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Bellefontaine QB Tavien St. Clair officially commits to Buckeyes



FORECAST
▲ 27
▼ 13



Parks board approves wages increase

BY SHARYN KOPF
EXAMINER STAFF WRITER

As the year comes to a close, the Bellefontaine Joint Recreation District (BJRD) Board of Trustees conducted their last meeting until 2025 on Tuesday, Dec. 3. They accepted an increase to staff wages, discussed future projects and said goodbye to a board member.

Superintendent Kris Myers started his report by asking for approval to pay the November 2024 bills. This led Pat Ellis, board president, to ask if they

would “finish the year OK.” “We’re going to finish the year well, actually,” Myers responded.

On a related topic, district employees can look forward to better pay.

“We’re updating wages across the board,” Myers explained. “Some will see significant increases, particularly in clerical.”

They have also consolidated seven job classifications into three.

Nick Davis, who acts as liaison between the board and the Bellefontaine City Council, said the council plans to adopt these

changes at their regular meeting next week. The average increase will come to about 10 percent for employees.

“The city took a look at pay scales,” Davis stated, “and recognized we’re not as competitive as we’d like to be.”

Later, as the meeting ended, Ellis announced board member Joan Haushalter’s request to “be done” when her term ends in January 2025, making this her last meeting. The board and Myers thanked her for her service.

“I think the department

is in a really good place with passage of the levy, so I don’t feel like I’m leaving things undone,”

Haushalter, who’s been on the board since 2019, said. “The parks are such a great asset to our community, and it was wonderful to be a part of that.”

In other board news, winter sports programs, particularly basketball and wrestling, are “off and running,” according to Myers. They’re still trying to iron out an adaptive bowling schedule that works for TP

See **PARKS** on Page 7

EVOLVING STORY

Finger-pointing persists in wake of dismissal of case against Lakeview mayor

BY NATE SMITH
EXAMINER STAFF WRITER



VILLAGE OF LAKEVIEW
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A lawsuit filed in Logan County Common Pleas Court to remove Elaine

Fagan-Moore as mayor of the village of Lakeview was dismissed this week, but tensions persist as the absolved mayor calls out those who “orchestrated” the initiative, and opposing counsel decries the mayor’s unwillingness to “win gracefully.”

The Lakeview mayor marked the occasion with a victory lap during a Monday, Dec. 2, village council meeting. She celebrated the case’s dismissal by passing out court documents dropping the case and calling the entire effort “frivolous.” However, the attorney representing the 146 petitioners in the village of Lakeview insist that the dismissal did not vindicate the mayor’s conduct.

The case, filed in August with some public attention, accused Fagan-Moore of violating Section 3.07 of the Ohio Revised Code. The petition alleged she “willfully and flagrantly” exceeded her authority, neglected official duties and engaged in misconduct, including gross neglect of duty and misfeasance.

Attorney Tim Steinhelfer, representing the petitioners, announced the litigation in a press release, and a hearing later in August established a bench trial for Dec. 2-6. The complaint contained 83 specific allegations, grouped primarily into three main areas that included violations of Ohio’s open meetings act; handling of the Lakeview Fire Department; and other allegations of malfeasance.

Petitioners accused the mayor of improperly entering executive sessions and failing to follow up on discussions held in those sessions. The bulk of the petition—55 allegations—focused on alleged mismanagement and disputes involving the Lakeview Fire Department. Other allegations included an incident where the mayor reportedly instructed pedestrians not to cross a street in Lakeview.

A contentious discovery phase ensued through the fall and into November. The mayor’s counsel argued that petitioners failed to provide evidence to support their claims. Fagan-Moore’s team prepared over 2,000 pages of documents, her counsel told the court in one filing. On Nov. 25, the mayor’s legal team filed a motion to compel, seeking a court order to obtain discovery materials from the petitioners.

It’s unclear whether any discovery was provided to the mayor’s legal team. Steinhelfer told the mayor’s legal team in a Nov. 22 email, “My clients are having substantial trouble taking screenshots, so they came to my office this morning to try to remedy that. I’ll send you other responsive documents though.”

Before the court could rule on the motion, both parties agreed to dismiss the case.

Following the dismissal, Fagan-Moore distributed copies of the stipulation of dismissal during the council meeting and criticized the petitioners.

“Some people win gracefully. Predictably, Fagan-Moore did not. Instead of addressing the pressing needs of the villagers, she chose to attack those seeking her removal,” Steinhelfer wrote in a press release after the council meeting.

See **DISMISSAL** on Page 2



Christmas spirit comes alive starting this weekend

BY MANDY LOEHR
EXAMINER STAFF WRITER

Many weeks’ worth of community and staff efforts will bring the Christmas to life this weekend and next weekend through festive displays, holiday music, delicious refreshments and lots of cheer as the Logan County History Center hosts its annual Christmas open house, continuing a beloved tradition spanning more than two decades.

Twenty-three decorated trees created by various groups, including this cow-themed one by Ledley Family Farm, are displayed at the Christmas at the History Center event, which begins Saturday. (EXAMINER PHOTO | MANDY LOEHR)

Christmas at the History Center, located at 521 Columbus Ave., Bellefontaine, is slated for 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7, and Sunday, Dec. 8, and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 and Sunday, Dec. 15. In addition to the afternoon events, evening hours have been added from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, offering a slightly different feel, as the lights and trees take on a “special glow” after dark, Museum Director/Curator Todd McCormick noted.

All of the fun offered during the two weekends are free of charge.

“The Christmas at the History Center is an outreach for us, and it really brings the whole community together through a lot of teamwork behind the scenes. There are so many wonderful volunteers who give so generously of their time and their talents each year to help this all come together,” McCormick said.

“We start pulling out the Christmas trees and decorations right after our Halloween KidFest is over in late October, and now this week, our staff and volunteers are putting all of the finishing touches on everything.”

The Transportation Museum wing is celebrating its 10th year this year after its opening in 2014, and musicians will be performing here for the open house, along with performances taking place simultaneously in the Orr Mansion.

Santa Claus flies into the open house on the Clarence Wissler airplane that is suspended from the ceiling in the Transportation Museum, with a 12-foot Christmas tree beautifully decorated below the plane.

See **SPIRIT** on Page 2

Troopers Easter, Piatt honored by Highway Patrol peers

Dispatcher of the Year award announced

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

Two local residents who serve as Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers have earned accolades through the patrol this month, each being named the 2024 Trooper of the Year for their respective posts.

Trooper Tyler W. Easter has been selected as the 2024 Trooper of the Year at the Marysville Post, and Trooper Coleton J. Piatt has been selected 2024 Trooper of the Year for the Springfield Post.

A Bellefontaine native and graduate of Benjamin Logan High School, Trooper Easter joined the

Highway Patrol in 2012 and has served at the Marysville Post throughout his career. It is his second time being named a Trooper of the Year, also receiving the award in 2017.

A native of West Liberty and graduate of West Liberty-Salem High School, Trooper Piatt joined the Highway Patrol in 2023 and has served at the Springfield Post throughout his career. He is a former Logan County Sheriff’s Office deputy and K9 handler, where he worked for nearly 10 years, and is a former officer for the Mechanicsburg Police Department.

Marysville Post Commander Lt. Matthew D. Himes said the selection of Trooper Easter, 32, is in

recognition of outstanding service during 2024. Fellow officers stationed at the Marysville Post chose Trooper Easter based on leadership abilities, professional ethics, courteous treatment of others, enthusiastic work attitude, and cooperation with supervisors, peers and the public.

Trooper Easter attended Rhodes State Community College, earning an associate’s degree in Criminal Justice. In addition, he has earned the patrol’s health and physical fitness award, 10-year safe driving award and named Master Trooper by the Highway Patrol.

Trooper Easter and his wife, Kylie, live in West Liberty.

Springfield Post Commander Lt. Shawn

Cook said the selection of Trooper Piatt is in recognition of his outstanding service during 2024. Fellow officers stationed at the Springfield Post chose Trooper Piatt based on leadership abilities, professional ethics, courteous treatment of others, enthusiastic work attitude, and cooperation with supervisors, peers and the public.

Trooper Piatt attends Eastern Gateway Community College, where he is studying criminal justice.

Both Trooper Piatt and Trooper Easter are now in contention for the District and State Trooper of the Year Award to be announced at a later date.

In addition, the

See **PATROL** on P2

Karg faces felony theft charges

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

The former band director at Bellefontaine High School has been charged with stealing public money while employed by the Bellefontaine City Schools.

Jeremy S. Karg, 55, of Bellefontaine, was formally charged Monday, Dec. 2, in Logan County Common Pleas Court for theft in office, a fourth-degree felony, as defined by the Ohio Revised Code to be the theft of an amount between \$1,000 to \$7,500. Karg faces up to 18 months in prison and fine of \$5,000 plus restitution if found guilty of the charges.

Court documents show Aug. 29, 2023, as the date of the crime, and an investigation of the matter was initiated by the Bellefontaine Police Department shortly thereafter. The Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) assisted in the case.

Karg resigned his position at BCS abruptly on Sept. 1, 2023, having served as a music educator for 32 years.

A plea hearing for Karg has been scheduled in Logan County Common Pleas Court for 10:15 a.m. Dec. 23.



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BELLEFONTAINE EXAMINER
HUBBARD PUBLISHING CO.
 PO Box 40 • Bellefontaine, OH 43311

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 By mail R.F.D. in Logan and adjoining Counties, per year postpaid...\$147.00
 By mail outside of Logan and surrounding counties.....\$165.00

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 Twenty six weeks\$52.00
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Second Class Postage Paid At Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311
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ABE MARTIN



"You can't git along with th' best woman that ever lived after th' bureau drawers swell."

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

SPIRIT

Continued from Page 1

The museum hallways and the first floor of the Orr Mansion feature 23 uniquely decorated trees by school children, including Benjamin Logan Elementary students, LoCo Art participants and the LCHC home school class; along with various groups and organizations; and rooms decorated by different community groups.

Members of Logan County DAR decorated the kitchen, while the Logan Piecemakers quilting guild put their Christmas touches on the dining room.

The Logan County Libraries staff came together to decorate the east parlor, and the West Liberty Garden Club joined in to decorate the Orr Mansion entryway. The Bellefontaine First United Presbyterian Church members installed the holiday decor in the west parlor, while the Logan County Genealogical Society decorated the music room.

Guests at the open house will receive a ballot, so that they can vote for their favorite Adult Christmas Tree, Kid Tree and First Floor Room. The winning organization will receive a Logan County Chamber of Commerce gift certificate.

The second floor and third floor ballroom of the Orr Mansion are decorated by the History Center Christmas Committee and are not part of the voting competition. However, the creativity continues upstairs, where each room is themed to a mid- to late-20th Century Christmas song.

The northeast bedroom's theme is "Silver Bells," decorated by Erin Rudat, Karen Tracey and Beth Marshall; the nursery's theme is "White Christmas," decorated by Marilyn Springs, Jackson Springs and Noah Springs; southeast bedroom "Frosty the Snowman" by George and Diana



A "Frosty the Snowman" themed room decorated by George and Diana Wackerman and Jeannie Jenkins is located on the second floor of the Orr Mansion for the Christmas open house event. (EXAMINER PHOTO I MANDY LOEHR)

Wackerman and Jeannie Jenkins; Mr. Orr's Office, "My Grown Up Christmas List," by Amy McCormick; southwest bedroom, "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town," by the Dazzlers, Kit Wehe, Tam VanNess, Leslie Warne and Sharon Kinney; the hallway "Mistletoe and Berry" by Angie Messner and Beth Marshall; and the ballroom, "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" by Beth Marshall, Judy Snyder and Don Corwin.

Starting in September, contacts are made to begin organizing groups who would like to decorate trees and rooms, and also scheduling musicians for the event, noted Archivist/Assistant Curator Beth Marshall, who also leads the History Center Christmas Committee.

"Everyone really outdid themselves this year. The displays look absolutely beautiful and show so much creativity," she said Wednesday while walking through each of the rooms.

McCormick noted that the live music offered in the two different spaces during each of the open house days "really adds to the atmosphere."

Musicians this year include: Bellefontaine High School jazz band and show choir; performing flutists

Marianne Antram, Carol Burton and the West Central Ohio Community Concert Band; Mary's Turbo Accordion Express; pianist Dalton Frazier; Mad River Dulcimer Society; Paula Deardurff's piano students; pianist Alicia Wilkins; pianist Carol Burton; pianist Leanna George and her piano students; Popular Demand Quartet; pianist Cindy Bleiningner; Shirley McPherson's piano students; St. Patrick Church Choir; and pianists Brenda Stinson Thomas and Kacey Adams.

Refreshments will be served in the Presidents' Room in the lower level of the museum. Youths in attendance should be sure to pick up a craft kit to take home with them, with the chance to choose from a dozen different Christmas crafts.

After the open house dates have concluded, area residents still have the opportunity to check out the history center and all of the Christmas decor through Sunday, Dec. 22, the last opening date for 2024.

"If folks want to come by when it's a little less busy to enjoy the Christmas decorations and to have more time to look at the historical displays, we invite them to stop in through Dec. 22," Marshall said.

Patrol

Continued from Page 1

Springfield Dispatch Center is to present Dispatcher Chelsea L. Sederstrand as the representative for the Springfield Post Dispatcher of the Year and the Piqua District Dispatcher of the Year for 2024.

"I am so proud to have Chelsea represent our Dispatch Center, which includes Clark, Champaign, Union, and Logan counties. She embodies what it means

to be a public servant, and is an asset to both the public and the Division," said Dispatcher Supervisor Jason M. Hack.

Dispatcher Sederstrand began her career with the Division in 2017 and has been assigned at the Springfield Dispatch Center. This award is decided through voting by her peers, co-workers, and supervisors at both the Springfield and Marysville Posts.

Her common sense, cus-

tomer service, steadfast resolve and sensibilities made her an obvious choice for both acknowledgements.

Since she began with the Division, Chelsea has consistently exhibited an excellent work ethic and attitude. Chelsea is always willing to go the extra mile to assist the public, a co-worker, a trooper, or a supervisor. She shows a sense of urgency when needed, but still remains calm in tense situations.

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

Christmas at the History Center

The Logan County History Center will be hosting our annual Christmas Open House

DEC. 7TH, 8TH & 14TH, 15TH

1:00 TO 5:00 PM

Special Evening Hours on Friday, Dec. 13th from 5:30-7:30

THE ORR MANSION WILL BE FULLY DECORATED FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

The Museum hallways feature Christmas trees uniquely decorated by various organizations and children's groups. The Transportation Museum will have a 12' Christmas tree.

There will be LIVE MUSIC each day, REFRESHMENTS, and CHRISTMAS CRAFT KITS for kids to take home. ADMISSION IS FREE.

❁ ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE ❁

<p>SATURDAY, DEC. 7TH</p> <p>1:15 - BHS Jazz Band & Show Choir - Transportation Museum 2:15 - Carol Burton & Marianne Antram - Flute music, Orr Mansion 2:30 - Mary's Turbo Accordion Express - Transportation Museum 3:30 - Dalton Frazier - Piano music, Orr Mansion</p> <p>SUNDAY, DEC. 8TH</p> <p>2:00 - Mad River Dulcimer Society - Transportation Museum 3:00 - Paula Deardurff Piano Students - Orr Mansion</p> <p>FRIDAY, DEC. 13TH</p> <p>5:30 - Alicia Wilkins - Piano music, Orr Mansion 6:30 - Carol Burton - Piano music, Orr Mansion</p>	<p>SATURDAY, DEC. 14TH</p> <p>1:00 - Leanna George Piano Students - Orr Mansion 2:00 - Leanna George - Piano music, Orr Mansion 3:00 - Popular Demand Quartet - Barbershop, Transportation Museum 3:30 - Cindy Bleiningner - Piano music, Orr Mansion</p> <p>SUNDAY, DEC. 15TH</p> <p>1:00 - Shirley McPherson's Piano Students - Orr Mansion 2:00 - St. Patrick's Church Choir - Transportation Museum 3:30 - Brenda Stinson Thomas & Kacey Adams - Piano music, Orr Mansion</p>
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DISMISSAL

Continued from Page 1

Court filings in the case show that Mayor Elaine Fagan-Moore's legal team actively worked to limit the scope of discovery and to compel the petitioners to specify the allegations supporting their lawsuit. According to the filings, the mayor's counsel filed multiple motions aimed at narrowing the issues and limiting depositions. Motions were filed to prevent the mayor from turning over her cell phone records, citing attorney-client privilege. There was also a motion filed to quash a deposition from Ken Conaway, Lakeview's floodplain administrator.

Counsel for the mayor emphasized repeatedly that the legal standard for removal is high. The statute presumes in favor of the elected official unless the petitioners can prove misconduct to a degree that is both willful and flagrant. This presumption protects officeholders from removal based on disagreements over policy or routine

administrative decisions. One of the central claims made by the petitioners involved Fagan-Moore's decision to dismiss Fire Chief Norm Spring. Petitioners alleged that the firing was improper and part of a broader pattern of alleged misconduct. However, the mayor's counsel argued that the decision was a routine personnel matter within her executive authority. They asserted that this action, even if controversial, fell well short of the threshold required under the statute for misconduct in office.

In supporting their motion to dismiss parts of the case, the mayor's legal team stressed that the law requires proof of severe misconduct, such as gross neglect of duty or malfeasance. Simply disagreeing with the mayor's administrative or personnel decisions, they argued, did not meet this standard. Ultimately, these motions and arguments underscored the mayor's position that the case lacked the legal foundation necessary to justify removal.

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OBITUARIES

Dana J. Cochran

Dana J. Cochran, 84, recently of Bellefontaine, OH and formerly of Winslow, ME, left this world quite suddenly but peacefully at Ayden by Belle Springs nursing home in the late night of October 25, 2024. He left to join his beloved wife of 66 years, Jane A. (Buzzell) Cochran and their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

He was born in Waterville, ME on January 15, 1940, to the late Dana W. Cochran and Rowena (Morse) Cochran.

He was educated in Oakland, Maine and attended some classes at the University of Maine.

On September 5, 1956, he married his childhood sweetheart, Jane and they raised 7 children in Oakland, Maine (4 sons and 3 daughters) who all survive. Daniel J. Cochran, David J. Cochran (wife, Dawn), Joy D. (husband, Claude Leroux, Jr.), Jill D. Cochran (Donny Farrington), Jonathan D. Cochran (wife, Cathe), DeAnna J. (husband, David E. Trask), and Jeremy D. Cochran. We also remember their 4th Daughter by windfall, Diana M. (Otis) Cochran, who was always there with a song, a smile, and sentimental words and deeds so cherished. Dana is also preceded in death by Geneva Cochran, first wife of David and brother, Allen B. Cochran (1939). He also cared much for and is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Warren A. and Ethel (White) Buzzel of NH and FL.

Being raised in Oakland, Maine by his grandparents, Ai and Ina (Small) Cochran during WWII, he was privileged to be able to live around (and in) the water at Messalonskee Lake. He worked with his mother, who was the owner of Morse's Point Bathing Beach and therefore developed his natural affinity for swimming, diving, boating, camping, fishing and many, many campfires. He met Janie in Sunday School at the Oakland Baptist Church in 1948, it was then that he says he knew he had met his future wife.

He was proud to be a Grandfather to 18 children, Great Grandfather to 28 children, and Great-Great Grandfather of 2. He was the Uncle, Great Uncle, Great-Great Uncle, to many treasured nieces, nephews, and extended family. One of those grandchildren, Juliana, spent the last 6 months helping to watch over and care for him and for that, we are thankful for her dedication. He believed in a large family and tried to convince Janie that fielding an entire baseball team should be their goal.

Dana was a salesman for the biggest part of his adult life, he sold everything from bread, Pepsi, Pepperidge Farm cookies, Frito Lay's, welding equipment and finally Snap-On Tools. He was gifted in the art of gab and many of us didn't fall far from that tree. He had many acquaintance type friends because he could be very entertaining in his Maine vernacular and the stories he told.

Dana loved toys, there's just no getting around that fact. He loved cars, boats, trucks and John Deere. He was still talking about trying to drive Claude's red (retro) sports car, renewing his driver's license and getting back out on the JD Gator. There were many conversations about vehicles of all forms.

Though Dana had a lot of friends there were two men who were his best friends, Bennie Yeaton, and Ed Albin, who spent 40 years and nearly 50 years, respectively as the three amigos. Dana recruited them to church, singing in the choir and hanging out, laughing, and storytelling. Bennie went to be with the Lord in 1995 and Mike Dawes became part of the circle and sadly, we lost him too in 2022. Our dear Ed, is the last man standing and he has reached 90!

Those family members who were able to make their way to Ohio were greeted by his mischievous smile, his colorful memory of life's times and events and his bright blue eyes.

There will be a Celebration of Dana's Life, Funeral and Graveside services held on Saturday, May 24, 2025, at 1 p.m. - location to be confirmed. Graveside service immediately following at Lakeview Cemetery, Oakland, Maine.

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

Chester Leroy Dowden

Chester Leroy Dowden, 97, of West Liberty, was called to his Heavenly Home on December 1, 2024, eleven days shy of his 98th birthday.

Leroy is survived by his wife of 79 years, Faith Elinor; two daughters, Sharon Hanger and Carol (Weldon) Jordan; former son-in-law Jeff Lange. Also surviving are grandchildren Jason Miller, Nikki (Mike) Moscinski, Holly Maier, Kirk Knott, Caryn Dowden, Thomas (Erica) Jordan, Dustin Lange, Ryan (April) Lange, and Angela Savage; great-grandchildren Corey (Carmen) Henderson, C.J. Miller, Melanie (Alexander Theobald) Miller, Miranda and Samantha Moscinski, Zach (Kelly) Maier, Claire Maier, Gabi (Travis) Davidson, Tyler and Trent Knott, Richard Dowden, Ellie and Riley Jordan, Norah, Jace, Oliver and Burke Lange, Ava Lange, Jalyn Lange; and great-great-grandchildren Camdyn, Aiden, Christian, Jaxxon, Bella, and Rosaleigh; and many nieces and nephews.

Leroy was preceded in death by his parents Otho & Abigail (Taylor) Dowden, as well as his great-aunt & uncle, John & Leah (Taylor) Kennedy, who raised him. Also preceding are his siblings Leslie (Lois) Dowden, Audrey Horn, Lois Pollock, Martha Thompson, and Eunice Recher; son-in-law Chuck Hanger, daughter Bertie Lange, and son Richard Dowden; grandsons Brian Miller and Jasen Lange.

Leroy served in the Army during WWII, training at Camp Maxey in Texas. He was on the way to Korea when the war ended.

Leroy had a few jobs over the years: farming, Hopewell Dairy, Airstream, Gillespie Oil, and Culligan. After he retired, he and Elinor were so active that he once said "he didn't know how they had time to work". He and Elinor volunteered at Mary Rutan Hospital for over 25 years, receiving accolades from the Governor of Ohio. They continued their volunteer work at Green Hills, making many new memories with neighbors and friends. He liked to joke around with people, telling jokes, and being his very ornery self.

Leroy was a family man who enjoyed camaraderie and fellowship while playing cards. He and Faith enjoyed going to the grandchildren and great-grandchildren's many sporting events. They loved to sing. Sometimes, he would just start singing a ditty and Elinor would join in. They were also members of the kitchen band at Green Hills.

Leroy loved woodworking. He made a beautiful roll-top desk, a clock to showcase his miniature John Deere tractors, and many other beautiful pieces.

They were very active at both churches, Hopewell Methodist, where they met during youth fellowship and were later married, and Vineyard Christian Fellowship, singing in the choir and going on mission trips, just to name a few. They even went whitewater rafting and made many lifelong friends along the way, some who he is now rejoicing with in Heaven. That is what we are leaning on now, that we will see him again!

Pastor Eric Cook will officiate a funeral service 1 p.m. Monday, December 9, at Jennings Farley & Seeley Funeral Home and Crematory 5591 US Highway 68 South West Liberty, Ohio 43357. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until the time of service.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in Leroy's name to the Vineyard Christian Fellowship.

Esther N. Hostetter

Esther N. Hostetter, 101, passed away November 14, 2024, at Landis Homes after a brief illness. She was born January 14, 1923, the daughter of Viola (King) and Adrian Miller in northern Ohio.

At age ten, the family relocated to southwestern Ohio in the West Liberty community. It was here she formed lasting friendships and made a lifetime commitment to Jesus and the church she had learned to love.

Following high school graduation, she spent three winters at Canadian Mennonite Bible School where her concepts of the Christian faith expanded and grew.

In 1946, she volunteered for an assignment with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and subsequently spent a year in rural Puerto Rico. It was here she met and married C. Nelson Hostetter. They enjoyed 69 years of marriage before his death in 2016.

Their path in the next few years took them to several locations as he furthered his education and she supported them. They lived in West Liberty, OH from 1951 to 1971 where they attended Oak Grove Mennonite Church. There they served the community in a small-town funeral home before answering a call, again from MCC, and relocated to Akron, PA. She was a faithful member of Akron Mennonite Church for 53 years.

In the mid-1970's she began working for Self-Help Crafts (which later became Ten Thousand Villages) in various capacities including secretarial support for the Director. A highlight of this time was a work trip to India that made a lasting impression. She retired in 1986. In her retirement years she volunteered at the Material Resources Center where she especially enjoyed quilting. Esther and Nelson moved to Landis Homes in 2009.

She is survived by a daughter, Kaye Book, Brevard, NC; son Chris Hostetter, Akron, PA; grandson Travis Book and two great-grandchildren, Ruby and Ry Book, all of Brevard, NC; and many nieces and nephews. Preceding her in death were a brother, Gerald Miller and a sister, Dorothy (Eldon) King.

The family would like to thank her care teams at the Aspen and Ephrata Houses of Landis Homes, and Caring Hospice Services for the excellent care she received at the end of her life.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Esther's memory to Akron Mennonite Church, 1311 Diamond St, Akron, PA 17501, Mennonite Central Committee, 21 S 12th St, Akron, PA 17501, Ten Thousand Villages, P.O. Box 307, Akron, PA 17501 and the Landis Homes Benevolent Fund, 1001 E. Oregon Road, Lititz, PA 17543.

A funeral service takes place Jan. 25 at Akron Mennonite Church, Akron, Pa. Arrangements by Stradling Funeral Homes, Inc., Akron/Ephrata.

Teddy Grant Long

Teddy Grant Long, 85, of Bellefontaine, passed away at 11:45 a.m. on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at Indian Lake Rehabilitation Center in Lakeview, Ohio.

He was born in Logansville, Ohio on November 5, 1939, a son of the late Edwin Elmer Grant Long and Catherine Alice (Briscoe) Long.

On June 29, 1968, Teddy married Sarah Ann (Fawcett) Long in Bellefontaine, Ohio and she survives, along with their daughter, Lisa Ann Sanders of Oklahoma; two grandsons, James Grant Organ, and Cody Lee Tryon, both of Oklahoma; close family friend, Luanne Leininger of Bellefontaine; a niece, Beth (Earl) Clark of Texas; a nephew, John (Laura) Fawcett of Michigan; and numerous cousins.

A 1957 graduate of Quincy High School, Teddy had worked as a machinist at Rockwell before retiring from Honda Transmission following over 40 years of combined employment. He and his wife also owned and operated Long's Greenhouse and Daylilies for over 30 years. Teddy spent much of his leisure time at the bowling alley, rolling two 700 series and two 300 games during his bowling career.

A graveside service will be held in Greenwood-Union Cemetery in DeGraff, Ohio at a later date.

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

Nadine Elizabeth Noel

Nadine Elizabeth Noel, 79, of West Mansfield, went home to be with her Savior on Monday, December 2, 2024, following an extended illness.

A loving mother, grandmother, sister and aunt, she cherished time spent with her family. She was a 1963 graduate of Buckeye Local High School.

In her younger years, she worked as a secretary with the West Mansfield United Methodist Church and later

Callandar & Needles in Bellefontaine. After obtaining her LPN license, she worked in home health care in Logan and the surrounding counties for several years. She then worked as a security guard at Honda, a position she truly came to enjoy. Most recently, she helped her nephew at Easton Water in Bellefontaine.

A woman of strong faith, she was a former member of the West Mansfield United Methodist Church and was currently a member of the Zanesfield United Methodist Church. Having a gift and joy for sewing, she made many wedding gowns and also enjoyed making quilts for the Mountain Missions. She also enjoyed gardening, tending to her flowers and shopping.

Born October 15, 1945 in Bellefontaine, she was the daughter of the late Victor and Anna Beryl (Shoots) LeVan. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by a son, Andrew Schertzer.

She is survived by her daughters, Deanna Elliott of West Mansfield, Lisa (Cline King) Schertzer of West Mansfield, Angela (Mike) Gilkison of Marysville and Sara (Dustin Riffle) Stephens of Richwood; grandchildren, Levi (Melissa) Elliott, Tyler Elliott, Codi (Que) Carter, Amanda Oddo, Andrea (Jake) Kerns, Ciaria (Drew) Gerhan, Trenton Ball, Kayleigh Noel, Tate Pierce and Kaitlynn Pierce; great grandchildren, Rose, Laken, Sage, Melody, Evalyn, Hazely, Lola, Audrey, Maisyn, Bailey, Rilynn, Waylen, Jace, Sophia, Aiden and Dorian; sisters, Grace (Victor) Dodds of Dublin and Brenda (Timothy) Easton of Bellefontaine; and her brother, Earl (Nancy) LeVan of Bellefontaine; along with numerous nephews, cousins and other extended family and friends.

Services to celebrate Nadine's life will be at 4 p.m.

Sunday, December 8, at the Zanesfield United Methodist Church 2880 Main St. Zanesfield, OH 43360. Pastor April Phillips will officiate and burial will take place at a later date in the Greenlawn Cemetery in West Mansfield. The family will receive friends prior to the service on Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. at the church.

Memorial contributions can be made to Interim HealthCare of Lima 3745 Shawnee Rd. Suite 108 and 109 Lima, OH 45806. Envelopes will be available at the church.

Wilson Funeral Home, Schnurrenberger Chapel 222 W. Center St. West Mansfield is assisting the family. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.wilsonfuneralhomesinc.com.

Stella Kay Rogan

Stella Kay Rogan, 78, of Cable, passed away Sunday, December 1, 2024, at the Logan Acres Senior Community. Stella was born October 9, 1946, in Urbana to the late Robert Wallace and Lois Janice (Williams) Stickley. On March 9, 1968, in Urbana she married the love of her life Willard Carl Rogan.

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the peaceful passing of Stella Kay Rogan, a devoted servant of God, beloved mother, grandmother, and friend. Her life was a testament to her unwavering faith, unconditional love, and tireless devotion to her family and friends. Over the years she was a homemaker for her family, a bus driver and served as a cafeteria helper at the Triad Local Schools. Stella found joy in sewing, crocheting, gardening, and helping young people as a 4-H advisor.

Her greatest joy was spending time with her family. She leaves behind a legacy of love, faith, and cherished memories. Those she has touched will continue to honor her by living lives inspired by her example. While our hearts ache at her loss, we find solace in knowing she is now in the presence of her Savior, reunited with loved ones who have gone before her.

Rest in eternal peace, Mom. Your faith and love will live on in our hearts forever. She is survived by her loving husband of 56 years, Willard C. Rogan; children, Robert (Stacy) Rogan, London (Amy) Rogan, Shawna (Mark) Evans and Jinette (Wade) Goins; 10 grandchildren, Ryan (Kait) Rogan, Tabitha (Francis) Cutchember, Jaxon Rogan, Courtney Goins, Malia Evans, Mekhi Evans, Caryn Goins, Caeley Goins, Anastacia Rogan and Christian Rogan; 3 great grandchildren, Teagan Rogan, Raelyn Cutchember and Adrian Cutchember; sister, Gloria Ward; sisters-in-law, Annie Stickley and Brenda Stickley; numerous nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents; siblings, Kathleen (Wayne) Nichols, Alice Jean (Larry) White, Omer "Bud" Stickley, Robert Wallace "Wally" Stickley, Jack Stickley; beloved brother-in-law, Robert "Bob" Ward Jr.

A Funeral Service will take place Saturday, December 7, 2024, at 1 p.m. at Jennings Farley & Seeley Funeral Home, 5591 US-68, West Liberty, Ohio. Visitation will be held from 11 a.m. until the time of the service. Burial will take place in Highland Memorial Cemetery following the service.

Online Condolences may be expressed at www.jenningsfarley.com.

Ada Ellen Thames

Ada Ellen Thames, 82, of Bellefontaine, passed away at 8:35 a.m. on Monday, December 2, 2024, at Mary Rutan Hospital. She was born in Bellefontaine, Ohio on March 26, 1942, to the late Marion and Mary Jo (Stoker) Shoffner.

Ada is survived by her daughter, Andrea Ellen Brister of Brookhaven, Mississippi; son, Joseph (Tisha Adams) Thames of Bellefontaine; grandchildren, Austin (Anna)

Brister, Kelly (Cooper Brinson) Brister, Antonia Adams, Danisha Artis, and Cinnamon Artis; several great grandchildren, with one on the way; sister, Joni Knox; and several close nieces and nephews.

Along with her parents, Ada was also preceded in death by her son-in-law, Mark Brister; granddaughter, Johnae Jones; and brothers, Fred Shoffner and John Shoffner.

Ada was a 1960 graduate of Bellefontaine High School and a 1963 graduate of the Lima Memorial Nursing School. She started her nursing career while serving in the United States Air Force. Throughout her career Ada worked in several hospital settings, but her time as a Labor and Delivery nurse was one of her favorites. She was a registered nurse at Mary Rutan Hospital when she retired in 2004. In her free time, Ada was an accomplished painter and loved to draw and craft. She was a member of the First Church of God in Bellefontaine, the Friendly Senior Center, and The Art Club.

Pastor Gary Brown will officiate a funeral service at 2 p.m. Friday, December 6, at the Eichholtz Daring & Sanford Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 321 N. Main Street, Bellefontaine. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service from 1 to 2 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be in Bellefontaine Cemetery with military honors provided by the Logan County Veterans Honor Guard.

Memorial contributions may be made to Logan County Veterans to D.C., P.O. Box 516, DeGraff, Ohio 43318. Eichholtz Daring & Sanford Funeral Home & Cremation Center, Bellefontaine, is honored to serve the Thames family and encourages anyone to share a fond memory or message of condolence at www.edsfh.com.

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Holiday Travel Set To Soar in 2024, With Increased Budgets and More Frequent Trips

(AP) — The holidays are in full swing, and Americans are gearing up for a busy travel season. Many plan to hit the road — or the skies — more frequently and spend more on their trips than in previous years.

Deloitte's 2024 Holiday Travel Survey reveals nearly half (49%) of Americans intend to travel this holiday season, a slight increase from 48% in 2023. This marks the fourth consecutive year holiday travel has held steady, signaling a positive outlook for the travel industry.

Rising Frequency and Budgets
A key trend this year? Increased holiday travel frequency and budgets. On average, travelers expect to take 2.14 trips this season, compared to 1.88 in 2023. This is the highest trip frequency since travel resumed following the pandemic.

Additionally, more Americans plan to spend more on their longest trip of the season; 28% of respondents report they'll significantly increase their travel

budget, up from 18% in 2023.

Americans will spend an average of \$3,294 on their longest holiday trip this year, reflecting a growing desire to prioritize travel as a key part of their holiday celebrations. Among those increasing their budgets, 40% cite travel's growing importance in their lives as the primary reason for additional spending.

Key Travel Periods
Travel plans for the holidays center around two key periods: Thanksgiving and the December holidays.

Roughly 25% of Americans plan to travel during the Christmas or New Year period. While fewer people are planning trips in early January, those who are going tend to take longer vacations.

Among those traveling in early to mid-January, 36% plan to stay for a week or more — up significantly from just 16% during Thanksgiving.

While the trend toward higher trip frequency and spending is evident across most age groups, Millennials lead the charge. Not only do millennials plan to take the

most trips (2.6), but they are also setting the highest budgets for their travels, averaging \$3,927. In contrast, baby boomers are planning fewer trips and spending less overall.

Higher-income Americans are also fueling the travel surge this year. Of those earning \$100,000 or more annually, 66% plan to travel in 2024, up from 59% last year. These high earners will likely account for more than half (52%) of all paid lodging travelers this season.

Affordability Challenges Persist
While travel is booming, affordability remains a challenge for many.

Nearly 40% of Americans say they cannot afford to travel this season, a figure almost identical to last year. Another 31% cite the high costs of travel as a barrier.

Despite these obstacles, a growing number of people report improved financial conditions; 46% of respondents say they are doing better financially, up from 31% in 2023.

Personalization and Luxury Drive Loyalty
Travelers also seek more personalized, upgraded experiences, opening the door for providers to build customer loyalty.

Nearly 1 in 5 holiday travelers plan to fly this season, while 30% intend to stay in paid lodging, such as hotels or private rentals. Among those planning to increase their budgets, nearly half (49%) are opting for longer trips, 44% for better lodging locations, and 29% for upgraded airfare.

In addition to flying and staying in higher-end accommodations, more travelers are road-tripping; 65% of respondents plan to drive to their holiday destinations.

Social media and new technologies also play a significant role in travel planning. According to the survey, 39% of travelers use social media apps to help plan their trips — up from 27% last year.

Additionally, more travelers are turning to short-form video content and generative AI tools to inspire and inform their travel decisions.

Remote Work Fuels Longer, More Frequent Travel
Remote work continues to be a major factor in increasing travel frequency, with the "laptop lugging" phenomenon significantly rising this holiday season. Nearly half (49%) of travelers plan to work — at least partially — during their longest holiday trip, up from 34% last year.

This shift is particularly evident among younger generations and higher-income travelers. Nearly 60% of Gen Z and 54% of Millennials intend to work remotely during their holiday travels, as do 52% of those earning \$100,000 or more.

For these "laptop luggers," the holiday season will be marked by both more trips (averaging 2.7 trips for remote workers versus just two for non-luggers) and longer stays.

Laptop luggers are also more likely to travel internationally, with 30% planning trips abroad, compared to just 18% of those planning to disconnect from work entirely.

The Road Ahead
The 2024 holiday season

looks to be another busy period for the travel industry thanks to increased travel frequency, higher budgets, and a desire for elevated and personalized experiences.

As Kate Ferrara, Vice Chair and U.S. Transportation, Hospitality, and Services Sector Leader at Deloitte, notes, "Enthusiasm for holiday travel keeps climbing as travelers look to make the most of the season by visiting friends and family. An increase in trip frequency is pushing budgets up, giving travel providers the opportunity to capitalize on festive experiences."

With consumers prioritizing travel more than ever before, the holiday season presents a prime opportunity for the travel industry to foster loyalty and meet the growing demand for meaningful travel experiences.

This article was produced by Media Decision and syndicated by Wealth of Geeks.

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- [Noon] Gift Giveaway (@ Firehouse)


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Is this the end of Christmas cards?

5 creative ways to spread holiday cheer without the mailbox

(AP) — Are Christmas cards fading away? With social media and texting at our fingertips, many wonder if the tradition of sending handwritten holiday greetings is on its way out. However, many families still cherish the joy of sending and receiving Christmas cards, keeping this heartwarming tradition alive.

Before you ditch the card aisle this year, consider the charm, nostalgia and personal touch that only a real Christmas card can deliver. So, is this the end of

Christmas cards - or could this tradition be due for a holiday comeback?

How Christmas cards became a holiday tradition According to the Postal Museum, the tradition of mailing Christmas cards dates back to mid-19th-century England when the first commercial Christmas card was created by Sir Henry Cole, a civil servant involved in modernizing the British postal system. Sir Cole's creation quickly resulted in a growing greeting card industry in England and the spread of Christmas cards to America by the 1870s.

In America, holiday greetings have changed with the times. As printing technology improved, cards became more affordable, and the imagery and sentiments changed. National Army Museum mentions that families and soldiers mailed cards with patriotic themes during World Wars I and II. A Morning Call article states that in the late 1960s, cards featured psychedelic art and non-traditional colors to reflect popular culture.

Today, Christmas cards are a global tradition. However, digital options and social media have introduced

new ways for people to send holiday greetings, leading to a decline in the number of cards sent each year.

The decline of Christmas cards

In the early 2000s, TIME reported that Americans sent around 2.9 billion Christmas cards each year. But when social media platforms like Facebook were made available starting in 2004, holiday cards began declining, with the United States Postal Service reporting 1.1 billion Christmas cards now sent annually.

Several reasons are behind this decline, ranging from social media availability and texting to environmental concerns and the rising cost of postage stamps. The increased commitments and risks of a holiday meltdown also factor in.

Casey Rooney, a mother of three and the owner of Get On My Plate struggled with the decision, sharing, "Last year, several things came up around the holidays and I just could not get Christmas cards out. When I decided a card wouldn't go out, it was a huge weight lifted."

Despite their decline in popularity over the last two decades, Christmas cards

don't need a eulogy just yet. According to the New York Post, more than half of American families still mail holiday greetings due to tradition and nostalgia, with most Americans preferring physical, customized cards regardless of their age.

Ashley Wali, luxury family travel writer at Wanderlux, mails about 50 customized cards each holiday season for reasons beyond tradition, explaining, "I've found myself sharing less online in recent years, which makes holiday cards that much more important. They allow me to share big updates from the year and stay in touch with long-distance friends and family."

For Wali, mailing holiday cards is more than just supporting lasting connections. She explains, "Holiday cards are a chance for me to step back and reflect on the year. I write them as much for my friends and family as I do for myself."

Creative ways to spread holiday cheer beyond a card

Love connecting with family and friends during the holidays but don't have the time or energy to send out traditional Christmas cards? You're not alone. Many people find it difficult to keep up with the

tradition of mailing cards.

Fortunately, there are plenty of thoughtful, creative ways to share holiday cheer without stuffing envelopes or buying stamps. Whether through a quick email, festive social media post or small, in-person gestures, there's a modern way for everyone to spread joy this season.

Share a holiday greeting on social media

The original intent of mailing holiday greetings was to nurture connections from afar. With the advent of social media, keeping social connections is easier than ever. Posting holiday greetings on social media can be a fun, creative and eco-friendly alternative to mailing traditional cards.

Start by designing a festive image or using a family photo with holiday-themed graphics or frames in design apps like Canva or Adobe Express. For a distinctive touch, include a heartfelt caption or a year-in-review update to share highlights from the past year.

Deliver homemade treats locally

Delivering homemade treats or festive holiday foods to nearby friends and family offers a thoughtful alternative

to traditional Christmas cards. Instead of mailing a greeting, one can prepare a batch of cookies or spiced nuts packaged in decorative tins or holiday-themed wrapping.

Purchased treats, like holiday chocolates, artisanal jams or charcuterie boxes also make excellent options for those who prefer not to cook. Adding a small note with a warm holiday message makes the gift.

Donate in honor of loved ones

Minted explains that with the average family ordering 50 to 100 holiday cards each year, opting out can lead to substantial savings. Families might consider donating the amount saved to a charitable organization of their choice in honor of family and friends.

Send greetings via email Sending an email or e-newsletter instead of a traditional Christmas card offers a quick, eco-friendly and cost-effective way to spread holiday cheer. The email can include personalized messages, festive images or holiday videos. For families that prefer a newsletter-style greeting, an e-newsletter allows extensive sharing of family news.



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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
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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
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Rev. Mike Phillips
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(937) 592-6576
Jason F. Miller, president
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solidrockbaptistchurch.info

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Phone: (937) 650-3333 • Fax: (937) 650-3335

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

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

BELLEFONTAINE BEAT

POLICE & FIRE

Impaired driver charged after hit-skip crash

Sarah Lynn Allman, 39, of Grove City, was charged with multiple offenses, including drunk driving and child endangering, following a reported hit-and-run accident Tuesday, Dec. 3, that occurred in the 200 block of south Main Street.

Allman is charged with two counts of operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, including one for a breathalyzer result of .171; as well as endangering children; and was cited for failure to stop after an accident; and improper backing, officers of the Bellefontaine Police Department report.

Officers were dispatched around 3:48 p.m. to Brewfontaine after a caller reported their vehicle was struck by another car, which then left the scene. Although the victim did not witness the incident, two patrons provided descriptions and photos of the suspect vehicle.

A bartender at Brewfontaine identified Allman as a customer who had been "cut off" from further alcohol service earlier in the day. She reportedly consumed eight glasses of wine before leaving around 3:30 p.m.

Officers located Allman's vehicle at Wal-Mart and found damage to both the rear of her vehicle and the car parked directly in front of it.

Allman was reportedly located inside the store with her two juvenile children. She admitted to driving, but claimed she was unaware of the collisions. Officers noted signs of intoxication, including glassy eyes, slurred speech and swaying.

The defendant reportedly failed field sobriety tests conducted on-site in the store parking lot and was placed under arrest. She later consented to a breathalyzer test at the Bellefontaine Police Department, yielding results of .171 and .170.

Due to the presence of children in her vehicle at the time of the incidents, Allman was also charged with child endangerment.

During an inventory search of Allman's vehicle, officers discovered a large glass bong in the trunk, which

was confiscated for destruction.

The case has been referred to Logan County Children's Services for review. Allman was lodged in the Logan County Jail.

LOGAN COUNTY BEAT

SHERIFF & HIGHWAY PATROL

1 transported from C.R. 1 crash

One person was transported to Mary Rutan Hospital following a two-car crash that occurred Tuesday, Dec. 3, shortly before 6:30 p.m. at the intersection of county roads 1 and 29 (Ludlow and Gunntown) in Lake Township.

Deputies of the Logan County Sheriff's Office report Destiny Goad, 23, of Sidney, was northbound in a 2008 Toyota Rav-4 on C.R. 1 at the intersection of C.R. 29 when she turned left through the four-way stop and into the path of a 2018 GMC Yukon operated Jason Anane-Sefah, 49, of West Liberty.

The pickup truck was proceeding southbound through the intersection at C.R. 1, deputies report. Macochee EMS transported Goad to the hospital with suspected minor injuries. She was cited for failure to yield the right of way when turning left.

Damage was heavy to both vehicles and they were towed from the scene.

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www.examiner.org



PARKS

Continued from Page 1

Lanes and program leaders Mike and Dede Doss.

Myers believes they're in good shape with the temporary budget and hopes to present additional capital improvement projects for 2025 at the January meeting.

Park workers tilled additional areas at the Southview Park butterfly garden in order to expand that in 2025.

Log work at the Myerah Nature Preserve log cabin is done, and they hope to have a new roof on it before the end of the year. Logan County Land Trust paid for this work through grants and donations.

Hoffman Pool has been winterized. They have a garden hose running to keep water in the pool and also prevent freezing. This is done to stop ground water from pushing up on the floor of the pool, which can cause damage and even lift the whole pool.

Freitag and Associates, based in Sidney, will design and administer the Harmon Park project. "They know where we're going, so that's advantageous for us," Myers said.

Dates and locations for the winter walking program

are being finalized.

Myers presented the board meeting dates for 2025. They will, for the most part, continue with the first Tuesday of the month schedule. However, he requested they meet on the second Tuesdays in February, March and April due to conflicts.

That change, though, means they can't gather in their usual spot—city council chambers—as the council convenes on the second Tuesday. Myers will look into using a room in the building's basement so Davis will still be able to attend the beginning since council meetings start 30 minutes after the park board.

To complete the planned work on park restrooms, Myers asked the board to approve his suggestion to hire two retired contractors. They would be seasonal construction workers for less than 120 days.

"We have people in mind," Myers stated. "This allows us to control some of our costs."

They will hire a separate contractor for the plumbing work.

The next board meeting is 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7.

COMICS

MODERATELY CONFUSED

Jeff Stahler



DENNIS THE MENACE

Hank Ketcham



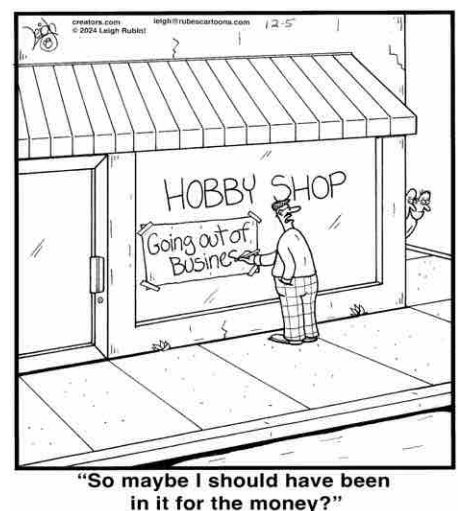
REALITY CHECK

Dave Whamond



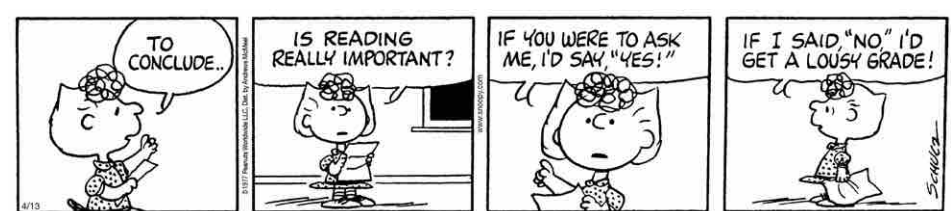
RUBES

Leigh Rubin



PEANUTS

Charles Schulz



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

Stephan Pastis



CROSSWORD

Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sound of relief
 - 4 Latvia's capital
 - 8 Boot camp VIPs
 - 12 — -cone
 - 13 Lawyer Clooney
 - 14 Mideast airline
 - 15 Cling
 - 17 "A Doll's House" heroine
 - 18 "— good deed"
 - 19 Shoulder-length do
 - 21 Tea biscuits
 - 24 Floor cover
 - 25 Coffee vessel
 - 26 Actress Taylor
 - 28 Vaults
 - 32 Post-WWII alliance
 - 34 Spill catcher
 - 36 Corporate symbol
 - 37 Portly

- 39 Cushion
- 41 Rowing need
- 42 Corp. symbols
- 44 Nuanced
- 46 More interesting, as gossip
- 50 "Unh-unh"
- 51 Taj Mahal city
- 52 Keep back
- 56 Sorts
- 57 "Born Free" lioness
- 58 Horror star Chaney
- 59 Roster
- 60 500 sheets

- 61 "Houdini" singer Lipa
- DOWN**
- 1 Bat wood
 - 2 Year in Spain
 - 3 Grasp
 - 4 Tennis star Nadal
 - 5 "— Believer"
 - 6 React in horror
 - 7 Wedding setting
 - 8 Mali neighbor
 - 9 Dollop
 - 10 Poi base
 - 11 Do in
 - 16 Mafia boss

- 20 Gloomy guy
- 21 Phoenix cagers
- 22 Suffix with "techno"
- 23 Bro, maybe
- 27 Energy
- 29 Sturdy place to stand
- 30 Alike (Fr.)
- 31 Achy
- 33 Pariah
- 35 Some coll. degrees
- 38 Texter's "Enough!"
- 40 "Girls" star Lena
- 43 Waste conduit
- 45 "Hum-bug!"
- 46 Hoosergo
- 47 Wrinkly fruit
- 48 Annoys
- 49 Anger
- 53 Airport org.
- 54 Brock of baseball
- 55 "CSI" evidence

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 12-4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13					14			
15			16					17			
		18				19		20			
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25			26		27		28		29	30	31
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37			38		39		40		41		
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51				52		53			54	55	
56				57					58		
59				60					61		

NON-SEQUITUR

Wiley Sequitur



SUDOKU

KING FEATURES

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

Difficulty: ★★★

12/5

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★

12/3

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 Aquarius.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024:
 You are multitalented, modern and cutting-edge. Despite your strong individuality, you value loyalty with family and friends. This is a year of learning and teaching. Take time for reflection. You also might renew your spiritual or religious beliefs. Explore philosophies that give you a better understanding of yourself.

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)
 ★★ If you're discussing controversial subjects today, you will put a lot of yourself in what you have to say. (Go easy if you see the hair blowing back over other people's ears.) Remember to use the advantage you have right now when dealing with bosses and authority figures. Yes, use it! Tonight: Friends. **TAURUS** (April 20-May 20)
 ★★★ You are the financial wizard of the zodiac, and today you will have strong opinions about issues related to taxes, debt, insurance and shared property. This is why you won't hesitate to speak up! Do be aware that people notice you more than usual today. Tonight: Show respect. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 20)
 ★★★ Discussions with partners, spouses and close friends will be lively today. (This could involve an ex-partner or old friend back on the scene.) The intensity of whatever transpires might come from someone else or it might come from you. Meanwhile, do something different today to shake

things up! Tonight: Learn!
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 ★★ At work today or perhaps with issues related to your health, you will be opinionated! One reason for this is you might feel that you are covering old ground and dealing with things from the past that you have already been clear about. (Will no one listen?) Tonight: Check your finances. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)
 ★★★ This is a powerful day for those involved in creative projects. If you act, work in the arts, or you draw or sculpt or dance — whatever the medium — you will express yourself with passion! Meanwhile, be ready to compromise and be agreeable with others today. Tonight: Listen. **VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 ★★ Family discussions will be lively today because someone from the past who is back on the scene might have strong opinions. Perhaps parents have strong ideas. Whatever the case, everyone has their two cents to add to the argument. Look for ways to facilitate things. Tonight: Get organized. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 ★★ Today social diversions appeal to you. Play hooky if you can. Take a long lunch. Enjoy fun outings, sports and playful activities with children. Meanwhile, exchanges with others will be lively and dynamic because everyone has an opinion today! (Oh yeah, That's putting it mildly.) Tonight: Socialize. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 ★★★ You have strong ideas about financial matters today. Or perhaps about something you own. Either way, you won't hesitate to tell it like it is. Fortunately, with Venus in your House of Communications, you'll be diplomatic and charming. Cocoon if you can. Tonight: Relax.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 ★★★ Today the Sun is lined up with Mercury, retrograde in your sign, which makes you talkative and clear about what you want. You might reassess your goals and redefine what really matters to you. You will find it easy to express yourself in an eloquent way. (Not surprising for your sign.) Tonight: Conversations. **CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 ★★ Today you might find yourself rethinking something. You also might wonder how others see you and your ideas. Nevertheless, you have increased clarity today about whatever it is that's been holding you back and perhaps needs an adjustment. It's a day of self-awareness. Tonight: Check your money. **AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
 ★★★ Discussions with an old friend or someone you haven't seen for a while might be clarifying and provocative for you today. In fact, somebody might say something that causes you to rethink your goals. In part, this might be due to changing values that you're experiencing. Tonight: You're strong. **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20)
 ★★ If talking to parents, bosses, teachers, VIPs or the police today, you'll have a lively exchange! This might be about past issues. Or it might be that you want to introduce a new way of looking at things. Certainly, if someone in authority has a strong opinion, you must listen. Tonight: Privacy.

BORN TODAY
 Actress, comedian Margaret Cho (1968), Gen. George Armstrong Custer (1839), actor Adan Canto (1981)

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.

SERVICES

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

TRUCKS



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

1940 CHEVY P/U, disassembled, all sheet metal, glass, frame, no eng/trans, build it

TRUCKS

your way. \$5500 cash. Call 937-414-7984 leave message.

MOTORCYCLES

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

LAWN & GARDEN

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

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

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.

STORAGE

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

REAL ESTATE

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

REAL ESTATE

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.

NOTICE FOR BIDS

The Logan County Metropolitan Housing Authority (LCMHA) will be accepting bids for two separate vehicles. The first is a white 2011 Ford Focus SE with 48,000 miles on it. The second is a white 2012 E350 Econoline with a 10 ft. plumbers enclosed bed. LCMHA reserves the right to reject any and all bids. LCMHA also reserves the right to waive irregularities in any bid and accept whatever bid we deem most favorable. LCMHA is an Equal Opportunity employer. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Josh Jones, Deputy Director. Josh can be reached at 937-599-1845 ext. 223 or email jjones@lcmha.com. All formal bids must be submitted by December 18, 2024 Dec. 5, 10, 12, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE

Richland Township regular meeting for December 13th has been cancelled. The December 25th meeting at 7 pm has been moved to December 27th at 1:30 pm at the Richland Township building at 615 N. Center St., Belle Center, OH 43310. Cathy Pool Richland Township Fiscal Officer Dec. 5, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE

The Bokescreek Township Trustees are accepting sealed bids for a 1998 Laverne Fire Apparatus until December 31, 2024. Description is as follows: Chassis—HME Odometer inoperative Hours -- 3587 Engine-- Detroit Diesel Series 60 12.7L Transmission-- Allison HD 4060P Pump--Waterous 1250 GPM Tank Capacity -- 500 Gallons Total Seats 6 with 2 SCBA seats Midship pump with driver side controls 20 Gallon Foam Cell 4 tank Cascade system Top Mount 10KW Hydraulic Generator Drivers Side Discharge (2) 2 1/2 inch Officer side Discharge (2) 2 1/2 inch Rear Pre-connects(1) 2 1/2 inch (2) 1 1/2 inch Drivers Side Suction (1) 6 inch (1) 2 1/2 intake Officer Side Suction (1) 6 inch Steamer Rear Suction (1) 6 inch Steamer Front Bumper (1) 1 1/2 inch pre-connect Included---- Deck gun, aluminum wheels, 24 foot extension ladder, 12 foot roof ladder, 8 foot attic ladder Repairs done in 2024-- Pump rebuilt and passed flow and suction tests, rear brakes replaced, intake and discharge valves rebuilt

All bids are to be emailed to the Fiscal Officer, jennifer@btotax.com or mailed to 7210 County Road 117,

LEGALS

Ridgeway, OH 43345. Pictures are available upon request.

Jennifer Wright, Fiscal Officer Dec. 5, 12, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

The regularly scheduled meeting December 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. For the Harrison Township Trustees has been changed due to a scheduling conflict. The meeting will now be held on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. At the Harrison Township Office/Maintenance Building, 4246 St. Rt. 47 W, Bellefontaine, OH. The Harrison Township Board of Trustees has also scheduled a special meeting for December 31, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. At the Township Building at 4246 St. Rt. 47 W, Bellefontaine, Ohio. The purpose of the meeting is for general purposes and to close out the books for the fiscal year 2024. Any outstanding bills must be presented to the Fiscal Officer by December 29, 2024. By the Order of Trustees Judy Hartzler Fiscal Officer Harrison Township Logan County Dec. 5, 2024

LEGAL NOTICE

WHEREAS, INVENTORIES AND APPRAISEMENTS HAVE BEEN FILED IN THE PROBATE COURT, LOGAN COUNTY, OHIO BY THE EXECUTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS OF THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS TO: Sheila Renee Whetsel, Executor of the Estate of Brittnee Renee Whetsel, Dec.d Notice is hereby given to the surviving spouse, if any; next of kin, if any, fiduciaries, attorney and attorneys, if any; representing any of aforementioned persons or any other interested person that said Inventories and Appraisements are now on file in the office of said court, being suspended for hearing and confirmation until the 16th day of December, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. and that day and hour set for hearing when, if no exceptions are filed thereto or to any thereof any time prior to five days before the date set for hearing, or to the date which such hearing has been continued, until finally disposed of. Kim Kellogg-Martin, Judge Natasha R. Kennedy, Judge Logan County Family Court Probate Division By Shawna Cooley Probate Deputy Clerk Dec. 5, 2024

Notice of Public Hearing

The Miami Township Board of Trustees, Logan County, OH, will hold a public hearing concerning proposed amendments to the Miami Township Zoning Resolution on December 23rd, 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 adding Section 1081 Solar Energy Systems.

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 5pm for a period of 15 days prior to the public hearing. The building address is 112 Jefferson Street, Quincy, Ohio, 43343.

Kaitlyn Bailey Fiscal Officer, Miami Township Dec. 5, 2024

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

BUSINESSES INTERESTED IN JOINING THE PROGRAM CALL 937-592-3060 TO FIND OUT HOW!

NOTE: Certificates can't be combined with any other offer, coupon or gift certificate. No cash back value and are a non-refundable purchase.

12 HOLIDAY WINES PLUS BONUS GIFTS ONLY \$79.99

SAVE \$160

Our experts handpicked this highly acclaimed collection to pair perfectly with your favorite dishes from Omaha Steaks. Uncork 12 bottles with bonus gifts for just \$79.99 (plus \$19.99 shipping and tax) as your introduction to the Omaha Steaks Wine Club – saving you \$160.

Then, look forward to 12 new selections every three months and enjoy a \$25 Omaha Steaks E-Reward Card with each future club case. You'll also save 10% on every 12+ bottle purchase and get free shipping every time you order.

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- 4 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins (5 oz.)
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- 4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
- 1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)
- 8 FREE PureGround™ Filet Mignon Burgers (6 oz.)**

77318NWR separately \$221.94 **\$99.99**
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Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. 8 free 6 oz. burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes SKU 77318. Limit 2 on select items at these exclusive prices. While supplies last. Items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. Standard shipping rates will be applied and are subject to change. Minimum purchase and other restrictions may apply. Some products may not be available for sale in your area. Sales are subject to OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use/OSI. Expires 12/31/24. | 24ME729 | Omaha Steaks, LLC

St. Clair signs with Buckeyes

BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS WRITER

Signed, sealed, delivered. Bellefontaine quarterback Tavien St. Clair made it official on Wednesday with his commitment to continue his football career in Columbus for Ohio State.

A ceremony was held at the Bellefontaine High School gymnasium with a large crowd of family and fans in attendance.

After the signing, St. Clair posed for photos and signed autographs for many fans.

"It's tough to come up with one word that I could use," said St. Clair. "It's definitely just surreal for me. It's been a dream come true. This whole process has been spotless and clean with Coach (Ryan) Day and all the staff at Ohio State. I've loved every minute of it. To finally make it official was really big."

The Ohio State 2025 recruiting class is ranked fifth nationally, just behind Oregon at fourth. The Ducks joined the Big Ten this season along with former Pac-12 members USC, UCLA, and Washington.

"It's definitely been a tough task with the new era of football," said St. Clair, "with NIL and things like that. I think we have a really good core of guys in the middle of our class."

One issue for St. Clair and his fellow recruits will be getting wins against rival Michigan. Ohio State lost 13-10 to the Wolverines this past Saturday, the fourth straight loss in the series.

"We were upset about the loss, obviously, it's our rival, but we're just excited



Tavien St. Clair, center, speaks after signing his commitment to play for Ohio State on Wednesday at Bellefontaine High School. Also pictured are his parents, Marcus and Patricia. (EXAMINER PHOTO | MIKE FRANK)

to be a part of it. I can not wait to be a part of that rivalry," said St. Clair.

He added that being from Ohio, "it means a little bit more to a lot of us Ohio guys, knowing what it's capable for doing for the rest of your life by being known as a legend by beating the team up north. We're looking at it as an opportunity to put our name out there and really leave a legacy at Ohio State."

St. Clair had previously committed to play for Ohio

State. He said that removed some of the pressure.

"Coach Day and Coach (Chip) Kelly and the whole staff at Ohio State have been just great at just allowing me to be a kid and play football at the end of the day. It's never been a whole lot of pressure on me to perform a certain way. They always make sure that I'm just focusing on playing football and being the best person and best player I can be," St. Clair said.

Asked about following in

the footsteps of fellow Ohio native Joe Burrow, St. Clair said, "I watched Joe Burrow in high school and I've watched him do what he's done in the (NFL) now and it's surreal to be part of that. To be on the same path that he was on. I'm just really excited to see where my path takes me at Ohio State. I'm definitely ready for the next chapter." Burrow initially played for Ohio State before transferring to LSU, where he won a national championship.

In his four years with the

Chieftains, St. Clair completed 729 passes out of 1,090 attempts. He threw for 9,794 yards with 104 touchdowns and just 22 interceptions.

"The relationships I've built — it's been unlike any other experience," said St. Clair. "A lot of outside noise got brought into it, but Bellefontaine was definitely a place I wanted to be. I wouldn't change it for the world. Bellefontaine has molded me into the person I am today. I've got a lot of love for this community."

Day impressed by St. Clair's growth, leadership

BY MATT HAMMOND
FOR THE EXAMINER

Ohio State head football coach Ryan Day was finally able to speak about his prized quarterback recruit and Day did not have a shortage of superlatives for



Bellefontaine's Tavien St. Clair.

St. Clair, who committed to Day and the Buckeyes during the summer before his junior season at BHS, made his decision official Wednesday by signing his letter of intent.

During his press conference discussing this year's class, Day pointed to St. Clair as being a focal point of the group the Buckeyes are bringing in.

"A lot of guys have been loyal along the way, on offense it really starts with Tavien," said Day of the recruits who selected Ohio State early in the process and remained solid in their commitment. "He has been a leader in the class."

Day and his staff have typically been hesitant to send out early offers to quarterbacks, instead choosing to see how they develop during their high school careers. But he said St. Clair brought so much to the table that it was an easy decision to offer a scholarship with two seasons of high school football left in his career.

"First off he is from Bellefontaine, OH, and that is important here," said Day. "He started coming in here as a eighth-grader, then came in as a freshman, and then every year he was growing and growing, to the point where he just continued to improve and grow. You just saw some traits in him that were unique."

With St. Clair residing in a community less than an hour from OSU's campus, Day said it made it easier to evaluate St. Clair and get a feel for how he would fit in with the Buckeyes.

"You can see the leadership skills in him," said Day. "I think he has done a really good job of leading his own team and being somebody that is very unique in Bellefontaine. He came down for almost every spring practice to get around guys and to see what is going on in terms of the meetings on the field and what it looks like."

"When he went on to some of the camps, the Elite 11, he really carried himself very, very well there, competed well. He knows what he is stepping into because he is around the facility has much as he is. He is going to come in and look to compete right away. I think he is excited to get here. He feels like it has been a long recruiting process. We are obviously excited to build around him."

St. Clair's signing ended a 10-year drought of Ohio State bringing in a quarterback from the state of Ohio. The last was Joe Burrow, who eventually transferred to LSU after two years in Columbus.

Day understands that there is a lot of pressure on St. Clair being from Ohio, and there will be an effort made to make him feel as comfortable as possible.

"We talked about the expectations," said Day. "It's not going to be normal for him. Being a quarterback from the state of Ohio is going to be different. We will have a plan for that and explain exactly what is going and what the expectations are. For him to be down here as much as he is, he has a pretty good feel for that."

St. Clair plans to graduate early from Bellefontaine and will enroll at OSU in time to participate in spring football.



A.J. Conaway of Bellefontaine works to get off a shot as he is surrounded by defenders from Marysville during Tuesday's game. Also pictured for Bellefontaine is C.J. Butler (33). (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Bellefontaine falls on road to Marysville to open year

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

Bellefontaine lost to Marysville 71-43 in non-league boys basketball action Tuesday night at Marysville. It was the season opener for the Chieftains.

Marysville took a 17-6 lead after one, then

outscored the Chieftains by five, 16-11, in the second. That made the halftime margin 33-17.

The third period was high scoring on both ends, with Marysville putting up 21 to Bellefontaine's 18. The Monarchs then held Bellefontaine to eight points in the fourth, while

scoring 17.

For Bellefontaine, C.J. Butler had 12 points. Jair Mundy scored 11 points and had eight rebounds. Jacob Salyer scored eight points and collected seven rebounds.

Bellefontaine (0-1) is off until Dec. 13 when they will host Urbana.

ROUNDUP

Lady Chiefs sweep; boys get split in double dual meet

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

Bellefontaine's swim teams competed in a double dual Tuesday night with Kenton and Mount Gilead.

The Lady Chieftains won both meets, defeating Kenton 51-43 and Mt. Gilead 74-15.

The boys teams earned a split, winning 47-32 over Mt. Gilead, and losing to Kenton 62-28.

In the girls meet, Kate Myers, Emma Nieto, Kaeleigh Flora and Elaina Ullom won the 400 free relay. Taking second were Kaidi Freeman, Ullom, Flora and Myers were second in the medley relay, and Claire McDaniel, Ella Fultz, Emma Merrin and Gillian Steele were second in the 200 free relay.

Individuals with top three finishes were Fultz taking first in the 50 freestyle; Freeman second in the 200 freestyle; Myers second in the 200 IM and 500 freestyle; McDaniel second in the 50 free and third in the 100 breaststroke; Flora second in the 100 butterfly and third in the 100 backstroke; Nieto second in the 100 backstroke and third in the 100 butterfly; and Ullom second in both the 100 freestyle and 100 breaststroke.

For the Chieftains boys, Ryan Alexander, Blaine Mitchell, Will Myers and Elias Abrego were second in the 400 free relay. Beckham Harman, Grady Feasel, Cody Hudson and Alexander were second in the 200 free relay. In the medley relay, Feasel, Hudson, Abrego and Harman took third.

Other top-three finishes were Hudson taking second in the 100 breaststroke, Myers second in the 500

freestyle, with third-place finishes by Mitchell in the 200 freestyle and Alexander in the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly. Abrego was second in the 100 butterfly and third in the 200 individual medley.

"For only our second meet, I'm happy to see our swimmers already improving some of their times from last season," said Coach Sharon Lewis. "I'm also proud of our athletes for stepping up to new and challenging events."

Bellefontaine returns to action Saturday at the Trotwood Sprint Invitational.

In other scholastic action:

Triad girls get league victory

Triad defeated Northeastern 53-19 in Ohio Heritage Conference girls basketball play on Wednesday.

The Lady Cardinals are now 1-1 in league play and 2-2 overall.

Mia LeMay had 22 points and 17 rebounds to lead Triad's offense. Abbey Overfield had 15 points, six steals and six rebounds. Jazz Ford scored seven points and made four steals. Melissa Graham had five points and six rebounds.

In the JV game, Northeastern won 19-16 in two quarters. For Triad, Taylor Queen had eight points, with four each by Lilli Fitak and Emma Bailey each scoring four.

Triad's next game is Saturday at home against Fairbanks. It will be a varsity only contest, which will start at 6 p.m.

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SPORTS

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SEC, Big Ten lead way for signings

BY STEVE MEGARREE
AP SPORTS WRITER

The arrival of the early signing period Wednesday offered a stark reminder for college football fans.

If recruiting rankings offer any accurate gauge in the era of the transfer portal, those teams competing for College Football Playoff berths now should keep contending for years to come.

Texas, Georgia, Alabama, Oregon and Ohio State are all on track to earn playoff invitations, and those five schools also are atop the team recruiting standings. It represents one more example of how the Southeastern Conference and Big Ten have separated

themselves from all the other leagues.

Steve Wiltfong, vice president of recruiting and the transfer portal for On3, said it's apparent why those programs continue recruiting so well.

"First and foremost, those are the programs with the most resources," Wiltfong said. "They're the programs that are having the most success on the field and in the NFL draft."

The order of those top classes remains in flux. The identity of the No. 1 class according to composite rankings of recruiting sites compiled by 247Sports may not be determined until Friday because of the uncertainty surrounding a couple of top-10 prospects.

Manchester (Georgia) defensive tackle Justus Terry, the nation's No. 10 overall recruit according to the 247Sports Composite, isn't expected to announce his college choice until Friday. Terry is considering Georgia, Texas and Auburn.

David Sanders of Providence Day School in Charlotte, North Carolina, is the nation's No. 1 offensive tackle and No. 5 overall recruit in his class. Sanders is committed to Tennessee, but he wasn't expected to sign on Wednesday as Ohio State continues to pursue him.

Terry was the rare prospect delaying his decision.

Most top recruits already committed to a school well

before the signing period, continuing a trend that took effect from the time a December signing date was added in 2017 to the traditional February signing period. This year, that early signing period was moved up a few weeks so that it would take place before the transfer window opens Monday.

This signing period also comes in the era of collectives and name, image and likeness opportunities allowing prospects to profit off their brand. LSU coach Brian Kelly called it "unlike any recruiting period that I've ever been involved in" and opened his news conference Wednesday by saying it "feels more like Tax Day than it does signing day."

"It's not just about finding the right fit academically," said Kelly, whose class ranked ninth as of Wednesday afternoon. "It's not just about finding the right fit where you can develop holistically and graduate and play for a championship. It's about what's the most money I can get. That's unfortunate, but it's the world we live in. You have to be able to adapt, and you have to be able to realign and be prepared."

While most prospects committed to schools months ago, some of them changed their minds down the stretch.

Oregon arguably had the

best day of anyone in flipping prospects.

The Ducks landed the 247Sports Composite's No. 11 overall prospect when cornerback Na'eem Offord made a switch from Ohio State. Oregon also added one of the nation's top 10 quarterback recruits in Jaron-Keawe Sagapolutele, who initially committed to California.

Oregon's class now includes three of the nation's top six cornerback prospects in Offord, Brandon Finney and Dorian Brew.

Perhaps the most notable development in the weeks leading up to the signing period was quarterback Bryce Underwood's decision last month to stay in his home state and play for Michigan after initially planning to play at LSU.

"It's huge," Michigan coach Sherrone Moore said. "He's an excellent player, obviously."

Underwood's switch brought late momentum for the defending national champions. Michigan will end up with a top-10 class this year after finishing outside the top 15 each of the last two recruiting cycles.

Michigan's recruiting emergence wasn't the only surprise.

Auburn was sixth in the 247Sports Composite team rankings as of Wednesday afternoon after posting a fourth consecutive losing season.

"I've been very clear since my arrival that I thought it would take three top-10 classes to overhaul our roster, to get it to where it's apples to apples with the elite in the country," Auburn coach Hugh Freeze said. "And man, today's one of those days where the first emotion you probably feel is relief and excitement is the next one."

Florida was the fastest-rising team in the recruiting rankings after coach Billy Napier earned a vote of confidence and freshman quarterback DJ Lagway helped the Gators win three straight games to close the regular season.

"I'm calling it the DJ Lagway effect," said Andrew Ivins, director of scouting for 247Sports. "They went from outside the top 50 to knocking on the door for a top-10 recruiting class. We haven't really seen that type of push ever."

While Georgia awaits Terry's decision, the Bulldogs signed two other home-state prospects who were rated among the nation's top nine recruits in the 247Sports Composite. Defensive lineman Elijah Griffin of Savannah Christian Prep is ranked third overall. Edge rusher Isaiah Gibson of Warner Robins is ninth.

Alabama's class is headlined by quarterback Keelon Russell, the nation's No. 2 overall prospect, according to 247Sports.

Roundup

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Pirates bowlers lose to Kenton

The Riverside boys bowling team lost to Kenton in a match at T-P Lanes on Wednesday.

Kenton won the varsity match 2,471 to 2,380. Leading for Riverside was Cooper Crouch with a 234 game and Zavier Herron with a 207 game.

In JV action, Kenton won 1,806 to 1,418. Ayden Mees had a game of 156 for Riverside. Riverside faces Bethel today at Rollhouse Lanes in Dayton.

Lady Raiders fall to Tecumseh

Benjamin Logan lost 60-43 to Tecumseh in crossover Central Buckeye

Conference play on Wednesday.

Daylin Varner scored 17 points for the Lady Raiders, with seven by Elliott Butler and Molly Siefring adding six.

The Arrows took a 26-9 lead after one period. Ben Logan kept things balanced the rest of the way, but could not close the gap.

In JV action, Ben Logan won 39-34. Bonnie Brunson had 11 points, with nine each by Bryleigh Burnside, Aubrey Harris, and Madison Shields.

Ben Logan is now 1-3 on the season. They next face Northwestern on the road Saturday at noon.

Lady Lakers defeated by Urbana

The Indian Lake girls basketball team lost at

home to Urbana 37-31 on Wednesday. Mackenzie Dixon had 10 points and seven rebounds for Indian Lake. Other scoring was Courtney Altstaetter and Kennedy Swaderer with six each and Rya Pequignot with five. Altstaetter also had six rebounds.

Urbana scored 16 in the first half, while Indian Lake had 11. Indian Lake got 12 in the third to Urbana's 11, but the visitors put up 10 to the Lady Lakers' eight in the fourth to get the win.

Indian Lake's junior varsity won 38-16. Terra Beltz had 19 points, Chloe Bordering eight and Haley Metzger five.

Indian Lake's season record is now 1-3. They will travel to Graham on Saturday. JV play begins at 6 p.m.

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