 2024 have not been set.

A letter will be sent to a South Bank resident by registered mail concerning a tampered water meter in their rental. The meter was disconnected but the wire lead was connected and readings were minimum. The actual usage would be much higher because none of

the water was metered. Hopefully a compromise can be reached with the installation of meter pit. Utility tampering is a felony and we want to avoid the legal

A resident requested information concerning the building of a structure on Lecrone. Zoning Administrator Bill Simpson and Mayor Gary Matheny addressed the questions and the resident requested a copy of the zoning manual that will be made available to the resident.

Ordinance 857: is an ordinance setting the Right Of Way fees for 2024.

Ordinance 858: is an ordinance authorizing appropriations for 2024. A motion to waive the three readings was made by Councilor Rick Thompson and seconded by Councilor Jim McKittrick. Councilor Crosson abstained and the motion passed 5-0. A motion to pass the ordinance was made by Councilor Dustin Bidwell and seconded by Councilor Butler. Councilor Crosson abstained and the motion passed 5-0.

The Village of Millersport will be celebrating its Bicentennial in 2025. Plans are now being set to form a committee to plan the celebration. Residents that are interested in being part of this event should contact Vince Popo (614-562-7320).

Council approved the purchase and the upgrade of the crosswalks in the village.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Rick Thompson and seconded by Councilor Dustin Bidwell. All voted yes and the motion carried 6-0.

*A copy of the recorded Village of Millersport Council Meeting dated Tuesday January 9, 2024 is available upon request.

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Millersport Lions at the Winter Retreat

Ohio Lions sponsor a retreat every winter. They are held at a state park lodge and rotate to a different park each year.

Over 200 Lions from all across the state attended this year's gathering at Salt Fork

State Park Lodge and, as usual, Millersport was well represented. It was a weekend of fellowship, fun, connection and learning.



ID Ron Keller and 2ndVDG Kelvin Hite attend a session on technology. submitted



LCIF presentation at the Ohio Lions Winter Retreat. Left to right: PCC John Knepper (Area LCIF Coordinator), Doc & PDG Deb Mosier (MD-13 LCIF Coordinators) and ID Ron Keller. submitted



Lion Kris Keller and Secretary Diana Keller enjoy a buffet breakfast in the lodge. submitted



ZC Tamarra Parker-Stephens and Lion Natalio Parker-Stephens stop for a photo op. submitted



(Photo, right) Back by popular demand, Millersport Lion Natalio Parker-Stephens taught a session on origami. submitted



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Home Helpers receives 2024 Best of Home Care® – Leader in Experience Award

Lancaster & Chillicothe Ohio – Home Helpers announced recently that it received the distinguished 2023 Best of Home Care – Leader in Experience Award from HCP, the leading firm in experience management for post-acute care. The Leader in Experience Award is the highest recognition awarded by HCP and is given to select home care

businesses that consistently rank among the very highest in 10 or more quality metrics. As a Leader in Experience, Home Helpers is now recognized among the top 10% of home care providers participating in the nationwide HCP Experience Management Program.

“We are excited to receive this recognition because it affirms our

unwavering commitment and dedication in serving our Senior community,” said Carl and Jody Amspaugh, owners of Home Helpers.

This is the 5th year Home Helpers Lancaster & Chillicothe has received this award.

The Best of Home Care – Leader in Experience Award highlights the top-performing home care businesses in the nation. HCP believes that by honoring these providers, families looking for in-home care for a loved one will be able to recognize and choose a trusted home care provider.

“At HCP, our mission is to help post-acute care businesses create an experience that goes beyond client and caregiver expectations; ultimately improving outcomes for all stakeholders in the care continuum,” says Todd Austin, President of HCP. “When we see agencies like Home Helpers that have so effectively provided outstanding care and employment experiences, we know we’re on



Carl Amspaugh, owner; Nicole, HR manger; Tiffany, scheduling coordinator; and Jodi Amspaugh, owner. submitted

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the right track. Home Helpers has worked extremely hard to prioritize high-quality care and employment, and their work hasn’t gone unnoticed. This award allows them to show proof of quality to potential clients and caregivers.”

To find out more about Home Helper’s commitment to experience, please visit homehelpershomecare.com/Lancaster or call 740-689-9410.

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Mental Health America begins new series of support groups

A network of care agency of the Fairfield County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADAMH) Services Board is beginning a new series through the Calm Connections support group at another partnering network of care agency of the Board’s.

Mental Health America’s Calm Connections support group for stress is beginning an Exploring Wellness series beginning in February which is held at Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeastern Ohio at its new location, 604 W. Fifth Avenue in Lancaster.

Exploring Wellness focuses on the different dimensions of Wellness; physical, emotional, social, intellectual & creative, occupational, financial, environmental and spiritual. Participants can talk with others about their own experiences if they choose and reflect on their own wellness and goals.



Calm Connections meets on the second and fourth Thursdays each month at 5:30 pm. The sessions are free to participants who can join at any time and need not attend all sessions, but registration is requested. Please visit bit.ly/2groupregistration to register.

Mental Health America provides a variety of free support groups to individuals in Fairfield County with funding from the

ADAMH Board. Big Brothers Big Sisters utilizes funds from Fairfield ADAMH to match children with a “big” (adult). The big brother or big sister in turn, provides mentoring to support the child’s needs.

For more information about the Fairfield ADAMH Board network of care agencies, please visit the website at www.fairfieldadamh.org.

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Fairfield County has received High Performing ESC designation from Ohio Department of Education



Fairfield County Educational Service Center (ESC) applied for and has received the High Performing ESC designation from the Ohio Department of Education. A High Performing ESC has generated total cost savings of at least 5% for its client school districts for primary services secured from the ESC instead of another source. Fairfield County far exceeded this 5% benchmark, with a total savings of 67.75% in 2023.

Ohio’s Educational Service Centers (ESCs) provide schools and school districts with professional development, technology, support, planning, and administrative services that help improve

student learning, enhance the quality of instruction, expand access to resources, and maximize operating/fiscal efficiencies. The Ohio ESC Association (OESCA) supports, educates and advocates for Ohio’s ESCs. www.oesca.org

The Fairfield County Educational Service Center provides student-centered educational leadership and supportive services to meet the individual and collective needs of the staff, students and boards of education of the eight local school districts located in Fairfield County. More information can be found at faircoesc.org.

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Don't Miss 'Dig Into Gardening' on March 23

Do you want to learn more about new plants to introduce in your gardens for pollinators in 2024? How about finding some alternatives to those ugly boxwoods? Or do you think it looks like those boxwoods are trying to make a comeback? If you answered yes to any of those questions, then make plans now to attend the Fairfield County Master Gardeners "Dig Into Gardening" at Christ United Methodist Church, 700 S. Main Street in Baltimore, Ohio. Our program will be featuring Planting for Pollinators with Scott Beuerlein of the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Conifers for Today's Gardens with (Garden Bob) Bob Iames, American Conifer Society, and OSU Extension's Carrie Brown discussing Boxwood Problems! Cost is \$40; \$30 for current Master Gardener Volunteers, which includes a light breakfast and lunch! Doors open at 9:30 a.m. and the program begins at 9:30 a.m. and will conclude at 2:30 p.m. All proceeds for the event benefit the Fairfield County Master Gardener Program educational efforts. Check out the details: <https://fairfield.osu.edu/events/2024-dig-gardening-educational-day>

Call OSU Extension in Fairfield County for more information at 740.653.5419.

Master Gardener Training Informational Meeting

Are you thinking this is your year to become a Fairfield County Master Gardener Volunteer? If you want to learn more about the program... what's involved, how do I get started? Join us on Friday, February 23 at 1:00 p.m. at the Fairfield County Ag Center located at 831 College Avenue in Lancaster for an informational meeting about the Fairfield County Master Gardener program. Cost for the 7 week daytime program is \$150 which does include

your training manual and handouts. All interested in Master Gardener Volunteer training in Fairfield County are encouraged to attend. Please call OSU Extension in Fairfield County to reserve your seat today at 740-653-5419.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Private Fertilizer Recertification - Thursday, February 29 from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. - Fairfield County Ag Center. Cost is \$10.

Private Pesticide Recertification - 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Fairfield County Ag Center. Cost is \$25.

Please bring your ODA Fertilizer or Pesticide card with you to the training. All classes will be held at the Fairfield County Agriculture Center, 831 College Ave., Lancaster. For more information or to register online go to: <http://go.osu.edu/PestFert>

Junior Fair Market Beef Tagging Announced

It's time once again to prepare for Jr. Market Beef tagging and weigh-in. This year it is being conducted in a fashion like recent years but in addition will include exhibitors planning to participate in the recently created 'finished' Dairy Beef Steer project in Fairfield County.

Market beef weigh-in for traditional beef animals as well as dairy beef steers is set for Saturday, March 9, 2024, at Fairfield Cattle Company located at 3443 Cincinnati-Zanesville Road (S.R. 22), Lancaster, from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. In advance of March 9th exhibitors will be required to tag their own market beef animals with an 840 EID tag (unless the calf already has an EID tag). Visual numbered tags are encouraged but will not be provided or required this year. As

in the recent past, participants will submit a hair follicle DNA sample at the weigh-in for each calf.

Again this year families with market beef and dairy beef steer projects are also required to reserve a weigh-in time for the 9th, and only those directly involved in transporting and weighing the calves should plan to attend. Please no spectators. To SCHEDULE A TIME for weigh in <https://go.osu.edu/scheduletime>. The goal remains to reduce congregation at weigh-in and minimize the transfer of paperwork.

Youth/families planning to weigh/tag-in market beef steers, market beef heifers, and dairy beef steers to be finished for the 2024 fair must submit a request for EID tags on-line by completing the survey linked here by March 6, 2024. Complete only one request survey per family.

Each calf must have an 840 EID tag. If a calf already has an 840 EID tag, DO NOT REMOVE IT. A new tag is not required or allowed.

Either ear is acceptable for tag placement, however the left ear is preferred.

Youth/families are expected to apply the required tag in the calf's ear prior to weigh/tag-in on March 9, 2024, and submit their individual and/or family exhibitor information, calf tagging, and housing information by March 8, at 9 a.m.

For all the details and paperwork documentation please see Beef Tagging detail for 2024: <https://go.osu.edu/beeftag24>

If you have addition questions on this tagging and weighing process for your 2024 Fairfield County Fair market beef animals, contact Junior Fair Director Doug Shell at lshell171@gmail.com.

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Decorative Arts Center of Ohio presents From Struggle to Strength: Inspiring Journeys of Central Ohio's Refugee Community



Tariq Tarey submitted

LANCASTER, OH—The Decorative Arts Center of Ohio in Lancaster showcases the work of central Ohio photographer and filmmaker Tariq Tarey, whose photographic portraits help tell the powerful and important stories of members of central Ohio's refugee community.

In *From Struggle to Strength: Inspiring Journeys of Central Ohio's Refugee Community*, Tarey's portraits highlight and honor the experiences that refugees to central Ohio endured as they fled armed conflict, political persecution, human rights abuses, ethnic and religious conflicts and gender-based violence in their native lands for better lives in the United States. The exhibition's more than three dozen black-and-white photographs also inform viewers of the original cultures and ethnicities of their subjects, who hail from countries in East Africa, Africa's Great Lakes region, West Africa, Bhutan, Afghanistan and Iraq.

"These diverse backgrounds reflect the global nature of refugee issues and the resilience of individuals forced to leave their homes in search of hope and a better life,"

said Tarey, who curated *From Struggle to Strength*. "The exhibition aims to shed light on their experiences and strength in the face of adversity and serves as a testament to the central Ohio community."

Tarey's extensive research into his subjects' cultural backgrounds and unique stories results in portraits of uncommon insight. Imbued with compassion and care, his work suggests that a genuine desire to understand the people of central Ohio's immigrant community can help everyone forge connections across cultural lines.

"Tariq's work reveals the humanity of his subjects in both powerful and subtle ways, allowing us all to see each person not just as static images on the wall, but as real people who have endured through unimaginable struggles to build new lives here in Central Ohio," said Jason Crabill, executive director of the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio. "I hope this exhibition introduces our visitors to the many challenges refugees face around the world, and highlights the beauty and richness of the cultures, traditions and perspectives they bring with them to our shared home."

Ultimately the stories told through the images in *From Struggle to Strength* are more than personal stories — they are part of America's longstanding and ongoing narrative of opening its doors to people seeking refuge from afar.

"I feel that everyone can use a reminder that their families were once immigrants," said Michael Johnson, marketing director of the Fairfield County Heritage Association and museum director of Lancaster's Sherman House Museum. "It's important to understand that the struggles, fears, insecurities and challenges that today's immigrants are facing are the same

ones that our own families faced. Understanding history should encourage us to be more empathetic to those in a similar position today."

Running concurrently with *From Struggle to Strength: Inspiring Journeys of Central Ohio's Refugee Community* is *Perspective of Color*, an exhibition of paintings by central Ohio painter Hani Hara. Born in Egypt, Hara immigrated to Ohio when still a child and began painting at age 40. This sampling of paintings created over the span of 35 years embodies Hara's intensely colorful and uniquely expressive approach to painting human faces.

The public is invited to events associated with *From Struggle to Strength: Inspiring Journeys of Central Ohio's Refugee Community*. Program details and registration at <http://www.decartsOhio.org/>.

Road To Lancaster: Our Immigration Michael Johnson, marketing director of the Fairfield County Heritage Association and museum director of the Sherman House Museum, will speak about the history of immigrants to Lancaster and how their unique backgrounds affected the community during the Civil War. This program is presented in conjunction with the Fairfield County Heritage Association. Sunday, Feb. 18 at 2 p.m.

MASTERCLASS: Portrait Photography with Tariq Tarey In two masterclass sessions, Tariq Tarey will share his insights into composition, storytelling and lighting in the art and craft of portrait photography. Sunday, Feb. 25 & March 10, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Documentary Screening: Silsilad View Tariq Tarey's fascinating film about three Somali-American artists in Minneapolis and the challenges they face

running a gallery for BIPOC artists. After the screening, Tarey will moderate a discussion, "Welcoming Refugees to Central Ohio," with a panel of community leaders. Sunday, March 17 at 2 p.m.

All programs and classes will take place at the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio's Wendel Center for Art Education. For more information, visit www.decartsOhio.org or call 740-681-1423.

From Struggle to Strength: Inspiring Journeys of Central Ohio's Refugee Community is made possible by PNC Arts Alive and the Ohio

Holocaust and Genocide Memorial and Education Commission.

From Struggle to Strength: Inspiring Journeys of Central Ohio's Refugee Community opens on Sat., Jan. 27, 2024 and runs through Sun., April 28, 2024.

The Decorative Arts Center is housed in the Reese-Peters House, a Greek Revival masterpiece at 145 E. Main Street in Lancaster's Historic District. Admission is free Wednesday - Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday - Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

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FEB 25TH - "HOW GOD WORKS THROUGH NATURE"

Putting one foot forward

by Amy Carpenter, Ph.D.

In November 2015 Laquinta Hayes was on her way home in her brand-new car when she was broadsided by a drunk driver. After the accident she was having pain in her right leg, so she decided to see a chiropractor named Dr. Anderson.

Laquinta told her chiropractor about her accident and her numerous trips to the ER, and how nothing seemed to be helping. Dr. Anderson tried several things to help Laquinta like massage and electric shock, but he didn't see things getting any better.

Dr. Anderson wanted to run tests because the swelling wouldn't go down in Laquinta's leg. He sent Laquinta for an MRI and found out that there was a reason Laquinta's leg wouldn't heal. Dr. Anderson told Laquinta that she had osteosarcoma, a rare bone cancer. Laquinta was the first patient in all of his years of being a chiropractor that he had to tell this to. Laquinta was in shock. She had never heard of sarcoma. She had just thought the pain and swelling was from working two jobs and being on her feet all day.

Laquinta is one of the lucky ones. The challenge with osteosarcoma is that a diagnosis isn't always made right away, because the symptoms are common to other health problems. According to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 15 to 20% of patients' osteosarcoma has spread by the time it is diagnosed. Not only was Laquinta lucky to have survived her car accident, but she was lucky her leg bone didn't break or it would have caused the cancer to spread throughout her body.

Laquinta is thankful to have a knowledgeable chiropractor who knew something wasn't right, and was able to focus on the symptoms and not the statistics. Many adults



Laquinta Hayes submitted

with sarcoma go undiagnosed, because sarcoma is usually diagnosed in children and teens, not adults. Laquinta's doctor didn't look at her age. He looked at her symptoms to diagnosis her.

Dr. Anderson referred Laquinta to Ohio State University where she was introduced to Dr. Joel Mayerson. Right away Laquinta knew Dr. Mayerson was the right doctor for her. He made her feel like he really cared and that she was family, not just a number. She did six rounds of chemo to help shrink the sarcoma before Dr. Mayerson amputated her left leg.

The first year after losing her leg, Laquinta grieved the loss of her old life. She was angry every day and each day was a struggle to get out of bed. Each time Laquinta visited the hospital she would get good news about her progress, and Dr. Mayerson would root her on. Then she would see and hear of other patients who didn't survive. That caused Laquinta to change her mindset to "I will fight for the ones that didn't make it and for the ones who did!"

After losing her job as a welder, Laquinta lost her purpose in life. One day she was at a flea market when a

man named Terry Boyd approached her about playing on the USA Women's Softball Team. Laquinta was hesitant and had only played sports for two years when she was 13, but she decided she would check it out. Little did she know how this choice of "Putting One Foot Forward" would change her life.

Laquinta's brave step has led her to play five wheelchair sports including: basketball, rugby, soccer, football and softball. She is constantly training and goes to the gym an hour a day. In fact, while competing for Team USA, Laquinta made the 1st year 5 star line up and the 1st year captain of the team.

Laquinta has proven "Out of pain comes purpose."

Stay tuned to my upcoming show on "Around Towne With Amy" (Spectrum 1021, You Tube and Facebook) to find out more about Laquinta's story.



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THIS 'N' THAT



Local Events, News, Happenings & More!

The deadline for the Feb. 26 Issue is Noon, Feb. 16

We Want Your News Items!

Submissions for This 'n' That accepted only by email at freedomptg@roadrunner.com in Microsoft Word, .TXT, or RTF (Rich Text Format) only. We can no longer accept "hard-copy" submissions by mail or fax. Please include your name and phone

number in case we have questions. Non-profit events only please. We reserve to right to select which items are published. Group flea markets, yard/garage sales and craft bazaars should be submitted as a classified ad at \$10 for 25 words, or a display ad (call toll-free 1-888-354-1352 for pricing).

Lenten Fish Fry's

The Thurston Methodist Church will be having Lenten Fish Fry's on the following Fridays: February 16 and 23; March 1, 8, 15, and 22 from 4:30-7:00 PM. Suggested donation is \$13. Menu: fried cod, baked beans or green beans, Au Gratin potatoes or French fries, coleslaw or applesauce, roll, ice cream. Carry out only. Call 740 862-6943 to place order or drive up.

Wildermuth Church News

This February, Wildermuth Church is collecting the following items for Foundation Shelter in Lancaster: 8 oz. disposable coffee cups, coffee, coffee creamer, sugar, paper towels, toilet paper (2 ply), trash bags, and kitchen size trash bags.

If you would like to contribute any of these items, please message us via Facebook messenger or phone 740-756-9265.

Wildermuth Memorial Church is located at 3405 Carroll Eastern Road in Carroll. Join us at 10am on Sunday for our worship service led by Pastor Brandon Lewis. Follow us on Facebook at Wildermuth Church Page and see our website wildermuthchurch.com.

Penguin Project Informational Meeting

Come and learn what The Penguin Project is all about on

Monday, February 5 at 6:30 p.m. at Lancaster Masonic Temple.

Once a year, a magical and touching celebration of the human spirit unfolds at numerous theaters across the country. A group of children in a program called The Penguin Project take to the stage to perform a modified version of a well-known Broadway musical. These productions are unique, however, because all the roles are filled by young artists with physical and developmental disabilities including Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism, intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, visual impairment, hearing impairment, and other neurological disorders. They are joined on stage by a dedicated group of "peer mentors" – children the same age without disabilities who have volunteered to work side-by-side with them through 4 months of rehearsals and through the final performance. By providing access to community theater, The Penguin Project demonstrates that the special challenges of a disability should not handicap a child's ability to participate in life's experiences.

A Matter of Balance Program Offered

Do you need help with overcoming the fear of falling, recognizing your fall risk factors and would you like to engage in a range of motion exercises that increase strength and balance? This class is for you! The class will be held on Mondays and Thursdays, February 12 - March 7, 2024, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (must attend 6 out of 8 classes) at Windsor Place, 141 Graceland Dr., Lancaster.

Registration: Call Linda at 740-681-5050, ext. 119.

4-H DAY Slated for March 2 at the Fairgrounds

New 4-H families who need assistance with choosing projects and/or clubs are invited to attend 4-H Day on Saturday, March 2nd from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the AAA

Building at the Fairfield County Fairgrounds.

Ohio Genealogical Society Meeting

The Ohio Genealogical Society, Fairfield Chapter, meeting will be Thursday, February 15, at the Genealogical Research Library, 503 Lenwood Drive in Lancaster. Refreshments at 6:30 pm, short business meeting at 7 pm, followed by the program from Family Search Library webinar, "Proven ways to find your immigrant ancestors". All are welcome. Visit our website (www.fairfieldgenealogy.org) for a video tour of our Genealogy Research Library made possible by a gift in the name of the Alma S. Busby Fund of the Fairfield County Foundation.

Visit the History Room at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

The museum is open the first Sunday of each month for tours from 10:00-11:30 a.m. immediately after church services, or by appointment. You can expect to see the Andrew Bauman scale model of the church, portraits, photographs, and treasured historical objects. St. Peter's Lutheran Church is located at 105 E. Mulberry St., in Lancaster, Ohio. Church office (740) 653-1950.

Slow Cooker Workshop

Join Shannon Carter, Extension Educator and Sandy Bohl, Trained Instructor, with Ohio State University Extension Fairfield County, to learn more about the basics of using a slow cooker, including: Meal Planning tips, ways to save time and money and sample recipes. Class is slated for February 13 from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at the Wagnall's Memorial Library, 150 E. Columbus Street, Lithopolis. Register at 614-837-4765. Workshop sponsored by The Wagnalls Memorial Library

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Fairfield 33 Alliance's Career Readiness Program receives large grant from state

LANCASTER, OH – The Fairfield 33 Development Alliance is being awarded funding from Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted, Director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, through the Industry Sector Partnership (ISP) Grant. The program supports collaborations that help bring Ohioans into the workforce pipeline while meeting the needs of job creators and the local economy.

The grant will award the Fairfield 33 Development Alliance \$120,000 to be used toward funding the Career Readiness Program. This program includes career navigators that work with high school students to develop core job skills and gain employment, summer Career Exploration Camps for junior high students, and pre-apprenticeship training to provide skills needed for careers in manufacturing, healthcare, and skilled trades. Addressing local workforce

development is a priority for local businesses, elected officials, students, parents and community members as Fairfield County faces inevitable growth. Fairfield County has made it a priority to help local employers connect with work-ready students to build a pipeline of skilled workers.

"The Career Readiness Program targets students who have yet to decide what path they are choosing after high school," said Fairfield County Economic Director Rick Szabrak. "This program helps connect them to local jobs, changing their trajectory to career success and becoming productive members of the community."

The Workforce Center and Career Readiness programs now serve all eight school districts in the county. Commissioner Dave Levacy said offering a path to employment for high school students is a solution to many of the challenges facing a growing county.

Classifieds

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, military status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." State and local laws forbid discrimination based on factors in addition to those protected under federal law.

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NOTICES

The Basil Joint Fire District's Annual Financial Report is complete and available at the office of the Fiscal Officer. Station 610 410 Washington St Baltimore. For the remainder of the year all public notices will be posted to the website www.basilfire.com

The 2023 Annual Financial Report for Clearcreek Township is available for review by contacting Carolyn Holbrook, Fiscal Officer 740-474-1733.

The 2023 Annual Finance Report for the Village of Bremen was filed with the Auditor of State of Ohio. This report is available for public viewing by contacting the Village office for an appointment at 740-569-4788.

EVENTS

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Fairfield County Foundation scholarship application available online

LANCASTER, Ohio - The Fairfield County Foundation is currently accepting applications for more than 100 different scholarship funds for local students for the 2024-2025 school year using one online application, which can be found at <https://www.fairfieldcountyfoundation.org/scholarships/applications>. The application officially opened December 1, 2023 and the deadline to submit applications is Friday, March 8, 2024. Applicants are encouraged to check out the scholarships page on our website for more details, criteria, tips and frequently asked questions to assist in filling out the application. The Foundation's application system filters down which scholarships students are eligible to receive based on the criteria of

each scholarship fund.

Generally, scholarships are reserved for residents of Fairfield County or graduates of a high school in Fairfield County; however, there are a few that are available to students outside of the county. Applicants can be graduating high school seniors, current undergraduate, graduate, non-traditional or vocation/technical school students.

The program staff will be conducting FAFSA and scholarship nights throughout the next few months at the local high schools. They will also be conducting a night at the Fairfield County District Library on Thursday, January 18th at 5pm. To RSVP for this night please email aspires@fairfieldcountyfoundation.org.

aspires@fairfieldcountyfoundation.org

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