



STANDOUT SHOWING

Big Orange squads both finish first, Chiefs' Maus wins boys race at Ohio Caverns meet



FORECAST

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Suicide Awareness Week begins at local high school

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

Bellefontaine High School students and staff recognize Suicide Awareness Week throughout this week, Sept. 23-27.

September is Suicide Prevention Month, a time to remember the lives lost to suicide, acknowledge the millions more who have experienced suicidal thoughts, and the many individuals, families, and communities that have been impacted by suicide. It's also a time to raise awareness about suicide prevention and share a message of hope.

Monday, Sept. 23, students were greeted with locker signs spreading a message of hope and magnets that share information about 988, the suicide and crisis lifeline.

People can call or text 988 for themselves

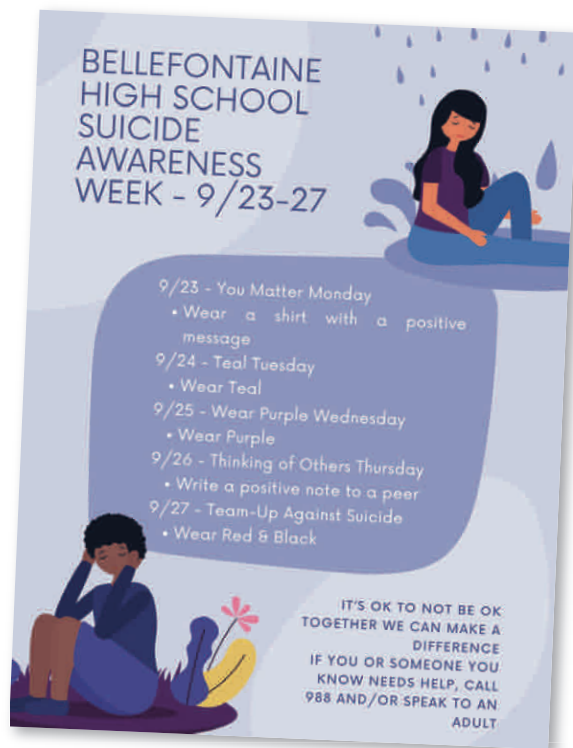
or if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support. 988 offers 24/7 access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing mental health-related distress. Whether you're facing mental health struggles, emotional distress, alcohol or drug use concerns, or just need someone to talk to,

DAILY THEMES

- TUESDAY - Teal Tuesday
- WEDNESDAY - Wear Purple Wednesday
- THURSDAY - Thinking of Others Thursday
- FRIDAY - Team-Up Against Suicide

caring counselors are there for you. The week's event are coordinated by the Bellefontaine High School guidance counselors, BCS Mental Health Therapist Beth Ramsey and the Start with Hello Club at BHS.

School officials expressed appreciation to the Logan County Health District and the Logan County Suicide Prevention Coalition for their donations to the week, and also to the Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Services Board of Logan and Champaign Counties for their support of the activities.



Heart warrior's 1st birthday marked with extra gratitude

Luka, other pediatric patients invited to join new Mended Little Hearts group this week

BY MANDY LOEHR
EXAMINER STAFF WRITER

A West Liberty area family celebrated an important and very grateful day earlier this month — their son Luka's first birthday on Sept. 6. It was an extra happy occasion considering the young heart warrior's difficult early months of his life, which included two heart surgeries, home monitoring, cardiac follow-up visits every two weeks, and some very tentative moments in between for his parents.

Following Luka's most recent 10-hour cardiac surgery in April, he is no longer on home monitoring, has no physical restrictions and only needs to take a baby aspirin once a day.

The brave toddler with bright brown eyes and an infectious smile is now breezing through his milestones as well. He's learned to stand and is

working his way toward walking and trying to keep up with his older brother, Oliver, age 4.

Dealing with a complex congenital heart condition was something completely new for Logan and Teresa. Their four-year-old does not have any heart issues, and neither parent grew up with any pediatric heart issues in their families.

Logan and Teresa Kingen of West Liberty are pictured last year with their sons, Oliver, and Luka, age 1 month. (SUBMITTED PHOTO)



So when Luka at two days old required emergency transport from his birthplace at

See GRATITUDE on P9

West Liberty resident Luka Kingen, who celebrated his first birthday Sept. 6, holds his Beads of Courage, a program that gives beads to represent every poke, test, scan, procedure, and more that young patients have been through to inspire hope and resilience. (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Riverside Men's Retreat attendees encouraged to be a 'well-driven nail'

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

Former U.S. Army Major Ryan Tackett encouraged attendees at Riverside High School's Men's Junior and Senior Retreat on Wednesday, Sept. 18, during his presentation about integrity, opening your heart and dropping your ego, with the theme of "Becoming a Well-Driven Nail."

This year's 3rd Biannual Men's Retreat took place at Winner Harvest Barn and Family Farm. Superintendent Dr. Scott Mann began the event in 2020 as an idea for 11th- and 12th-grade young men to hear inspirational speakers discuss how to overcome life obstacles and strengthen

their mental health.

Tackett had students participate in a several activities — a push-up challenge showing physical strength won by Landon Purtee, hammering nails into a board to show skill won by Travis Brooks, and then participants nominated their peers based on integrity.

The students voted senior Jordan Dunham as their classmate portraying the most integrity in his daily life.

When students compared the values of physical strength, skill and integrity, they concluded a person with integrity to be the most valuable to have in your circle.

Tackett presented Jordan with a Husky

hammer, stating that your heart matters more over muscles and skillset.

After a break with outdoor activities including a Battle Light Challenge and Archery Tag rented from A-1 Amusement & Party Rental, the stories of three men from the class of 1986 was shared with students. Their stories started from humble means to build a lives of success.

Attorney Jeff Teeters of Cincinnati presented his talk on, "Why Should I Care Who This Guy Is?" Jeff spoke about mistakes, failures and consequences. He shared his experience with grief and loss

See RETREAT on Page 4



Former U.S. Army Major Ryan Tackett presents Jordan Dunham with a Husky hammer after Jordan was voted the classmate with the most integrity during the Riverside Men's Junior and Senior Retreat. (RIVERSIDE SCHOOLS PHOTO)



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ABE MARTIN



"Th' best way t' change your luck is t' go t' work."

Written prior, 1931, by Kin Hubbard, a world-famous newspaper humorist and father of late T.E. Hubbard, former Examiner owner/publisher

PIRATE ROYALTY



The Riverside High School announces its 2024 homecoming court, who will lead the spirit-filled festivities this week. Brianna Brandyberry, pictured at the center of the second row, was voted as this year's queen, and Braylon Dunn, pictured at the center of the third row, was voted as king. They chose Harper McClintick to walk as their princess and Eli Dunn as their prince, and both are pictured in the front row. The Senior Attendant is Avery Perk, and the Senior Escort is Carter Kreglow. The Junior Attendant is Ashley Roach, and the Junior Escort is Eli Kindle. The Sophomore Attendant is Peyton Duckro, and the Sophomore Escort is Drew Wilson. The Freshman Attendant is Makenzie Stotler and the Freshman Escort is Justin Mazariegos. Community members can cheer on the court, along with all of the Riverside teams and cheerleaders, in downtown DeGraff for the homecoming parade, which begins at 6:15 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25. Next, the court will be presented before the football game at 6:15 p.m. Friday, Sept. 27. Finally, Riverside students in grades nine through 12 will dance the night away at the Great Gatsby-themed Homecoming Dance Saturday night, Sept. 28, from 7:30 to 10 p.m. (RIVERSIDE SCHOOLS PHOTO)

RAIDER ROYALTY



Benjamin Logan announces their 2024 homecoming court, who will lead festivities next week. Pictured are, from the left, first row: junior Lily Studebaker and seniors Nora Elliott, Lahna Cook, Kate Gulick and Paityn Anspach; second row: junior Roman Maxwell and seniors Landon Zehner, Eric Hughes, Jerrick Stephens, Bryden Morris and Landon Stoodt; and third row: freshmen Kasen Tromblay and Ella Stoodt and sophomores Maddy Daniels and Alex Hassel. The Benjamin Logan Homecoming Parade will take place in Belle Center at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25, with the theme, "At Last I See the Light." The parade will end with a bonfire, hot chocolate, and hot dogs beside Murray Griffin Park around 7 p.m. Then Friday evening, Sept. 27, the Raiders face off against Northwestern at 7 p.m. at Benjamin Logan High School. Student Government hosts the Homecoming Dance, from 8 to 11 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, at BLHS. (PHOTO BY JEFF ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY)

LOCAL NOTES

East Liberty Community Choir hosts Christmas cantata practices

The East Liberty Community Choir has begun its rehearsals for the annual Christmas cantata. Rehearsals take place every Sunday at 5 p.m. at the East Liberty Church of Christ, until the performance date, Dec. 22.

Anyone with the joy of singing and appreciation of music is invited to participate.

City school board calls special session for Oct. 1

The Bellefontaine City Schools Board of Education meets for a special work session at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1, at the board office for the purpose of discussing district goals.

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SENIOR OF THE MONTH



Tavien St. Clair
Parents: Marcus and Patricia St. Clair

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS: Varsity Football (4 years), Basketball (1 year), Baseball (2 years), FCA, Chieftain Backers, BHS Community Service, 1st Team CBC in Football (3 years), 1st Team All-Ohio in Football (1 year), CBC Offensive Player of the Year (2 years), Elite 11 Finalist, Voted Number 1 Player in the Country by Rivals.com, and Academic Awards.

If I were principal for a day: We would have a flag football tournament.

Favorite school memory: Making freestyles with my friends in freshman focus class.

People who have inspired me: My parents, family, friends, and coaches.

Lately I've been reading: The Bible.

My advice to parents: Encourage your kids to speak about the things that make them uncomfortable.

My biggest regret: Going into work study class without a job.

Next year: I will be attending The Ohio State University majoring in sports management and playing football.

Gunman who killed 10 at a Colorado supermarket found guilty of murder

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — A mentally ill man who killed 10 people at a Colorado supermarket was convicted Monday of murder by a jury that rejected his attempt to avoid prison time by pleading not guilty by reason of insanity.

Victims' relatives recounted in pained testimony the lives gunman Ahmad Alissa destroyed in the 2021 attack in the college town of Boulder.

Nikolena Stanisic, whose only sibling, Neven, was killed, recalled going out to ice cream with her brother the night before he was shot and how he would sometimes help her with her bills. She told the court that their household -- once filled with talk and laughter -- is now mostly silent.

"To the person that's done this, we hope that you suffer for the rest of your life. You are a coward," Stanisic said. "I hope this haunts the defendant until the end of time. The defendant deserves the absolute worse."

Defense attorneys did not dispute that Alissa, who has schizophrenia, fatally shot 10 people including a police officer. But the defense argued he was insane at the time of the attack and couldn't tell right from wrong.

In addition to 10 counts of first-degree murder, the jury found Alissa guilty on 38 charges of attempted murder, one count of assault, and six counts of possessing illegal, large-capacity magazines.

First-degree murder carries a mandatory life sentence in Colorado, and the sentencing hearing immediately followed the verdict on Monday.

Alissa did not visibly react as the judge began reciting the guilty verdicts against him. He sat at a table with his attorneys and appeared to trade notes with members of the defense team, speaking quietly at times with one of his attorneys.

Judge Ingrid Bakke had warned against any outbursts. There were some tears and restrained crying on the victims' side of the courtroom as the murder convictions were read.

The courtroom was packed largely with victims' families and police officers, including those who were shot at by Alissa. Several members of Alissa's family sat just behind him.


Alissa started shooting

immediately after getting out of his car in a King Soopers store parking lot in March 2021. He killed most of the victims in just over a minute and surrendered after an officer shot him in the leg.

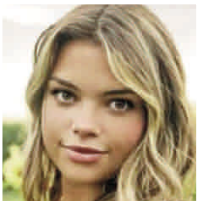
Erika Mahoney was in California, six months preg-

nant, when she found out about the attack in which her father was killed. She was so upset she thought she was going to lose the baby, Mahoney told the court.

Mahoney said she wanted an apology or remorse from the gunman or his family but has not gotten any.



SENIOR OF THE MONTH



Ava Campbell
Parents: Stephan and Keri Campbell

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS: National Honor Society (Social Media Coordinator), 4 years of Volleyball, Student United Way, DECA, Chieftain Leadership Initiative, Chieftain Leaders (Social Media Coordinator), and Chieftain Backers.

If I were principal for a day: I would let everyone bring their pets to school.

Favorite school memory: Being part of the in-school Bellefontaine vs. Indian Lake volleyball match we held at our school my sophomore year.

People who have inspired me: My parents, coaches, and teachers over the years from intermediate school up until now.

Lately I've been reading: "Great Circle" by Maggie Shipstead.

My advice to parents: Let your kids be kids. We're bound to make mistakes, it's part of life, but please give us the chance to learn and improve from them. Please be kind and intentional with your words.

My biggest regret: Caring what others had to say and letting it affect some of the choices I made early into my high school career.


Next year: I will be attending a college close to water in hopes of majoring in business or accounting.



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RETREAT

Continued from Page 1

and not allowing others to determine your success. He closed with the important of being prepared for when your opportunity comes.

Brian Hodges, owner and operator of two businesses, shared with the students about not letting others define who you are. How you set your own limits is important, and not letting others set them for you.

Dr. Mann spoke about survival and to stop blaming others for your circumstances. He reiterated the importance of not using excuses for how your life turns out. What you do after you fail says a lot about who you are.

Once the participants fueled up with lunch catered by Davis Meats and City Sweets & Creamery, they were given time to enjoy more outdoor activities and team building.

The day concluded with Jeff Pinkleton, executive director and founder at The Gathering (of the Miami Valley). His topic was "Your Words Matter."

"For every one positive interaction, a person also experiences 14 negative ones," he said. "Life is really good and life is really hard, who are you doing life with?"

School officials expressed appreciation to all of the speakers and to Main Street Signs for creating the T-shirts for the day.



Riverside High School's Men's Junior and Senior Retreat attendees pose for a photo during their day of activities at Winner Harvest Barn. (RIVERSIDE SCHOOLS PHOTO)

Kmart's blue light fades to black

NEW YORK (AP) — Attention, Kmart shoppers, the end is near! The erstwhile retail giant renowned for its Blue Light Specials is shuttering its last full-scale store in mainland United States. The store, located in swank Bridgehampton, New York, on Long Island, is slated to close Oct. 20. That's according to Denise Rivera,

an employee who answered the phone at the store late Monday. That will leave only a small Kmart store in Miami. The retailer closed its last New Jersey store last year. It has a handful of stores in Guam and in the U.S. Virgin Islands. In its heyday, there were more than 2,000 Kmarts in the U.S.

BELLEFONTAINE BEAT

POLICE & FIRE

Man lodged on OVI, weapons charges

A man who reportedly displayed a firearm during an altercation at Waffle House, 1133 N. Main St., Friday, Sept. 20, was later arrested and charged with multiple offenses, including drunk driving and multiple gun charges.

Michael Atzbach, 43, of Kenton, was taken into custody following the incident that began around 10:14 p.m., officers of the Bellefontaine Police Department report. Officers were notified of a dispute at the Waffle House, where a male suspect had reportedly shown a firearm.

Witnesses reported that Atzbach had been involved in an argument with other customers, and was asked to leave the establishment. He reportedly left and got into a silver Dodge pickup truck. Moments later, Atzbach reportedly revved his engine before raising a handgun in the air and smiling at one of the witnesses, officers were told.

Officers responding to the call observed a truck matching the description of the suspect's vehicle traveling northbound on north Main Street. The truck was seen swerving, crossing the double yellow line, and fluctuating in speed between 35 and 45 mph. Officers followed the suspect's truck as he pulled into the Marathon gas station parking lot, 1138 N. Main St.

Atzbach was told to exit the truck and walk backwards toward officers. He reportedly struggled to comply with the commands and repeatedly turned around, looking at officers. Once outside the truck, he was unsteady on his feet and showed signs of impairment, including bloodshot eyes, slurred speech and the strong smell of alcohol.

The defendant was taken into custody. A handgun was discovered in plain view on the passenger seat of the truck, along with unopened cans of alcohol. The weapon was loaded and had a magazine containing 15 rounds of 9mm ammunition.

While being transported to the Logan County Jail, the strong smell of alcohol from Atzbach was noted by officers. At the jail, he refused to participate in field sobriety tests or provide a chemical test, and was charged with OVI. He was also charged with improperly handling firearms in a motor vehicle, a felony due because he was intoxicated.

Atzbach's vehicle was towed from the scene, and his driver's license was seized. The Logan County Prosecutor's Office is reviewing the case for further charges.



LOGAN COUNTY BEAT

SHERIFF & HIGHWAY PATROL

Man lodged after brandishing handgun

Robert Harrington, 25, of Rushsylvania, was arrested Sunday, Sept. 22, after he admitted to pointing a loaded handgun during an altercation at the One Stop Gas Station, 125 N. Sandusky St., Rushsylvania.

Deputies from the Logan County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to the gas station shortly after 7:30 p.m. following a report from a female complainant who said that Harrington had pointed a gun at her in the parking lot.

The female victim reported that she and her husband have had ongoing issues with Harrington, and his mother, Jana Walker, and that the duo confronted her when she was leaving the gas station. She said that Harrington pointed a handgun at her and the three exchanged words before Harrington and Walker reportedly left the scene and went back to their residence nearby.

Deputies made contact with Harrington and Walker at their residence on Rush Street. Harrington claimed the victim had been the primary aggressor and that he pointed the gun at her in self-defense after she tried to attack him. The defendant admitted the gun was loaded at that time.

Deputies recovered a loaded black Taurus .39 caliber revolver, and charged Harrington with aggravated menacing. He was lodged in the Logan County Jail.



First responders night

Friday evening, Sept. 20, local first responder units — including fire departments, EMS and law enforcement agencies — were honored at the home football game. The event featured the Presentation of Colors by the Harold Kerr American Legion Post #173 Color Guard, with the American flag being raised members by Blue Jacket Post 599 of Zanesfield. This event was a powerful expression of unity, appreciation and remembrance for those who have served and continue to serve. (CAROLINE PALMER PHOTO)



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From the left, West Liberty-Salem's Malia Miller, Benjamin Logan's Nora Elliott, WL-Salem's Caleb Larson and Bellefontaine's Hayden Maus run Saturday at the Ohio Caverns Invitational. (EXAMINER PHOTOS | TONY BARRETT)

WL-S sweeps, BHS boys take 3rd at Ohio Caverns Invite

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

West Liberty-Salem's cross country teams swept the Ohio Caverns Invitational on Saturday, earning first-place on both the boys and girls sides, while the Bellefontaine boys team took third and the Benjamin Logan boys and girls teams also posted top-seven finishes in a crowded field.

The WL-S boys took first with 22 points. The WL-S girls team claimed victory with a score of 31.

Bellefontaine's boys' team took third overall with a score of 99.

Benjamin Logan teams also had solid performances, with the boys finishing seventh with a score of 205, and the girls placing sixth with a score of 130.

Columbus Grove finished second in the girls race with 82 points. North Union was third with 96 points. Bloom-Carroll was fourth with 103 points, and Greenville finished fifth with 105 points.

Columbus Grove also took second in the boys race, just ahead of Bellefontaine with 91

points. Bloom-Carroll was fourth with 109 points, and Emmanuel Christian was fifth with 128 points.

Malia Miller of West Liberty-Salem led the girls with a first-place finish, completing the race in 19:35.2. For the boys, Bellefontaine's Hayden Maus came in first with a time of 16:09.6.

WL-S girls took each of the top three places, as Gwen McCullough (20:27) and Addi Wallen (20:34) secured the second and third spots. Isla Leichty finished 13th at 22:12, while Mariska Smith took 14th with a time of 22:22. Bella Hughes was 39th (24:30) and Emma Smith was 43rd (24:50).

"A home invitational combined with homecoming festivities presents a few challenges," said WL-S girls head coach. "These girls stayed focused throughout the week and took care of business Saturday morning quite well. A 1-2-3 finish from Malia, Gwen and Addi is quite a statement. Malia took the lead in race early and never looked back. She did a good job of pushing herself the second half of the race. Gwen and Addi

CROSS COUNTRY ROUNDUP

worked together intelligently moving up to the two and three spots within the second 800 meters of the race. Isla and Mariska were both not feeling 100 percent, but battled to both be the top 15. Bella Hughes has set personal records in consecutive weeks."

For the WL-S boys, Caleb Larson led the way finishing second overall with a time of 16:14. He was closely followed by Asher Cole in third place at 16:22 and Asher Knox in fourth at 16:26. Dylan King in sixth (17:04), Braylan Gullett in seventh (17:04), Troy Bradley in 12th (17:35.5), Adly Knox in 14th (PR, 17:46) and Brevin Loudon in 16th (17:53.4).

Also running for the Big Orange were Zeke Longshore in 21st (18:01.3), Garrett Wallen in 24th (18:02.5), Taryn Bradley in 30th (18:13.1), Quentin Rudolph in 36th (18:18.7), Zac Carter in 57th (19:41.9), Gauge Lee in 59th (19:44.1), Zeke Sidders in 62nd (19:46.4) Jackson Henry in 121st (24:15.4) and Daniel

Erne in 140th (27:43.2).

"Winning our home Invitational is something we put down as a main goal before the season, so to win convincingly over a solid field is very satisfying," said WL-S boys head coach Mike Loudon. "We also recognized our three seniors competing at the Ohio Caverns for the final time: Asher Knox, Quentin Rudolph, and Troy Bradley. This program is beyond blessed to have these three leading the 2024 team. We will now turn our attention to next week's Centerville SNL Invitational race where we will face off against some of the top teams in Ohio, Michigan and Kentucky."

For Bellefontaine, to go along with the winning performance from Maus, Jake Moreland finished 10th with a time of 17:31, while Oliver Grandstaff (18:01), Elias Abrego (18:26), and Will Myers (18:33) placed 23rd, 40th and 43rd, respectively.

"It was an outstanding race for Hayden," said BHS

boys coach Ben Davis. "It's always a nice accomplishment winning the Ohio Caverns. We had three PRs on a challenging course."

Also for the Chiefs, Landon Gerwels was 50th (19:04), Brenden Murray was 58th (19:43), Ryan Alexander was 73rd (20:30), Trystin Wilson was 98th (21:49), Fredy Hernandez was 112th (22:29), Zerek Longbrake was 113th (22:52) and Zeke Finch was 117th (23:15).

For Benjamin Logan, Eric Hughes led the boys with a 25th-place finish, completing the race in 18:05. Tyler Shoopman (18:27) and Landon Zehner (18:39) placed 41st and 45th, while Holden Zehner (20:07) and Maxwell Troth (20:19) finished 68th and 69th, respectively.

On the girls side, Nora Elliott took 19th, finishing in 22:57. Gwendolyn Smith (23:46) and Estella Wenger (23:53) finished 25th and 26th, while Hadley Boysel (24:11) and Mollie Siefring (24:12) came in 35th and 36th, respectively.

Also running for the Raiders were Lottie Bodin in 37th (24:14), Scarlett

Elliott in 42nd (24:44), Bonnie Brunson in 50th (25:30), Lauren Kennedy in 55th (25:56), Peyton Smith in 57th (26:00), Cielo Wilcox in 61st (PR 26:14), Maille Ricketts in 74th (28:17), Mallory Chapman in 76th (28:32), Montana Coleman in 79th (PR 28:55) and Natalie Chapman in 92nd (36:44).

Brown has standout performance for Lady Chiefs

Bellefontaine's girls cross country team ran at the Dublin Jerome Celtic Clash on Saturday night.

The Lady Chiefs were powered by Grace Brown, who was 11th in the varsity gold race with a time of 18:39.

Cece Reier ran a PR of 22:50 for BHS. Hannah Wilson finished in a time of 24:31 and Claire Grandstaff finished in 36:08.

"It's been a week of sickness and injuries," said BHS girls coach Stacey Wilson. "For the girls to come out and race hard shows what a tough group they are. Cece has run a PR in every race this season. It's exciting to watch her young career develop."

Chiefs get win over Warriors during 'Silent Set' match

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

It was an unusual scene at Bellefontaine High School gymnasium Saturday during the varsity volleyball match between the host Chieftains and visiting Northwestern.

Volleyball matches are quite often noisy affairs, what with spectators from both teams cheering the girls on to victory, but for the first set at BHS Saturday, the crowd remained completely silent until the Warriors scored their ninth point of the match to take a 9-7 lead over the Chieftains, at which time cut crowd let loose and gave its full-throated support for the two teams for the rest of the match.

This is what is known as a Silent Set, which raises awareness for those under the age of 18 who are experiencing hearing loss.

At the match was Jonni Parker, a Miami East grad and Penn State All-American who was first fitted for hearing aids at the



Bellefontaine's Ava Reeves keeps the ball alive during Saturday's home match against Northwestern. (EXAMINER PHOTO)

age of four, before going on to having standout volleyball careers for the both the Vikings and the Nittany Lions. Jonni and her sister, Dr. Paige Parker, a Doctor of Audiology for the Springfield branch of Family Audiology and

Hearing Centers, created Chasing Greatness, () a 501(c)3 organization that is designed to fund, resources and support to allow individuals to "Chase Great" in all areas of their life.

The Silent Set was

brought to the Bellefontaine/Northwestern match at the behest of Mandy Oppy, who is friends with Dr. Parker and works as the Director of Business for the Bellefontaine Family Audiology and Hearing Center, 250 Kent Dr. The trio took over a section of the BHS cafeteria during the match to disseminate information about the diagnosis and treatment of hearing loss and let those who might be experiencing hearing problems – be they children or adults – to have their hearing checked at one of the 15 branches of Family Audiology across the region.

In order to drive the point home, Allison Lowe, who attended Bellefontaine High School and is a graduate of the Ohio School for the Deaf, stood at mid-court and signed the National Anthem for the in attendance prior to the varsity match. The Silent Set lasted until the ninth point was reached on one of the teams in honor of the uni-

form number (#9) that Jonni Parker wore throughout her career.

Oppy hopes to expand the Silent Set in the coming seasons.

"It was important to me to bring it to Logan County," Oppy said of the Silent Set. "It's my goal to bring it to all Logan County Schools next year."

Despite falling behind in the first set, Bellefontaine went on to win the match in straight sets, 25-23, 25-15, and 25-13.

Bellefontaine is now 11-3 and the Warriors fall to 6-9.

Ava Reeves led the BHS defense with 18 digs and went 12-12 serving with two aces. Ava Layman tallied five kills, nine digs and a solo block and Kelsie Snapp chipped in with 12 kills, 12 digs and was 11/11 serving with one ace and four blocks.

Also for the Chiefs, Taylor Banta was 23-24 serving with eight aces and had 14 kills and five digs, Ava Campbell had five

blocks and two kills, Presley Vigansky had two kills, two digs and a solo block.

Reagan Standley went 11-11 serving with an ace and Madi Zedeker recorded 32 assists, eight digs and was 8-8 serving and had a solo block.

The JV Red Chiefs won 20-25, 25-6, 31-29. Jillian Ullom led the defense with 23 digs. Kaeleigh Flora and Ava Oppy added 16 digs each. Alayna Boyd had 11 digs while Zoey Conner rounded out the defense with six digs. Flora also tallied 16 kills. Conner chipped in with eight kills and went 12-12 serving with an ace, Boyd had 28 assists, Rylee Yelton had a solo block and Ari Rangel went 14-15 serving with five aces.

The JV Black Chiefs came up short 25-15, 25-16. Celine Blinn had 10 digs, Lyla Conner had six digs, Kinley Dunn had five digs, Ari Rangel had four digs, Maddie Delong had a solo block and Conner also tallied two aces.

Indian Lake bounces Allen East in non-league matchup

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

Indian Lake rolled to a 25-20, 25-15, 25-9 non-league volleyball win over Allen East on Saturday.

The Lakers are now 13-2 on the season.

Cami Bailey had seven

kills and two aces to help lead the Lakers. Kenzie Dixon had nine kills, 22 digs and two aces, Halle Roby tallied eight kills, eight digs, two blocks, 17 assists and one ace, Riley Ross was 7-7 serving and had 11 digs, Courtney



Alstaetter had five kills and three blocks and Alivia Kinney had five aces and four kills.

Indian Lake's junior

varsity team won 25-12, 25-17.

For the Lakers, Ady Oldiges was 11-1 serving and 35-35 setting, Brynna Avila was 9-9 serving and had seven digs, Madison Davis had three kills and two blocks, Bre Wisener

was 13-16 setting with six assists, Kit Miller had six kills and five digs, Quinn Imm had five digs and was 9-9 on serves received, Kenzley Pertusot was 9-10 serving and Miley Humble had one kill.

Raiders fall short against Monarchs

Benjamin Logan's varsity volleyball team lost to Marysville 25-20, 25-20, 21-25, 26-24 on Saturday in non-league action.

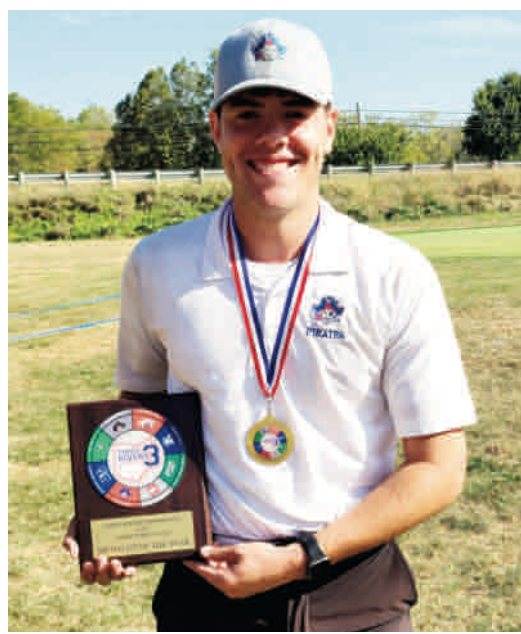
The Raiders play at London on Tuesday.

SPORTS

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Riverside's Jaxon Woods earned the Three Rivers Conference boys golfer of the year award this season. (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Pirates' Woods earns TRC player of year award

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

Riverside standout golfer Jaxon Woods earned player of the year honors at the Three Rivers Conference league tournament on Friday, played at Sugar Isle Golf Course in New Carlisle.

Woods capped off his impressive TRC season by shooting an 83, finishing eighth overall in the tournament.

As a team, Riverside placed seventh in the TRC tourney. In addition to Woods' performance, Hayden McCully contributed with a 96, Daniel Esh shot a 104 and Syler Clark finished with a 126.

With his combined points from the regular season and the league tournament, Woods secured the TRC player of the year title. McCully also received recognition, earning honorable mention honors.

Indian Lake and Ben Logan play to 1-1 draw in local boys soccer clash

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

Indian Lake and Benjamin Logan played to a 1-1 tie in a key Central Buckeye Conference Mad River division boys soccer clash Monday night.

The Raiders are now 5-3-4 overall and 4-1-1 in the CBC, while the Lakers move to 8-2-1, 3-1-1.

"It was a pretty disappointing result to be honest," said Ben Logan head coach Jamie Hughes. "We thought we had the better chances and opportunities but just couldn't get that second goal. We really started flat for as big as the game was, but give Indian Lake credit. They fought through a lot of adversity and got a result they are happy with. We have to move on now and get the next win and just take care of ourselves. One thing I've learned all these years in the CBC is that nothing comes easy, and there are more twists and turns left to come this season."

Chase Schaub gave Indian Lake a 1-0 lead 20 minutes into the game.

Eric Hughes scored for Ben Logan with 30 minutes remaining in the match to make it 1-1, and that's the way it would end up.

The Lakers will host Jonathan Alder on Wednesday, while the Raiders travel to Kenton Ridge on Thursday.

ROUNDUP

Raiders, Tigers play to 1-1 draw

Benjamin Logan and West Liberty-Salem both netted early goals in the first half Saturday in a non-league game, and then ended up playing to a 1-1 draw in local boys soccer action.

The Tigers struck first, netting a goal from Wyatt Longaberger off an assist by Jake Lauck just 12 minutes into the game.

However, the Raiders responded shortly after, with Ethan Miller scoring at the 20-minute mark. Miller headed in a well-placed throw-in from Landon Stoodt to tie the match 1-1.

Both teams fought hard for the remaining time, but neither could break the deadlock. The final score remained 1-1.

"I was worried about this game coming in because I knew WL-S was playing really well right now, and on a Saturday afternoon in the heat of the day, it would be a real challenge for us," Ben Logan head coach Jamie Hughes said.

"We got out with a 1-1 draw, and we have to be pretty pleased with the result. It most definitely wasn't our best game, but West Liberty made it difficult on us, and give them credit—I do think they

played well."

Liam Sweeney had 11 saves in goal for the Raiders and Tucker Searles had three saves for WL-S.

With the draw, the Raiders' varsity team moves to 5-3-3 on the season, while the Tigers are now 6-2-2.

In the JV matchup, both defenses held strong, and the game ended in a 0-0 draw.

Benjamin Logan's Brycen Chrencik earned the shutout in goal, keeping West Liberty-Salem off the scoreboard.

Tigers blank Lehman
West Liberty-Salem's boys soccer team shut out Lehman Catholic 2-0 on Monday.

The Tigers are now 7-2-2 on the season.

Wyatt Longaberger scored a goal from a Lance Campbell assist in the first half and Campbell scored off a rebound from a Troy Christian shot in the second half.

Tucker Searles recorded the shutout in goal. He had two saves.

Spartans top Grove City Christian
Calvary Christian's soccer team beat visiting Grove City Christian 3-1 on Saturday.

The Spartans are now 10-1-1 on the season.

The Spartans opened the scoring with a goal on a free kick by Josh Carnes.

Grove City Christian tied

the game at 1-1, but the Spartans went up 2-1 late in the first half when Nehemiah Dillon found the net.

Dillon added another goal in the second half for Calvary.

In the junior varsity matchup, the Spartans won 6-4.

Scoring goals for Calvary were Makarios Kariuki and Cale Buchenroth with two and Seth Palmer and Aiden Keller with one.

Brody Prall recorded six saves in goal for Calvary.

GIRLS SOCCER

Ben Logan shuts out Lakers
Benjamin Logan's girls soccer team defeated Indian Lake 2-0 in a Central Buckeye Conference match Monday.

The Raiders are now 5-7-0 overall and 3-3-0 in the CBC, while the Lakers fall to 6-5-0, 1-5-0.

Kelley Forsythe and Kate Gulick each scored a goal for the Raiders. Rissa Bates recorded the shutout in goal.

Ben Logan plays at Kenton Ridge on Thursday and the Lakers host Jonathan Alder on Wednesday.

Tigers fall to Cavaliers
West Liberty-Salem's girls soccer team lost to Lehman Catholic 2-0 in a non-league match Monday.

The Tigers are now 4-5-0 on the season.

Audrey Collins had 12 saves for the Tigers.

JUNIOR HIGH

CROSS COUNTRY
Lakers run at Dublin Jerome
Indian Lake's cross country teams ran at Dublin Jerome on Saturday.

Abby Bihn led the girls team by finishing in ninth (13:29). She was followed by Laura Metzger in 19th (14:13), Allison Overmyer in 43rd (15:48), Caroline Jones in 46th (15:53), Lara Hagedorn in 99th (21:18), Olivia Albert in 104th (22:06) and Abby Arnett in 106th (22:47).

Hayden Kuhlke led the IL boys in 36th (13:13). He was followed by Bentley Grube in 85th (14:29), Dalton Young in 94th (14:49), Kyler Dague in 103rd (15:03) and Evan Wu in 122nd (17:08).

Chieftain girls take 5th, boys 6th at Jerome
Bellefontaine's middle school girls cross country team finished fifth and the boys squad was sixth at the Dublin Jerome Celtic Clash on Saturday.

Chloe O'Chocke led the girls team in 17th (14:06). Leila Hammond was 24th (14:41), Cameo Greene finished 33rd (15:21), Allie Myers was 37th (15:35),

Blakely Vollrath was 40th (15:43), Sophia Marker was 69th (17:26), Nahla Arruza was 74th (17:54) and Bentley Drake was 93rd (19:51).

Andrew Myers led the boys team in 14th (11:55). Sennett Stolly was 24th (12:52), Jackson Maus was 30th (13:07), Nic Herrera-Diaz was 53rd (13:37) and Brayten Swisher was 93rd (14:48).

Bellefontaine also had four girls run in the youth two-mile race Saturday at Jerome.

Kylie Lowe, a sixth-grader, finished 13th out of 66 runners (14:36), Baya Deal (sixth grade) was 17th (14:51), Emma Smith (fifth grade) was 21st (15:15) and Miley McKirahan was 41st (17:25).

Ben Logan squads compete at Ohio Caverns

Benjamin Logan's middle school cross country teams competed in the Ohio Caverns Invitational on Saturday.

The girls team was fifth out of 15 schools. Paislee Rodenberger led BL in 27th (15:56), Mckinley Allen was 40th (16:41), Elizabeth Bramlage was 61st (18:22), Mia Ortiz was 63rd (18:44)

and Julianna Chapman was 87th (22:38).

The boys team finished sixth out of 12 teams. Kayden VanBuskirk led the Raiders in 65th (15:15). Zayden Wilson was 68th (15:23), Brooks Bodin finished 83rd (16:27), John Tingley was 94th (17:49) and Miles Grandbois was 95th (17:55).

VOLLEYBALL

Raiders drop matches to Urbana
Benjamin Logan's middle school volleyball teams lost to Urbana on Saturday.

The seventh-grade Raiders were defeated 25-16, 26-24. Ruby Johns and Della Baker each had four assists for BL, Josie Harshfield and Molly Titlow each had three aces and Amelia Marmon had three kills, Marley Snoke had three digs and Zaley Burnside and Jenna Riedmiller each had two digs.

The eighth-grade team lost 25-27, 25-14, 27-25. Olive Grimes had four kills, Marley Shields tallied 12 points, Maddie Stahl had five points and Summer Cline had 17 kills for the Raiders.

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Entertainment

Why Kelly Clarkson chooses a 'safe' interviewing approach. Her talk show kicks off its sixth season

NEW YORK (AP) — Kelly Clarkson says she's learned a thing or two about interviewing after being in the spotlight as a recording artist since 2002. So, she's created a safe space for guests on season six of her talk show which launches Monday. Burned by media stories in the past, the Grammy-winning singer-songwriter says she takes a different approach with guests on her daytime show.

Fans of the show — based in New York for its second year — can expect more celebrity interviews, human interest stories, and Clarkson's signature "Kellyoke" musical performances. Clarkson says she likes to make guests feel comfortable, often playing games and infusing humor into her segments.

Clarkson is also an executive producer on the show, which has won 22 Daytime Emmy Awards, including

Outstanding Daytime Host and Talk Show last year. She spoke to The Associated Press recently about how she approaches interviews, covering new artists and staying incognito on the subway. Answers have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: What are you most excited about in the new season?

CLARKSON: By season six, people kind of trust our show more. I think a lot of times some actors or artists — especially in the limelight — they get a little nervous about going on shows because they're like, "Are they going to try and angle something? Or get some sort of soundbite or clickbait?" That's not what I'm about. I've obviously had that happen to me in my career, so I don't want to do that to anyone. I think people by now feel safe there, and they're willing to like, you know, play a dumb

game that's just fun or they're willing to talk about things that maybe they don't normally talk about.

AP: What have you learned from being on the other side of interviews?

CLARKSON: I know what the receiving end feels like. You just want to promote something that you're proud of, and then having to shadowbox your way through an interview so somebody is not trying to make their career off something they try and get you to say — it's just gross and it's hurtful. There's been certain things, like where I help navigate the interview in a way that I'm comfortable. I never ask someone something that I wouldn't mind answering. I definitely have been on the receiving end of that in a positive way and in a very negative way. I just want people to feel safe and comfortable because it's supposed to be a good time, you know?

AP: Who are your dream guests?

CLARKSON: Everything is a cherry on top at this point. I've had the most amazing bookers for my show. I hung out with Dolly Parton and Cher and Heart and Alanis Morissette and Babyface and like all these artists that I love musically. And then I got to hang out with Josh Brolin, who was like in "The Goonies" and he's Thanos, and it's like, so cool! Meeting people that you love in their movies or for their work and then, you know, getting to see a sneak peek of who they are as a human is very fun. I always say Meryl Streep — she is one of my favorites in the industry, whether it's singing or acting or whatever.

AP: Your "Kellyoke" segment is a fan-favorite, and you cover many popular songs. Which new artists are you listening to now?

CLARKSON: I'm a big

fan of Chappell (Roan.) I'm actually covering her quite a bit this season. I love Fletcher. I've always been covering this generation, like Billie (Eilish) or Olivia Rodrigo, there's a lot of them. There's a lot of talent — Sabrina Carpenter I'm a big fan of. I'm like 42, but I love it. Music is music. That's the cool thing about it. There is no specific culture, specific age, specific, whatever you have to be — it's for everyone. I cover 180 songs a season, which is awesome. It's just a lot of work, so to be able to sing songs and be so excited about like these new up-and-coming artists. It's exciting covering these songs and then challenging you a bit but I love this. It's a great generation of artists right now.

AP: Is it true you ride the New York City subway?

CLARKSON: Not at all!

CLARKSON: Girl, I don't look like this —

(motions to made-up face) — this is not how I woke up! (laughs) I usually am in a mom bun, or a hat and I get away with it. It's only when I speak — as soon as I open my mouth to speak is when people will go, 'what?' And then that's what gives me away. I have a very talented (hair and makeup) team named Harry and Potter — that's what I call them (laughs) — and I'm very lucky. I realize that. On "The Voice," like I remember, any time I'd ever go out with Blake (Shelton) anywhere or John (Legend) they just look like them all the time. They can't get away with it and they can't go anywhere. I'm very blessed. I get away with leading a pretty normal average life, and I don't think a lot of people in the limelight get that. But yeah, the subway's just faster! So, we're on it all the time.

COMICS

MODERATELY CONFUSED

Jeff Stahl



DENNIS THE MENACE

Hank Ketcham



REALITY CHECK

Dave Whamond



RUBES

Leigh Rubin



PEANUTS

Charles Schulz



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

Stephan Pastis



CROSSWORD

Sheffer

ACROSS

- Innocent one
- Pvt.'s superior
- Throat clearer
- Corp. bigwig
- Knee protector
- Modern money
- Some hair sprays
- Baseball stats
- Last (Abbr.)
- ISP giant
- Schnozzes
- "Bow-wow!"
- Owns
- Greek sorceress
- "Holy cow!"
- Always
- Pallid
- Oaxaca water
- Time between flights
- "Ivanhoe" novelist

DOWN

- Bro or sis
- Picnic
- Olympic symbol
- Bank account amt.
- Diner order
- California city
- Balloon pilot
- Oodles
- Desk wood
- Without purpose
- Cleanse
- Metric distances (Abbr.)
- Snitch
- Boyfriend
- Skater's leap
- Ernie's pal
- Green prefix
- Parody
- Chutzpah
- QB stats
- High-flying industry
- Centers
- Toledo's lake
- Rolling stone's lack
- Singer Evans
- Dundee denial
- "Sweet Emotion" rock band
- Chick's mom
- Director Brooks
- Actress Mendes
- Susan of "L.A. Law"
- Honey holder
- Swelled head
- Boring routine
- Perched
- Entanglement
- Compete
- Missile shelter
- Urban oases
- Imperfection
- Classic Kinks song
- Big fusses
- Ray of light
- Commanded
- Temporary calm
- Texter's sign-off
- Fine, at NASA
- Petty peeve

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	C	A	B	S	P	E	S	C	I	S		
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S	H	A	V	E	D	L	L	A	R	I	A	T
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Saturday's answer 9-23

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51				52			53			

NON-SEQUITUR

Wiley Sequitur



SUDOKU

KING FEATURES

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2	4			1	8	5
3			6		5	
			8	4	9	
9	7			8	6	

Difficulty: ★★ 9/24

Answer to previous puzzle

5	1	7	6	8	3	2	4	9
6	2	9	1	5	4	8	7	3
8	4	3	9	2	7	5	1	6
9	6	8	5	4	1	3	2	7
3	7	2	8	6	9	4	5	1
1	5	4	7	3	2	9	6	8
4	9	5	3	7	6	1	8	2
7	8	1	2	9	5	6	3	4
2	3	6	4	1	8	7	9	5

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 9/22

Horoscopes

ROYAL STARS | FROM KING FEATURES SYNDICATE By Georgia Nicols

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or important decisions from 7:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. EDT today (4:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. PT). After that, the Moon moves from Gemini into Cancer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024: You are charming, attractive and as restless as a nomad. You like to discover new things, new places and new people. This is a year of exciting change for you, plus increased personal freedom. Seek out new opportunities and be ready to act fast. Expect to travel.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★ Conversations might be confusing this morning. (Take everything with a grain of salt.) After the Moon changes signs, you will enjoy redecorating where you live or entertaining someone. Health and work concerns might hold some surprises today. Be on the lookout. Tonight: Work.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★ Postpone important financial decisions this morning, including shopping. Too much confusion! However, later in the day, relations with others, especially partners and close friends, will be warm and supportive. A surprise invitation might come your way. Guard your kids to avoid accidents. Tonight: Play!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★ Don't ask for permission or approval from authority figures this morning. In fact, steer clear of authority figures if possible, because misunderstandings can occur. Later in the day, your work will go well. However, surprising news from family or unexpected repairs at home might occur. Tonight: Family discussions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ This morning confusion and

deceit are possible. You also might have self-doubt. Therefore, do as little as possible until the Moon moves into your sign. After that, romance and social outings will delight you. Nevertheless, pay attention to everything you say and do to avoid accidents. Tonight: News.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★ Because things are confusing this morning, don't be disillusioned by a friend. If a misunderstanding occurs, or you feel disappointed. Discount this, because confusion is everywhere. Ignore what is likely bad advice. Later in the day, things mellow out into a relatively quiet day. However, keep an eye on your money and possessions to avoid loss. Tonight: Money ideas.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ Discussions with authority figures (including parents) are confusing this morning. Steer clear of these if possible, because confusion and misunderstandings are rampant. However, as the day wears on, it becomes friendly and sociable. Enjoy contact with siblings, relatives and neighbors. You might spontaneously do something today! Tonight: Conversations.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★ Don't agree to travel plans or anything important this morning. Likewise, you might hear something on social media that isn't true. Don't take the bait. Later in the day, you're high-viz. People notice you. In fact, they might know personal details about your private life. Meanwhile, you might improve your finances today or buy something beautiful. Tonight: Privacy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Don't agree to anything important this morning, especially regarding financial decisions or issues about inheritances, shared property or banking. Wait until the Moon changes signs. After that, you will love to travel or do something different! A young acquaintance might have a surprising suggestion. Tonight: Friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★ Avoid important discussions with partners and close friends this morning, because confusion and misunderstandings are likely. However, as the day wears on, you can tackle financial matters with confidence. Nevertheless, a boss, parent or someone in authority might surprise you today. Tonight: Be aware.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★ Just coast this morning at work, because issues are confusing. Don't believe everything you hear. Meanwhile, travel plans might suddenly change, or you might have an unexpected encounter with someone from another culture. Nevertheless, friendships are warm. Tonight: Something different.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★ Be patient with your kids this morning. Romance might disappoint you because of misunderstandings. Later in the day, you will be productive and busy. Double-check issues related to inheritances, shared property, banking, taxes and debt. Something unexpected could occur. Tonight: Check your finances.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ Family discussions this morning might disappoint and confuse you. Be smart and let things slide. Actually, this can be a playful, fun-loving day! However, a close friend or partner will do something you least expect. Hopefully it's a fun suggestion. (But it could be something bizarre.) Tonight: Cooperate.

BORN TODAY
Ches champion Alexandra Botez (1995), actress Harriet Walter (1950), actor Ryan Paevey (1984)

Find more Georgia Nicols horoscopes at georgianicols.com.

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CLASSIFIEDS

PERSONAL

CRISIS HOTLINE
Call and give operator first name and brief comment about service needed.
1-800-224-0422

Domestic and Sexual Violence 24/7 Crisis Line
TCN Domestic Violence Program
877/394-1046
TCN's Soteria Shelter
937/404-2365
TCN's New Directions Outreach Office
937/593-5777

FOR INFORMATION Concerning American Red Cross Blood Services Program, call 650-5000.

NEW PATH
Pregnancy Resource Centers
www.newpathrc.com
709 N. Main St., Bellefontaine
937-592-7734

POISON CONTROL CENTER
1-(800)222-1222
24 Hour Hotline

WORK WANTED

CARMAN BUILDERS
Vinyl siding, replacement windows, seamless spouting, roofing. Free estimates. 585-6472 or 937-726-7714.

HELP WANTED

Handyman/Helper Needed
Exp. Not necessary. Must lift 50 lbs. & have transportation. Pay weekly. Start immediately. Call 937-844-3557

FEED MILL MANAGER
Wanted for Nature Pure Farm in Logan Co. Full-time w/benefits, \$31-\$36/hour. Lead the daily operations at the feed mill, manage employees,

HELP WANTED

inventory control & procurement & assist in capital improvement planning. APPLY ON INDEED OR HERE: <https://go-hr.breezy.hr/p/0e30588974ed-feed-mill-manager>

ADEA RULINGS
The Bellefontaine Examiner does not knowingly accept help wanted advertisements in violation of the Age Discrimination Employment Act. The ADEA prohibits arbitrary age discrimination of persons age 40 or over and applies to employers with 25 or more employees, employment agencies and labor organizations. Advertising containing such terms as "young", "boy", or "girl" or designating a certain age such as "age 35 to 55" or other similar specification indicates discrimination against employment of older persons and are considered in violation of the act. Information about the Act may be obtained by calling or writing the U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division.

SERVICES

FOR ONLY \$335, you can place a 25-word classified ad in 133 newspapers across 68 counties. All newspapers within the OhioScan network total a readership of over 2,000,000. Call Bellefontaine Examiner, 592-3060. Visit www.adohio.net.

FOR SALE

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-270-8386

FOR SALE



PRICE REDUCED!!
2014 ISUZU NPR-HD with 16 ft. box. 229,314 miles. \$10,000 FIRM. Call or text TJ at 937-407-0205.

Switch to DISH and get up to a \$300 gift card! Plus get the Multisport pack included for a limited time! Hurry, call for details: 1-866-745-7391

TRUCKS

1940 CHEVY P/U, disassembled, all sheet metal, glass, frame, no eng/trans, build it your way. \$5500 cash. Call 937-414-7984 leave message.

MOTORCYCLES/SCOOTERS

2008 HARLEY DAVIDSON SPORTSTER 1200FI, less than 19k miles, lots of extras, nice bike. Asking \$5000 firm, cash. Call 937-414-7984 leave message.

BOATS & JET SKIS

STARCRAFT 18 ft. alum. boat, big Mercury 4 cyl. IO, new fish finder, bimini top, custom cover, needs driver's seat rebuilt, old but solid w/single axle steel frame trailer. \$3500 firm, cash. Call 937-414-7984 leave message.

LAWN & GARDEN

Need your grass cut?
Call Cool Stripes
937-935-6837

YARD MACHINE 20hp Briggs & Stratton, 42" cut, needs battery & safety start switch. \$250 cash. Call 937-414-7984 leave message.

MISCELLANEOUS

\$1295 POOLS POOLS 19x31 Family Size Pool. Complete w/ deck, fence, filter, liner and more. 100% Financing. No Money Down. LIMITED INVENTORY 800-758-3559

Donating your vehicle? Get more! Free Towing. Tax Deductible. Plus a \$200 restaurant voucher and a 2-night/3-day hotel stay at one of 50 locations. Call Heritage for the Blind to donate your vehicle today - 1-877-916-1990

Don't let the stairs limit your mobility! Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 1-844-861-0514.

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote. Call now before the next power outage: 1-614-721-0249

Put on your TV Ears and hear TV with unmatched clarity. TV Ears Original were originally \$129.95 - NOW WITH THIS SPECIAL OFFER are only \$69.95 with code MCB59! Call 1-855-537-1275

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material - steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-866-335-2531

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-602-5348

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-855-955-1352.

Trouble hearing your TV? Try TV EARS' Voice Clarifying Wireless TV Speaker. Better than a soundbar and/or turning the TV volume way up. Special, limited time \$50 off offer. Call TV Ears. Use code MBSP50. Call 1-888-406-1450

WESLEY FINANCIAL GROUP, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 844-881-7118.

FOR RENT

2 bdrm apt. in Belle Center, \$900 mo./\$900 dep. Utilities included. No pets. Call (937)935-0277.

APTS., ROOMS, HOUSES starting at \$400.00. Call or Text 937-407-2126, 441-2243.

NOTICE
Housing advertisements published in this newspaper are subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise discrimination based on race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age (including children), handicap or familial status. This also includes limitation to number of persons desired. The Bellefontaine Examiner will not knowingly accept advertising which is in violation of the law.

STORAGE

540/33 SELF-STORAGE
1st month free, free locks, beside Love's Gas Station on 540 near 33. Call 593-0000.

ALL AMERICAN Storage. Monthly rentals. Free locks. Behind Harbor Freight. 592-9100.

REAL ESTATE

PUBLISHERS NOTICE
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in the newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

FINANCIAL

NOTICE LENDING OPPORTUNITIES
Borrow Smart. Contact the Ohio Division of Financial Institutions' Office of Consumer Affairs BEFORE you refinance your home or obtain a loan. BEWARE of requests for any large advance payment of fees or insurance. Call the Office of Consumer Affairs toll free at 1-866-278-0003 to learn if the mortgage broker or lender is properly licensed. (This notice is a public service of the Bellefontaine Examiner.)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE
The Bellefontaine Examiner does not knowingly accept Help Wanted ads from employers covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act if they offer less than the legal minimum wage or fail to pay at least time and one-half for overtime hours.

LEGALS

IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF LOGAN COUNTY, OHIO FAMILY COURT DIVISION
LEGAL NOTICE IN THE MATTER OF: CHARLES LADIG MALE
DOB: 02/05/2019
CASE NO.: 24-CS-24 A
Alleged Dependent Child
MOTHER: SYDNEY LADIG
Last known address: 2661 Sandusky St. Zanesfield, OH 43360
FATHER: UNKNOWN
Last Known Address Unknown

Unknown Father of Charles Ladig, last known address, unknown shall take notice that a complaint has been filed in the Family Court, alleging that said child is dependent, containing a prayer or request for the agency to maintain or be awarded legal custody of the minor child with court-ordered protective supervision (COPS), or, granting legal custody to an appropriate relative or kin with the agency being awarded COPS or make other orders as the Court deems necessary as provided by law. The Adjudicatory Hearing shall be on October 28, 2024 at 1:00 A.M. And the Disposition Hearing shall be on November 14, 2024 at 9:00 AM at the Logan County Courthouse, 101 S. Main St., Bellefontaine, Ohio. You are ordered to appear before said Court and show cause why the complaint's prayer or request for custody should not be granted.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT:
1. You are entitled to a lawyer in this proceeding in Family Court/Juvenile Section. The Court will appoint a lawyer to provide legal representation if you cannot afford a lawyer and meet certain requirements.

LEGALS

2. Junell Bible, Deputy Clerk, Logan County Family Court, may be reached at telephone number: (937) 599-7249 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. to arrange the prompt appointment of counsel for indigent persons. If you wish to be represented by a lawyer in this proceeding but believe you cannot afford one, you should contact the Court as soon as possible.

NOTICE: YOUR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS ARE AT RISK AND THE COURT MAY GRANT PERMANENT CUSTODY WITHOUT YOUR APPROVAL IF YOU FAIL TO ATTEND THE HEARING AND PARTICIPATE IN THIS ACTION.

Natasha R. Kennedy and Kim Kellogg-Martin Judges and Ex-Officio Clerks of Logan County Family Court, State of Ohio, Junell Bible, Deputy Clerk Sept. 24, 2024

PROBATE COURT OF LOGAN COUNTY, OHIO NATASHA R. KENNEDY, JUDGE

IN RE: CHANGE OF NAME OF MCKINLEY ALLISON SWANK TO MCKINLEY ALLISON SMITH
Case No. 24-NC-15
Notice of Hearing on Change of Name (R.C. 2717.08 and 2717.14)
Applicant hereby gives notice to all interested persons and to Beau Swank whose last known address is 1602 Co. Rd. 9, Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311 that the applicant has filed an Application for Change of Name in the Probate Court of Logan County, Ohio, requesting the change of name of MCKINLEY ALLISON SWANK TO MCKINLEY ALLISON SMITH. A hearing on the Application will be held on November 18, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. in the Probate Court of Logan County, located at 101 S. Main St., Bellefontaine, OH 43311.
Kerstin Smith
8601 St. Rt. 47 E
Bellefontaine, OH 43311
Sept. 24 2024

IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF LOGAN COUNTY, OHIO GENERAL DIVISION

FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPROATION PLAINTIFF VS SUZAN FERRYMAN-MILLER DEFENDANT

CASE NO. CV 23-09-0277

In pursuance of an Order of Sale in the above entitles action, I will offer for sale at public auction the following described real estate, situated in the County of Logan and State of Ohio and in the Township of Lake, to wit: Situated in the County of Logan, State of Ohio, City of Bellefontaine, Township of Lake: Being part of Lot Number Nine Hundred Sixty-seven (967) beginning at the West line of said lot twelve feet from the N.W. Corner thereof; thence southerly along the West line of said Lot 120 feet; thence with angles with said West line in an Easterly direction to the East line of said lot; thence with East line in a Northerly direction to a point in said line twelve feet South of the N.E. Corner of said lot; thence at right angles with said line West to the beginning. EXCEPTING THEREFROM the following described parts thereof: Beginning at a point 105 feet 2 inches South of the N.W. Corner of said Lot 967 and in the West line of said lot and East line of Lawrence Street; thence South South 26 feet and 8 inches with the West line of said lot; thence East 103 feet and 4 inches to the East line of said lot and in the West line of tract of land owned by the Citizens Ice Supply Company; thence North with the East line of said lot and the West line of Ice Company's land 26 feet and 8 inches; thence W. 103 feet and 4 inches to the place of beginning as heretofore sold and conveyed to the City of Bellefontaine. Said premises also known as: 404 Lawrence St., Bellefontaine, OH 43311

PPN: 17-091-07-18-009-000
Auction will take place on-line at on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

If property remains unsold after the first auction, it will be offered for sale at auction again on Wednesday, the 23rd day of October at the same time. Said premises appraised at \$69,000.00 Appraisals are completed by viewing the outside of the property only.

Required deposit: \$5,000.00
TERMS OF SALE: Property can not be sold for less than two-thirds of the appraised value. Required deposit must be deposited with the auction company prior to the sale and balance in cash or certified check upon confirmation of sale. If Judgement Creditor is purchaser, no deposit is required.
TERMS OF 2ND SALE: Property to be sold without regard to minimum bid requirements, subject to payment of taxes and court costs; deposit and payment requirements same as the first auction.

Pursuant to ORC 2329.21 purchaser shall be responsible for those costs, allowances and taxes that the proceeds of the sale are insufficient to cover.
Carrie L. Davis, Attorney
PH: 513-322-7000
Fax: 513-322-7099
Randall Dodds, Sheriff Logan County, OH
Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 8, 2024

LEGALS

IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF LOGAN COUNTY, OHIO GENERAL DIVISION

CARRINTON MORTGAGE SERVICES LLC PLAINTIFF VS RONETTA FOSNAUGH DEFENDANT

CASE NO. CV 23-12-0382

In pursuance of an Order of Sale in the above entitles action, I will offer for sale at public auction the following described real estate, situated in the County of Logan and State of Ohio and in the Township of Washington, to wit: Situated in the State of Ohio, County of Logan, Township of Washington, and Village of Russells Point and bounded and described as follows: Being Lot Number 14 of Spring Grove Allotment (Lot 378 of the new numbering in the Village of Russells Point, Ohio) Prior Deed Reference: Official Record Book 1399, Page 3219 and Instrument # 202100005255 Said premises also known as: 202 Grand Avenue, Russells Point, OH 43348
PPN: 52-032-09-11-013-000
Auction will take place on-line at on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

If property remains unsold after the first auction, it will be offered for sale at auction again on Wednesday, the 23rd day of October at the same time. Said premises appraised at \$75,000.00 Appraisals are completed by viewing the outside of the property only.

Required deposit: \$5,000.00
TERMS OF SALE: Property can not be sold for less than two-thirds of the appraised value. Required deposit must be deposited with the auction company prior to the sale and balance in cash or certified check upon confirmation of sale. If Judgement Creditor is purchaser, no deposit is required.
TERMS OF 2ND SALE: Property to be sold without regard to minimum bid requirements, subject to payment of taxes and court costs; deposit and payment requirements same as the first auction.

Pursuant to ORC 2329.21 purchaser shall be responsible for those costs, allowances and taxes that the proceeds of the sale are insufficient to cover.
Edward J. Delp, Attorney
PH: 513-396-8100
Fax: 513-847-627-8805
Randall Dodds, Sheriff Logan County, OH
Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 8, 2024

IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT OF LOGAN COUNTY, OHIO GENERAL DIVISION

NEWREZ LLC DBA SHELL-POINT MORTGAGE SERVICING PLAINTIFF VS AMANDA L. FOUSE DEFENDANT

CASE NO. CV 24-01-0035

In pursuance of an Order of Sale in the above entitles action, I will offer for sale at public auction the following described real estate, situated in the County of Logan and State of Ohio and in the Township of Washington, to wit: Situated in the Township of Washington, County of Logan, State of Ohio and in the Village of Russells Point: Being Lots Numbered One Thousand Thirty-Five (1035) and One Thousand Thirty-Six (1036), according to the new numbering in the Village of Russells Point. Prior Deed Reference: Quit Claim Deed filed in Official Record Volume 693, Page 448 on December 22, 2003 in Logan County Records. Said premises also known as: 204 Cline St., Russells Point, OH 43348
PPN: 52-032-13-31-001-000
Auction will take place on-line at on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

If property remains unsold after the first auction, it will be offered for sale at auction again on Wednesday, the 23rd day of October at the same time. Said premises appraised at \$69,000.00 Appraisals are completed by viewing the outside of the property only.

Required deposit: \$5,000.00
TERMS OF SALE: Property can not be sold for less than two-thirds of the appraised value. Required deposit must be deposited with the auction company prior to the sale and balance in cash or certified check upon confirmation of sale. If Judgement Creditor is purchaser, no deposit is required.
TERMS OF 2ND SALE: Property to be sold without regard to minimum bid requirements, subject to payment of taxes and court costs; deposit and payment requirements same as the first auction.

Pursuant to ORC 2329.21 purchaser shall be responsible for those costs, allowances and taxes that the proceeds of the sale are insufficient to cover.
Kim M. Hammond, Attorney
PH: 216-771-6500
Randall Dodds, Sheriff Logan County, OH
Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 8, 2024

BELLEFONTAINE EXAMINER

BETTER WAY TO SAVE

CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

- BELLEFONTAINE'S BEST CAR WASH**
\$14 ("BEST" Car Wash) **\$9**
- CITY SWEETS & CREAMERY**
\$10 **\$7**
\$20 **\$13**
- CLANCY'S (SIDNEY)**
\$6 **\$4**
- DONATOS PIZZA, SUBS, SALADS**
\$10 **\$7**
- DONUT SHOP & BAKERY (RUSSELLS PT.)**
\$10 **\$7**
\$20 **\$13**
- EASTON WATER**
\$30 **\$18**
*NOTE: (Limit 2-per purchase)
- INDIAN LAKE ROLLARENA**
\$6 (Fri & Sat 7-10:30 p.m.)..... **\$4.50**
- KIRK MONT CENTER HABITAT HOUSE**
\$100 (Good for (1) night rental) **\$70**
\$600 (Good for (1) week rental) **\$420**
- KNEAD MORE MASSAGE**
\$85 (Good for (1) ONE HOUR MASSAGE) **\$52**
(Only 3 available per month)
- LEE'S COMFORT SHOES**
\$20 (Only 25 per month, 5 per customer) **\$14**
- MCDONALDS (BFN. NORTH & SOUTH)**
\$10 **\$8**
\$20 **\$15**
- OHIO FITNESS & MARTIAL ARTS**
\$39.99 **\$28**
(Good for (1) Month Gym Membership)
\$70 **\$49**
(Good for (1) Month Family Gym Membership)
\$79.99 **\$59**
(Good for (1) Month Kids Martial Arts)
\$165 **\$119**
(Good for (1) Month Family Gym & Martial Arts Membership)

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GRATITUDE

Continued from Page 1

Memorial Hospital in Marysville to Nationwide Children's Hospital via Mobile Intensive Care Unit for treatment of heart issues, it came as a shock and was a whole new world to navigate for the local couple.

"It was a whirlwind, an absolute whirlwind," said Teresa, who works as a coach at Crown Gymnastics. "I'm a planner and I want to know what to expect. I spent so long on Facebook and Google once we got his diagnosis."

"It's intimidating going into that big hospital," Logan admitted, noting that his friend who works at the Columbus area children's hospital gave their family lots of pointers for getting around.

"Teresa and I definitely leaned on each other through all of this, and our families and friends have been such wonderful support to us as well."

'Big Hearts, Little Hearts'

The newly launched "Big Hearts, Little Hearts" Mended Little Hearts support group also learned about Luka's heart story before his big surgery this spring. Its members presented his family with a special teddy bear with a hand-sewn heart, a card filled with encouraging words and other resources prior to their hospital stay.

The group is a new branch of the Top of Ohio Mended Hearts support group, which has joined together adult heart patients in the community for three decades. The expanded support group is forming locally to uplift area families who are walking down this path with their young one's pediatric heart journey.

This week, its members invite pediatric heart patients and their families to attend their regular meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26, on the first floor conference room of the Mary Rutan Health



Teresa Kingen holds her son, Luka, following his 10-hour open-heart surgery in April at Nationwide Children's Hospital. (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Center, 1134 N. Main St., Bellefontaine.

A meet and greet will be part of the activities, and families will be presented with a Mended Little Hearts resources binder. During upcoming meetings, conducted on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at the same location, group leaders will guide pediatric members through the resources binder and provide time for sharing with one another.

The group wants to offer an opportunity for local heart families to connect over their shared experiences and to support each other, both through difficult ordeals and by celebrating successes and milestones for their young heart warriors.

It's also a chance for children and teens to get to know others who can relate with their experiences and the ups and downs of deal-

ing with a heart condition; along with the adult Mended Hearts members looking forward to the chance to mentor the youngsters.

Luka's early days

Luka and his family will have much to share with "Big Hearts, Little Hearts" about their special and unique heart journey from this past year.

After Luka's transport by Mobile ICU to Nationwide Children's Hospital at two days old, his father quickly joined him, but Teresa unfortunately wasn't able to come to the Columbus hospital right away, since she was under restrictions while healing from post-birth issues and a C-section.

But she and Logan anxiously awaited news from their cardio team about their son's condition after late-night echocardiograms, an ultrasound of the heart, to find out why his pulse

oximetry readings were different for the various part of his heart and to check on a heart murmur.

The couple learned more about Luka's myriad of heart issues, which included two holes in his heart (an atrial septal defect and a ventricular septal defect), along with a patent ductus arteriosus (PDA), coupled with aortic atresia and aortic stenosis.

The cardiologists spent about four days developing a plan, with several different paths, for Luka, which began with surgery when he was one week old.

A PDA stent was placed and his surgeon, Dr. Mark Galantowicz, also placed bands in different locations of the heart to restrict blood flow.

Luka came through the procedure with flying colors and after one week, the family finally got to take their little one home and be together again with big brother Oliver.

Teresa explained that Luka was what's sometimes known as a "blue baby" because his oxygen saturation levels on a normal day were extremely low, hovering around 70-75.

One scary situation when Luka's oxygen levels dropped into the 60s eventually led to medical helicopter transport to Nationwide Children's Hospital. After a weeklong stay, his doctors determined a medication issue leading to the dangerously low oxygen levels was sorted out and he was cleared to return home.

In addition to keeping a close eye on his oxygen levels, Luka's diet and fortifying his feeds were another important part of his home monitoring, his parents explained.

"We were working with a dietician to make sure he was growing and gaining weight well, which was so important before the second surgery that he would need," said Logan, who works as an engineer for Honda Regional Development.

A big decision and cause for celebration

Logan and Teresa knew the timing of Luka's second surgery could be somewhere between ages six months to one year, so it wasn't too surprising when their cardiologist Dr. Corey Stiver told them earlier this year that they were getting to that inevitable point.

While the couple had previously been informed that a single-ventricle repair or a double-ventricle repair both were paths that might be considered, they quickly got behind Dr. Stiver's recommendation for a double-ventricle repair for Luka. Dr. Stivers presented this proposal to the cardiology board at the hospital, and Logan and Teresa said they held their breaths waiting for the big decision.

"We were really hoping that they'd go that double-ventricle route," Teresa said. "Otherwise, we were looking at doing both the Glenn procedure first and the Fontan procedure (later) for the single ventricle repair."

"Ultimately though, we knew this team totally had Luka's best care in mind, so we trusted their decision."

A double-ventricle repair was the final decision from their team, and April 22 was set as Luka's big surgery day. The complicated procedure would involve repairing the

infant's pulmonary valve and attaching it to the aortic valve, creating a new valve. His ASD and VSD also would be closed, along with the closure of the PDA, and a conduit valve was installed outside of the heart.

"It's a very complicated and weird fix," Teresa said, explaining the intricacies of the surgery with a diagram. Her husband noted that their very experienced surgeon Dr. Galantowicz had performed these multiple procedures all at once only a time or two (but had performed the separate repairs involved in the complex surgery much more frequently).

The surgery was a resounding success and Luka was released from the hospital a week later. Within those initial days of being home, his parents were elated to see how he quickly rebounded to good health, and even learned to sit up on his own for the first time.

The family recently was able to return their home monitoring equipment and they're enjoying the more playful side of having a toddler and preschooler at home. Luka will return for a follow-up visit next month with his cardiologist.

Sept. 12, one year following the initial surgery, Teresa reflected on her Facebook page about her son's amazing story.

"If you would have told me then that today he'd be laughing with his brother and climbing all over me, I'm not sure I'd believe you, but I'm sure feeling blessed to be where we are today."

For more information about the Top of Ohio Mended Hearts, contact president Bruce Norris at (937) 919-7213.




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SENIORS OF THE MONTH

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Czar Dickson
Parents: Ryan and Beth Dickson

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS: Wrestling, Football, Key Club, BPA, Laker Leadership Council, Science Club, NHS, Honor Roll, Honda Academic Achievement Breakfast, Class President

If I were principal for a day... I would have a day similar to incentive day in MS where students can pick between playing kickball/dodgeball, watching movies, and playing video games.

Favorite school memory... Winning an opening wrestling match by pin in our in-school duel vs. Ben Logan my freshman year.

People who have inspired me include... I have been inspired by my parents, teachers, coaches, and friends.

Lately I've been reading... "The Great Gatsby"

My advice to parents... Push your kids to be the best they can be, but still let them know that they are appreciated.

My biggest regret... I regret not enjoying events in the moment while they are happening.

Next year I will be... Attending a prestigious university to major in aerospace or molecular engineering, and, hopefully, continuing to wrestle at the next level.



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Cambria Tuttle
Parents: Greg and Michele Tuttle

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS: Varsity Soccer, Meistersingers, Vocal Jazz, Key Club, Student Council President, Leadership Award, 4.0 Honor Roll, Student-Athlete Award, Basketball, Softball, Swimming, Track and Field, FFA

If I were principal for a day... I would have one class period as a nap period.

Favorite school memory... Getting to be on the Homecoming Court my junior year.


People who have inspired me include... My mom, my dad, and both of my older brothers, Jalon and Camdon.

Lately I've been reading... Colleen Hoover books and mystery books

My advice to parents... Teach your kids how to work hard and never stop persevering.

My biggest regret... I have tried many activities and made the most of my high school career, so I don't have any regrets.

Next year I will be... Attending an undecided college to study Elementary Education.



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'Short corn' could replace the towering cornfields

Changing climate causing change

WYOMING, Iowa (AP) — Taking a late-summer country drive in the Midwest means venturing into the corn zone, snaking between 12-foot-tall green, leafy walls that seem to block out nearly everything other than the sun and an occasional water tower. The skyscraper-like corn

is a part of rural America as much as cavernous red barns and placid cows. But soon, that towering corn might become a miniature of its former self, replaced by stalks only half as tall as the green giants that have dominated fields for so long. "As you drive across the Midwest, maybe in the next seven, eight, 10 years, you're going to see a lot of this out there," said Cameron Sorgenfrey, an

eastern Iowa farmer who has been growing newly developed short corn for several years, sometimes prompting puzzled looks from neighboring farmers. "I think this is going to change agriculture in the

Midwest." The short corn developed by Bayer Crop Science is being tested on about 30,000 acres (12,141 hectares) in the Midwest with the promise of offering farmers a variety that can

withstand powerful windstorms that could become more frequent due to climate change. The corn's smaller stature and sturdier base enable it to withstand winds of up to 50 mph — researchers hover over


fields with a helicopter to see how the plants handle the wind. The smaller plants also let farmers plant at greater density, so they can grow more corn on the same amount of land, increasing their profits. That is especially helpful as farmers have endured several years of low prices that are forecast to continue.

The smaller stalks could also lead to less water use at a time of growing drought concerns. U.S. farmers grow corn on about 90 million acres (36 million hectares) each year, usually making it the nation's largest crop, so it's hard to overstate the importance of a potential large-scale shift to smaller-stature corn, said Dior Kelley, an assistant professor at Iowa State University who is researching different paths for growing shorter corn. Last year, U.S. farmers grew more than 400 tons (363 metric tonnes) of corn, most of which was used for animal feed, the fuel additive ethanol, or exported to other countries.


"It is huge. It's a big, fundamental shift," Kelley said. Researchers have long focused on developing plants that could grow the most corn but recently there has been equal emphasis on other traits, such as making the plant more drought-tolerant or able to withstand high temperatures. Although there already were efforts to grow shorter corn, the demand for innovations by private companies such as Bayer and academic scientists soared after an intense windstorm — called a derecho — plowed through the Midwest in August 2020.

The storm killed four people and caused \$11 billion in damage, with the greatest destruction in a wide strip of eastern Iowa, where winds exceeded 100 mph. In cities such as Cedar Rapids, the wind toppled thousands of trees but the damage to a corn crop only weeks from harvest was especially stunning.


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Artrageous
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Macochee EMS unveils new ambulance



Thanks to a generous bequest from Steve Busic, the Macochee Joint Ambulance District was recently able to purchase a new vehicle at a cost of \$235,000. Though Busic passed away in 2017, they didn't decide to buy the ambulance until 2020. "And, of course, that's when covid hit," Chief Chris Jones said. "A lot of factories weren't making anything, so it took four years to get it." After a month to prepare the ambulance, it is now alternating in service to the community with the district's other vehicle. Pictured, from the left, are Andy Fissell, Rick Norviel, Alan Hager, Chief Jones, Don Bradley, Steve Yoder and Cindee Boyd. (SUBMITTED PHOTO)



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