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**THURSDAY,
 NOVEMBER 21,
 2024**

FINAL PREPARATIONS

Indian Lake and WL-Salem ready to square off in historical matchup in the OHSAA Playoffs



FORECAST

▲ 38
 ▼ 29



West Liberty Lions Club breaks ground on new park restroom

BY SHARYN KOPF
 EXAMINER STAFF WRITER

The fact that Lions Park in West Liberty needed a new restroom facility was obvious. After all, the old one was outdated, having been built in the 1950s, and not easily accessible thanks in some part to the 10-inch step leading into it.

Described as “older than dirt,” they tore it down. And on Tuesday, Nov. 19, a group of community members and supporters met at the park to break ground on a

much-needed new bathroom.

But this facility won’t just be a rebuild; it will be an upgrade. An upgrade that will “significantly enhance accessibility for all park visitors.”

“We’re excited about it,” Rick Harr, project manager, continued. “This is the first ADA-compliant restroom in Logan County, and the only one in about a 50-mile radius.”

Krista Oldiges with the Logan County Board of Developmental Disabilities was also on-hand Tuesday.



Pictured, front row from the left, are: Judy Legge, Bob Harrison, Krista Oldiges, Nancy McGuire, West Liberty Mayor Brad Hudson and Malia Hughes. Back row, from left: Rick Harr, Mel Lovelace, Tim Woodruff and Nicki Kimball. (EXAMINER PHOTO | SHARYN KOPF)

The board was instrumental in making the restroom happen, not only by donating money to the project, but by providing a universal changing table, which will be in the separate family bathroom.

Oldiges called these updates “a huge step forward in ensuring inclusion for people with disabilities in our community.”

The West Liberty Lions Club, which is partnering with the village of West Liberty to make this happen, hopes to see the project completed by spring 2025. They currently have

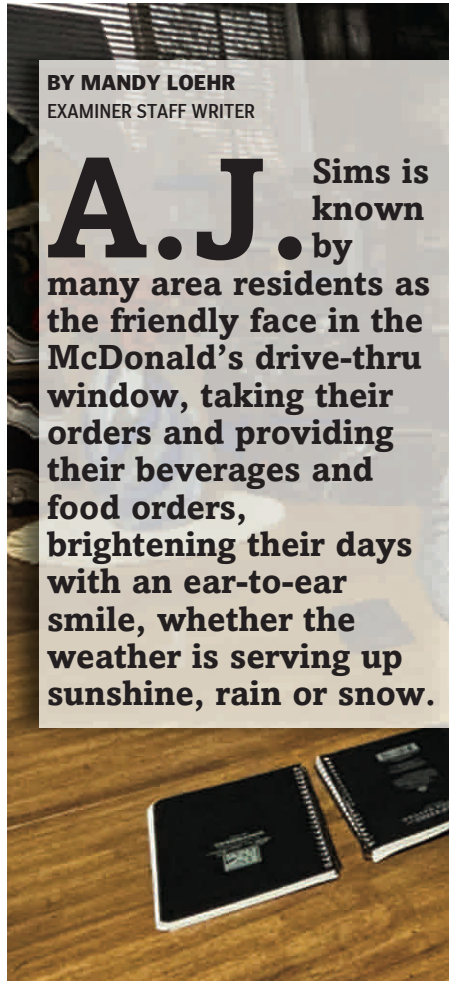
about 85 percent of the required funding.

“We need more money,” Lions Club secretary Nicki Kimball said. “We’ll take big donors.” Laughing, she added, “We’ll even name it after someone, if they want.”

The new facility will have two stalls and two urinals in the men’s room, four stalls in the ladies’ and a separate family restroom.

For more info or to make a donation, go to westlibertylions.org or email westliblions@gmail.com.

‘A Warrior’s Code’ served up



BY MANDY LOEHR
 EXAMINER STAFF WRITER

A.J. Sims is known by many area residents as the friendly face in the McDonald’s drive-thru window, taking their orders and providing their beverages and food orders, brightening their days with an ear-to-ear smile, whether the weather is serving up sunshine, rain or snow.

A.J. Sims, right, and his father, Anthony E. Sims, display A.J.’s recently released book, “A Warrior’s Code II: Displaced in the Shadows” and the first book in the series, “A Warrior’s Code” at their Bellefontaine home earlier this month. (EXAMINER PHOTO | MANDY LOEHR)

Book signings planned at McDonald’s locations

The employee of Scott Family McDonald’s has enjoyed assisting customers and working as a crew member for the past 12 years, first at the north Bellefontaine location, 1127 N. Main St., for a number of years, and more recently at the south Bellefontaine location at 1780 S. Main St.

What many customers might not know is that A.J. is a published author of a family-friendly science fiction and fantasy series. He always keeps a notebook

in his back pocket, which he pulls out during his breaks at McDonald’s and his downtime outside of work to write down a plethora of ideas, outlines and narratives for his next piece.

His friends, family and local customers all influence the development of his characters in the stories and the plot lines, the 32-year-old noted earlier this month.

“I am the sum of everyone I meet. I always believe that someone

knows something that I don’t. Every single person has an idea or a spark that makes me say, ‘I didn’t know that or I hadn’t thought about it that way,’” he said.

“I enjoy my job because I get to interact with so many different people each day.”

During October 2019, the 2011 Ohio Virtual Academy graduate published his first book in his series, The Stanford Universes, titled “The Warrior’s Code”. Then just

last month, he published the second book in the series, “A Warrior’s Code II: Displaced in the Shadows.” Both books are available on Amazon.com.

This weekend, A.J. takes a break from his usual duties at the drive-thru window to host a book signing at the north Bellefontaine McDonald’s location from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, with copies of the books available for sale as well.

See BOOKS on P3



Honda volunteer Nate Titus helps Anthony Swan and Oaklee Henry choose new shoes. (INDIAN LAKE SCHOOLS PHOTO)

Honda, Operation Warm come through with new shoes

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

Nearly every student at Indian Lake Elementary School is sporting a brand new pair of shoes thanks to Honda and Operation Warm—More than a Coat.

Honda and Operation Warm representatives reached out to ILES Guidance Counselor Jill Onyema months ago about giving kids coats. Mrs. Onyema said the school had plenty of coats from community donations, so the organizations offered shoes instead.

“They are so excited!” Onyema said of the students. “We have a lot of kids that get shoes passed down from siblings or they get them at the Goodwill or the thrift store. But these are brand new shoes and they get to pick out the color.”

Honda volunteers helped students measure their feet, choose a pair of shoes, lace them up and try them on their feet.

Operation Warm Volunteer Engagement Manager Jean Burnett said it was important that every child receive a pair of shoes, regardless of need.

“Confidence is one of our biggest pillars of our mission, so every child at the school got a new pair of shoes — that’s almost 600 pairs of shoes that Honda brought to Indian Lake Elementary.”

“All the kids have been thrilled with the sizes and the colors. They’ve been jumping around and showing us how fast they can run. The volunteers have had such a good time.”

Second-grader Elijah Mowery wore his new blue and white shoes out of the gym and plans to wear them he says, “Until his foot grows out of them!”

About 30 ILES kiddos did not get shoes on distribution day because they ran out of their size or preferred color in their size. Honda and Operation Warm will ship those shoes to ILES in the next few days. All students were also provided with two new pairs of socks to go with their kicks.



Honda Technical Development Center lead Aaron Suchland, right, gives former Honda of America president Hide Iwata a tour of the facility after today’s 10th anniversary event in Marysville. (HONDA PHOTO)

Honda facility celebrates 10th anniversary

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

MARYSVILLE — Honda hosted special activities Wednesday, Nov. 20, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the two key facilities housed in the Honda Heritage Center (HHC), located across the street from the Marysville Auto Plant.

The Honda Heritage Center opened in November 2014, and includes the Honda Technical Development Center (TDC), one of the leading resources for the advancement of manufacturing skills for current and future Honda associates, and the HHC Museum, which showcases the innovative history and growth Honda has achieved in North America during the past 65 years.

The \$35 million, 160,000-square-foot Honda Heritage Center also features office space for numerous Honda business areas that support the company’s operations throughout North America.

The TDC and HHC museum recognized the shared 10th anniversary with an open house event and ceremony with Honda leaders, associates and special guests.

“The Honda Heritage Center Museum tracks our history of more than six decades in America, including over 45 years of U.S. manufacturing,” said Bob Nelson, executive vice president at American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

“As we celebrate the museum’s 10th anniversary, we’re excited to again welcome visitors five days a week to learn about our exciting past, present and future.”

The museum restricted visitation hours during the pandemic, but will open to the public five days a week again beginning Nov. 21. The museum highlights products and significant milestones in the history of Honda in North America with more than 70 displays including historic products,

future concepts and interactive exhibits.

The TDC was designed to deliver state-of-the-art training to strengthen the technical skills of Honda associates and to ensure equipment reliability in Honda manufacturing facilities.

The TDC combines classroom and experiential learning opportunities through more than 200 courses covering a variety of technical topics.

Recognizing the need to constantly evolve associate training, the TDC created a flexible facility that allows the team to add courses to support new technologies such as electric vehicles (EV).

“Reflecting our strong focus on workforce development, the team at the Honda Technical Development Center continues to evolve our training programs to keep our associates abreast of the latest technologies as new equipment is introduced

See ANNIVERSARY on Page 3

NEWS

Local & State

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"Nothing is stronger than public opinion; given the facts, nothing is wiser."



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ABE MARTIN



"Th' feller that's prominent in a little town had better stay there."

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

INDIAN LAKE SCHOOLS

Board hears forecast; longtime educator set to retire

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

Indian Lake School Board members accepted the retirement of one of their longest-serving educators Monday, Nov. 18, during a regular meeting. Elementary reading teacher Elaine Jacobs will retire at the end of the school year after 33 years of service to Indian Lake Schools. The board accepted her retirement as part of its action items.

Her retirement is effective June 1, 2025, with her last day of employment on May 30, 2025.

The Indian Lake Music Boosters presented a \$15,000 donation to the district's music department. The funds will help offset the cost of new band uniforms, replacing the current set that have been in use for over 15 years.

District Treasurer Coleen Repragle presented the annual five-year financial forecast, which the board approved alongside other financial reports and board bills. Superintendent Dr. Rob Underwood commended Repragle for her work as she nears retirement, emphasizing the district's strong financial standing despite potential changes in state tax policies.

"Kudos to her on another



Treasurer Coleen Repragle presents the five-year forecast during the board of education meeting Monday. (INDIAN LAKE SCHOOLS PHOTO)

job well done. She was able to predict with tremendous accuracy where we would be from a budgeting standpoint at this point in the year." Underwood said. "The district is in good, strong financial standing right now, but we continue to monitor changes at the state level with state legislators considering tax reform.

I'm really proud of this board of education and this admin team for continuing to steer us in the right direction and make good use of taxpayer monies."

Board member Scott Staley shared insights from a recent social-emotional learning (SEL) conference, expressing hope to imple-

ment new strategies with staff.

The board approved the following supplemental contracts for the 2024-2025 school year:

Justin Metzger, head boys track; Joe Teague, head girls track; Nick Richardson, Isaac Bennett and Don Thompson, high school assistant track; Kristen Soos, Brian Claybaugh, Hailey Even and Emali Davidson; middle school track.

Ryan Lillard; head baseball; Alex Jacobs and Josh Shelton, assistant baseball; John Stahl, head softball; Paula Newland, assistant softball; Clint Zedecker, volunteer softball; Kaylee Shelton, JV softball;

Justin Metzger, Joe Teague, Nick Richardson, Isaac Bennett, Don Thompson, Renee Metzger, volunteer indoor track;

Jacklyn Leffel, middle school cross country; Chad Kean, middle school girls basketball; Jeff Overs, volunteer middle school girls basketball.

The board also accepted a \$1,000 donation from Philadelphia Evangelical Lutheran Church to support school lunches.

The board's next meeting is 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16, in the board office, marking their final regular session for 2024.

Ben Logan board votes to continue free student tickets; approves new logo

BY SHARYN KOPF
 EXAMINER STAFF WRITER

Free sporting events, a new logo and what to do about preschool needs were some of the topics tackled by the Benjamin Logan Local School District (BL) Board of Education at their regular meeting on Monday, Nov. 18.

To get things started, Superintendent John Scheu gave the board an update on how their free student admission policy for home sports, which they ran on a trial basis for the fall season, went.

Even though Beau Harmon, district athletic director, said they would probably end up losing close to \$13,000 during that trial period, he noted that's the highest number they'll see this school year due mostly to football. Winter sports will be the second biggest hit, but they shouldn't see any loss from spring activities.

Board member Deb Johnson joked that middle school principal Todd Shadley will "have to sell more candy bars."

For his part, Scheu said it went "relatively well."

"I feel it was a much-appreciated move," Scheu later stated, "and thought it shows we're serious about increasing school spirit."

The board approved continuing the policy for the rest of the school year.

Next, the board adopted the Benjamin Logan Brand Standards Guide, which includes the district's new and improved logo. With input from 480 staff, students, parents, alumni and community members, Harmon and director of administrative services Sally Stolly worked with West Liberty company Elle A. Design to create something new.

According to Stolly, they started the project in mid-September by gathering feedback from parents, staff and students. The overwhelming response was the need to update and modernize the image while remaining true to the district's history.

"I needed the structure of Benjamin Logan to stay the same, so we pulled from the school's first logo and original color scheme," Harmon said. "It's a new design with an old-school feel."

Another lengthy discussion emerged from treasurer/CFO Leah Baker's presentation of the district's five-year financial forecast.

While the forecast itself was pretty straightforward,



Scheu stated the preschool costs they will be "incurring very shortly will be a challenge, not this year, but in the near future."

Currently, children ages 3 to 5 are being served in the school's discovery center and through the CORs Head Start program. Unfortunately, they don't have enough space or teachers.

"Kids are coming to preschool," Scheu said. "The numbers have increased significantly and by law we have to serve them."

Special education director Colleen Bodin told the board they currently have 30 preschoolers on an IEP (23 being served now with seven listed as needing educational services) and 100 percent of those are speech-related.

The issue of finding space and qualified teachers makes this a complicated problem, but one BL must address.

"It falls back on the district of residence so it's our responsibility," Bodin said. "We'll have to handle the overflow."

On the positive side of the five-year forecast, Scheu pointed out that when the current fiscal year ends on June 30, 2025, the district will have a carry-over balance in the black of \$309,000.

In addition, their permanent improvement loan will be paid off in 2027, which will have a significant impact on their expenditures by making about \$300,000 more available.

"It's not the answer, but it will help," Scheu admitted.

The school also faced difficulties this fall in filling out their JV cheerleading squad, mostly because, according to Harmon, there was a "no show for tryouts," and, he added, "It wasn't a great scenario."

In addition, they're struggling to find someone to coach the squad.

"There's no one beating down the door," Scott Spriggs, board member, stated.

Harmon agreed, saying it can be hard to get volunteers in a small community.

"The days of people doing that have gone by the way-

side," Harmon continued. "It's not easy finding coaches. Sports have gotten bigger and more labor-intensive. It's a full-time job."

In other board action:
 • November Seniors of the Month Paityn Anspach and Hunter Andrix were recognized for their school achievements.

• Scheu congratulated Indian Lake and West Liberty-Salem high school football teams on their recent wins—and wished them luck at their upcoming match-up in the regional finals on Friday night. He also noted that BL put in a bid to host the game, but that went to Piqua.

• The district will recognize their substitute teachers on Friday, Nov. 22.

• A second "Let's Talk School" event will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, in the hall behind Firehouse Pizza, Zanesfield. Firehouse owner Amber Eirich will provide pizza for the attendees. "It's a way to reach out to our community and give an update on what's happening in our school," Scheu said.

• Scheu gave the board a heads-up regarding Senate bill 104, which requires students in Ohio K-12 schools and colleges to use the bathroom or locker room that aligns with the gender they were assigned at birth. It has passed the Senate and has now gone to Gov. Mike DeWine to sign into law or veto. If he does pass it, the law will go into effect 90 days later.

• Besides the five-year forecast, Baker's October 2024 financial report included a \$295 grant from Google.org for middle school FIRST team registration and confirmation that all October expenses served proper public purposes.

• Approved the ESC substitute list at a rate of \$115 per day.

• Approved deduct days for Kandie Brown that she used all personal and sick leave, as per district policy.

• Extended supplemental contracts for 2024-25 to Sage Caughenbaugh, high school student council advisor;

THANKSGIVING

• **Rushsylvania Lions Club's 75th annual turkey festival** — Saturday, Nov. 23, West Mansfield Conservation Club, 701 S. Main St., West Mansfield; food served beginning at 5 p.m., turkey raffle for 50 turkeys begins at 6 p.m.; drawing for three \$100 cash prizes, numerous gift items, including a door prize of a 25-pound turkey; the festival raises funds for Lions local community projects.

• **An Evening of Thanksgiving** — 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24, Greta Brethren Church, all are invited to join a time of fellowship, singing hymns, scripture reading and prayer, desserts will be provided.

• **Tri-Valley Fire District annual turkey raffle** — 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 25, 2568 Sandusky St., Zanesfield; 50/50 raffles and door prizes available, refreshments served, including coffee, hot chocolate and cookies; event supports the Volunteer Fire Department Association.

• **Riverside senior citizen Thanksgiving Dinner** — Monday, Nov. 25, free meal for seniors residing in the district, doors open at 4:30 p.m., the meal begins at 5 pm; Majesty Quartet set to perform.

• **22nd annual Thanksgiving Love Dinner** — Thursday, Nov. 28, noon to 3 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 201 N. Main St., Bellefontaine, meal served by delivery or dine-in; requests for delivery must be received before 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 26, by calling the church office, (937) 592-9651 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday (do not leave a voicemail); donations are appreciated.



LOCAL NOTES

Ben Logan's 'Let's Talk School' event set for Dec. 5

Benjamin Logan Schools hosts a "Let's Talk School" event at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5, at Heritage Hall behind Firehouse Pizza in Zanesfield.

Pizza and beverages will be provided courtesy of Firehouse Pizza and Subs.

This is an opportunity for the Raider community to come together and discuss key topics such as district finances, state report card results, and participate in an open question and answer session with the superintendent, treasurer and two board of education members.

For any inquiries before the event, reach out to the Central Office at (937) 593-9211.

Jaycee Murray, transportation substitute; and Nikki King, substitute education assistant. King's is effective Nov. 6, 2024, to work on an as-needed basis at her current hourly rate.

• Approved volunteer positions for Kerri Sullivan, boys bowling coach, and Deb Ward, girls bowling coach.

• Approved early graduation for Isabella Cavallini in January 2025, with her diploma awarded in May.

• Accepted the supplemental contract resignation of Michael Dove, high school musical director.

• Terminated the supplemental contract for JV basketball cheer coach Kristen Hale was terminated for the 2024-2025 school year.

• Approved the following

overnight trips for students, parents and chaperones: FFA—Ohio FFA Camp, Carrollton, Ohio, June 2-6, 2025; and the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 28-Nov. 1, 2025; Wrestling events—GMVWA tournament, Vandalia, Ohio, Dec. 26-27, 2024; OHSAA district tournament, Wilmington, Ohio, March 1-2, 2025; OHSAA state tournament, Columbus, Ohio, March 8-10, 2025.

• A \$2,000 donation from the Mental Health Drug/Alcohol Service Board to purchase rolls of tickets for school events was accepted. Harmon stated this large bulk ticket order should last them many years.

The next meeting is 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 16.

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Susan Smith is denied parole 30 years after drowning 2 sons by rolling car into South Carolina lake

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — A parole board decided unanimously Wednesday that Susan Smith should remain in prison, despite her plea that God has forgiven her for infamously killing her two young sons 30 years ago by rolling her car into a South Carolina lake while they were strapped in their car seats. It was the first parole hearing for Smith, 53, who is serving a life sentence after a jury convicted her of murder but decided to spare her the death penalty. She is eligible for a parole hearing every two years now that she has spent 30 years behind bars.

Smith made her case by video link from prison. She started by saying she was "very sorry," then broke down in tears and bowed her head.

"I know what I did was horrible," Smith said, pausing and then continuing with a wavering voice. "And I would give anything if I could go back and change it."

In her final statements, Smith said God has forgiven her. "I ask that you show that same kind of mercy, as well," she said.

Smith made international headlines in 1994 when she insisted for nine days that a Black carjacker drove away with her sons.

Prosecutors have long argued that Smith killed 3-year-old Michael and 14-month-old Alex because she believed they were the reason the wealthy son of the owner of the business where she worked broke off their affair. Her attorneys

blame her mental health.

A group of about 15 people urged against parole. They included her ex-husband and the father of the boys, David Smith; his family members; prosecutors; and law enforcement officials. Along with a few others, David Smith had a photo of Michael and Alex pinned to his suit jacket.

He struggled to get out words at first, pausing several times to compose himself. He said he has never seen Susan Smith express remorse toward him. "She changed my life for the rest of my life that night," he said.

"I'm asking that you please, deny her parole today, and hopefully in the future, but specifically today," he said, adding that he plans to attend each parole hearing to make sure Michael and Alex aren't forgotten.

A decision to grant parole requires a two-thirds vote of board members present, according to the state. Parole in South Carolina is granted only about 8% of the time and is less likely with an inmate's first appearance before the board, in notorious cases, or when prosecutors and the families of victims are opposed.

Before Smith testified, she listened stoically to a statement from her attorney, Tommy Thomas. He called her situation one about "the dangers of untreated mental health." He also noted she had no criminal history before her conviction, making her "low risk" to the public.

OBITUARIES

Betty Evabelle Dowell

Betty Evabelle Dowell, 90, passed away at 6:47 a.m. on November 20, 2024, at Logan Acres Care Center in Bellefontaine, Ohio. She was born in Springhills, Ohio on January 13, 1934, a daughter of the late Arthur Earl Fry and Dora Ethel (Hughes) Fry.

On January 4, 1962, Betty married Richard Lee Dowell in Sidney, Ohio and he preceded her in death on January 8, 2007. She was also preceded in death by her daughter, Merry Henry; sister, Martha Joann Aultman; and two brothers, Arthur Fry Jr., and Richard L. Fry.

Betty is survived by her son-in-law, Rick Henry; two grandchildren, John (Ashley) Henry, and Richard (Carmilla Lopez) Henry; four great grandchildren, Serenity, Xavier, Makayla, and Elijah; a brother, Paul (Gloria) Fry; and several nieces and nephews.

A Korean War veteran, Betty owned and operated Dick & Betty's in DeGraff with her husband for several years. She loved country and bluegrass music, puzzles, BINGO, and John Wayne.

A visitation will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday, November 23, at the Daring & Sanford Funeral Home, 210 W. Hayes Street in DeGraff, where Pastor Harold Leiss will officiate a funeral service at 12 p.m. with military rites performed by the Logan County Veteran Honor Guard. Inurnment will be in Fairview Cemetery in Quincy, Ohio at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made, in Betty's memory, to Logan County Veterans Honor Guard c/o Russell Strayer, 120 Colton Avenue, Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311.

Daring & Sanford Funeral Home, DeGraff, is honored to serve the Dowell family and encourages anyone to share a fond memory or message of condolence at www.edsfh.com.

Barbara Elaine Edens

Barbara Elaine Edens, 74, of Quincy, passed away at 7:18 p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2024, at Koester Pavilion in Troy, Ohio. She was born in Bellefontaine, Ohio on March 15, 1950, a daughter of the late Wilbur Franklin Gentis and Georgia (Fuson) Gentis.

On May 5, 1973, she married Michael V. Edens in Ada, Ohio and he preceded her in death on October 18, 2019.

Barb is survived by her daughter, Breanne (Rocky) Edens Neal; two sons, Mike Edens, and James Edens; seven grandchildren, Monica (Dalton) Shopshire, Katelyn (Anthony) Duckett, Auanna (Antonio Hornung) Edens, Lainie (Brandan) Rettig, David Neal, Matthew Neal, and Makayla Neal; several great grandchildren; a sister, Wilda Gentis; sister-in-law, Susan Caldwell; and several nieces and nephews.

Barb had worked as an administrator at Komyo in Troy. She enjoyed crocheting, needlepoint, genealogy, and horses.

A visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, November 25, at the Daring & Sanford Funeral Home, 210 W. Hayes Street in DeGraff, where Pastor Mike Curtis will

officiate a funeral service at 1 p.m. Burial will follow in Greenwood-Union Cemetery in DeGraff, Ohio. A reception for family and close friends will immediately follow the services at Barbara's house located at 305 S. Miami Street in Quincy.

Memorial contributions may be made, in Barb's memory, to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, P.O. Box 5014, Hagerstown, Maryland 21741-5014.

Daring & Sanford Funeral Home, DeGraff, is honored to serve the Edens family and encourages anyone to share a fond memory or message of condolence at www.edsfh.com.

James "Jamie" "Batman" Alfonzo Sims

James "Jamie" "Batman" Alfonzo Sims, 58, of Lima, OH peacefully passed away on Monday evening, November 18, 2024, with his loved ones at his side after a long-fought battle with cancer.

Jamie was born on December 18, 1965, in Sidney, OH, a son of the late Allene "Cookie" Breaston Sims and Robert Junie Sims. He is also preceded in death by a brother, Robert "Bobby" Sims.

Jamie leaves behind his family including his wife, Connie McNeal Sims, proud dad to Chad (Maggie) Sims, Jamie (Corey) Sims-Judd, Shae Carter, and bonus son, Popsey (Karri Fryman) McNeal, all of Bellefontaine, OH, a proud grandpa of Jayden Sims, Kylo and Lilly Judd, Trystan, Serenity, Nicholas, and Rhydian Sims, Aleasha, Eternity, and Serenity Hagans, Logyn Clay, Bryce (Madison) McNeal, and Ashlyn McNeal. Also surviving are his brothers, Tracy (Deb) Sims of Waverly, OH, and Damon Sims of Bellefontaine, sisters, Loretta Sims of Bellefontaine, Anetra Sims of Columbus, OH, and Nicole Sims Cook of Pittsburgh, PA, special nieces and nephew, Marquisha Sims, Kizswala Sims, and Bobby Sims IV, Bonus Pops, Larry Brown of Bellefontaine, Bonus Mom, Jackie Brown, Bonus brothers, Dewey (Michelle) McClain, Jim (Sherril) Brown, and Scott Artis, Bonus sisters, Judy Brown Crawford, Tonya Farler, and Deborah Gourley, bonus daughter, Meg Jones, bonus son, Keith Shepard, bonus Boo, Lorena Sims Brenner, and close friends, Bill and Janet Haynes.

Jamie attended Bellefontaine High School. He enjoyed action films, and was an avid fan of Batman, Las Vegas Raiders, and OSU Buckeyes. Jamie never knew a stranger and was always up for a party. His greatest love was for his family and spending time with them and friends. Rich Szima will begin funeral services at 3 p.m., Saturday, November 23, at Shoffstall Funeral Home, 205 S. Main St., Lakeview with visitation from 1-3 p.m. Come as you are as it is suggested to wear your SIMS STRONG, Raiders, or Buckeye apparel. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to his family c/o Shoffstall Funeral Home. Arrangements are in the care of Shoffstall Funeral Home, Lakeview, OH. Condolences may be expressed at shoffstallfuneralhome.com.

Anniversary

Continued from Page 1

into our manufacturing facilities," said TDC leader Aaron Suchland.

"As we prepare for the challenges of EV production, we are developing training to support our unique approach of flexible production of petrol, hybrid and all-electric vehicles for our customers."

Since opening the first center in the HHC, the TDC

has expanded its offerings to new facilities in Ohio, Alabama and Indiana that support Honda associates in the U.S., Mexico and Canada.

While the TDC delivers classes to an average of 3,000 associates per year, it has also hosted numerous students and community groups to promote work-force activities, demonstrating some of the technologies used in manufacturing.

BOOKS

Continued from Page 1

Then Saturday, Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. to noon, A.J. also stages a book signing at the south McDonald's location.

The author, who loves C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia and The Screwtape Letters, along with Jim Henson's The Dark Crystal, related that journaling and writing his stories also is mentally soothing, helping to calm his anxiety and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

He said the first book in his series started as a short story, originally written about 14-15 years ago while he was in high school. However, A.J. found that the characters "had a much bigger story to tell" so he set to work on this book.

Throughout the writing process, he collaborated and gathered ideas with his sister, Rebecca Snyder of Toledo, during early morning coffee meet-ups, along with virtual meetings with his friend and fellow author Jenn Williams of New York, whom he met through Bible college.

After penning outlines and then a draft of the stories in his notebooks, A.J. said he sat down to type his second draft, and his father Anthony E. Sims lended much appreciated assistance in the editing process of both books. In the world of the Warrior's Code, geared for ages preteen and older, elves live in tribes based on their color, from red to green and yellow. The reader is soon introduced to one of the main characters, Aldrin, the Last of the Green Elves.

"Aldrin is on a quest to save his tribe. They have all been wiped out and he wants to rescue them," A.J. explained. "Along the way, he meets Zachtia, a Red Elf, and they become friends. Each tribe generally are enemies."

Aldrin does an act of kindness by rescuing Zachtia, the pregnant wife

of the Red Elf Dairlo, from a Purple Elf attack, and promises to escort her to her home.

The duo embark on this journey together and also meet new friends, like brave Endia of the cowardly Yellow tribe, and new enemies, such as Barin I'har, the brattish son of a nobleman. They also gain "a new outlook on life and its strangeness," A.J. said.

"Jails, mines, labyrinths and time rifts all test the elves and bring them closer together, helping them realize that, to survive on this journey that began with a promise, they must work together and blend their unique ways of thinking and abilities. A testament to the fact that all are unique, and all can learn something new from the other."

Two years ago, A.J. started the second book for his Stanford Universes series. "A Warrior's Code II: Displaced in the Shadows" takes place a day after the first book ends. It is a tale of love, loss, and the enduring strength of the warrior's spirit.

The story again follows Aldrin, who is haunted by the ruins of his past and driven by a need to protect those he loves. Alongside Endia, they form a bond

forged in the fires of battle, but their journey is far from over. Summoned by Gardener to Council City, they uncover secrets that could change the fate of their world forever.

As Aldrin and Endia navigate the treacherous corridors of Council Towers, they encounter powerful allies and sinister forces. The discovery of a dying Accat Stone—a mystical source of the city's protection—thrusts them into a mission that will test their courage, loyalty and the strength of their hearts.

His father called the books, "captivating" and related that those who might not naturally gravitate toward science fiction or fantasy novels are pulled along by the engaging plot lines and characters of A Warrior's Code I and II.

A.J. is excited to conduct the local book signings and encouraged others to pursue their writing goals and other dreams.

"Always be fascinated and always be curious," he said.



"A Warrior's Code" published in October of 2019.

"A Warrior's Code II: Displaced in the Shadows" is the newest book in the Stanford Universes series and published October of 2024.

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BELLEFONTAINE

Auburn Avenue Baptist Church
Rev. Settle Townsend, pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m. Bible study, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.
auburn-avenue.org

Bellefontaine Apostolic Temple
500 Lawrence St.
(937) 539-0906
Praise worship, Sunday school, 10 a.m. Evangelistic service, 6 p.m. Sunday. Bible study, 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Bellefontaine Church of Christ
109 Township Road 217 (next to Lee's Chicken)
(937) 593-2938
Sunday: 9:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. Bible study; Wednesday: 6 p.m.

Bellefontaine Open Bible
516 Eastern Ave.
(937) 844-6721
Justin DuVal, pastor
Sunday school, 10:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

Calvary Baptist Church
1140 Rush Ave. (Associated with GARBC)
Jeffery D. Willetts, pastor;
Brandon Slifer, worship pastor; Josh Willetts, youth/family pastor
9:15 a.m. Discipleship class, 10:30 a.m. Worship; Awana 6:30 p.m. Student Ministries 6:30 p.m.; Prayer meeting, 7 p.m. Wednesday; Deaf ministry.

Christ's Covenant International
400 Ludlow Rd.
Shelley Stephenson, pastor
Don Patton, associate pastor
Adult Sunday school, 9:15 a.m. Sunday worship 10 a.m.; Wednesday Bible study 6 p.m.

Christ Our King Church
1325 County Road 9
(937) 599-4464
Robin Ricks, pastor
Sunday Super Church, 8:45 a.m., worship 10 a.m.; Wednesday Bible study 7 p.m.

Church of Christ in Christian Union
1669 County Road 11
(937) 404-4002
Rev. Mike Phillips
Sunday school 9:30 a.m. Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
1603 Road 183 (extension of E. Brown)
(937) 592-6576
Jason F. Miller, president
Testimony & Sacrament, 10 a.m. Primary & Sunday school 11:20 a.m. Priesthood, Relief Society & Young Woman 12:10 p.m.

Church of the Brethren
534 S. Detroit St.
(937) 599-2251
Mike Roberts, pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Church of the Nazarene
345 Washington St.
Kenneth Neighoff, pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:45 a.m. Evangelistic service, 6 p.m. Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Common Ground Church
613 Hamilton St.
Sunday worship gathering: 10 a.m.
cgchurch.net; fb.com/cgchurchteam

Covenant Fellowship
136 W. Columbus St.
Sunday school 9:30 a.m.; worship 10:30 a.m.; Bible study, 7:15 p.m. Wednesday.

First Assembly of God
2833 S. U.S. Route 68
(937) 593-4778
John Musgrave, lead pastor
Sunday: 10:35 a.m. Worship & Children's Church.; Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. adult Bible studies, youth and children's ministry.

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
215 E. Sandusky
Rev. Kevin Greenwald, minister
Sunday school and Cafe Grace Praise and Worship led by Rev. Greenwald, 9:15 a.m.; Grace Care ages 1-4, 9:15 a.m.; Sunday school 10 a.m.; sanctuary worship, 10:45 a.m.
bellefontaineffc.org

First Church of God
1000 E. Brown Ave.
(937) 592-2546
Gary Brown, lead pastor
Ray Headings, senior adult pastor
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school; 10:30 a.m. worship service; Wednesday, 6 p.m. youth meeting and 6:30 p.m. prayer meeting, Bible study.

First Friends Church
808 W. Columbus Ave.
(937) 592-9461
Matthew Sandlin, pastor
Sunday school 9:30 a.m.; Worship 10:30 a.m.; InSight, Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
208 W. Sandusky Ave.
Larry Novak, pastor
(937) 592-7699 (Dial-a-Prayer, 593-3531)
Sunday: coffee/fellowship 9 a.m.; worship 10 a.m.; Bible Study: Monday 1:30 p.m. & Wednesday 7 p.m.

First United Methodist Church
201 N. Main St.
Rev. Joe Ziraldo, pastor
Traditional worship, 9 a.m. (broadcast at 11 a.m. on WBKO 98.3 FM radio); contemporary service and Children's Church, 10:30 a.m.

First United Presbyterian Church
117 N. Main St.
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Worship service 10:45 a.m. streaming weekly through Facebook and YouTube

Grace A.M.E. Church
233 S. Main St.
Rev. Kenneth Kelley, pastor
Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Grace Chapel
Centre City Mall, Downtown Bellefontaine
Sunday, 6 p.m. Wednesday, 6 p.m.

Greater Christ Temple
616 W. Chillicothe Ave.
Karen Cane, pastor
Sunday school, 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship, noon; Bible study, 7:30 p.m., Wednesday; Brotherhood, 10 a.m., Women's prayer, 11 a.m.; Saturday; last Sunday of month, prayer 6 p.m.

Gretna Brethren Church
1564 S. Township Road 46
Rob Starnes, pastor
9 a.m. discipleship classes for children, adults; 10 a.m. praise and worship.

Hillcrest Baptist Church, S.B.C.
1505 S. Main St.
Daniel McCarty, senior pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. FaithWeaver Friends, 6:30-8 p.m. Childcare provided during worship. Radio message 9 a.m. Sunday, 1390 WBLL-AM.

Hi-Point Church of Christ
1815 State Route 540
John James, Minister
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m. Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Lunch Bunch: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 1 p.m.; Rocket Club: 1st-5th-grade, 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Hi-Point Free Will Baptist Church
311 County Road 11
(937) 935-5752
Scott Wisniewski, pastor
Bill Jones, assistant pastor
Sunday school 10 a.m.; Sunday worship, 11 a.m.; Bible study, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Hopewell Church Global Methodist
3746 U.S. Route 68 N.
(937) 539-6351
Cynthia Defibaugh, pastor
Worship 9:30 a.m., Wheelchair accessible. Live streamed on Facebook

Jehovah's Witness, Kingdom Hall
1801 Wright St.
(937) 599-5483
Charles Taylor, secretary
Sunday: Public meeting 10 a.m.; Watchtower 10:35 p.m. Thursday: Congregational Bible Study, 7:30 p.m. Theocratic School, 8:05 p.m. Service meeting, 8:35 p.m.

Jubilee Mennonite Church
820 W. Sandusky Ave. (Lutheran Community Services)
937-592-8101
June-August, Worship 10 a.m.; September - May, Sunday school 9:30 a.m. & Worship at 10:45 a.m.
FB@jubileemennonite

Pilgrim Fellowship, Congregational & Reformed
(937) 592-6387
Dr. Marshall Pierson, pastor
Sunday school 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:45 a.m. Meeting at Shawnee Springs, 400 Kristina Dr.

Seventh-day Adventist Church
1910 County Road 130
Saturday afternoon services, Bible study hour 12:50 p.m. Worship service 2:30 p.m.

St. Patrick Catholic Church
316 E. Patterson Ave.
Fr. Shawn Landenwitch
Mass: Saturday 4 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.; Tuesday, 8 a.m.; First, third Thursdays, 6:15 p.m. followed by Adoration and Confession.

Solid Rock Baptist
1470 W. Sandusky
(937) 844-1400
James Frost, pastor
Sunday School: 10 a.m.; Sunday worship 11 a.m.; Wednesday: Bible study, 7 p.m.
solidrockbaptistchurch.info

Vineyard Christian Fellowship
624 Township Road 55
(937) 593-0981
Eric Cook, pastor
Worship, Children's Worship & Childcare, 9:15, 10:45 a.m.; Student/Children ministries, Small Groups, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.
vcfbellefontaine.org

Wake Up The World Ministries
600 E. Brown Ave.
(567) 674-2722
Terry Robinson, pastor
Sunday worship and children's church, 10 a.m.; Wednesday Bible study, 6:30 p.m.

Walnut Grove Methodist
David Moore, pastor
Corner of county roads 12 & 26
Service: 9 a.m. Sunday school, 10 a.m.

Belle Center Church of Christ
Corner of State and Walnut St.
(937) 464-2611
Kris Langstaff, pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Wednesday, 7 p.m. Bible study.

Belle Center Cornerstone Church
Kevin Smith, pastor
Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Reformed Presbyterian Church
Philip H. Pockras, pastor
For time and place of meetings, call 464-6851; listen at sermonaudio.com/bc-rpcna; prayer meeting 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.
bcrcchurch.org

United Presbyterian Church
202 Walnut St.
(937) 464-2695
9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 worship.

DeGraff
Cornerstone Fellowship of DeGraff
(937) 585-5511
Mike Mitchell, pastor
Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Junior Church, 10:30 a.m.; Senior lunch 11:15 a.m. Thursday.
cornerstonedegraff.org

DeGraff Baptist Church
State Route 235
(304) 415-1728
Rev. Bruce Keeling
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wed.: Prayer and Bible study, 7 p.m.
degraffbaptistchurch.com

Logansville Community Church
(937) 441-1473.
Dana Kidder, pastor
Sunday: 9:30 Sunday school; 10:45 a.m. worship.
logansvillechurch.net;

New Beginnings Community Church
127 N. Main
Mark Weaver, pastor
Sunday worship and praise, 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Bible study, 7 p.m.
degraffbaptistchurch.com

Stony Creek Church
Harold Liess, pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Bible study/prayer meeting and youth group, 7 p.m. Wednesday.
stonycreekcob.com

EAST LIBERTY
East Liberty Church of Christ
Dr. Jason E. Robson, pastor
Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m.

East Liberty Community Church
3045 Main St.
Worship: 11 a.m.

North Greenfield Church
9609 County Road 2
Worship: 9:45 a.m. Sunday school, 11 a.m.

HUNTSVILLE
The Cornerstone Church at Huntsville
6611 Fruit St.
(937) 686-7101
Bryan Meadows, pastor
Ashley Sloan, youth pastor
Worship, 10 a.m.; Burnt Bagel Cafe, 9:15 a.m.; live stream worship and archived worship services online; staffed nursery, toddler programs; Junior Church programs.
cornerstonehuntsville.com

Huntsville Presbyterian Church
6490 Fruit St.
(937) 686-2131
Ben Beres, pastor
Church school, 9 a.m. Worship, 10 a.m. Children's Church, 10:15 a.m.
huntsvillepresbyterianchurch.com

LAKEVIEW
Christ United Methodist Church
110 Brown & State Route 235
(937) 843-3029
David Moore, pastor
10:15 a.m.; coffee and doughnuts, 10:45 a.m., worship, 10:15 a.m.

Hope Harbor Baptist Church
8330 S. R. 235
(937) 935-9314
Fred Albert, pastor
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m. Sunday; carry-in dinner and youth group, 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Indian Lake Baptist Church
225 W. Lake
(937) 596-6880
Donald D. Faulder, pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Wednesday, 6 p.m.

Indian Lake Northside Church of the Nazarene
13699 N. State Route 235
(937) 843-5946
Tim Moebs, pastor
Sunday school, 9 a.m.; Worship, 10 a.m.; Sunday evening service, 6 p.m.; Wednesday service, 7 p.m.; nursery provided.

LEWISTOWN
Lewistown-Trinity United Methodist Church
8088 County Road 54
(937) 686-8355
Rod Brower, pastor
Sunday school 10 a.m.; Worship 11 a.m.; wheelchair lift available.
LTUMC.com

MIDDLEBURG
Middleburg Community Church
(937) 666-2844 or (937) 666-4694
Carolyn Christman, pastor
9:30 a.m. worship; 10:45 Sunday school.
middleburgcch@gmail.com

PICKRELLTOWN
Monroe Community
6458 County Road 29, West Liberty
(937) 935-8293
Rob Kilgore, pastor
Sunday School, 9 a.m.; last Sunday Friends and Family breakfast; 10 a.m. worship; Bible study first three Wednesdays, 7 p.m.
Find them on Facebook

QUINCY
Buckeye Gospel Barn
8291 State Route 235
(937) 585-6090
Jerry & Bobbi Allen, pastors
Sunday Worship, 10 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Kids class, 10 a.m.

Quincy Chapel Church of Christ
New Street and Miami Street
(937) 585-4786
Worship services, 10:30 a.m. with junior church; Sunday school 6 p.m.

Quincy Methodist Church
Mark Vincent, pastor
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. Sunday worship, 10:30 a.m. Ramp, hearing assisted devices available; Wednesday 6:30 p.m., choir practice; Five Loaves Food Pantry for Riverside Local school District residents served 5 to 7 p.m. third Wednesday.

RIDGEWAY
Church of Christ
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30

First Church of God
Tim Kohl, pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:35 a.m. and 6 p.m. ;Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Bible study, prayer meeting
fcoj.com

Ridgeway United Methodist Church
Mike Raypholtz, pastor
Adult Bible Study 9 a.m., Church 10 a.m.

RUSHSYLVANIA
Big Springs Methodist Church
John Rozewicz, pastor
Sunday school, 10 a.m., Worship, 11

Church of Christ
(937) 935-9651
office@rushchurch.com
John Watkins, senior pastor;
Cody Caudill, student pastor;
Ashlee Phillips, children's minister
Sunday 9:30 worship, adults, youth (7th-9th grade), nursery and children's classes; 11:30 worship, adults, youth (10th-12th grade), nursery and children's classes
rushchurch.com

First United Presbyterian Church
Rev. David Girbert, pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30

United Methodist Church
April Phillips, pastor
Rushsylvania: Sunday School: 8:30 a.m., Worship: 9:30 a.m.

RUSSELLS POINT
Galilee Lutheran Church
301 Lincoln Blvd.
(937) 843-3906
galileeoffice@embarqmail.com.
Karen Torrez, pastor
Coffee fellowship 9:30 a.m., worship with Holy Communion 10 a.m. Sunday; Alcoholics Anonymous 8:30 p.m. Tuesday; Community Outreach Center homework help, 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesdays.

Indian Lake Community Church/Lighthouse of Indian Lake
(937) 843-5636
Ministry team: Jim Ellington, Karen Blackburn, Dave Hafenbrack and Tara Cascioli
10 a.m. traditional service, 11 a.m. contemporary service. Children's programs are offered during both services. No nursery care. Good Samaritan-Outreach program, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Thursdays; free community meal, 5-6:30 p.m. last Wednesdays of the month (at the Lighthouse); Ignite program 6-8:30 p.m. Wednesdays (Lookout youth center).
indianlakecommunitychurch.org

Quest Community Church Indian Lake
8081 State Route 366
(937) 524-9821
Nick Shaner, pastor
Contemporary worship and children's ministry 10 a.m. Sunday.
questindianlake.com

Russells Point Church of God
430 State Route 708
(937) 843-3297
Worship, 10:30 a.m. with Sunday school 9:30 a.m., 6 p.m. Bible study, 7 p.m. Wednesday.

St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church
464 Madison Ave.
(937) 843-3127
Rev. Shawn Landenwitch, Pastor
Sunday Mass Schedule —Saturdays 6 p.m. and Sundays 8 a.m.; additional 10 a.m. Sundays Memorial Day through Labor Day/ Weekday Mass — 8 a.m. Wednesdays and Fridays; 2nd and 4th Thursdays 6:15 p.m., followed by adoration/reconciliation; reconciliation by appointment also.

WEST LIBERTY
Bethel Mennonite Church
416 Washington St.
Rebecca Kauffman, pastor
Worship, 10:40 a.m.
bethelchurchw.org

First Church of God
315 Liberty St.
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, children's church, 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Grace Chapel
Zach Dudenhofer, pastor
Sunday. Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

McKees Creek Chapel
(937) 887-8080
Chris Starbuck, pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Oak Grove Mennonite Church
1525 Mennonite Church Road
(937) 465-4749
Alex Dye, lead pastor
Sunday worship 9:30 a.m. (livestream available)
church@oakgrovemennonite.org

Quest Community Church
110 South St.
(937) 465-0141
Jessica Dolan, interim assoc. pastor
Sunday: 9:15 and 10:45 a.m.; contemporary worship and Quest Kids children's ministry; Student Ministry Sunday 6-7:30 p.m.
questchurchonline.com

South Union Mennonite Church
56 State Route 508
(937) 465-6085
Matthew Williams, pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.
southunionchurch.org.

Union Chapel Community Church
State Route 287
Jeremy Sarver, pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Connection Group.

United Church of Christ, Congregational Christian
212 W. Newell
(937) 465-2761
Karen Griswold, pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.

United Methodist Church
Rod Brower, pastor
Traditional worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:45 a.m.
F: westlibertyunitedmethodistchurch.org

United Presbyterian Church
Keith Landis, pastor
Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., Worship, 10:30 a.m.

WEST MANSFIELD
Baptist Church
Sam Newell, Interim pastor
Sunday School: 9 a.m. church service: 10 a.m.

Byhalia Evangelical Friends Church
31654 State Route 31
(937) 982-3561
Jim Gardner, pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Children's church, 10:30 a.m. nursery available; Every other Monday, Hour of Power Prayer, 6:30 p.m.; Free Love Supper, 5-6:30 p.m. last Saturday of month.

Church of Christ
Jack Knox, minister
Sunday school, 9 a.m. Worship, 10 a.m.

Heart of God Ministries
20529 Treaty Line Road
Jane and Junior Hileman, pastors
Worship, 10:15 a.m., 6 p.m. Sunday.

West Mansfield Methodist Church
(937) 355-2401
Rev. John Rozewicz
Sunday school, 10:45 a.m. Worship, 9:30 a.m.

York Center United Methodist
28170 State Route 739
April Phillips, pastor
Worship, Sunday 9:15 a.m.

ZANESFIELD
Goshen Friends Church
5527 County Road 153
Wayne Downing, pastor
Sunday: Worship 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School 11 a.m.; Wednesday: Adult Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
goshenfriendschurch.org

New Salem Lutheran Church
6646 E. State Route 540
Worship, 9: 30 a.m.

United Methodist Church
April Phillips, pastor
Corner of Columbus & Main Streets
Blended worship, 11 a.m., Sunday school, 10 a.m.
zanesfieldumc.org

Zanesfield Community Chapel
Keith Matthews, pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Bible study, 7 p.m. Thursday.

OTHER CHURCHES
Harper Community Church
3679 N. County Road 25, Bellefontaine
(470) 345-8506
Anthony Davis, pastor
Worship, 9:30 a.m., Sunday school 10:30 a.m.

Millcreek Church of Christ
24538 Lunda Road, Raymond
Jack Knox, minister
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m., 7 p.m.

Mt. Carmel Friends Church
3470 Kennard-Kingscreek Road, Cable
(937) 652-3252
Jereme Proudman, pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Wednesday: Prayer service, youth program and children's program, 7 p.m.
mtcarmelfriends.com

Mt. Tabor Church of God
Nathan Price, pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., Wednesday: Prayer meeting, 7 p.m., Friday: Young people, 6:30 p.m.

Muchinippi Church
Edward Shady, pastor
Worship, 9:30 a.m. Sunday school, 10:30 a.m. Wed.: Bible study, 7:30 p.m.

WEST LIBERTY

Bethel Mennonite Church
416 Washington St.
Rebecca Kauffman, pastor
Worship, 10:40 a.m.
bethelchurchw.org

First Church of God
315 Liberty St.
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, children's church, 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Grace Chapel
Zach Dudenhofer, pastor
Sunday. Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

McKees Creek Chapel
(937) 887-8080
Chris Starbuck, pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Oak Grove Mennonite Church
1525 Mennonite Church Road
(937) 465-4749
Alex Dye, lead pastor
Sunday worship 9:30 a.m. (livestream available)
church@oakgrovemennonite.org

Quest Community Church
110 South St.
(937) 465-0141
Jessica Dolan, interim assoc. pastor
Sunday: 9:15 and 10:45 a.m.; contemporary worship and Quest Kids children's ministry; Student Ministry Sunday 6-7:30 p.m.
questchurchonline.com

South Union Mennonite Church
56 State Route 508
(937) 465-6085
Matthew Williams, pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m.
southunionchurch.org.

Union Chapel Community Church
State Route 287
Jeremy Sarver, pastor
Sunday school, 9:30 a.m. Worship, 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Connection Group.

United Church of Christ, Congregational Christian
212 W. Newell
(937) 465-276

Entertainment

How a viral, duct-taped banana on a wall came to be worth \$1 million

NEW YORK (AP) — Walk into any supermarket and you can generally buy a banana for less than \$1. But a banana duct-taped to a wall? That might sell for more than \$1 million at an upcoming auction at Sotheby's in New York.

The yellow banana fixed to the white wall with silver duct tape is a work entitled "Comedian," by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan. It first debuted in 2019 as an edition of three fruits at the Art Basel Miami Beach fair, where it became a much-discussed sensation.

Was it a prank? A commentary on the state of the art world? Another artist took the banana off the wall and ate it. A backup banana was brought in. Selfie-seeking crowds became so thick, "Comedian" was withdrawn from view, but three editions of it sold for between \$120,000 and \$150,000, according to Perrotin gallery.

Now, the conceptual artwork has an estimated value of between \$1 million and \$1.5 million at Sotheby's auction on Nov. 20. Sotheby's head of con-

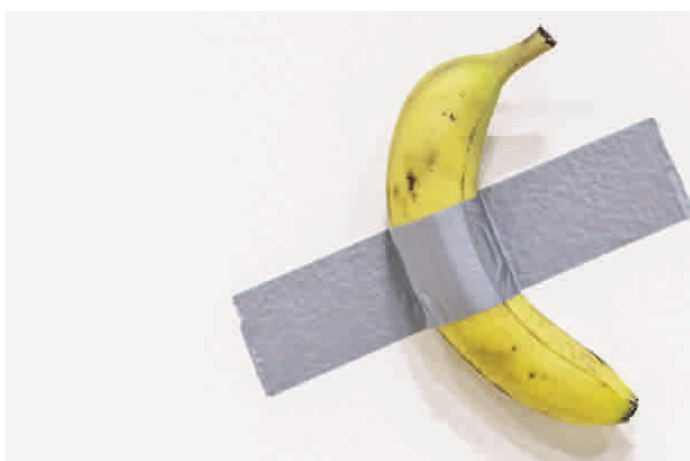
temporary art, David Galperin, calls it profound and provocative.

"What Cattelan is really doing is turning a mirror to the contemporary art world and asking questions, provoking thought about how we ascribe value to artworks, what we define as an artwork," Galperin said.

Bidders won't be buying the same fruit that was on display in Miami. Those bananas are long gone. Sotheby's says the fruit always was meant to be replaced regularly, along with the tape.

"What you buy when you buy Cattelan's 'Comedian' is not the banana itself, but a certificate of authenticity that grants the owner the permission and authority to reproduce this banana and duct tape on their wall as an original artwork by Maurizio Cattelan," Galperin said.

The very title of the piece suggests Cattelan himself likely didn't intend for it to be taken seriously. But Chloé Cooper Jones, an associate professor at the Columbia University School of the Arts, said it is



Artist Maurizio Cattelan's piece of art "Comedian" hangs on display during an auction preview at Sotheby's in New York, Monday, Nov. 11, 2024. (AP PHOTO/EDUARDO MUNOZ ALVAREZ, FILE)

worth thinking about the context.

Cattelan premiered the work at an art fair, visited by well-off art collectors, where "Comedian" was sure to get a lot of attention on social media. That might mean the art constituted a dare, of sorts, to the collectors to invest in something absurd, she said.

If "Comedian" is just a tool

for understanding the insular, capitalist, art-collecting world, Cooper Jones said, "it's not that interesting of an idea."

But she thinks it might go beyond poking fun at rich people.

Cattelan is often thought of as a "trickster artist," she said. "But his work is often at the intersection of the sort of humor and the deeply

macabre. He's quite often looking at ways of provoking us, not just for the sake of provocation, but to ask us to look into some of the sort of darkest parts of history and of ourselves."

And there is a dark side to the banana, a fruit with a history entangled with imperialism, labor exploitation and corporate power.

"It would be hard to come up with a better, simple symbol of global trade and all of its exploitations than the banana," Cooper Jones said. If "Comedian" is about making people think about their moral complicity in the production of objects they take for granted, then it's "at least a more useful tool or it's at least an additional sort of place to go in terms of the questions that this work could be asking," she said.

"Comedian" hits the block around the same time that Sotheby's is also auctioning one of the famed paintings in the "Water Lilies" series by the French impressionist Claude Monet, with an expected value of around \$60 million.

When asked to compare Cattelan's banana to a classic like Monet's "Nymphéas," Galperin says impressionism was not considered art when the movement began.

"No important, profound, meaningful artwork of the past 100 years or 200 years, or our history for that matter, did not provoke some kind of discomfort when it was first unveiled," Galperin said.

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**
- 1 You love (Lat.)
 - 5 — butter
 - 9 Urban carrier
 - 12 Hit on the noggin
 - 13 Greet silently
 - 14 Flamenco cheer
 - 15 Church fundraisers
 - 17 Actress Salonga
 - 18 Cholesterol medication
 - 19 Wiser partner
 - 21 LP successor
 - 22 Manages somehow
 - 24 Foot part
 - 27 "Ben- —"
 - 28 Ancient invader
 - 31 Debtor's letters
 - 32 Before
 - 33 Swiss canton
 - 34 Ante-lope's playmate
 - 36 Motor homes

- DOWN**
- 1 Lessons for tots
 - 2 Castle defense
 - 3 "Diana" singer
 - 4 Quick drawing
 - 5 Graceful bird
 - 6 Actor Linden
 - 7 Adam's mate
 - 8 Greek storyteller
 - 9 Gaz-pacho, for one
 - 10 Sheltered
 - 11 Endure
 - 16 Caesar or Vicious
 - 20 Table support
 - 22 S-shaped, as a road
 - 23 Raw materials
 - 24 Succor
 - 25 Shad product
 - 26 Pool hall item
 - 27 German mister
 - 29 La-la lead-in
 - 30 Smack
 - 35 Malarkey
 - 37 — number
 - 39 Summary
 - 40 "Dynamite" band
 - 41 Lugosi of film
 - 42 Flightless birds
 - 43 Shredded picnic dish
 - 44 Leer at
 - 45 Make mittens
 - 46 Gas brand in Canada
 - 49 Visual communication syst.
 - 50 Zodiac feline

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 11-20

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NON-SEQUITUR

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SUDOKU

KING FEATURES

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Difficulty: ★★★

11/21

Horoscopes

ROYAL STARS | FROM KING FEATURES SYNDICATE By Georgia Nicols

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Leo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024: People respond to your dynamic energy because you're playful and passionate. Nevertheless, you are determined and serious about going after what you want. This is a year of work, building and construction. (For both external and internal structures.) Take charge of your health. Stay grounded and level-headed.

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) **★★★** Good news! The next four weeks will be more upbeat and joyful. You will have many opportunities to explore your world more through travel or making travel plans. You can also benefit by checking out opportunities in medicine, the law, publishing, the media and higher education. Tonight: Party!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) **★★★** You are the financial wizard of the zodiac, which means you'll be interested to know that in the next four weeks, your interest in shared property, taxes, debt, insurance matters and inheritances will be stronger than usual. You might sign important papers. You might make important decisions. Tonight: Family discussions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) **★★★** Once a year, the Sun will sit across from your sign for four weeks. Today is the beginning of this annual event. For starters, it means that you will need more sleep in the next four weeks because you will be more tired.

You will also have a chance to more objectively see your role in your closest relationships. Tonight: Conversations.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) **★★★** Roll up your sleeves. You'll be keen to be as productive as possible in the next four weeks. You want to get things done, and you want to do them as efficiently and effectively as possible to make every action count. This could be influenced by the fact that you're hemorrhaging money. Tonight: Money ideas.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) **★★★** Lucky you! While fiery Mars boosts your energy, today the Sun moves into your fellow Fire Sign for the next four weeks, giving you opportunities to socialize, enjoy the arts and be active in sports events. Opportunities for romance will flourish! Tonight: You're chatty!

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) **★★★** You will have a stronger focus on home, family and your private life for the next four weeks. Many will be more involved with a parent. Family discussions will take place. You might tackle some home repairs. Nevertheless, partying and fun times are promising. Tonight: Quiet times.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) **★★★** The pace of your days will accelerate in the next four weeks because you have things to do, places to go and people to see! This is a wonderful time to study and learn. Travel if possible. Even short trips. Enjoy redecorating your home and entertaining. Tonight: Friendships.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) **★★★** Very likely, you will give some serious thought to your value system in the next four weeks. For example, we all know that our time on this planet is limited. How do you want to spend the time that is left to you? What are your

goals? What really matters? Tonight: Show respect.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) **★★★** Today the Sun enters your sign to stay for four weeks. (This occurs once a year.) This week, attract favorable situations and people to you. This Sun will also make you project yourself with more power and charisma. Oh yes, this is your hour! Tonight: Explore!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) **★★★** As your birthday looms ahead, it means your personal year is coming to an end (birthday to birthday). Therefore, use the next four weeks to ponder how you want your new year to be different from this last year. Ideas? Tonight: Check your finances.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) **★★★** Your popularity will increase in the next four weeks as the Sun travels through your House of Friendships. Enjoy good times with others. Secret love affairs are likely. Be patient with partners, spouses and close friends while Mars opposes your sign. Tonight: New information.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) **★★★** The Sun will be at the top of your chart for the next four weeks. (It happens only once a year.) This symbolizes that the Sun is shining down on you and casting you in a flattering spotlight. This is why you look so good to everyone. Tonight: Ideas!

BORN TODAY
Actress Goldie Hawn (1945), actress Isabel May (2000), actress Cherry Jones (1956)

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Duties include, but are not limited to:
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•Maintain fair website
•Filing paperwork
•Interaction with Customers and Members of LCAS
•Requests for Rentals and Storage
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The successful candidate should be outgoing, energetic, enjoy working with the public and enjoy a county fair atmosphere. If interested, please contact:
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301 E. Lake Ave.
PO Box 758
Bellefontaine, OH 43311
Phone: 937-599-4178
Email: logancountyfair@gmail.com

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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.

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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

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or

REAL ESTATE

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.)

LEGALS

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.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Board of Perry Township Trustees will be taking Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for an architect's services in the Renovation/Addition Perry Township Fire Department Station #4. The RFQ's will be opened at our December 9, 2024 Township Meeting at 7:00 pm at the East Liberty Community Room. This is located at the corner of Main & Foundry Streets in East Liberty, Ohio 43319. The Trustees have the right to accept and/or reject any or all RFQ's. To obtain an RFQ sheet, contact any of the Perry Township Trustees: John Gibson 937-441-9486 John Brose 937-597-5937 Kenneth Rosebrook, Sr. 937-441-2937 By Order of the Perry Township Trustees: Cindy Stalling, Perry Township Fiscal Officer 937-597-5935 Nov. 14, 21, 26, 2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Miami Township Zoning Commission, Logan County, OH,

LEGALS

will hold a public hearing concerning proposed amendments to the Miami Township Zoning Resolution on December 2, 2024, at 6 pm at the Miami Township Hall. The building address is 112 Jefferson Street, Quincy, OH 43343. The proposed amendments, initiated by motion of the Zoning Commission, propose to amend Article II Definitions by adding Solar Energy Related Definitions and Article X Supplementary District Regulations by adding Section 1081 Solar Energy Systems. These changes allow and establish standards for accessory solar energy systems and prohibits principal solar energy systems less than 50MW. The text and map(s) of the proposed amendment will be available for examination at the Miami Township Hall between the hours of 8 am and 7 pm for a period of 10 days prior to the public hearing. The building address is 112 Jefferson Street, Quincy, OH 43343. After conclusion of such hearing, the matter will be submitted to the Miami Township Board of Trustees for its action. Kaitlyn Bailey Fiscal Officer Miami Township Nov. 21, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
Due to unforeseen circumstances the Liberty Township monthly meeting has been moved from Monday the 18th day of November to Monday, November 25th at 12 noon at the Twp. Building at 790 N. Detroit St., West Liberty, Ohio. Fiscal Officer Sherry Piatt Liberty Township Nov. 21, 2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Property Owner: Teresa McGill & Beverly Huber Property Address: 11291 Ash St. Parcel No.: 43-005-16-18-009-000 This is to inform you that Stokes Township Board of Zoning Appeals, will hold a public hearing on a Variance request on the 2nd of December, 2024 at 7:15 PM at the Stokes Township Hall, located at 275 S. Oak St., Lakeview, OH 43331. The applicants are Teresa McGill & Beverly Huber Request that a variance(s) be granted for the following described property located at 14489 Maple St. (Avondale), Lakeview, OH 43331 Description: The applicants are requesting 2 Variances: 1) Because this is a corner lot, the required set backs are 30 feet from each front property line and applicants are requesting a 7 feet 6 inch set back, or a difference of 2'6" off Lake Ave. 2) A 6 foot privacy fence along the rear property line, in lieu of a standard 4 foot high fence. For more information, please attend the meeting. Stokes Township Zoning Officer Richard P. Stewart Nov. 21, 2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Property Owner: Kim McCluskey Property Address: 10083 Forest St.

LEGALS

Parcel No.: 43-018-18-01-018-000 BZA No.: BZA-2024-015-McCluskey
This is to inform you that Stokes Township Board of Zoning Appeals, will hold a public hearing on a Variance request on the 2nd of December, 2024 at 7:15 PM at the Stokes Township Hall, located at 275 S. Oak St., Lakeview, OH 43331. The applicants is Kim McCluskey Request that a variance(s) be granted for the following described property located at 110037 T.R. 253, Lakeview, OH 43331. Description: The applicant is requesting 2 Variances: 1) A 10 feet set back from the front yard/water's edge in lieu of the

LEGALS

required 30 feet set back or a difference of 20 feet. 2) A 19 ft. 4 in. height in lieu of the 15 foot maximum height or a difference of 4 feet 4 inches. For more information, please attend the meeting. Stokes Township Zoning Officer Richard P. Stewart Nov. 21, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Council of the Village of Lakeview will be holding a special meeting on Monday, November 25th at 3 PM at the Fire Department. This meeting will be held in Executive Session (ORC 121.22 G1) Heather Kegg Fiscal Officer Nov. 21, 2024

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\$6 (Fri & Sat 7-10:30 p.m.)..... \$4.50
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\$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)**
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(Good for (1) Month Gym Membership)
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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024

LAKERS

Continued from Page 8

Cummins with 112, Bryce Burton with 110, Noah Shirk with 108 and Aaron Rapp with 101. Rapp has 8.5 sacks, and Shirk has pulled down the opposing QB five times.

"Usually, at the start of the season, the offense is a little ahead of the defense," Rapp said. "As the season has gone on, 'they are really complementing each other well. We talk about picking each other up. If the offense sputters a bit, the defense gets it back."

Against the Tigers, "our number one focus is using the proper technique and carrying out assignments," Rapp said. "Teams are going to score, but they are going to have fully earn those points. If we get lined up right, the guys are talented and smart enough, and we are going to give ourselves a good chance to win the game."

"West Liberty is very explosive. They have good size up front and good solid athletes. They force you to stay disciplined and defend the whole field."

When the Lakers have the ball, Drake Cosby has rushed 213 times for 949

yards, averaging 4.5 per rush with 11 touchdowns. Shirk has contributed 294 yards on 72 carries. Quest Clay has 51 carries for 305 yards. Both Shirk and Clay have each recorded four touchdowns.

Quarterback Madden Lillard has thrown for 1,872 yards, completing 143 of 259 yards with 21 touchdowns and 14 interceptions. He has also run 106 times for 231 yards, with one TD

Clay is the leading target, with 72 receptions for 910

yards and 11 touchdowns. Brodey Reisinger has 37 catches for 559 yards with five for points, and Burton has 16 grabs, 224 yards, and two TDs.

"I just couldn't be any more proud," said Rapp. "The 10-week season is a grind by itself. The last four weeks have not felt like a grind. The coaches are doing a good job of managing the wear and tear. The guys are staying lighthearted and fun."

Friday's winner advances to the state semifinals against Ironton or Wheelersburg out of Region 19.



Indian Lake celebrates a touchdown in a game earlier this season. The Lakers have leaned on their defense in the playoffs. (EXAMINER PHOTO | MIKE FRANK)

STAGE

Continued from Page 8

Waynesville last week, and will face a balanced Lakers attack led by Drake Cosby, who was fourth in the CBC in rushing, a pair of top-five receivers in Clay and Brodey Reisinger and quarterback Madden Lillard, who threw for the third-most yards in the CBC.

WL-S has relied on its

special teams at key moments during their playoff run. A 90-plus yard return for a kickoff put the Tigers ahead for good in the regional semifinal. Kicker Gideon Cole connected on a game-winning field goal during the regular season finale against Fairbanks to clinch the OHC championship. He also hit on a big field goal to extend the WL-S lead to

two possessions against Waynesville last week. This game is more than a battle of stats and strategies, though. It's about the regional pride that comes with rallying around your high school football team and the sense of community and nostalgia that Friday nights under the lights bring to our local towns. There's something timeless about the way football

unites us, and Friday night's matchup is a perfect example of that. Most seasons end in disappointment, with a loss. That's the nature of being a sports fan. Only one team gets to raise the trophy, and for every winner, there's a story of heartbreak on the other sideline. But perhaps it's that very disappointment that

TIGERS

Continued from Page 8

ries for 905 yards and nine TDs. Also a potential factor is Josiah Stidham, who has 632 yards and seven TDs on 88 carries.

The Lakers are 10-2 on the season. "They are a challenge on both sides of the ball," said McGill. "Offensively, they have different guys that are weapons. Defensively, they are very sound. They are playing at a high level and playing their best football."

Attacking the Lakers on defense will be Wilcoxon who has 93 tackles (11 for loss) and 3.5 sacks. Stidham has 85 tackles, with Sam Strapp (56) and Evans (55) doing their part. Taran Longwood has 6.5 sacks.

As a team, the Tigers have 14 interceptions and

have recovered five fumbles on the year. "I think it's pretty cool for both communities and Logan County in general," said McGill of the proximity of the matchup. "It certainly is exciting. It shows that the area produces pretty good football."

The Tigers have made the regional final three other times in the past, but are hoping for their first trip to the final four.

"We are looking forward to playing another week," said McGill. "The seniors are very close. The biggest reward is playing together another week."

The winner of Friday's game will face the Region 19 champion. That game features #1 seed Ironton (12-1) against #14 seed Wheelersburg (9-4).



PLAYERS TO WATCH

INDIAN LAKE

■ **MADDEN LILLARD**, QB: A senior, Lillard has thrown for 1,872 yards this season, third best in the CBC.

■ **QUEST CLAY**, WR/DB: A senior, two-way star Clay leads the CBC with seven interceptions on the season. He is also third in the CBC with 910 yards receiving.

WL-SALEM

■ **NICK SHIFFLET**, QB: A senior, Shifflet led the OHC in all-purpose yards with 2,964 (2,059 passing, 905 rushing)

■ **JACK BAHAN**: WR: A senior, Bahan led the OHC with 981 yards receiving. His 11 receiving TDs were good enough for second in the conference.



Jack Bahan attempts to break free from defenders for WL-S. (EXAMINER PHOTO | TONY BARRETT)

makes the thrill of victory so sweet. You have to feel the painstaking hurt of a tough loss to truly appreciate the kind of magical run that Indian Lake and WL-S are on.

No matter who advances Friday night, the

Tigers and the Lakers have already given us a game for the ages. They've shined a spotlight on Logan County's athletes and coaches, elevating our community in the process. And in that sense, we've all already won.



Kolton Cummins of Indian Lake, backed up Cy Cummins (69) and Noah Shirk (5), makes a stop during the game against Greeneview last Friday. (EXAMINER PHOTO | TONY BARRETT)



West Liberty defenders Naaman Stidham (30), Silas King (72), Luke McGill (75) and Josh Wilcoxon (7) converge to make a stop against Miami East. (EXAMINER PHOTO | TONY BARRETT)

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DIVISION V OHSAA REGION 20

DIAN LAKE LAKERS vs. WEST LIBERTY-SALEM TIGERS

FINAL

FRI., NOV. 22 • 7 P.M.
ALEXANDER STADIUM, PIQUA HIGH SCHOOL

<p>#5</p> <p>11-2</p> <p>CBC/MAD RIVER CHAMPS</p> <p>PLAYOFF APP. 7</p> <p>W-Wk 2, 19-17 :FAIRBANKS W-Wk 13, 28-13 :GREENEVILLE</p>	<p>8</p> <p>WINNING STREAK</p> <p>25 OFF. PPG</p> <p>15 DEF. PPG</p> <p>COMMON OPPONENTS</p>	<p>10</p> <p>30</p> <p>19</p> <p>16</p> <p>GREENEVILLE: L-Wk 2, 42-14 FAIRBANKS: W-Wk 10, 29-27</p>	<p>#7</p> <p>12-1</p> <p>NORTH DIV. CHAMPS/OHC</p> <p>PLAYOFF APP.</p>
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Lakers make debut visit to regional final

BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS WRITER

For the first time in program history Indian Lake has reached a regional final in football, and will look to make more history on Friday against West Liberty-Salem in the Division V, Region 20 championship in Piqua's Alexander Stadium.

Indian Lake has put together eight wins in a row. A couple have been by big margins, with most of the rest by a couple of scores.

Jonn Rapp is in his fourth season as head coach, and served as an assistant for 17 seasons. He noted that the staff is a "good family tree" with many having played for the Lakers.

He is a graduate of Indian Lake, but also student taught at West Liberty-Salem, and spent time with Tigers coach Dan McGill.

The two schools each were former members of the West Central Ohio Athletic Conference until the league disbanded following the 2000 season.

The teams last met in a regular season game on Oct. 27, 2000. Indian Lake won the Week 10 matchup, 14-6.

The schools have continued to participate in 7-on-7 drills during the summer months, Rapp said.

"It's one of those things that you know is out there," said Rapp about the matchup. "It's so awesome to be part of because there is so much joy and hype and excitement. It's almost addicting and an extra added motivator."

The postseason has seen Indian Lake dial up the defensive pressure, with 12 takeaways in the three victories.

It started with four in a 19-7 win over Versailles, then five as they defeated Preble Shawnee, and three more that helped lead to a 28-13 win over previously unbeaten Greeneview.

The Lakers have a season total of 15 interceptions, with seven by Quest Clay and four by Lillard. They also have recovered 17 fumbles.

Leading tacklers are Cy

See LAKERS on P7



■ **DRAKE COSBY, RB:** A senior, Cosby rushed for 949 yards and 11 TDs, which is fourth in the CBC.

Regional final sets stage for historic showdown

BY NATE SMITH | EXAMINER STAFF WRITER

Only one team will punch its ticket Friday out of Division V, Region 20, but no matter the outcome, Logan County will be well-represented in the state final four, as either West Liberty-Salem or Indian Lake will become the first local team to advance to the OHSAA semifinals.

Fans of both programs have already won, I'd say. Witnessing the historic playoff runs these two teams have delivered this season has been a rare and special privilege.

It's often said the mark of a great team is peaking at the right time. That's not just coach-speak. Both the Tigers and the Lakers are playing their best football when it matters most, and the result is a matchup that on paper is as even as they come and has all the makings of a classic.

Indian Lake enters the game on a torrid defensive streak. Through three playoff victories, the Lakers have routinely turned defense into offense on the strength of 12 turnovers.

This opportunistic defense looks to slow down a WL-S offense averaging a 49.3 points per game during its playoff run.

The Tigers boast one of the most explosive offenses in the region, led in part by quarterback Nick Shifflet, who led the Ohio Heritage Conference in all-purpose yards with 2,964 (2,059 passing, 905 rushing).

Top receivers Jack Bahan and Jacob Evans, finished first and fourth respectively among OHC receiving leaders. Add in running back Josh Wilcoxon — a top-five rushing back in the OHC — and the Tigers have no shortage of weapons.

That firepower will face a stiff test from Indian Lake's defensive standouts, including Quest Clay, the Central Buckeye Conference leader in interceptions, and Aaron Rapp, who finished second in the conference in sacks.

The Tigers defense gave up 42 points and over 400 yards to

See STAGE on Page 7

Tigers set to rely on high powered offense

BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS WRITER

The Tigers are roaring along, and looking to keep the season going.

West Liberty-Salem has advanced to the Region 20 championship in Division V football, where they will face Indian Lake.

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. Friday at Alexander Stadium in Piqua, and the winner goes on to the state semifinals.

The Tigers bring a record of 12-1 to the showdown. That one loss came back on Sept. 6 to Greeneview.

They have been on an offensive tear since, scoring at least 29 points in every game. Two of them were by just a few points with the others by very comfortable margins. They have scored an average of 38.1 points per game.

In the postseason, they opened with a 41-26 win over Arcanum, then routed Miami East 62-28.

Last week in the regional semifinals against Waynesville, they jumped out to a big lead, then hung on for a 45-42 victory.

Coach Dan McGill is in his 12th season leading WL-S.

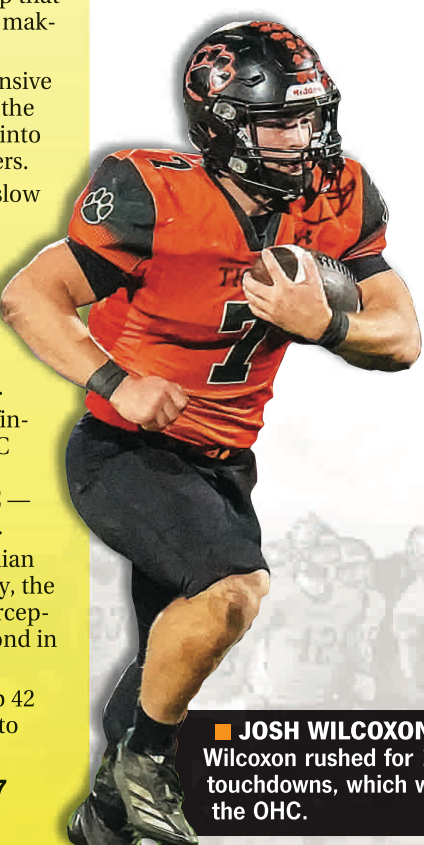
"The guys are playing confidently," McGill said of his squad. "They are trusting that we will find something that works. We have enough in our playbook. They have seen us scoring points in different kinds of ways and that gives them confidence."

Quarterback Nick Shifflet has completed 147 of 231 passes for 2,059 yards. He has thrown 20 touchdowns and just three interceptions. Earlier this week, he was named to the second team offense for the Southwest District.

Jack Bahan is the top receiver for WL-S, with 56 catches for 981 yards, with 11 touchdowns. Jacob Evans has 48 catches for 698 yards, with seven scores, and Reese Oder has grabbed 30 balls for 293 yards with one TD.

On the ground, Josh Wilcoxon leads the way with 1,054 yards on 152 carries. His average gain has been 6.9 yards, and he has reached the end zone 22 times. Shifflet is a threat to run as well, with 140 car-

See TIGERS on P7



■ **JOSH WILCOXON, RB:** A senior, Wilcoxon rushed for 1,054 yards and 22 touchdowns, which was fifth and second in the OHC.

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