

Commissioners detail funding issues experienced by RTC Transportation

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

The Logan County Board of Commissioners (LCBOC) recently became aware that RTC Transportation Services would be reducing their scope of operations as of Jan. 17, 2025, and this week provided a detailed timeline regarding funding issues as reported by the organization.

"The Logan County Commissioners are extremely concerned about the loss of this valuable resource and are investigating options that will provide effective transportation to Logan County citizens," the commissioners said in a release.

July 18, 2024, the board of commissioners was made aware by representatives of RTC Services that RTC was experiencing financial losses due to reduced funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation.

"RTC indicated that they would need approximately \$350,000 to continue operations without cutting hours and services," the commissioners said in the release.

"The LCBOC at that time reached out to many state government elected officials to ask for consideration to reinstate the previous level of funding provided by the Federal Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). It was hoped that with funding reinstated, RTC could recover from these losses and continue to provide services



as normal."

While state legislators were considering the situation, representatives from RTC once again visited the commissioners Aug. 15 with an update. RTC indicated that they had begun to cut services, but had not cut hours.

The commissioners suggested that RTC should reach out to the state officials themselves and "tell the story" of their need for funding. The LCBOC offered to make calls again and to host a meeting with representatives with RTC to help communicate the great need for this funding.

Then on Oct. 3, RTC Services provided another update to the commissioners, indicating that RTC was behind on their single audits as required by law and to receive funding from ODOT.

The audits for years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 had not been completed as required. The accountant for the 2021 audit had become unavailable, and RTC was looking for a new accountant to handle the audit process.

RTC representatives said they had requested audit extensions during this time of hiring a new accountant and ODOT was aware of the status of the audits.

The new accountant was set to begin audit year 2021 in November 2024, to be completed in the first quarter of 2025, and continue on with each audit until finished.

The RTC representatives indicated in this meeting for the first time that ODOT would not award a contract to RTC until all of the audits were completed and that the RTC contract for reimbursement from ODOT expires on Jan. 19, 2025.

In addition, the Logan County Board of Commissioners became aware that a \$1.3 million federal grant program to rehab the Logan County Transportation hub building and garage at 315 W. Auburn Ave. was being suspended by ODOT due to the financial audits not being completed by RTC Services as required by ODOT and the Federal Department of Transportation. ODOT stated it would not fund the project until the RTC audits were completed.

Dec. 10, the RTC Board of Directors visited the commissioners' office and stated that ODOT was not reimbursing RTC for services provided and that RTC could not continue to provide public transportation due to this lack of reimbursement. At that time, the stated end date was anticipated as the first week of February 2025.

In addition, the RTC Services Board members indicated that since ODOT would no longer be reimbursing RTC Services for expenses after Jan. 19, 2025, that they would be suspending operations on that date.

LOCAL NOTES

'Examiner' printing schedule adjusted for this week

Ongoing production issues at our Findlay printing facility and the National Day of Mourning for President Jimmy Carter on Thursday, Jan. 9, have resulted in changes to the Examiner's printing schedule this week.

The Examiner was published Tuesday, Jan. 7, and will be published again on Saturday, Jan. 11. Online editions of the Examiner will be featured on our website at www.examiner.org in the interim.

There will be no print edition Thursday because of the federal holiday. The Examiner office will be closed on Thursday as well.

U.S. mail will not be delivered on Thursday, which coincides with the late centenarian leader's state funeral in Washington, D.C.

Please contact the Examiner office at (937) 592-3060 if you did not receive your newspaper.

Citizen Corps council meets Jan. 13

Logan County Citizen Corps Executive Council meets at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13, at the EMA Office, 1855 W. State Route 47, Bellefontaine.

All volunteers are welcome to attend for updates.

Community Recovery Team meets Jan. 21

Logan County Community Recovery Team meets at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, at Logan County Job and Family Services, 1 Hunter Place, Bellefontaine.

Midwest Regional ESC meets Jan. 23

The Midwest Regional Educational Service Center Governing Board meets Jan. 23 for its organizational meeting at 6 p.m. and the regular board meeting will be start at 6:30 p.m.

This public meeting takes place at 1973 W. State Route 47, Bellefontaine.

Security risk assessment program to launch

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

Washington Township Police Chief Michael Thompson updated the Lakeview Village Council during its meeting Monday, Jan. 6, highlighting recent activity and future plans for community safety.

Since taking over patrols in Lakeview, Washington Township officers have conducted 27 business checks, made six traffic stops and issued five warnings along with one citation. Officers have also responded to various calls, including reports of a suspicious person, reckless

vehicle operation and an animal complaint.

Chief Thompson announced plans for a business security risk assessment program. This initiative will allow local businesses to have their security measures evaluated by officers, who will provide recommendations for improvement.

He also noted that two officers are scheduled to attend ALICE active shooter response training in March. Once completed, Washington Township Police will be equipped to train churches and other local organizations on how to respond to active shooter situations.



The police chief also noted the department's focus on learning the geography of Lakeview and keeping a visible presence within the community. Officers have prioritized building relationships with businesses and ensuring they feel supported and secure.

Bellefontaine holds off BL

BY MIKE FRANK
EXAMINER SPORTS WRITER

The better you know a team, the more intense it gets.

Bellefontaine and Benjamin Logan squared off in a Central Buckeye Conference girls basketball game Tuesday, with the Chieftains getting a 48-38 victory.

The game was close until the final minutes, with Ben Logan taking a lead in the second quarter and staying within a few points during the second half.

Bellefontaine overcame foul trouble for its starters and shooting issues, moving to 5-1 in the CBC and 8-4 overall.

The Lady Raiders fall to 0-7 in conference play and are now 1-11.

Quin Zedeker had 17 points to lead Bellefontaine's scoring. Hailee Lamb had 11 and Tiffany Boop put in 10.

"We've been struggling from the field these past couple games," said Bellefontaine coach Meghan Ashcraft. "Our percentages have been a little bit low. The girls are battling through that right now. We're trying to just keep them together as a team and get them to stay positive and work together."

She added that "what we do from here is what is going to make us who we are. Once they turned the defense up, then we started making those little buckets and getting turnovers we needed to pull the game out."



Hailee Lamb of Bellefontaine goes between Lahna Cook (left) and Kaylee Hays (right) of Benjamin Logan during the second half of Wednesday's game. (EXAMINER PHOTO | MIKE FRANK)

Ben Logan had three players with 10 points apiece, which pleased coach Greg Saylor, as well as the team's shot selection. They were sophomore Kylie Harner, freshman Daylin Varner and junior post player Adilynne Gregg. Harner

missed last season due to injury.

"(Gregg) is learning how physical CBC play can be, especially a crossover game," said Saylor. "Bellefontaine know us. We know (them). They're so well coached. Really great people with really

great program. They came and we had a great game."

"It is a lot about winning the 'next'," he added. "Whatever the next thing is, win that. Whatever just happened is done and over with." He pointed to a sequence where Joplin Schneider missed a shot, then converted on her next chance. "They're really starting to embrace that and we are moving in the right direction."

The first eight minutes saw limited scoring on both ends. Ben Logan got a three-point play by Gregg to start the game, then did not score again until Lahna Cook hit a shot with a minute to go.

Bellefontaine connected on just three shots, one by Boop and two from Gabbe Hoon.

Zedeker scored twice in the opening minute of the second period, but the Raiders answered each. The first was a three by Varner and the other came from Gregg. Schneider got a putback with 6:20 to go to put the hosts ahead 12-10.

Boop hit from long distance for the Chieftains, with Harner's layup taking the lead back once more as it neared the midway point.

The back and forth continued. Bellefontaine got an end to end sprint and score by Lamb, then a 3-ball from Zedeker. Ben Logan pulled back even with a steal and layup by Schneider and a layup from Varner.

See GIRLS on Page 3

Chieftains girls bowlers set records in win



GRACIE HOOD

BY THE EXAMINER STAFF

The Bellefontaine girls bowlers had team and individual records set in a win over Northwestern.

The team had a total of 2,892 to reach a new high mark for a match total. Northwestern finished with 2,249.

Gracie Hood rolled a 558 series with two games of 279. That is a

record for a series, breaking her own mark of 445. Hood also went over 30,000 pins for her career.

Chloe Heminger had a 402 series (200-202), followed by Haylee Yelton at 401 (187-214), Avery Mullins at 351 (190-161) and Nevaeh LaFollette rounding it out with 338 (167-171)

They had 2,050 in the regulation games and 842 in the four Baker game set.

Northwestern won the boys match with a total of 3,016 to the Chieftains' 2,826.

Rory Pierce had the high series for Bellefontaine at 495 (231-264). Next was Alex Moon with 442 (231-211), then David Allen at 324 (169-155). Other game scores were Robert Spain (219), Paul LaFollette (206), and Colton Wisner (155).

See ROUNDUP on Page 3

Girls



Joplin Schneider of Ben Logan (24) keeps her eye on the basket as she is pursued by Quin Zedecker (left) and Rylie Reames (right) of Bellefontaine. (EXAMINER PHOTO | MIKE FRANK)

Bellefontaine drew fouls in the homestretch and made four of six to lead 22-18 at the break.

Harner hit from behind the arc to open the third on a good note for the Raiders. She added a free throw with just over five minutes to go, tying the score.

Bellefontaine's first point didn't come until 4:25 to play, on a foul shot by Emma Whitaker. Boop and Hoon each their third foul, with Hoon sitting out until the fourth quarter.

Bellefontaine managed to get shots by Whitaker and Zedecker to drop. After the good start, Ben Logan had just three points in the rest of the period, all on free throws.

An over-the-shoulder shot by Lamb went through at the end of the period for a 33-25 lead.

Ben Logan kept battling, however. After trading scores, Harner made two at the line. Zedecker scored for Bellefontaine, but a three and a fast break score from Varner cut the gap to just three, 37-34.

The officials gave their whistles quite the workout in the fourth quarter, calling things very tightly. Almost all the scoring took place at the free throw line. Ben Logan managed to get it down to two points a couple of times.

A layup by Zedecker with 2:40 left and foul shots by Lamb gave the Chiefs a six-point edge, and they closed things out from there, winning by 10.

Bellefontaine won the JV contest 41-19.

Bellefontaine (5-1, 8-4 overall) is at Kenton Ridge on Saturday night. Ben Logan (0-7 CBC, 1-11) will also play Saturday, hosting Graham.

In the other girls basketball contests Wednesday:

Triad falls to Southeastern

Triad lost to Southeastern 66-24 in Ohio Heritage Conference play at home.

The Lady Cardinals are now 2-8 in the OHC and 3-11 overall.

Mia LeMay had 10 points and four rebounds, while Abbey Overfield got 10 points and two assists. Jazz Ford and Melissa Graham got two points each.

Triad will be back in action Saturday when they are at Greenon. The varsity only game starts at 7:30 p.m.

Indian Lake downs Cougars

Indian Lake defeated Kenton Ridge by a score of 55-37 in CBC action at home.

Carly Strayer had 16 points, Mackenzie Dixon got 15 and Courtney Altstaetter scored 10 for the Lakers.

Dixon also had six assists and five steals, while Altstaetter grabbed eight rebounds.

The junior varsity won 34-31. Terra Beltz had 15 points and 12 rebounds, Chloe Borgerding scored eight, and Haley Metzger had five points and three assists.

Indian Lake improves to 10-4 overall and 5-1 in the CBC. They take on Shawnee Saturday. The JV game (two quarters) starts at 2 p.m.

Roundup

Bellefontaine had 2,023 in the regular games and 803 in the Bakers.

The JV lost by a count of 2,179 to 1,865. Timmy Phillips had the high series of 344 (158-186).

Bellefontaine's boys will participate in a tournament on Saturday at Poelking Lanes in Dayton. The girls are off until next Thursday when they will face Tecumseh.

Raiders split with Kenton Ridge

The Benjamin Logan boys bowlers handed Kenton Ridge its first loss of the season Wednesday in a match at T-P Lanes.

The Raiders had 2,902 total pins to the Cougars' 2,796.

For Ben Logan, Jarrett Buckenroth had a 480 series (227-253). Nate Davis rolled a 450 (248-202), followed by Landon Stoodt at 414 (236-178), Dylan Stewart with 405 (206-199) and Caleb Knight with 382 (180-202).

They had 2,131 pins in regular games and 771 in the four Bakers.

Kenton Ridge edged the Raiders junior varsity 2,192 to 2,141.

Conner Chambers had a 335 series (175-160), followed by Wyatt LeVan with 327 (172-155); Jace Lyons 326 (189-137); Colton Klopfenstein 318 (168-150). Asher Wade contributed with a 165 game.

In the girls' match, Kenton Ridge won 2,433 to 2,203. Aubrey Zedlitz had a 364 series (235-129), followed by Loralie Klopfenstein at 340 (176-164) and Hunter McColloch had a 170 game.

Ben Logan will take on Indian Lake Monday at 4 p.m. at T-P Lanes.

SWIMMING

Raiders in action at tri-meet

Ben Logan competed in a meet with Kenton and Lima Senior on Tuesday.

Individual winners for the girls were Lottie Bodin in the 200 individual medley, and Fiona Sweeney in the 50 and 500 freestyles.

Winnie Bodin was second in the 50 free and third in the 200 free. Other second place finishers were Annika Chappell in the 100 butterfly; Annika Schmidt in the 100 free; Kelley Forsythe in the 500 free;

and Leah Braddock in the 100 breaststroke. Taking third were Kaydence Hamlin in the 100 backstroke and Lottie Bodin in the 100 breaststroke.

The 200 medley relay (Annika Chappell, W. Bodin, Sweeney, Lottie Bodin) and 200 free relay (W. Bodin, Chappell, L. Bodin, Sweeney) both took first place. They 400 free relay (Hamlin, Kylie Curtis, Catherine Bramlage and Forsythe) took third place. Also third was Hamlin, Braddock, Montana Coleman and Schmidt in the 200 medley relay.

Boys event winners were Landon Braddock in the 50 freestyle, Liam Sweeney in the 100 butterfly, and Utah Coleman in the 500 freestyle.

Earning runner-up spots were Liam Sweeney in the 200 IM, Carter Daniels in the 50 freestyle and 100 breaststroke, and Landon Braddock in the 100 free.

Taking third were Utah Coleman in the 200 free, Joe Meeker in the 200 IM and Dylan Vance in the 100 backstroke.

Relay results were second in the 200 medley (Braddock, Daniels, Sweeney, Jerrick Stephens) and third in the 400 free relay (Tavvo Simovart, Gavin Jordan, Colton Waley, Carter Yoder). In the 200 free relay, the combo of Sweeney, Stephens, Daniels and Braddock took second, with Vance, Wyatt Gordon, Joe Meeker and Holden Zehner in third.

Ben Logan will face Wapakoneta this evening.

JUNIOR HIGH

Raiders split with Jackson Center

The Ben Logan eighth grade boys basketball team defeated Jackson Center 23-20 Wednesday. Micah Gregg had 10 points, Gabe Predmore five, Carrick Spriggs three, Brantley Korn three, and Karson McCoy two.

Jackson Center won the seventh grade game 38-24. Luke Long and Nevada Coleman each had six points, Preston Mikes scored four, and Gavin Vermillion, Robert Sims, Carter Nagel and Zayden Wilson each put in two.