



TIGERS TOP CHIEFS
WL-S girls hold off Bellefontaine



FORECAST
▲ 33
▼ 19



Eight people killed on Ohio roadways during holiday period

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

COLUMBUS – Troopers of the Ohio State Highway Patrol report eight people were killed in seven crashes on Ohio's roadways this Thanksgiving holiday, resulting in the fewest deaths since 2018, when seven people were killed, according to provisional statistics.



The five-day Thanksgiving reporting period began at midnight Wednesday, Nov. 27, and ran through 11:59 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1.

Of the eight people killed, three were not wearing a safety belt and one crash involved impaired driving.

During the reporting period, troopers arrested 247 people for operating a vehicle while impaired. Troopers also issued 569 safety belt citations and 297 citations for distracted driving violations.

Throughout the holiday reporting period, troopers assisted 1,638 motorists. In Logan County, 64 OSHP incidents were reported, and 190 incidents were recorded in Union County.

Frustration mounting over Biden pardoning his son

ATLANTA (AP) — Already reeling from their November defeats, Democrats now are grappling with President Joe Biden's pardoning of his son for federal crimes, with some calling the move misguided and unwise after the party spent years slamming Donald Trump as a threat to democracy who disregarded the law.

The president pardoned Hunter Biden late Sunday evening, reversing his previous pledges with a grant of clemency that covers more than a decade of any federal crimes his

son might have committed. The 82-year-old president said in a statement that his son's prosecution on charges of tax evasion and falsifying a federal weapons purchase form were politically motivated.

"He believes in the justice system, but he also believes that politics infected the process and led to a miscarriage of justice," said White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, who along with Biden and other White House officials insisted for months that Hunter Biden would not get a pardon.

That explanation did not satisfy some Democrats, angry that Biden's reversal could make it harder to take on Trump, who has argued that multiple indictments and one conviction against him were a matter of Biden and Democrats turning the justice system against him.

"This is a bad precedent that could be abused by later Presidents and will sadly tarnish his reputation," Colorado Gov. Jared Polis wrote of Biden on the social media platform X.

"When you become President, your role is

Pater familias of the nation," the governor continued, a reference to the president invoking fatherhood in explaining his decision. "Hunter brought the legal trouble he faced on himself, and one can sympathize with his struggles while also acknowledging that no one is above the law, not a President and not a President's son."

Rep. Greg Stanton, D-Ariz., said on X: "This wasn't a politically motivated prosecution. Hunter committed felonies and was convicted by a jury of his peers."

Environmental Science Club members examine past, future of agriculture



BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

The Benjamin Logan Environmental Science Club recently took a field trip to a farm located along the Mad River, hosted by Bob and Lois Stoll, with a theme of study, "Back in time and fast forward to current agriculture."

Environmental Science Club members learn about regenerative farming practices. (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

The group started out in the "Timber Frame" barn built pre-Civil War and discussion focused on what farms looked like in the mid- 1800's. Beams in the barn were more than 30 feet long from massive trees found during that time.

Then the group moved to the machine shed on the property,

where a rain simulator was set up. The simulator displayed erosion on bare soil vs. clean water from plant-covered soil. In addition, hard surfaces with contaminants like as oil and antifreeze demonstrated how they move off that surface to our water courses.

The group enjoyed a wagon ride

across Mad River and learned why riparian zones of trees and vegetation are so important to the Mad River and how regenerative farming practices improve soil and produce more nutrient dense foods for animals and people.

Learn more on regenified.com or visit logancountylandtrust.org.

HOW TO SUM UP 2024?

The Oxford University Press word of the year is 'brain rot'

LONDON (AP) — Many of us have felt it, and now it's official: "brain rot" is the Oxford dictionaries' word of the year.

Oxford University Press said Monday that the evocative phrase "gained new prominence in 2024," with its frequency of use increasing 230% from the year before.

Oxford defines brain rot as "the supposed deterioration of a person's mental or intellectual state, especially viewed as the result of overconsumption of material (now particularly online content) considered to be trivial or unchallenging."

The word of the year is intended to be "a word or expression that reflects a defining theme from the past 12 months."

"Brain rot" was chosen by a combination of public vote and language analysis by Oxford lexicographers. It beat five other finalists: demure, slop, dynamic pricing, romantasy and lore.

While it may seem a modern phenomenon, the first recorded use of "brain rot" was by Henry David Thoreau in his 1854 ode to the natural world, "Walden."

Oxford Languages President Casper Grathwohl said that in its modern sense, "brain rot" speaks to one of the perceived dangers of virtual life, and how we are using our free time.

"It feels like a rightful next chapter in the cultural conversation about humanity and technology. It's not surprising that so many voters embraced the term, endorsing it as our choice this year," he said.

Last year's Oxford word of the year was "rizz," a riff on charisma, used to describe someone's ability to attract or seduce another person.

Collins Dictionary's 2024 word of the year is "brat" — the album title that became a summer-living ideal.

Cyber Monday shoppers expected to set a record on the year's biggest day for online shopping

BY HALELUYA HADERO AND WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

Consumers in the United States are scouring the internet for online deals as they look to take advantage of the post-Thanksgiving shopping marathon with Cyber Monday.

Even though e-commerce is now part and parcel of many people's regular routines and the holiday shopping season, Cyber Monday — a term coined in 2005 by the National Retail Federation — has become the biggest online shopping day of the year, thanks to the deals and the hype the industry has created to fuel it.

Adobe Analytics, which tracks online shopping, expects consumers to spend a record \$13.2 billion on Monday, 6.1% more than last year. That would make it the season's — and the year's — biggest — shopping day for e-commerce.

Online spending is expected to peak between the hours of 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Monday night, per Adobe — reaching an estimated \$15.7 million spent every minute.

For several major retailers, a Cyber Monday sale is a dayslong event that



began over the Thanksgiving weekend. Amazon kicked off its sales event right after midnight Pacific time on Saturday. Target's two days of discount offers on its website and app began overnight Sunday. Walmart rolled out its Cyber Monday offers for Walmart+ members on Sunday afternoon and opened it up to all customers three hours later, at 8 p.m. Eastern time.

Consumer spending for Cyber Week — the five major shopping days between Thanksgiving and Cyber Monday — provides a strong indication of how much shoppers are willing to spend for the holidays.

Many U.S. consumers continue to

experience sticker shock following the period of post-pandemic inflation, which left prices for many goods and services higher than they were three years ago. But retail sales nonetheless have remained strong, and the economy has kept growing at a healthy pace.

At the same time, credit card debt and delinquencies have been rising. More shoppers than ever are also on track to use "buy now, pay later" plans this holiday season, which allows them to delay payments on holiday decor, gifts and other items.

Many economist have also warned that President-elect Donald Trump's plan to impose tariffs next year on foreign goods

coming into the United States would lead to higher prices on everything from food to clothing to automobiles.

The National Retail Federation expects holiday shoppers to spend more this year both in stores and online than last year. But the pace of spending growth will slow slightly, the trade group said, growing 2.5% to 3.5% — compared to 3.9% in 2023.

A clear sense of consumer spending patterns during the holiday season won't emerge until the government releases sales data for the period. But some preliminary data from other sources shows some encouraging signs for retailers.

Vivek Pandya, lead analyst at Adobe Digital Insights, notes that discounts from Thanksgiving onward have "exceeded expectations" — and online spending throughout Cyber Week is on track to cross a record \$40 billion mark combined.

U.S. shoppers spent \$10.8 billion online on Black Friday, a 10.2% increase over last year, according to Adobe Analytics. That's also more than double what consumers spent in 2017, when Black Friday pulled in roughly \$5 billion in online sales. Consumers also spent a record \$6.1 billion online on Thanksgiving Day, Adobe said.

NEWS Local & State

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ABE MARTIN



"Constable Nevt Plum accidentally locked his whiskers up in a cash register last night an' it wuz 3 a.m. before his cries fer help wuz heard."

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

BELLEFONTAINE BEAT

POLICE & FIRE

Prescription drugs recovered from stop

A Bellefontaine woman was charged with impaired driving and possession of drugs following a Friday, Nov. 29, traffic stop initiated by officers of the Bellefontaine Police Department in the area of Gunntown Road near Main Street.

Officers on patrol observed a Jeep driving erratically southbound along Main Street. Malissa Davis, 46, was arrested around 12:20 a.m. and was cited for operating a vehicle under the influence, two counts of possession of drugs, and several traffic violations, including failure to use a turn signal, improper turn, marked lanes and speeding.

According to the police report, Davis' Jeep was seen turning onto South Main Street without signaling and straddling the double yellow centerline. The vehicle then accelerated to 53 mph in a 35 mph zone and was driving erratically, including sudden steering corrections and drifting over lane markers.

The officer initiated a traffic stop on Gunntown Road after observing multiple traffic violations. Upon approaching Davis' vehicle, the officer noted that her eyes were bloodshot, her speech was slurred and there was a strong odor of alcohol. Davis admitted to drinking "maybe like a beer" but later changed her statement to "three beers throughout the day."

Davis refused to perform field sobriety tests, because she said she has a bad hip. She eventually admitted she was "probably not" fit to drive.

During a search of the vehicle, officers found a pill bottle in Davis' coat pocket containing 135 pills identified as Clonidine, a medication used for anxiety, and two capsules believed to be

Caplyta, an anti-psychotic drug. Neither prescription was intended for Davis.

Davis was transported to the Bellefontaine Police Department, where she declined to provide breath or urine samples. She was later lodged in the Logan County Jail.

Unlicensed driver lodged

Sylmene Louis Iris Dorleus, 39, of Lima, was charged Saturday, Nov. 30, with obstructing official business following a traffic stop executed by officers of the Bellefontaine Police Department.

Officers on patrol at approximately 8:22 p.m. observed a Chevrolet Traverse traveling 87 mph in a 70 mph zone on U.S. Route 33 near Township Road 55. The officer activated emergency lights and sirens to initiate a traffic stop. However, the driver continued for several miles before eventually pulling over near State Route 117.

Upon stopping, Dorleus initially refused commands to exit the vehicle. Officers observed a small child in the back seat and coordinated with additional units to secure the scene. A K9 unit was deployed as a precaution.

A passenger, Estephania Thevenin, exited the vehicle carrying the child. Thevenin explained to officers that Dorleus did not speak English. After further communication using a translator, Dorleus provided a Brazilian identification card.

Through translation, Dorleus claimed he did not realize he was required to stop, citing differences in traffic stop procedures in Brazil. Dorleus also provided conflicting statements about how long he's been in the United States.

Dorleus was arrested and transported to Logan County Jail. He was also cited for speeding and driving without a valid license.

LOGAN COUNTY BEAT

SHERIFF & HIGHWAY PATROL

2 transported after crash

A driver and young passenger each were hospitalized following a one-vehicle crash that occurred shortly after 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30, in the area of U.S. Route 33 at U.S. Route 68 in Harrison Township.

Candice Madigan, 36, of Russells Point, was cited for failure to control after she lost control of the 2004 Chevy Avalanche pickup truck she was driving along westbound U.S. 33 near U.S. 68, deputies from the Logan County Sheriff's Office report. Her vehicle reportedly spun 180 degrees and struck a guardrail.

Madigan and a three-year-old passenger in the truck were taken by Bellefontaine squad to Mary Rutan Hospital with suspected minor injuries.

Damage to the truck was heavy and it was towed from the scene.

Man arrested on warrant also receives animal cruelty charge

A Rushsylvania man arrested Friday, Nov. 29 for an outstanding warrant also received a summons for cruelty to animals after a malnourished and neglected pitbull puppy was found at his residence.

Deputies of the Logan County Sheriff's Office attempted to make contact with Seth A. Wagner, 31, on Thursday, Nov. 28, for a warrant through the Bellefontaine Police Department.

After failing to make contact with the suspect at his residence, deputies observed a small brown puppy crawl from underneath a flipped over couch in the backyard.

The puppy was tied to a pallet and a bed frame with a leash and a rope around its neck. The rope was tightened with a metal ring and a knot to keep it from coming loose. It was constrictive enough that the fur around the animal's neck was reportedly almost bare.

Deputies report the puppy was emaciated with its rib bones and spine showing through its coat.

A pan and a glass bowl filled with leaves, dirt and frozen water were on the ground out of the puppy's reach. There was feces and stuffing from the couch on the ground around the pup.

The puppy, which deputies believe was left without adequate food, water or shelter for some time, was taken to the sheriff's office.

Wagner told deputies via phone Thursday prior to his arrest that he was out of town because of the Thanksgiving

holiday and that his soon-to-be ex-wife, who had moved out about a month ago, was supposed to pick the puppy up four days ago.

Deputies made contact with Wagner Friday at his residence. He was taken into custody and transported to the Logan County Jail.

While en route to the jail, Wagner's spouse contacted deputies and told them she left the puppy with Wagner and had no intentions of taking it, adding, that she believed the suspect had gotten rid of the dog.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP POLICE

Weapons charge issued during stop

Passenger Jason Mendiola, 48 of Kenton, was charged with having weapons under disability during a traffic stop Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 28.

The driver of the vehicle, Guillermo Mata, 50 of Brownsville, Texas, also was served with an active warrant during the stop about 5:50 p.m.

Officers on patrol in the 400 block of Orchard Island Road and conducted on the vehicle for a turn signal and equipment violation.

Upon making contact with the occupants, the odor of an alcoholic beverage was observed coming from the vehicle. The occupants stated there was nothing illegal inside of the vehicle and consented to a search. During the search, a loaded firearm belonging to Mendiola was located. Several open containers of alcohol were also recovered.

A criminal history check was conducted on the two occupants. Guillermo was found to have an active warrant for his arrest, while the driver was found to have a violent criminal record that prevented him from possessing a firearm.

Both defendants were taken into custody.

• Dawn Helton, 33, and Ronald Shoffner, 60, both of 300 Midway Drive, each were served active drug warrants Wednesday, Nov. 27, from a previous Washington Township Police Department traffic stop.

Both defendants were taken into custody and lodged in the Logan County Jail.

LOCAL NOTES

BHS accepting nominations for Distinguished Alumni Award

Nominations are currently being accepted for the Bellefontaine High School 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award.

All nominations are due Dec. 13.

This award has been established to honor alumni whose actions and achievements bring honor and distinction to the academic heritage of Bellefontaine High School.

In order to qualify, the candidate needs to be at least a 10-year graduate of BHS and have demonstrated significant success in the professional arena and/or shown a significant contribution in service to the community, state, or nation.

The 2025 Distinguished Alumni will be recognized at graduation ceremonies May 30, 2025.

Nomination forms can be obtained from the Bellefontaine City Schools website at www.bcs-k12.org or by contacting Angie Horvath at Bellefontaine High School at (937) 593-0545, ext. 3480 or e-mail horvath@bcs-k12.org.

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.

Majesty Quartet performs December concerts

The Majesty Quartet is set to perform a concert at Harper Community Church, 3679 County Rd. 25 North, Bellefontaine, at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8.

There will be a free will offering. A time of fellowship and snacks will follow the concert.

Majesty Quartet's other upcoming concerts for the remainder of the year are:

- Thursday, Dec 5 — Huntsville Presbyterian Church, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec 10 — Logan Acres, 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec 15 — Monroe Community Church, 10 a.m.
- Sunday, Dec 15 — Mechanicsburg United Methodist Church, 6 p.m.
- Monday, Dec 16 — Green Hills Community, 6:30 p.m.

Union nurses at Mary Rutan Hospital approve 4-year contract

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

Union nurses at Mary Rutan Hospital, represented by the Ohio Nurses Association and AFT, voted Nov. 19 to ratify a new four-year contract focused on improving working conditions, addressing understaffing and ensuring patient care remains in the hands of skilled healthcare professionals — not machines.

"This contract takes critical steps to address the challenges we face as nurses," said Tara Davis, RN, Mary Rutan nurses' union bargaining team co-chair.

"Bedside nursing is about compassionate, human care, and we made sure this agreement protects that principle. We also secured pay raises and preserved our benefits to help recruit new nurses and retain experienced ones, which is critical to addressing the staffing crisis."

The new contract, which applies to the hospital's 115-member nursing union, will be in effect from Dec. 9, 2024, through Dec. 8, 2028.

Key provisions of the agreement include:

- Protection against automation — The hospital

is required to collaborate with the union before implementing artificial intelligence or virtual nursing programs, ensuring skilled professionals cannot be replaced by machines without union input.

• Wages and benefits tied to staffing needs — Improvements to the wage scale and differential pay, along with stronger leave and holiday protections, directly address the need to recruit and retain staff to alleviate unsafe workloads.

"This contract isn't just about pay and benefits — it's about standing up for the profession of nursing itself," added Tara Tracey, RN, fellow co-chair Mary Rutan nurses' union bargaining team.

"We fought to ensure that nurses aren't replaced by machines and that our patients continue to receive compassionate, high-quality care. These gains also create an environment that supports recruitment and retention, which is essential for addressing understaffing. In addition to this contract, we urgently need the passage of HB 285, which would ensure every Ohio hospital adopts enforceable safe staffing standards."

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OBITUARIES

Kellie D. (McClanahan) Boone

Kellie D. (McClanahan) Boone, 56, of Bellefontaine passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family at her home on Friday, November 29, 2024, after a courageous battle with ovarian cancer. She was born in Findlay, Ohio



on October 10, 1968, to Paula (Vance) McClanahan and the late Thomas McClanahan.

Along with her mother, she leaves behind her two daughters: Sara (Cameron Willeke) Slayback and Jessica (Justin) Baughman; grandchildren: Parker Artis, Paxton Baughman and Reign Baughman; nieces and nephews: Molly (Josh Whitten) McClanahan and Vance (Paisley Jacobs) McClanahan; aunt and uncle, Dee (Patrick) Kormanik; cousins, Chad (Kamie) Kormanik and their son, Kaiden. She is preceded in death by her brother, Matthew McClanahan.

Kellie enjoyed cooking and playing cards. She cherished her time spent with her family and loved attending her grandchildren's sporting events as their biggest fan. She will be deeply missed by all.

Kellie will be cremated and there will be no public services.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 5555 Frantz Road, Dublin, Ohio 43017.

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

John J. Cauley

John J. Cauley, 84, of Urbana, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday evening, November 28, 2024, at Springfield Regional Medical Center.

John was born at home in Champaign County on April 4, 1940, to the late Bart Cauley and Opal Mae (Green) Graves. He was also preceded in death by a son Michael L. Cauley; brothers Don (Becky) Capper, Bart Cauley, Jr., and Robert "Bob" Cauley; a sister Mary Alice (Jerry) Neer; a grandson Kelly Joe Searles; son-in-law Jeffery Lammar Haas; and daughter-in-law Jenny Cauley.



John is survived by his wife Judy A. Cauley; daughters: Darlene Haas, and Evelyn K. (Wesley) Searles; sons: James Cauley, and Ernest E. Cauley; step-sons: David Hawke, Jr., and Carl Hawke; 4 grandchildren: Brandon L. (Misty Young) Searles, Wesley C. Searles, Kelsey J. (Josh) Spicer, and Jordan (Shelbi Henault) Haas; 3 great-grandchildren: Madalynn J. Sanders, Patelyn G. Spicer, and Reed Spicer; 3 brothers: Richard Cauley, William Cauley, and Tim Cauley; 2 half-brothers: Paul Cauley, and Danny Cauley; and many nieces and nephews.

John worked for many years as a farmer and in highway road construction. His love for his animals showed in his deep care given not only to his own but others' animals along with strays. They always had a friend in John. He loved fishing and all forms of hunting. He so enjoyed being outdoors and enjoying nature.

Dear Dad, Grandpa, Uncle John – you showed us how to love, be devoted, and caring to family. You set the bar high. You are the brightest star in the night sky leading this family.

The family would like to thank the staff at Springfield Regional Medical Center ICU, especially Kelly and Deborah, for the care they provided to Dad.

Friends may call on Thursday, December 5, 2024, from

4-7pm at the Eichholtz Daring & Sanford Funeral Home, West Liberty. John's funeral service will be on Friday, December 6, at 10am at the funeral home. Burial will be in Highland Memorial Cemetery, West Liberty.

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

Stacey N. McMillen

Stacey N. McMillen, 46, of Lakeview, OH passed away peacefully, early Saturday morning, November 30, 2024, at Lima Memorial Health Systems with her family by her side after a long courageous battle with cancer.



Stacey was born in Bellefontaine, OH on August 5, 1978, a daughter of Doug McMillen of Bellefontaine, and Patricia Nichols Bevington of Russells Point, OH.

Stacey is survived by her parents, three sons, Nic McMillen of Russells Point, Chase McMillen and Max Peters, both of Lakeview, three siblings, Shelly (Scott) Price of Lakeview, Jamie McMillen and Steven McMillen, both of Bellefontaine, and her longtime boyfriend, Zach Peters.

Stacey was a 1996 graduate of Indian Lake High School. She earned her BS in human resources from University of Phoenix. Stacey worked at NKP in Sidney, OH and for Walmart in Bellefontaine previously. Stacey loved her family, and her world revolved around her boys. She enjoyed teaching them various sports and loved watching them participate in their various activities.

A gathering of family and friends will be from 2-4 pm, Sunday, December 8, 2024, at Shoffstall Funeral Home, 205 S. Main St, Lakeview.

Arrangements are in the care of Shoffstall Funeral Home, Lakeview, OH. Condolences may be expressed at shoffstallfuneralhome.com.

Bailey David Shafer

Bailey David Shafer, 25, of Urbana passed away unexpectedly on November 26, 2024, at his home.

Bailey was born on July 23, 1999, in Bellefontaine, Ohio to George and Nichole (Herron) Shafer. Bailey was a 2018 graduate of West Liberty-Salem. Bailey was a beautifully unique and beloved individual known for his adventurous spirit, creativity and infectious energy. Bailey's creative side truly came out in his passion for painting, drawing and video editing. Bailey expressed his creativity in various forms. He loved to immerse himself in the world of Dungeons & Dragons or Warhammer, even extending into the world of video games.

Bailey enjoyed spending time with family. He especially loved spending time at the family cabin in Michigan whether fishing in the summer or ice fishing in the winter. Family was important to Bailey, especially his fur babies; Izzy his English Bulldog, his cat Grayson, and Tink and Bloopster his new kittens.

Bailey was a natural athlete. He was an avid longboarder, known for his speed, agility and competitive drive. Bailey was a member of the Urbana YMCA, RAW Bodybuilders and the Church of Iron a.k.a. "The Gym". Bailey absolutely loved spending time at the gym working out. His commitment to strength and wellness was matched by his dedication and determination for working out and bodybuilding. Baily was an AWESOME body-builder!



Bailey spent a lot of time becoming a man. He worked tirelessly to fight

Greek Gods and demons in a land beyond. He was the indomitable human spirit personified. He faced the world. He was a storyteller, a jokester, both the king and the court jester. Bailey loved to tease people in a fun good-natured kind of way. He was a peacemaker, a guard dog, a brother and a friend all in one. Bailey will be loved and missed by all who knew him.

Bailey is survived by his parents, brothers, Reese (Alyia) Shafer, Holden Shafer; nephew, Ryker Joyce; grandparents, Bob & Rhonda Johnson, Rex & Diann Shaner, and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Bailey is preceded in death by great-great grandparents Robert & Eva Duncan/Emil Davis, grandpa Larry Shafer, great grandpa Robert Duncan, grandpa Tony Sherman, great uncle Rodger Cordell, great grandma Janet Anderson, great grandparents, George & Virginia Shafer and Lowell & Helen Howard.

A gathering of family and friends will be held from 2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, in Vernon Funeral Home, Urbana, OH.

A celebration of life will follow at 6:00 P.M. in the funeral home with Reverend Mimi Ault officiating.

Livestream will be available on the Vernon Funeral Home Facebook page starting at 5:55 P.M.

Memorial contributions may be made to Barely Used Pets.

In lieu of flowers the family asked that you honor Bailey by joining a gym or by contributing to Barely Used Pets 844 Jackson Hill Rd. Urbana, OH 43078.

Condolences may be expressed to the family at www.vernonfh.com.

Robert "Bob" A. Spriggs

Robert "Bob" A. Spriggs, 85, of Bellefontaine, passed away at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, November 30, 2024, at Mary Rutan Hospital in Bellefontaine, Ohio. He was born in Miami County, Ohio on March 9, 1939, a son of the late Robert Eugene Spriggs and Hazel Marie (Maggert) Spriggs.

On March 28, 1998, Bob married Sandra Darlene (Vance) Spriggs in Dalton, Ohio and she survives along with two daughters, Lisa Spriggs, and Lora Haines; three stepchildren, Paula Fout, Paul Patterson, and Luke (Monica) Coldiron; five grandchildren, Tony (Kay) Spriggs, Brooks (Michelle) Spriggs, Daryn Haines, Tammy Wolaver, and Kristy Spriggs; many beloved great grandchildren and great great grandchildren; a sister, Sharon Baldwin; a brother, Dennis (Joy) Spriggs; and several beloved nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, Bob was preceded in death by his son Lee Spriggs, son-in-law, Mike Haines; his first wife, Donna M. Spriggs; a sister, Jeanie McIntire; and two brothers, David Spriggs, and Jimmy Spriggs.

Bob retired from Copeland Emerson in Sidney, Ohio where he had worked as a machinist. He loved anything pertaining to automobiles, including racing, body and paint repair, and antique cars, especially the Ford Coupe he owned in his earlier years. He loved fishing, farming, working with his hands as a mechanic and welder, sharing stories, and spending time with his family and friends.

A visitation will be held from 1-2 p.m. on Saturday, December 14, 2024, at the New Beginnings Community Church, 127 Main Street in DeGraff, where Pastor Mark Weaver will officiate a memorial service at 2:00 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made, in Bob's memory, to New Beginnings Community Church, 127 Main Street, DeGraff, Ohio 43318.

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



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GIFTING ON A BUDGET:

5 secrets to being generous without going broke

AP NEWS REPORTS

Thoughtful gifts for friends and family are a Christmas tradition, showing loved ones that you're thinking of them this holiday season. But a long shopping list can be pricey. If you are concerned about the cost of Christmas presents this year, these ideas will help you get gifts for everyone on your list on a budget.

Christmas is a time to gather with loved ones, enjoy good food and experience holiday traditions, but gift giving is also a central part of the season. Gifts for family and friends are standard in many families, but your Christmas gift list might also include in-laws, coworkers, neighbors, children's teachers, delivery people and more.

Investopedia estimates that holiday retail spending, including gifts, will be at least \$980 billion in 2024, setting a new record. With expanding gift lists and recent inflation, the amount of money expected to be spent on Christmas presents can put pressure on your budget.

A little creative thinking can help you finish your holi-

day shopping list without breaking the bank. While food gifts are ideal for a DIY gift, there are a variety of other ways to give low-cost gifts that are anything but cheap. From gifts of service to tasteful regifting, use these five tips for affordable gifts as inspiration for this year's Christmas presents.

Celebrate friends and family with a potluck

Amid the season's gift giving, it is worth remembering that time with loved ones can be more meaningful than material presents. Good food, too, is a highlight of the season. Instead of buying gifts, host a potluck instead. Everyone will enjoy spending time together. By having guests supply the food, you'll face minimal costs yourself.

Whether hosting or attending a potluck this year, low-cost and delicious dishes like a penne pasta bake can feed an entire party. Other dishes like casseroles and crock pot recipes are sure to please a crowd.

Snacks are a must-have at any potluck as well. Dips with chips, crackers, bread or vegetables are often simple. For a

budget snack, use up leftover hummus in your fridge to make hummus deviled eggs.

If you still want to have a gift exchange as part of a potluck, try a Secret Santa or a White Elephant. Everyone will bring one gift and leave with one gift, limiting the amount of presents people have to purchase. You can add a cost limit to your gift exchange or a theme such as regifted items or items from a thrift store. However you choose to organize gifts, a Secret Santa or White Elephant is sure to be entertaining.

DIY Christmas presents with homemade gifts

Making your own gifts can be both cost-effective and thoughtful. The time and personalization you put into a homemade gift can make it more meaningful than a store-bought gift.

Many crafting hobbies can create beautiful gifts. Crocheting, knitting, sewing, painting, embroidery, macrame, bookbinding - whatever you are good at, plan a project around your recipient's tastes and needs. This can mean making something you know they need or

using their favorite colors and textures.

Food also makes for a great DIY gift that anyone can give and almost everyone will like to receive. The secret with food gifts is presentation. Spend a bit of money and time on pretty jars, ribbons, baskets or seasonal dishware. With a festive presentation, almost any food is worthy of a place beneath the Christmas tree.

Baked goods work well for food gifts. Spiced walnuts are easy to make in batches if you want to give jars to several people. Infused oils, spice blends, jams, vanilla extract and hot cocoa mix are all straightforward to prepare and have a long shelf life so that your recipient can use them in the new year. If you want to give a more interactive gift, put together cookie kits or cocktail kits.

Give the gift of time with a gift of service

Material goods are fun to unwrap, but performing a service for someone can be even more meaningful. Especially in the busy holiday season, taking a task off of someone's plate is a great way

to show your love and appreciation. Yard work, shoveling snow, house cleaning or repair work all require just a bit of time on your part.

To put something under the tree for a service gift, write the task you plan to do on a card. You can also draw up or download a template for coupons.

The do's and don'ts of regifting

Regifting - giving away a gift you received to someone else - is somewhat of a fraught topic. On the one hand, gifting something that you won't use to another person who will actually like it is cost-effective and better than throwing it away. But you'll want to be careful to avoid any faux pas when regifting.

Most importantly, remember who gave you the gift you are planning to regift. You do not want to give the present back to the person who gave it to you. Make sure you remove any tags or indicators that you are regifting the item. It's also best to avoid giving away handmade items as those tend to be more personal.

As with any gift, be thoughtful when regifting. Use

regifting to pass on a present to someone who will love it rather than simply as a cheap or last-minute gift solution.

Plan experiences with loved ones

Spending time with friends and family can be as much of a gift as physical items. Time together also provides lasting memories. For budget experiences, plan a hike or camping trip, buy tickets to a community theater production, take a class together or head out for a round of laser tag or mini golf. Choose an activity that your recipient likes to do for a thoughtful present, then wrap tickets, a brochure or a map if you need a physical gift.

Save money without sacrificing gifts this Christmas

Celebrating Christmas on a budget does not have to mean cutting down on gifts. In fact, focusing on homemade gifts, gifts of service and time together can make your holiday presents more personal. From sharing a favorite recipe to taking some time out of your busy schedule for others, make this year's Christmas gifts extra memorable with affordable gifting ideas.

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Cruise into this holiday season with a non-traditional vaca

AP NEWS REPORTS

Between cooking, cleaning and hosting, the familiar hustle of the holiday season can sometimes feel more hectic than heartwarming. But what if there were a way to embrace the season while leaving the chaos behind? Holiday cruises make all of this possible, offering the perfect getaway that can be tailored to any vibe - blending festive traditions with the excitement of travel.

Imagine sipping hot chocolate in the background of the Northern Lights, exploring sun-drenched islands or maybe enjoying a festive dinner on the sea. Whether looking for family-friendly fun, romance for two or peaceful solo travel, holiday cruises deliver a unique celebration unlike any other.

On-deck festivities that make the spirits bright

Do you want to skip the stress of the season but don't want to miss out on the holiday cheer? Rest assured, among the most well-known cruise lines, most of them host elaborate holiday festivities that transform their ships into winter wonderlands complete with decorations, entertainment and activities fit for

Santa Claus himself.

From towering Christmas trees in the atrium to twinkling lights on every railing, cruises at this time of year are very creative with their festive splendor. Cruises will also complement their aesthetics to match entertainment, including tree-lighting ceremonies, live caroling and holiday movie nights under the stars. Depending on the cruise, you can expect a robust calendar of events with activities like ugly sweater parties, holiday trivia, Santa appearances and even onboard Christmas markets.

The holiday wouldn't feel complete without the food to match, and cruise lines deliver. You can enjoy lavish holiday dinners complete with everything, from the traditional turkey to international Christmas dishes. Some cruises even offer themed buffets with everything, from a turkey carving station to hot and creamy chowders, holiday cocktails, gingerbread-making workshops and seasonal dessert tastings to add fun to the feasts.

Why cruises work for every type of traveler

Cruises cater to various travelers and take the guess-

work out of planning a holiday. Unlike a traditional vacation where you are responsible for your own itinerary, cruises do the hard work for you by planning destinations, offering a wide variety of on-board activities and providing varied experiences that appeal to all. A 2024 survey by Expedia Cruises concluded that 82% of travelers who have cruised before say they would do it again.

For families: Stress-free fun for all ages

Traveling with the whole family can often feel like an exercise in logistics that leaves you more stressed than you were before your holiday. Holiday cruises simplify this, offering multigenerational activities, family-friendly dining options and flexible accommodations.

The Disney Cruise Line, which includes the Very Merrytime Cruises for the holiday season, is popular for offering exciting kid-centric activities like themed crafts, holiday scavenger hunts and character meet-and-greets. These endless options paired with the kids' or teens' clubs keep younger travelers entertained while giving their parents peace of mind.

When traveling with older

family members, consider reaching out to the cruise ahead of time to find out what accessible options they offer. Cruise lines can sometimes accommodate requests that might be better suited for older folks like avoiding stairs or long walks to reach their room.

For couples: Romance by the sea

Couples can rediscover their magic on holiday cruises that offer intimate moments and tailored experiences. The Romantic Cruises by Princess Cruises stand out because of their private balcony dining and couples' activities like wine tastings or cooking classes to make hors d'oeuvres.

However, many holiday cruises offer specialty experiences like date-night-worthy restaurants, sunset strolls on the deck and shared excursions that are sure to create lasting memories. For couples looking to rest and relax, holiday cruises can provide serene spaces, spa suites and infinity verandas that are perfect for unwinding together.

For singles: Celebrate and socialize

Cruises provide the perfect atmosphere for singles to mingle and enjoy the holiday season with company. Social

events like trivia nights, dance parties and holiday mixers encourage connection and camaraderie.

Certain cruises, like the Norwegian Cruise Line and the Virgin Voyages' Holiday Cruises, cater specifically to solo travelers. These cruises include adult-only entertainment, curated activities and a vibrant nightlife. Rest assured, these cruises provide plenty of holiday entertainment and seasonal activities that ensure you enjoy yourself while staying close to your holiday traditions.

How to pick the best cruise for you

With over 323 cruise ships currently in operation serving 36 million passengers this year alone, according to photoAiD, how do you choose if you're a first-time cruiser? Start by confirming that the cruise is appropriate for the needs of your traveling group. Often, experiences that are tailored for a specific group, whether kids or couples, will be described in the cruise line's name - take for instance, the Disney Cruise Line. You can also check out the on-board activities available to make sure that there are plenty of options for your company.

Next, consider your budget. Holiday cruises make luxury accessible without breaking the bank, with options as low as \$300 for shorter voyages. Cruises will often provide all-inclusive packages that bundle accommodations, dining, entertainment and travel into a single cost-effective experience.

The Carnival Cruise line remains a favorite for budget-conscious travelers because of its fun festivities and great dining options. However, even high-end experiences, like the MSC Cruises' Yacht Club, which includes amenities like private pools, lounges and Butler services come at a fraction of the cost of traditional luxury resorts.

Lastly, ask yourself what holiday vibe you're going for. Are you dreaming of a sunny tropical Christmas or perhaps frosty landscapes? Either way, with thousands of options in December alone, as cataloged by CruiseBooking.com, there's a cruise waiting for you. The Norwegian Cruise Line's Caribbean Cruises stop at destinations like the Great Stirrup Cay, while Hurtigruten's Arctic Expeditions sail through breathtaking fjords and snowy landscapes.

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Lady Chieftains go cold against WL-S

BY MIKE FRANK
 EXAMINER SPORTS WRITER

A slow start and finish cost Bellefontaine a win. Bellefontaine lost to visiting West Liberty-Salem 43-35 in nonleague girls basketball action Monday evening.

Both teams started slow, with the Lady Tigers nursing a small lead through the first half. They stretched it in the third period before Bellefontaine rallied to tie it at 31.

However, WL-S kept Bellefontaine to just four points in the final period to earn the win.

For Bellefontaine, now 1-1 on the year, Quinlan Zedeker had 10 points. Emma Whitaker and Tiffany Boop chipped in with eight apiece.

"West Liberty played tough. They're scrappy," said Lady Chiefs coach Meghan Ashcraft. "They hit a lot of outside shots and we didn't defend it well. We need to get better at defending the 3-point shot. We need to get better at our motion offense, and moving the ball around. We weren't shooting the ball well tonight at all."

She added that "we'll have games like this with ups and downs. We just have to build on it from here and get better."

Bellefontaine was also missing a couple of players due to injuries and illness, leaving them with just two on the bench.



Tiffany Boop of Bellefontaine (#20) takes a shot in the second half of Monday's game against West Liberty-Salem. Defending for the Lady Tigers is Arianna Weaver. (EXAMINER PHOTO | MIKE FRANK)

See CHIEFS on Page 7

Bellefontaine swimmers 2nd, 4th at invitational

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

The Bellefontaine swim teams opened their season Saturday, Nov. 30 at the Bellbrook Sprint Invitational. The boys finished second and the girls were fourth in the eight-team field.

For the boys, the 200 medley relay team of Ryan Alexander, Cody Hudson, Elias Abrego, and Grady Feasel finished third. In the 200 free relay, Alexander, Hudson, Blaine Mitchell and Abrego were second.

Individually, Abrego won the 50 freestyle and 50 butterfly. Hudson was third in the 100 individual medley and fifth in the 50 breaststroke. Alexander took 10th in the 50 backstroke and 11th in the 50 freestyle. Feasel was ninth in the 50 butterfly and 11th in the 50 backstroke.

For the girls relays, Kaidi Freeman, Elaina Ullom, Kaeleigh Flora and Gillian Steele were fifth in the 200 medley relay.

In the 200 free relay, Ullom, Steele, Maddie Ullom and Flora took

fourth place.

Earning points individually were Maddie Ullom, who was third in the 50 backstroke and seventh in the 100 IM; Flora taking fifth in the 100 IM and eighth in the 50 free; Elaina Ullom, who was fourth in the 50 breaststroke and 10 in the 50 freestyle; Claire McDaniel with a seventh place finish in the 50 freestyle and Freeman taking seventh in the 50 backstroke.

The team returns to action today at Kenton for a dual meet at 5:30 p.m.



Elaina Ullom competes in the breaststroke for Bellefontaine during the Bellbrook Sprint Invitational. (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

JUNIOR HIGH

The Bellefontaine eighth grade girls basketball team defeated Ben Logan 29-25 Monday.

Mia Brown led the Lady Chiefs with 13 points. Lexi Brown had seven points, 10 rebounds and two blocks. Cameo Greene scored six and Rylee Crabtree had three. Paxton Stewart, Allie Myers, Leila Hammond and

Annie Clem also saw action on both ends.

In the seventh grade game, Ben Logan won 23-19. For Bellefontaine, Kennedy Hairston had 10 points, Brookelyn had a 3-pointer. Gianna Davis, Alexis Hogan and Annie Gallaway combined for six points. Davis had five rebounds and two steals.

WL-S eighth grade boys top West Jeff

The West Liberty eighth grade boys basketball team defeated West Jefferson 46-44 on Monday.

For the Tigers, Brandel Sullivan had 32 points and Tyler Hershberger had 10. Carter Pratt and Isaiah Barth each scored two.

Raiders bowlers get wins over Indian Lake

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

Benjamin Logan's bowling teams defeated squads from Indian Lake in matches at T-P Lanes on Monday.

The Raiders boys had a total of 2,621 to Indian Lake's 2091.

Leading the Raiders was Dylan Stewart with a 382 series (182-200), followed by Nate Davis 379 (200-179), Landon Stoodt 372 (178-194), and Caleb Knight 358 (181-177). Other game scores were Jarrett Buckenroth with 171 and Conner Chambers with 158. Ben Logan won all four Baker games.

In the girls' match, Ben Logan had a total pinfall of 2,225 to Indian Lake's 1,943.

For Ben Logan, Hunter McColloch had a 174 game, Maddy Hamm had a 340 series (164-173), with games of 157 by both Gi Saunders and Kaelyn Corwin.

The high Baker game was 223.

Ben Logan will face Tecumseh on Thursday at Victory Lanes in Springfield at 4 p.m.

and Kathy Roehm 137. The Lady Tigers had 578 pins in the Baker games to 615 for the opponents.

JV scores were Brock Mills 241, Austin Markin 144, Carson Kerns 135, Carson Instigne 135, Xzavior Nichols 102 and Patrick Brooks 95.

Lady Cardinals lose hoops league opener

Triad lost to Mechanicsburg 43-20 in Ohio Heritage Conference girls basketball play Monday.

The Lady Cardinals are 1-2 overall and 0-1 in the OHC.

Jazz Ford had 10 points and five rebounds for Triad. Abbey Overfield had six points, three steals and seven rebounds. Mia LeMay pulled down 10 rebounds.

Triad next faces Northeastern at home on Wednesday.

In scholastic action this past weekend:

Pirates downed by Trojans in tourney

Riverside fell to Botkins 78-57 in the championship game of the Botkins TipOff Classic Saturday, Nov. 30 in boys basketball.

Botkins jumped out to a big lead at the start, and were up by 24 points, 43-19, at halftime. The third and fourth periods were more balanced, but Botkins kept its lead secure.

Riverside's Gavin Orsborne had 17 points on the night. Hayden Sanford had 13, Jaxon Woods scored 10 and Carter Kreglow added six. Leading rebounders were Kreglow with 10 and Woods with six. Woods was also named to the all-tournament team.

In the first round on Friday, Nov. 29, Riverside defeated Waynesfield-

Goshen 77-68.

The Pirates grabbed a five-point edge, 19-14, in the first period and remained ahead by four at the break. Both teams kept up the scoring, with a six-point advantage for Riverside in the fourth making the ultimate difference.

For the Pirates, Woods had 23 points and 10 rebounds, plus four blocks. Gavin Orsborne scored 19 points, Brody Orsborne had 17, and Landon Purtee added 14.

Brody Orsborne had seven rebounds and five assists. Purtee had five boards, Sanford had four assists and Gavin Orsborne made four steals.

Calvary Christian falls in consolation

In the consolation game Saturday, Calvary Christian lost to Waynesfield-Goshen 61-44.

Phillip Davis had 14 points and nine rebounds, along with two steals and two assists for the Spartans.

Zeeke Wylie scored 10 points, Christian Rogan had seven, and Evan Schmidt six. Wylie and Schmidt had five rebounds each. Schmidt led the defense with four steals.

Calvary Christian plays Friday night at Franklin Monroe.

Raiders lose to Kenton on road

Benjamin Logan boys basketball suffered a 55-34 loss at Kenton on Saturday, Nov. 30.

For the Raiders, Peyton and Maddox Vermillion scored nine points each. Cayden Brown had seven.

Kenton won the JV contest 40-35. Leaders for Ben Logan were Diesel Baughman with 11 and Carter Fay with seven points.

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SPORTS

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Chiefs

Continued from Page 6

For the Lady Tigers, who improve to 2-1 on the season, Addi Wallen scored 18 points and Ava Astorino put in 16.

"We're pretty young and I thought some girls grew up there in that fourth quarter," said WL-S coach Dennis McIntosh. "I wasn't sure how they would respond when they tied it up at the end of the third quarter. The girls kept their composure and we made enough foul shots down the stretch."

He added that "defensively we did a nice job (against) Zedeker and Boop in the fourth quarter. We quit letting Boop get inside and post up on us, and tried to take Zedeker's left hand drive away. I thought we adjusted well in the second half."

Both teams started very slowly offensively. After three minutes, they had just two points each, all coming on free throws.

Belle Sarver hit a layup with 4:15 to go for WL-S, but Rylie Reames answered with a three for the Lady Chiefs.

West Liberty-Salem retook the lead with a three by Astorino and a score by Arianna Weaver to go up 9-5 after one.

After trading baskets early in the second period, Bellefontaine put together an 8-3 run that included a three by Emma Whitaker and two quick scores by Laila Butler and Zedeker with just over a minute to go in the half.

A layup by Sarver put the Lady Tigers back up 16-15. Another scoring exchange closed things out with WL-S up by two, 19-17.

In the third period, West Liberty-Salem used back to back treys from Wallen to extend with lead to 27-20.

Still down by six with about two minutes left, Bellefontaine got a corner three by Whitaker and two scores by Boop. A runner in between Boop's scores by Astorino preserved the lead by one.

Sarver made one of two at the line with 18 seconds to go for WL-S. Boop got a rebound, drove the length of the court and scored with just a couple seconds to go, knotting the score at 31.

The Tigers got some breathing room with threes by Wallen and Astorino. Bellefontaine answered with scores by Gabbe Hoon and Boop. That made it 37-35 with four minutes to go, but it would prove to be the Chiefs' last points.

Wallen made a baseline runner, then got a steal and layup. In the final 90 seconds, WL-S controlled possession and made two free throws.

In the junior varsity contest, Bellefontaine won 24-21.

Bellefontaine will have its first road game on Wednesday with a trip to Northwestern. West Liberty-Salem is back in action on Thursday, when they host Miami East.

Score by quarters	
West Liberty-Salem	9 10 12 12 — 43
Bellefontaine	5 12 14 4 — 35

West Liberty-Salem (43)	
Arianna Weaver	2 0-0 4; Ava Johnson 0 0-0 0;
Maddie McGill	0 0-0 0; Ava Poppe 0 0-0 0; Addi
Wallen	6 2-4 18; Ava Astorino 4 5-6 16; Belle
Sarver	2 1-3 5; TOTALS 14 8-13 43.

Bellefontaine (35)	
Quinlan Zedeker	3 3-5 10; Rylie Reames 1 0-0 3;
Emma Whitaker	3 0-0 8; Tiffany Boop 4 0-0 8;
Laila Butler	1 0-0 2; Gabbe Hoon 2 0-0 4; Joy
Fogan	0 0-0 0; TOTALS 14 8-13 43.

OSU, Michigan fined for postgame brawl

ROSEMONT, Ill. (AP) — The Big Ten Conference announced it fined Michigan and Ohio State \$100,000 each for violating the conference's sportsmanship policy for the on-field melee at the end of the Wolverines' win in Columbus on Saturday.

"Not only did the actions of both teams violate fundamental elements of sportsmanship such as respect and civility, the nature of the incident also jeopardized the safety of participants and bystanders," the Big Ten said in a statement Sunday.

A fight broke out at midfield after the Wolverines' 13-10 victory when Michigan players attempted to plant their flag on the OSU logo and were confronted by the Buckeyes.

Police used pepper spray to break up the players, who threw punches and shoves. One officer suffered a head injury when he was "knocked down and trampled while trying to separate players fighting," a police union official said. The officer was taken to a hospital and has since been released.

After the Ohio State players confronted their rivals at midfield, defensive end Jack Sawyer grabbed the top of the Wolverines' flag and ripped it off the pole as the brawl moved toward the Michigan bench.

"We respect the Big Ten Conference's decision in this matter," Ohio State said in a statement.

COMICS

MODERATELY CONFUSED Jeff Stahler



DENNIS THE MENACE Hank Ketcham



REALITY CHECK Dave Whamond



RUBES Leigh Rubin



PEANUTS Charles Schulz



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE Stephan Pastis



NON-SEQUITUR Wiley Sequitur



KING FEATURES



CROSSWORD

ACROSS	37 Bracelet site	5 Low-calorie	23 New York's Bear Mountain, for one
1 Pocket bread	38 Hedren of "The Birds"	6 Gabor and Longoria	24 "— She Lovely"
5 Castor's mother	40 "Dear," in Rome	7 Aachen article	26 Pub potables
9 Bamboozle	42 Broadway's Hagen	8 With suspicion, as a look	27 Derek and Diddley
12 "Closer" actor Clive	43 Floor blemish	9 British clipper ship	28 Flower pot filler
13 Carrier's partner	48 Saloon	10 Epps of "House"	29 Nautical direction
14 Ms. Thurman	49 Low horn	11 Post-WWII alliance	31 Hopper and Monet, e.g.
15 Iron Man's alter ego	50 Hotel chain	16 "No seats"	34 Hiro-hito's title (Abbr.)
17 Make lace	51 Caribou kin	20 Enjoy the Alps	35 Captivate
18 Raw materials	52 Char	21 Bigfoot's cousin	37 Canine cry
19 Elroy's dog	53 Take five	22 Sports-caster Andrews	38 Tooth-paste holder
21 Kind of question			39 Slanted type (Abbr.)
24 Jet-black			40 Castro's land
25 Art Deco luminary			41 Off in the distance
26 Ordinate counterpart			44 Prompt
30 Aunt, in Mexico			45 Soul, to Sartre
31 Stag			46 ICU workers
32 MSN alternative			47 Tool set
33 Hobby			
35 A Great Lake			
36 911 responders			

DOWN

1 Caul-dron

2 — Jima

3 Sawbuck

4 Whoever

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Saturday's answer 12-2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12				13				14				
15				16				17				
			18					19	20			
21	22	23					24					
25					26	27				28	29	
30					31					32		
33					34					35		
					36					37		
38	39						40	41				
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49					50		
51					52					53		

SUDOKU

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

Difficulty: ★★ 12/3

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 12/1

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 Capricorn.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY For Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024: You are intelligent and adventurous. You are also loyal, hardworking and reliable. This year will bring about increased freedom and exciting changes. Stay flexible and be ready to act quickly on new opportunities. Expect to travel. Meet new friends and trust your intuition.

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) ★★★ Today you're focused on your professional (and possibly public) goals. They seem doable, which is encouraging. In fact, where you might have felt uncertain about your work or dealing with your public reputation, now you feel reassured and calm. Disciplined effort will pay off. Talk to your boss. Tonight: Think positive.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) ★★★ This is an excellent day to make thoughtful decisions about long-term projects, especially related to writing, publishing or higher education. You also might make travel plans. Discussions about medicine, the law, higher education and publishing will be solid and productive. Tonight: Wealth.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★ Spend some time today on wrapping up loose details related to inheritances, insurance matters, taxes, debt, mortgages, loans and shared property. You might want to draw up a budget or discuss how to share chores. Tonight: Optimism.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★ This is an excellent day to sit down with a partner, spouse or close friend and have a serious discussion about issues that are important to you. You might want to talk about the division of labor or shared expenses. Someone older or more experienced might have good advice for you. Tonight: Happy solitude.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★ This can be a productive day for you, primarily because you are ready to work in a practical, regulated fashion. You have the right attitude; plus, you will be patient and mature in your approach to things. You're willing to play the long game — which is work today for results tomorrow. Tonight: Friendships.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★ This is a great day to tackle creative projects, to work with kids or to make some serious strides in the entertainment world or the hospitality industry. You're ready to work! You have practical ideas! Furthermore, you're willing to practice or hone your technique. Good stuff! Tonight: You're admired.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★ Whatever you do today, especially at work, you will do carefully with thought and attention to detail. This applies to work at your job as well as to work related to children, sports events and anything related to the arts. In fact, this is an excellent time to finish old projects. Tonight: Share something.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★ Whatever you do today, especially at work, you will do carefully with thought and attention to detail. This applies to work at your job as well as to work related to children, sports events and anything related to the arts. In fact, this is an excellent time to finish old projects. Tonight: Share something.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ When it comes to financial matters today, you will be frugal. You don't want to blow your money. Au contraire, you want to save your money, or if you spend it, you will buy something practical and long-lasting. You might think about a budget for home expenses. Tonight: Cooperate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★ Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with stern Saturn, which means you will receive benefits by being dutiful and accepting responsibility today. You will make gains by keeping things practical and orderly. More than most, you'll find this easy to do. Tonight: Work.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ This is the kind of day when research will pay off. If you seek answers to questions or solutions to old problems, start digging deep. You might find what you're looking for. Sometimes situations like this depend on timing, and timing is everything. Tonight: Socialize.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★ A discussion with someone older or more experienced might benefit you today. This person might have ideas or advice that causes you to change your goals in the future to something that is more viable and realistic. Never dismiss wise advice. (Although we all know that Cole's Law is just thinly sliced cabbage.) Tonight: Relax.

BORN TODAY Actress Julianne Moore (1960), actor Brendan Fraser (1968), actress Anna Chlumsky (1980)

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.newpathprc.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

OFFICE HELP WANTED
Full time/part time, \$15 per hour starting pay. Must have good typing skills. Must be able to pass a state and federal background check. If interested mail or drop off a resume to: Logan County License Bureau 1365 CR 32N Ste 3 Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311 Equal Opportunity Employer

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.

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.

MOTORCYCLES

MOTORCYCLES WANTED

MOTORCYCLES WANTED *BEFORE 1985*
All Makes and Models Running or Not Any Condition
Cash Paid \$ Free Appraisals
CALL: (315)569-8094 or email: cyclorestitution@aol.com

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

WATERCRAFT

STARCRAFT 18 ft. alum. boat, big Mercury 4 cyl. 10, 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.

FOR RENT

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.

FOR RENT

fontaine Examiner will not knowingly accept advertising which is in violation of the law.

STORAGE

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

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.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Liberty Township Trustees will meet on Dec. 9, 2024 Monday at noon for a special meeting on year end business at 790 N. Detroit St., West Liberty, OH.
Liberty Township Trustee's will hold their regular 3rd monthly meeting on Monday, Dec. 16, 2024 at noon.
Cheryl Platt
Fiscal Officer
Liberty Township
Logan County.
Dec. 3, 2024

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

RHONDA STAFFORD LOGAN COUNTY TREASURER Plaintiff
vs
PARCELS OF LAND ENCUMBERED WITH DELINQUENT TAX LIENS AND TERRY R. KLOPFENSTEIN, et al. Defendants
Case No. CV 24 06 0172
TAX SALE-LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF SALE UNDER JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE OF LIENS FOR DELINQUENT LAND TAXES

Whereas, judgment has been rendered against certain parcels of real property for taxes, assessments, charges, penalties, interest and cost as follows:
Parcel No. 51-060-06-08-002-000 Full Street Address: 7652 C.R. 91, Lewistown, Ohio 43333
A copy of the legal description can be obtained from the County Engineer Map Room, 100 S. Madriver St., Bellefontaine, OH 43311 Reference Vol. 464, Page 737.
Amount of Judgment: \$6,500.00 plus additional taxes and costs
Last known owners and tax list addresses: Terry R. Klopfenstein, Curtis Martin, Shane Holcomb and Kimberly K. Woods.
Whereas, such judgment orders such real property to be sold or otherwise disposed of according to law by the undersigned to satisfy the total amount of such judgment, now, therefore, public notice is hereby given that I, Randall J. Dodds, Sheriff of Logan County, Ohio, will sell such real property at public auction, for cash, to the highest bidder of an amount that equals at least Six Thousand and Five Hundred and 00/100 Dollars (\$6,500.00), at 10:00 a.m. in the lobby of the Logan County Sheriff's Office

LEGALS

located at 284 C.R. 32 S., Bellefontaine, in Logan County, Ohio, on Wednesday, the 18th day of December, 2024. I Ten percent (10%) of the purchase price will be due at the time of sale.

Potential purchasers of the property are also given notice that the property is subject to the condemnation orders of the Logan County Health District issued March 22, 2023 and the nuisance abatement order of Washington Township issued June 10, 2024 requiring removal of the structure. In the event the property is not sold at the sheriff's sale, pursuant to R.C. 5722.03(D), the Logan County Reutilization Corporation ("Land Bank") shall be deemed to have submitted the winning bid for no consideration other than the amounts charged pursuant to R.C. 5722.03 and the officer conducting the sale shall announce the bid of the Logan County Land Bank at the sale and shall report the proceedings to the court for confirmation of sale.
Breanne N. Parcels (0089370)
117 East Columbus Ave. Bellefontaine, OH 43311 Telephone: 937-592-7272 Facsimile: 937-599-7271 bparcels@logancountyohio.gov Attorney for Plaintiff Nov. 26; Dec. 3, 10, 2024

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

RHONDA STAFFORD LOGAN COUNTY TREASURER Plaintiff
vs
MARGARET PAYNE AKA F. MARGARET EASTMAN AKA FLORENCE MARGARET EASTMAN, DECEASED, et al. Defendants
Case No. CV 20 12 0270
TAX SALE-LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF SALE UNDER JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE OF LIENS FOR DELINQUENT LAND TAXES

Whereas, judgment has been rendered against the following real estate:
Parcel No. 07-083-08-06-009-000 Full Street Address: 194 S. Main St., West Mansfield, Ohio 43358
A copy of the legal description can be obtained from the County Engineer Map Room, 100 S. Madriver St., Bellefontaine, OH 43311 Reference Vol. 187, Page 506.
Amount of Judgment: \$6,392.09 plus additional taxes and costs
Last known owners and tax list addresses: Unknown Heirs of Margaret Payne aka Margaret Eastman aka Florence Margaret Eastman, deceased.
Whereas, such judgment orders such real property to be sold or otherwise disposed of according to law by the undersigned to satisfy the total amount of such judgment, now, therefore, public notice is hereby given that I, Randall J. Dodds, Sheriff of Logan County, Ohio, will sell such real property at public auction, for cash, to the highest bidder of an amount that equals at least Ten Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$10,000.00), at 10:00 a.m. in the lobby of the Logan County Sheriff's Office located at 284 C.R. 32 S., Bellefontaine, in Logan County, Ohio, on Wednesday, the 18th day of

LEGALS

December, 2024. If any parcel does not receive a sufficient bid or is not otherwise disposed of according to law, it may be offered for sale, under the same terms and conditions of the first sale and at the same time of day and at the same place, on Wednesday, the 15th day of January, 2025, for an amount that equals at least Ten Thousand and 00/100 (\$10,000.00).
Ten percent (10%) of the purchase price will be due at the time of sale.
Pursuant to R.C. 2329.71, Plaintiff U.S. Bank, N.A., has priority to claim any excess proceeds of sale after payment of all taxes, assessments and court costs in full.
Breanne N. Parcels (0089370)
117 East Columbus Ave. Bellefontaine, OH 43311 Telephone: 937-592-7272 Facsimile: 937-599-7271 bparcels@logancountyohio.gov Attorney for Plaintiff Nov. 26; Dec. 3, 10, 2024

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

RHONDA STAFFORD LOGAN COUNTY TREASURER Plaintiff
vs
UNKNOWN HEIRS OF ROBERT G. WELLNITZ, et al. Defendants
Case No. CV 23 05 0136
TAX SALE-LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF SALE UNDER JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE OF LIENS FOR DELINQUENT LAND TAXES

Whereas, judgment has been rendered against certain parcels of real property for taxes, assessments, charges, penalties, interest and cost as follows:
Parcel No. 52-032-13-20-007-000 Full Street Address: 636 High Ave., Russells Point, Ohio 43348
A copy of the legal description can be obtained from the County Engineer Map Room, 100 S. Madriver St., Bellefontaine, OH 43311 Reference Vol. 1398, Page 1260.
Amount of Judgment: \$21,779.11 plus additional taxes and costs
Last known owners and tax list addresses: Unknown Heirs of Robert Wellnitz, 636 High Ave., Russells Point, Ohio 43348
Whereas, such judgment orders such real property to be sold or otherwise disposed of according to law by the undersigned to satisfy the total amount of such judgment, now, therefore, public notice is hereby given that I,

LEGALS

Randall J. Dodds, Sheriff of Logan County, Ohio, will sell such real property at public auction, for cash, to the highest bidder of an amount that equals at least Twenty-Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$25,000.00), at 10:00 a.m. in the lobby of the Logan County Sheriff's Office located at 284 C.R. 32 S., Bellefontaine, in Logan County, Ohio, on Wednesday, the 18th day of December, 2024. If any parcel does not receive a sufficient bid or is not otherwise disposed of according to law, Ten percent (10%) of the purchase price will be due at the time of sale.
This property was previously offered for sale on March 20, 2024, and the bid was insufficient resulting in a higher minimum bid at this sale.
Potential purchasers of the property are also given notice that the property is subject to the condemnation orders of the Logan County Health District issued July 10, 2019 and May 8, 2024 requiring removal of the structure as well as nuisance abatement orders of the Village of Russells Point.
Breanne N. Parcels (0089370)
117 East Columbus Ave. Bellefontaine, OH 43311 Telephone: 937-592-7272 Facsimile: 937-599-7271 bparcels@logancountyohio.gov Attorney for Plaintiff Nov. 26; Dec. 3, 10, 2024

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

THE STATE OF OHIO, LOGAN COUNTY Liberty Savings Bank Plaintiff
vs
Jeffrey J. Hall Defendants
Case No. CV 20 03 00 62
In pursuance of an Order of Sale in the above entitled 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 Zane, to wit:
Said premises located at: Vacant Lot on County Rd. 153, East Liberty, OH
PPN: 53-125-00-00-035-000, 53-125-00-00-034-002, 53-125-00-00-036-000, 53-125-00-037-004
Auction will take place online at realauctions.com on Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. Online.
If property remains unsold after the first auction, it will be offered for sale at auction again on Wednesday, the 25th day of December, 2024.
Said premises appraised at

LEGALS

\$175,000
Appraisals are completed by viewing the outside of the property only.
Required deposit: \$5,000
TERMS OF SALE: Property cannot 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 Judgment 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.
Attorney Angela Kirk
Phone: 614-220-5611
Nov. 26; Dec. 3, 10, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE

Village of DeGraff will be selling the following property listed at 312 Race St., DeGraff, OH 43318 Parcel # 26-117-06-12-003-000
Property to be sold as is with no representations, warranties or inspections.
All closing cost and title work to be paid by buyer
Buyer responsible for title insurance, if desired
Possession at closing
Mayor reserves the right to reject any bids and re-advertise until real estate is sold
Sealed bids with highest and best bid should be sent to:
PO Box 309
c/o Mayor Osborne
DeGraff, OH 43318
Bids will be opened on 12/19/2024 at 7 pm at 107 S. Main St., DeGraff, OH 43318.
Pictures of the property can be viewed at 107 S. Main St., DeGraff, OH 43318. During the following hours ONLY Monday and Friday 9am-4pm, Tuesday and Thursday 10am-4pm.
All back taxes will be paid from proceeds of sale. Successful bidder, if any, will be notified the night of December 19th and will have ten (10) days to provide a cashier's check for the proceeds of sale.
Village of DeGraff
Nov. 26; Dec. 3, 10, 17, 2024

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E-MAIL: subscriptions@examiner.org

FOR MORE INFO -OR- TO PARTICIPATE
We look forward to serving you and that special someone on your list in 2025. *Happy Holidays!*

*Must purchase at least a 3 month subscription to qualify for the Buy One, Gift One offer. Offer expires 12/31/2024.

HOLLAND PRESENTS 2024/25 SEASON

A Swingin' Christmas
The Holiday Music of Tony Bennett
Windmill Productions
SAT | DEC 7 | 7:30 PM & SUN | DEC 8 | 2:00 PM

Lima Symphony Orchestra
Bells, Brass & Bows
Andrew Crust, Musical Director
SUN | DEC 15 | 3:00 PM

THE Yuletide 5
The Yuletide 5
FRI | DEC 20 | 7:30 PM
TheHolland.org 937-592-9002

SEASON SPONSORS: Beasley, HONDA
SEASON MEDIA SPONSORS: BELLEFONTAINE EXAMINER
SEASON SUPPORT: Ohio Arts