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WEEK OF WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 30, 2015 | WWW.TROYTRIB.COM

Red Cross Ready for Home Fire Preparedness Program

By **Brittany Arlene Jackson**

The Red Cross is gearing up for a Home Fire Preparedness initiative in 2016. Over the last several years, their studies have shown that seven times a day, someone in the United States dies in a house fire. The purpose of the campaign is to help reduce that number, save lives, and prevent injuries. Their goal is to see a 25% reduction of deaths or injuries by home fire in the next 5 years.

According to Miami County Red Cross Executive Director, Lynne Gump, this campaign is one of the most practical services and the least expected or desired. “We like to work with the local fire department,” Gump said. “Everyone loves firefighters and we have some really good ones in Troy.” Their greatest challenge is getting people to allow Red Cross volunteers into their homes to install or check smoke alarms and give the residents an escape plan in the event of a fire. The National Fire Protection Association, estimates that approximately 4% of homes without smoke alarms are more than a quarter of reported fires and at least one-third of the deaths. “Often, older smoke alarms will not go off like they are supposed to,” Gump said. “We train our volunteers to thoroughly check alarms and educate people, based on the floor plan of their home, how best to escape.”

The Red Cross encountered one case last year where volunteers had recently visited a family before their home caught on fire. The family utilized the escape plan given by volunteers and sustained no injuries. “We want to have more success stories like that,” Gump said. “Our case workers often arrive on

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2015 – A Year in Review

By **Nancy Bowman**

January

Troy City Council President Martha “Marty” Baker said she would seek re-election. Baker planned to seek her fifth, two-year term as council president. She previously served as the 2nd Ward council representative.

A special prosecutor from Champaign County was appointed to conduct an investigation into alleged wrongdoing in the Miami County Sheriff’s Office.

An investigation was initiated after a Troy police officer shot and wounded Kenneth Coleman Jr. outside his apartment on the city’s east side. Coleman survived his injury. Police said he was shot after allegedly failing to drop a knife as requested by an investigating police officer.

Troy Strawberry Festival organizers announced the 39th year of the festival would feature a salute to bowling. Chairman Doug Stone unveiled the festival theme of Bowling for Berries.

The Concord Township trustees named Don Pence as chair for the year and Bill Whitten as vice chair.

February

Troy Fire Chief Chris Boehring announced he would retire in early March, setting into motion the chief replacement process.

Jeannine Pratt was sworn in as the new judge in Miami County Common Pleas Court. She was elected in 2014 to fill the seat vacated with the retirement of Judge Robert Lindeman.

The city of Troy said it would pay for an independent review of fire department operations, staffing and hiring practices.

The Troy City Schools’ Board of Education extended superintendent Eric Herman’s contract for three years.

Miami County’s Board of Elections said it would be searching for a new director with the upcoming departure of Drew Hig-



City Council President Martha Baker

gins, who said he would resign because he had a new job opportunity and would be moving from the county.

Businesswoman Patty Rose said she would challenge incumbent Mayor Mike Beamish in the race for Troy mayor in the Republican primary.

Three teen girls died of carbon monoxide poisoning at a South Elm Street residence. Carbon monoxide detector giveaway programs and public education efforts followed the deaths.

March

The nonprofit Miami Valley Veterans Museum in Troy unveiled its new look following remodeling.

Miami County Sheriff Charles Cox assured the public that he was still running the department despite complications from surgery.

The Troy schools hired Matt Siefroy as new principal of Van Cleve school for the 2015-16 school year with the pending retirement of principal Paul Keller.

April

Troy City Schools Superintendent Eric Herman told those gathered for the annual State of the Schools presentation the district had “a lot of really good things going on.”

A lighthouse returned to Troy’s

Treasure Island area, a gift to the city on the Foundation’s 90th anniversary in 2014.

A Troy man charged with felonious assault following a January encounter in which he was shot by a Troy police officer was found incompetent to stand trial. Kenneth Coleman Jr., 31, was shot in the legs. Municipal Court Judge Gary Nasal ordered Coleman taken to the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services at the Northwest Ohio Psychiatric Hospital for competency restoration.

May

Troy Mayor Mike Beamish was elected to a fourth term while school district residents approved renewal of a 5.9-mill, five-year operating levy.

Long-time Miami County Sheriff’s Deputy Tina Waymire filed suit in federal court against the sheriff’s department involving her pay while serving as the K-9 handler. She was placed on administrative leave the same day by the department because of what the department described only as an investigation.

A special prosecutor who investigated allegations of criminal activity involving handling of sheriff’s sale deeds said he found “no credible evidence of any wrongdoing sufficient to justify a presentation” to a county grand jury.

Troy was selected as a quarter finalist in the America’s Best Communities competition.

Troy’s Sculptures on the Square this year features one large sculpture by artist Seward Johnson. The monumental “Return Visit,” a 30-foot, 40-pound bronze sculpture featuring Abraham Lincoln was placed on the Courthouse lawn and welcomed at a May 3 ceremony.

A wrongful death lawsuit was filed by the administrators of the estates of three Troy girls who

continued on **Page 8**

Driver Pleads in Troy Man’s Death



By **Nancy Bowman**

A Sidney man faces up to eight years in prison and a lifetime driver’s license suspension after pleading no contest Dec. 22 to aggravated vehicular homicide and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence in a March crash on Interstate 75. Eric Pellman, 41, was charged following the crash in which Philip Smith II, 33, of Troy died.

Pellman was found guilty of the charges during a hearing in Miami County Common Pleas Court.

State troopers said Pellman was driving southbound near the Ohio 55 exit at Troy when his vehicle made a “dramatic lane change” before overturning and landing on a guardrail. A county grand jury indictment against Pellman accused him of having cocaine in his system at the time of the crash.

He faces up to eight years in prison for aggravated vehicular homicide at his Feb. 8 sentencing. The OMVI charge carries up to six months in the county jail. Pellman remains in the county jail pending sentencing.

McGail Conviction Upheld

By **Nancy Bowman**

Patrick McGail’s conviction in the 2013 shooting death of Nate Wintrow of Troy was upheld Dec. 22 by Ohio’s 2nd District Court of Appeals. The court in addition reversed a portion of McGail’s sentence and ordered the case back to Miami County for resentencing.

McGail, 19, of Troy was one of three Troy teens convicted in the death of Wintrow, who was shot when McGail and Jason Sowers, 18, broke into his Canal Street home with

plans to steal money and marijuana. Wintrow was shot fatally during an altercation when the intruders were confronted.

Sowers and Brandon Terrel, 21, of Troy pleaded to charges in the death and were sentenced to 18 years to life and 14 years, respectively. McGail was tried by a jury in August 2014 and found guilty of murder, aggravated robbery, aggravated burglary and a firearms specification. He was sentenced to 24 years to life in prison.

The appeals court upheld one of McGail’s claims of error in handling the case. It found that he should not have been sentenced on convictions for both murder and aggravated robbery because they were part of the same act.

Common Pleas Judge Christopher Gee sentenced McGail to 15 years to life for murder and six years for aggravated robbery, to be served concurrently, plus six years consecutive for aggravated robbery and three years consecutive for

aggravated burglary.

The appeals court said prosecutors would choose either the murder or aggravated robbery charge for sentencing.

McGail’s six other claims of error included allegations of juror and prosecutor misconduct, claims the convictions were against the evidence, the court should not have imposed more than the mandatory minimum sentence, ineffective assistance of counsel and an overall cumulative error.



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Sheriff Reports

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:17 a.m. To Wilson Rd. for a report of theft. A woman reported that several items of jewelry were missing from her residence. There was no sign of forced entry. She said that her adult children and her son's girlfriend have unsupervised access to her home. The deputy reported that he will be contacting her children at a later time.

8:49 a.m. To S. County Rd. 25A for a report of a theft. A man reported that items were stolen from his business.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

3:20 p.m. To Troy–Urbana Rd. for a report of a fraud. A woman reported that someone opened a fraudulent account using her personal information.

4:55 p.m. To W. St. Rt. 55 for a report of a burglary. A man reported that he returned home from work and found his front door standing open and several items were stolen.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

2:25 a.m. Traffic stop on Rusk Rd. at Piqua Troy Rd. The driver was found to be driving under suspension.

2:40 p.m. To the 1600 block of N. County Rd. 25A for a report of a disturbance. No further details were provided.

8:01 p.m. To S. State Rt. 202 for a report of phone harassment. A woman was warned with criminal trespass and phone harassment. Less than an hour after the initial warning, the female texted the RP. She was cited with one count of telecommunications harassment.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

6:57 p.m. A Rockingham Dr. resident came to the Sheriff's office with a menacing complaint occurring on Facebook. After speaking with the RP, it was determined that no direct threats of harm were made.

Saturday, December 26

4:53 p.m. To Magnolia Dr. for a report of a stolen vehicle. The vehicle was later located by Huber Heights Police and was picked up by the owner.

10:46 p.m. Traffic stop at Fulton Farms. The driver was placed under arrest for OVI.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

1:24 a.m. To 1st St. for a report of a domestic disturbance. No further details were given.

Trib Briefs

By Nancy Bowman

Oath ceremony Wednesday

The city of Troy will hold an oath of office ceremony for elected officials whose terms begin Jan. 1 on Wednesday, Dec. 30, at council chambers in Troy City Hall. The ceremony will be at 4 p.m. The elected officials to be sworn in include the mayor, council president, council members, city auditor and law director.

Gifts given for ballfields

The Troy Foundation Distribution Committee has awarded the city \$100,000 for development of the baseball fields planned for land being added to Paul G. Duke Park. Mayor Mike Beamish announced the gift during city council's Dec. 21 meeting. The committee also has awarded \$30,000 to the Miracle League field project. "Aren't we blessed to have a foundation that cares so much about our community that the distribution committee is willing to give us that kind of funds to help us spur that development," Beamish said. Also during the meeting, Beamish and Council President Marty Baker presented plaques to departing law director Jim Livingston, departing auditor John Stickel and Councilman at large Alan Clark, who served six, two-year terms.

The Miami County commissioners voted Dec. 22 to approve a contract with R.T. Industries to provide workers for recycling pick up at events and festivals. The workers also will collect glass-recycling containers at Miami County businesses in 2016. R.T. Industries will be paid \$10.94 per hour, per worker and \$14 per hour for the supervisor. The total cost of the contract is not to exceed \$7,500. In other business, the commission approved a contract with Accu-Medical Waste Service Inc. for pick up and proper disposal of sharps needles at a cost not to exceed \$25 per 30-gallon container. The departments receiving the service will include: county sanitary engineering department, public health, Tipp City police, Piqua police, sheriff's office and incarceration facility.

Commission OKs R.T. contract

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Holiday delays collection

Troy's refuse collection and curb-side recycling will be delayed New Year's Day. The collections will remain on schedule this week until Friday, New Year's when there will be no pick up. The normal collection by city crews and recycling crews will be delayed one day until Saturday, Jan. 2. The refuse and recycling items must be placed out for collection by 7 a.m. Questions about the trash and recycling schedules should be directed to the city at 335-1914.

Trial delay sought

The lawyer for Hope Earnshaw-York, facing felony indictments associated with the death of her grandfather, has requested a continuance of her trial until after the trial for Richard Terrel, who is charged with William York Sr.'s murder. Public Defender Steve King filed the motion to continue the Earnshaw-York trial in Miami County Common Pleas Court on Dec. 22. King stated in the motion that



Hope Earnshaw-York

Earnshaw-York is a cooperating witness in the case against Terrel, a fact that impacts the status of her case. King asks for any Earnshaw-York trial to follow that of Terrel. The trial for Earnshaw-York and Terrel was scheduled for Jan. 26. Terrel's lawyer earlier asked for a continuance. A new trial date has not been set.

Terrel has pleaded not guilty to murder, gross abuse of a corpse, felonious assault, tampering with evidence and theft. Earnshaw-York faces charges of tampering with evidence, gross abuse of a corpse and theft. She has pleaded not guilty.

County Approves Budget

By Nancy Bowman

The Miami County commissioners Dec. 22 approved the county's 2016 budget including \$30 million in general fund appropriations, a 3.8 percent increase over 2015. The commissioners said the increase was attributed to inflation, a full year of operating two prisoner pods at the county Incarceration Facility (IF) and the planned opening of a third pod to house female prisoners next spring. The 3.8 percent increase in general fund appropriations "is coming from normal, customary inflationary increases of running a county this size and also for appropriating and planning for the opening of the third pod at the

Incarceration Facility," Commissioner John "Bud" O'Brien said. The overall county appropriations for 2016 total \$96.977 million. The general fund revenues are projected at \$24.6 million with the commission projecting a year end balance at \$28.5 million. The commissioners noted the revenue projection is a "very conservative" figure. Commission President Jack Evans said the general fund appropriations usually exceed the conservatively projected income but added commissioners "don't expect to spend all of that." "If the state doesn't cut us anymore and sales tax continues to be strong we should make that number," Evans said of the projected balance.

Commissioner Richard Cultice said he thinks the county is "in a very good financial position." "We have been able to do a lot of things we were not able to do in prior years because of the down economy," Cultice said pointing to a number of capital projects made in a "catch up mode" during the past couple years. With that spending the county is "getting back to where things should be," he said. The expenses associated with the third IF pod opening include hiring four new correction officers. Sheriff's Chief Deputy Dave Duchak said he was told the overall increase in the sheriff's office budget for 2016 is 2.8 percent, which includes 2 percent for negotiated employee wages. In opening the third pod, the county will no longer pay Shelby County to house up to 15 female prisoners a day at a cost of \$55 daily. The county has been paying to house extra female prisoners in Shelby County since August 2014. The cost for that housing was around \$300,000 a year. The housing agreement will continue until the IF is ready to open, which is projected in the spring. All three commissioners thanked other elected officials and department heads for working to maintain control over spending.

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The Troy Foundation Awards Grants

At their December meeting the Distribution Committee of The Troy Foundation reviewed forty-five grant applications. The grants were awarded through the General Fund of The Troy Foundation. In the end, The Troy Foundation is pleased to announce thirty-eight organizations were chosen to receive \$416,406 as follows:

Child Care Choices	\$ 450	Workshop Technology Support
Troy City Schools, Cookson Elementary	\$ 885	Girls on the Run Shoe Scholarships
First Place Food Pantry	\$ 960	Food Pantry Transportation
St. Patrick Catholic School	\$ 989	Family Science Night
Child Care Choices	\$1,000	Yoga for Child Care Providers
The King Team	\$1,000	Martin Luther King Celebration
Troy City Schools, Heywood Elementary	\$1,128	Professional Development Conference
Miami County Educational Service	\$1,337	Speech Therapy Materials
Darke County Recovery Services	\$1,576	New Chairs at Troy Location
Muscular Dystrophy Association	\$1,600	MDA Summer Camp for Troy Students
Darke County Recovery Services	\$1,974	Tele-heath Start Up for Troy Location
Troy City Schools, Kyle Elementary	\$1,998	Movement in the Classroom Project
St. Joseph's House	\$2,000	Cold Shelter
Overfield Tavern Museum	\$2,000	Progressive Publicity for Local History Phase III
Troy Junior Basketball Association	\$2,500	Adjustable Basketball Hoops at Heywood
Troy City Schools, High School	\$3,010	New Equipment for Wrestling Team
GIVE Medical Ministry (New Path, Inc.)	\$3,750	Purchase of New Lift Chairs
Friends of Hayner, Inc.	\$4,000	Rental and Shipping Fee of Art Exhibit
Invent Now, Inc.	\$5,000	Camp Invention in Troy
Troy City Schools	\$6,350	Centennial Anniversary of Troy Basketball
WACO Historical Society	\$6,739	Barn Maintenance
Troy Strawberry Festival, Inc.	\$7,500	40th Anniversary Archive Project
Big Brothers, Big Sisters	\$9,000	Mentor Troy
The Future Begins Today	\$10,000	General Program Support
Troy Nursing Association and Troy Milk Fund, Inc.	\$10,000	Emergency Assistance for Food and Milk
Boy Scouts of America	\$10,000	Scouting in Troy – Positive Alternative
Troy-Hayner Cultural Center	\$11,000	2016 Summer Music Series
Troy-Miami County Public Library	\$11,150	Community Partnership Plan
Family Abuse Shelter	\$11,806	Electrical and Security Improvements
American Red Cross	\$15,000	Disaster Response Cycle for Troy Residents
Habitat for Humanity	\$15,000	Recycle and Repair Efforts
Partners in Hope	\$17,000	Education and Development
Apple Grants	\$17,404	Apple Grant Funding for 2016
Health Partners Free Clinic	\$23,000	Service Hours Expansion
Troy Development Council	\$28,300	Education on Career Opportunities
Miracle Field	\$30,000	Miracle Field at Duke Park
Troy City Schools, High School	\$40,000	Strength Training Equipment
City of Troy, Ohio	\$100,000	Baseball Field Development at Duke Park

The Distribution Committee meets quarterly to review grant applications. Only organizations with a 501(c)3 status are eligible to apply. For more information about the foundation and its funds that make these grants possible please visit www.thetroy-foundation.org. The deadline for submitting a grant application for the next quarterly meeting is Tuesday, February 16th by 4pm for review at the March meeting.

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Eagles Back On Track With Win

By Jim Dabbelt

Troy Christian used 13 points from Lauren Lavy and 12 from Hailey Peters to capture their fifth victory of the season last week, defeating Yellow Springs 51-31 to run their record to 5-3 overall. The Eagles are now off until January 4 and will enjoy a nice Christmas break.

The Eagles started fast in the game, jumping out to a 10-0 lead in the opening quarter. Troy Christian then fell apart in the second quarter and watched as the Bulldogs took an 18-14 lead at the half.

“We got the ball inside and scored early in the game, but then we started missing a lot of easy shots,” Troy Christian coach Dick Steineman said. “We lost our focus and concentration in

the second quarter, and they hit a couple of three’s and got back into the game.”

“We wanted to refocus at half-time and come back out and do what we were supposed to do.”

Another obstacle standing in the way for the Eagles was high-scoring Liz Smith, averaging over 20 points per game for the Bulldogs.

“We started out in a box-and-one on Liz and scrapped that at halftime,” Steineman said. “We then went man-to-man with Meredith Hadded on her, and denying her the ball. The kids stepped up and played great defense, and on offense we started working the ball around and started to score in the paint.”

Haddad held Smith to eight

points while she was on her, and according to Steineman, she is a game changer.

“Meredith is a relentless worker and we challenged her,” the coach said. “I told her if we can hold her to under 17, we can win. She had three at half, and Meredith stepped up to the challenge and is starting to get into basketball shape.”

In the second half, Troy Christian outscored Yellow Springs 37-13 enroute to the win. It was a team effort that led the Eagles to a big 16 minutes.

“We had three girls in double figures in rebounds, and Kinley Blake was huge off the bench in the second half. On the boards, we got after them in the second half. We had a size advantage on

them and the posts delivered in the second half.”

Lavy added 10 rebounds to her point total, while Peters grabbed 13 boards. Also scoring for Troy Christian was Kathryn Lee with eight points and 12 rebounds, Haddad six points, five rebounds, five assists, Blake eight points.

Troy Christian is now 5-3 and turning their focus on the new year ahead.

“That was a big win, and each win builds confidence and we want to continue this winning tradition.”

The Eagles return to the court January 4 against Xenia Christian at home.

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Eagles See MBC Winning Streak End

By Jim Dabbelt

Before the season began, Troy Christian coach Ray Zawadzki knew that the challenges would be there in order to maintain the dominance that the Eagles had over the rest of the Metro Buckeye Conference. One of those teams mentioned was Yellow Springs, as the Bulldogs returned a lot of talent and would pose an immediate threat to the Eagles.

Last week, the Bulldogs came to Troy and ended the 42-game league winning streak of the Eagles, leading from start to finish as they knocked off Troy Christian 45-31 to run their record to 7-1 overall, 5-0 in the conference. With the loss, Troy Christian dropped to 4-2 overall, and for the first time since 2012, suf-

fered a league loss.

“I am really proud of my kids, I thought they played really hard,” Zawadzki said. “We went the entire night and could not make a three-point shot, which ultimately hurt us because we had some really good looks, the ball just wouldn’t go in tonight.”

Yellow Springs started out to a quick 6-0 lead on a three and an ensuing old-fashioned three-point play, and increased their lead out to 8-1 before the Eagles could connect on their first field goal of the game with 2:45 left in the opening period from James Anderson.

The Eagles could only muster that one field goal in the first period, but free throws from Peyton

Spurlock and Seth Wynne kept the Eagles close, trailing 10-6 after one.

The Bulldogs added to their lead early in the second, pushing it out to nine as the offense from both teams was quiet in the second quarter. With the Bulldogs leading 18-8, Luke Dillahunt hit a layup as did Wynne, keeping Troy Christian in the game. Both offenses failed to produce over the final 2:41 of the half, and the Bulldogs took a 19-12 lead into the break.

In the second half, Troy Christian cut the lead down to three points, but Yellow Springs answered with consecutive three’s to extend their lead out to nine.

“In the fourth quarter, we did

a good job by not quitting and attacking their zone,” Zawadzki said. Once the Eagles cut the Bulldogs lead to three, Devon Perry hit consecutive three’s to give Yellow Springs the win.

“The kids are continuing to learn and grow, and we are getting better as a group. For as young as we are, we won’t be the same team in February as we are right now.”

Seth Wynne led Troy Christian with 10 points, the only player in double figures.

Troy Christian is back in action tonight in the final day of the Pi-qua tournament after playing in the opening round last night.

Troy Notes: Trojans Comeback Falls Short

A furious comeback by the Troy Trojans fell short last week, as the boys' basketball team lost on the road at Belmont 72-66. In a game that saw the Trojans only score seven points in the second period, was capped by them scoring 33 in the fourth, but it wasn't enough as they fell short in the non-conference game.

Belmont led 26-20 at the half, and took their lead out to 46-33 heading to the fourth. Both teams combined for 59 points in the last eight minutes.

Troy was led in scoring by Ryan McClurg with 21, Austin Persinger added 19 and Romello Yaqub scored 10. Troy connected on seven three's in the game.

Troy returns to action January 5 at West Carrollton, then hosts Butler January 8 and Tecumseh the following evening.

Troy Boys Bowling- The Trojans edged Greenville 2028-2015 in a GWOC battle last week. Landon Flory led Troy with 189-199, Aaron Stone bowled 203-177, Hayden Jackson rolled a 176-162, Jason Shiltz had a 128-175 and AJ Kendall finished with 100-202.

Troy Girls Bowling- For the Troy girls' they cruised past Greenville 2130-1565. Jenna Stone led the way with a 208-232, Rachel Darrow had 196-183, Kirsten McMullen 156-171, A'leigha Smith 201, Cassidy McMullen 190, Alyssa Shilt 164, Jennica Funderburg 146.

Troy Hockey- The Troy Trojan Hockey team was playing at Hobart Arena against the Alter Nights in a league match up. Troy was pretty banged up after Saturday nights' game and were missing 3 players to injuries but battled to a 6-3 victory over the Knights. Caleb Mangas was in the goal for the second night getting some needed ice time.

Alter skated well and scored first at the 3:44 mark to take the lead. Tyler Hess answered on a great shot with the assists going to Michael Hess and Enrique Alejandre. The first ended all knotted up at 1-1 with Troy out shooting Alter 4-2.

Tyler Hess started the second period and was fired up. He scored again two minutes into the second to give Troy the lead for good. Nate Uhlenbrock scored with the assists going to Hess and Alejandre. The second ended with Troy on top 3-1.

The Third period found Troy installing Shaemus Nevin in as goalie and first shot he saw sailed past him on a power play to make it a 3-2 game. AJ Noll applied puck pressure and it paid off when he took the puck away and scored an unassisted goal to make it 4-2 Troy. Noll then found Prestyn Hoefler in front of the goal and Hoefler made it a 5-2 game. With that assist, Noll hit 90 assists for his career tying the Troy high School record. All eyes were on Hess as he took a Charlie Ryan pass and hit his third goal of the game giving him his first hat trick. Alter scored with eight seconds left to make the final score 6-3.

Mangas stopped 15 of 17 shots. Nevin stopped one of the two shots he saw. Noll had one goal and one assist. Uhlenbrock and Hoefler had one goal each. Alejandre had 2 assists. Hess, Charlie Ryan and John Wehrkamp each had one assist.

“This night belonged to Hess with his relentless hustle and determination,” said Troy coach Phill Noll. “Tyler played like he was on a mission with his 3 goals and 1 assist, and was the determining factor with his physical play, his hard skating and his never give up attitude.”

Troy is now 2-0-1 in the league and will take the ice next in Dayton at the Mayor Cup this weekend.

Sports Schedule

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30
5:00 p.m. Troy Christian swimming Tri-meet with Oak Hills and Miami East @ Oak Hills HS
SATURDAY, JANUARY 2
9:00 a.m. Troy HS wrestling invitational @ Troy HS
9:00 a.m. Troy HS hockey vs. Beavercreek Miami Valley Freeze @ Hobart Arena
11:15 a.m. Troy Christian swimming Waynesville Black & Orange Invitational @ Wright State University

8:15 p.m. Troy HS hockey vs. Jackson-Miami Valley Freeze @ Hobart Arena
SUNDAY, JANUARY 3
10:30 a.m. Troy HS hockey vs. Northern KY Miami Valley Freeze @ Hobart Arena
MONDAY, JANUARY 4
7:00 p.m. Troy Christian Girls basketball vs. Xenia Christian
7:30 p.m. Troy HS Girls Basketball vs. Greenville

7:30 p.m. Troy Christian Boys basketball @ Bethel
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5
7:30 p.m. Troy HS Boys Basketball @ West Carrollton
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6
5:30 p.m. Troy HS wrestling vs. Covington/Miami East/Tipp City @ Miami East
7:30 p.m. Troy HS Girls basketball @ Trotwood Madison



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Columns & Opinion

Pet of the Week



Momma is an approx 3 year old tiger female DSH. She has been tested for FIV and FELV, vaccinated with RCCP, dewormed with Strongid dewormer, spayed and microchipped. She came in with her 5 kittens that have been adopted and is now waiting on her forever home. She is located at 5201 Urbana Rd in Springfield at The Humane Society Serving Clark County, Inc. We are open from 12–5 Monday through Saturday. We are closed on Sundays and Holidays. We can be reached at 937–399–2917. We will be closed 12/24, 12/25, close early at 1:00 p.m. on 12/31 and closed 1/1/16.

Tax Tips

by Arrowhead Tax

2016 Standard Mileage Rates for Business, Medical and Moving Announced

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2016, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 54 cents per mile for business miles driven, down from 57.5 cents for 2015
- 19 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, down from 23 cents for 2015
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

The business mileage rate decreased 3.5 cents per mile and the medical, and moving expense rates decrease 4 cents per mile from the 2015 rates. The charitable rate is based on statute.

The standard mileage rate for business is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs.

Taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates.

A taxpayer may not use the business standard mileage rate for a vehicle after using any depreciation method under the Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS) or after claiming a Section 179 deduction for that vehicle. In addition, the business standard mileage rate cannot be used for more than four vehicles used simultaneously.

These and other requirements for a taxpayer to use a standard mileage rate to calculate the amount of a deductible business, moving, medical or charitable expense are in Rev. Proc. 2010–51. Notice 2016–01 contains the standard mileage rates, the amount a taxpayer must use in calculating reductions to basis for depreciation taken under the business standard mileage rate, and the maximum standard automobile cost that a taxpayer may use in computing the allowance under a fixed and variable rate plan.

This information is provided to you by Arrowhead Tax Service at 113 W. Jefferson St. New Carlisle, Ohio. We take every effort to provide honest and accurate tax information. Please use your discretion before making any decisions based on the information provided, every tax situation is different. If you have any questions please visit our office or call us at 937–543–5770

Gardening Commentary

from MVG

House plant care

Now that winter is upon us we will be indoors most of the time. We can make our indoor environment better by having plants that not only feed our psyche but purify the air we are breathing and generally improve our surroundings. Consider having one or more of the holiday plants in our home, office or restaurant. You may have purchased or received one of these seasonal plants recently. Christmas Cactus, Cyclamen, Kalanchoe, Amaryllis, Peace Lilies and the ever popular Poinsettia are a few of the plants that are available in the area. These plants brighten not only our homes but offices, churches and shopping malls at this time of the year. They are given as gifts for someone confined to the indoors or a house warming gift that will last for weeks and many times until spring.

Here are some things to consider to keep them growing well so they can be enjoyed for an extended period of time. They

do better when given adequate light, moderate temperatures and are watered regularly. Proper watering and light are likely the two most challenging aspects of keeping plants healthy in the home or wherever you choose to enjoy them. No need to be concerned about fertilizing for the first 4 weeks or so then feed monthly to keep your plants growing well, avoid keeping the soil either too wet or too dry. What we want to do is to try and avoid these extremes by watering well when needed and then waiting a couple of days before watering again. Be sure the plant has good drainage and doesn’t sit in water for more than a few minutes, pour excess water out of the saucer or the roots will suffer from staying wet too long and begin to deteriorate. One way to tell if your plants need to be watered is to use the “one knuckle” test. Using your index finger, place it into the soil up to the first knuckle. If the soil feels damp to the touch and the soil tends to stick to your finger, the soil is wet enough and the plant should not



be watered. Another way to tell if the plant needs watering is to pick it up, checking the weight. After some experience it becomes rather simple to tell when a plant needs to be watered. It is usually better if you think your plants can wait another day rather than keeping them too wet.

Normally, there is no problem with insects at this time of the year so no need to be concerned

about this now. Enjoy these beauties and remember someone special with a “living” gift that that they can enjoy during some of our gloomy weather.

Go to meadowview.com or send an email to info@meadowview.com with your question or comments.

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At Home

by Connie Moore

Settled In

By now, with a dusting of snow supposed to be on the ground and feeders up and waiting on winter birds, we have settled in for the winter. Inside and out, activities bend to the will of the weather and cold or not, we march through the month with anticipation. Not just for special days but also for what will surely be in a few months. Always, every day there are thoughts and references to warm weather and spring. But I’m getting ahead of myself.

An inside activity is always nice to have going on for the hours spent awaiting the next snow or in some cases as this winter is turning out to be, the next rain/windy day. It helps to have something to focus on after hours at the computer screen or work all day outdoors. Jigsaw puzzles have always been our family’s choice. Like defragging the computer, our lives need to be settled every–once–in–a–while. A sort of shifting back into place like a chiropractic adjustment.

A puzzle requires the participants to settle down, look for specific colors and shapes and

build a picture. We take our time (yes, there really is such a thing), enjoying moments when we find that illusive piece, admiring the work in progress to the finished piece.

Perhaps it’s a scene of flowers or antique seed catalogs. Perhaps those flowers are spilling over a garden gate or stone wall behind a country cottage. Perhaps you enjoy Charles Wysocki’s work which feature Victorian houses and shops, horse–drawn carriages, and the tiniest of details which reveal themselves on individual pieces.

Maybe one of Thomas Kinkadee’s cottages with lights in every window is your choice. Known as the “Painter of Light” Kinkadee’s talent for creating a scene on canvas through which the observer can walk into the picture and end up fishing in a creek under a covered bridge or stroll down a flow–er–strewn lane with ducks and geese following or walk through the kitchen door of Grandma’s house. Lights in every window, people are obviously home, busy with cooking, conversations and a puzzle on the big oak table.

Looking for pieces frees our minds to wander from past to

Pecan Puzzle Pieces (Minnesota Squares)

- 12 whole graham crackers
- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 1 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 ½ cups chopped pecans

Lay crackers on a rimmed jelly roll pan. You can line it with foil for easy clean-up. Crackers should fill pan. (You may have to break some to fill but they should touch each other.) Take a knife or spoon and gently crack them into two or three pieces.

In a saucepan, cook the butter and sugar, boiling it for two minutes. Pour hot syrup over crackers, making sure all tops are covered. Sprinkle with pecans. Bake at 350 degrees for about 8 minutes. Cool and break apart.

Creamed Eggs on Toast

- ¼ cup butter
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- dash of pepper
- 1 teaspoon grated or finely minced onion
- 2 cups milk
- 6 hard-cooked eggs, chopped
- Optional meat addition
- ***see note

In non-stick skillet, melt butter. Add flour, salt and pepper. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly until bubbly. Add milk, cook, stirring constantly until thickened. Stir in eggs and any meats. Cook over low until all is thoroughly heated. Serve over hot toast. Can garnish with a sprinkle of paprika. ***NOTE: a spoonful or two of finely chopped ham or crumbled bacon can be added if desired.

present to future. For a few moments we muse over anything we want. Puzzles tend to bring out thoughts which on any other day, in any other setting are lost in the din of life. Modern conveniences daily throw us into a whirlwind of flashing screens, fast sales and frenzied buying with no time to meditate on things that matter.

Once the puzzle is done, our minds have been shifted back to a

more sensible state. We can hope for and work for our homes and lives to be as calm and peaceful as possible in a frantically changing world. The lights in our windows can welcome family and friends in from the cold world outside during the New Year.

We can offer a bite of sweet and a hot comfort dish for supper. Cold outside–warm inside.

Contact Connie at mooredcr@juno.com or Box 61, Medway, OH 45341

Tip of the Week

By Sgt. JJ Mauro
TCPD Ret.

Following is a true story about a very lucky woman who was saved from a stalker only because the family of the suspect felt suspicious and turned him in to the authorities. Please take five minutes to read it and then think about how much information you are freely giving to somebody you know nothing about.

A 29–year–old Michigan man was sentenced to five years in federal prison last week–the maximum allowed by law–for interstate stalking in a bizarre case of online romance gone bad.

Brian Curtis Hile traveled to San Diego from Michigan in 2011 intending to kill a woman and her boyfriend after the pair had unwittingly gotten caught up in Hile’s virtual love affair.

Hile had been ensnared in a “catfishing” scheme–in which a person uses social media to pretend to be someone they’re not, typically to engage in misleading online romances. During the course of an Internet–only relationship that lasted two years, Hile exchanged explicit photos

and romantic communications with someone he believed to be a woman. When he learned that “she” was actually a man living in South Africa, Hile became enraged and vowed to find the man who deceived him–and the woman whose images played a role in the deception.

“The woman in this case was a victim twice,” the police task force investigator explained that when the woman was 18 years old, she took revealing pictures of herself for personal use, never intending for them to be seen publicly. Those photos were later stolen from her online account, which she was aware of. “But she had no idea what was being done with them.”

Hile’s primary target for revenge was the man who duped him, but South Africa was too far away. So using what is described as “circular logic,” Hile went after the woman. “He knew she didn’t have anything to do with the romance scam,” the investigator said, “but he believed she bore some responsibility. In his

mind, the mere fact that those photos were used indicated that she was somehow responsible for what had happened to him.”

An avid Internet user and computer gamer, Hile was determined to learn the woman’s identity. He conducted an extensive online search and used hacking tools. “Eventually, he was able to hack into her e–mail account, and compiled detailed personal information about the woman and her live–in boyfriend as well as their extended family and friends.

Armed with her address, Hile purchased a bus ticket from Michigan to San Diego to exact his revenge. Fortunately, Hile’s family sensed that he was planning something and alerted authorities, which eventually led to Hile’s detention in San Diego–about a mile from the woman’s residence.

At the time of his arrest, he was in possession of the woman’s address, telephone numbers, and information such as her favorite restaurant. He also had duct

tape, zip ties, and a to–do list that included obtaining a knife and chloroform.

“Had he gotten there,” police said, “we are convinced he would have hurt or killed the victims.” Hile was found guilty by a San Diego jury in August 2013.

The investigator believes this case should serve as a cautionary tale for others. When it comes to social media sites, he said, “You really have to know the people you are communicating with. If you don’t absolutely know who’s on the other end, you shouldn’t be sending personal information or photographs. The Internet is an amazing thing,” he added, “but it’s also a very scary thing.”

I used this story I found from an FBI/Police Task Force working these cases. A Tipp City resident had a woman from another state show up on his doorstep this year after an online relationship. A lot of these guys go after juveniles as well, so parents check your children’s emails and social pages. It’s not snooping, it’s keeping them alive.

Financial Focus

with Thrivent Financial

Asset allocation funds: a simple choice for smart investing

Life moves at a breakneck speed. Between work, play, volunteer time, extracurricular activities and more, many people have difficulty keeping up. Finding time for leisure activities is tough, and finding time to appropriately invest for retirement or save for college or a major purchase can be next to impossible.

Fortunately, an increasingly popular investing option exists today that offers a simple, all-in-one solution: asset allocation funds. Asset allocation funds have the potential to take the burden off investors by incorporating some of the basic tenets of investing – asset allocation, diversification and reallocation – in a single fund that can be focused on investors’ individual goals and risk tolerance. While asset allocation does not eliminate risk, it may help reduce it.

As markets rise and fall, the mix of securities in a portfolio can shift, causing its risk profile to change.

Asset allocation funds appeal to many different types of investors. These funds have a place in almost every type of

portfolio. As a result, asset allocation funds have skyrocketed in popularity. The number of asset allocation funds has gone from fewer than 200 to more than 1500 in the last decade and are offered by more than 200 different money managers, according to Strategic Insight, a research and business intelligence organization serving the mutual fund industry (Sept. 2010).

Many investors in asset allocation funds can have comfort knowing that portfolio managers are guiding their investments. These professionals approach balancing risk and return to help meet the funds’ objectives.

Each fund’s investment performance depends upon how its assets are allocated across broad asset categories and applicable sub-classes within such categories. Some broad asset categories and sub-classes may perform below expectations or below the securities markets generally over short or extended periods. In particular, underperformance in the equity markets could have material adverse effects on a fund’s total return if the fund has a significant allocation to equities. Therefore a principal risk of investing in asset allocation funds is that the strategies used and the decisions made will not produce the desired results. In

addition, the performance of an asset allocation fund is heavily dependent upon the performance of the underlying funds in which it invests. As a result, this kind of fund is subject to the same risks as those faced by the underlying funds. Those risks include, but are not limited to, market risk, issuer risk, volatility risk, liquidity risk, investment advisor risk, loss of principal risk, as well as credit risk and interest rate risk. These and other risks are described in the fund’s prospectus.

Investing in a mutual fund involves risks, including the possible loss of principal. The prospectus contains more complete information on the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses of the fund, which investors should read and consider carefully before investing. Prospectuses are available from a Thrivent

Financial representative or at Thrivent.com.

Matt Buehrer, FIC, is a Financial Associate with Thrivent Financial in the Tipp City area. He can be reached at 937-667-8270 and his office is located at 29 W. Main Street in Tipp City. Thrivent Financial is a Fortune 500 financial services membership organization helping nearly 2.6 million members achieve their financial goals and give back to their communities. This column was prepared by Thrivent Financial for use by this representative.

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World Race for Hope 5k

January 1, 10:00 a.m.

First Place Christian Center, 16 W. Franklin St. This is a great race for an exceptional cause (ending slavery) and also a fantastic way to start the new year. The race for 2016 will start and finish at First Place Christian Center in Downtown Troy.

The race supports anti-trafficking organizations in the Dayton area and around the world.

Winter Storytime

January 4, 9:00 a.m.

Troy-Miami County Public Library

Join the library as they “Chill Out With a Good Book” and enjoy other fun things. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. on Monday, January 4, 2016; you can drop in at the Troy-Miami County Public Library, or call 937-339-0502 to register.

During this 6 week session, “Baby & Me Laptime” offers stories, songs, and playtime to children from birth to two years old and their caregiver. You can choose 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. on Wednesdays; this program runs for thirty minutes.

“Toddler & Me Storytime” is for children ages 2-3 years old. Enjoy One-on-one time in a 30 minute weekly music and movement based storytime. Participants will enjoy various activities which may include stories, songs, and a craft. For the toddler storytimes, you can choose Mondays at 6:30 p.m., or Tuesdays at 10 a.m. or 11:30 a.m., or Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Preschool children, ages 4-5 years old, will enjoy stories, fingerplays or puppets, and a

craft. The “Preschool Storytime” is offered on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.; this program runs for 45 minutes.

“Family Fun Night,” “Family Movie Night,” and more will be offered during the winter session; the six week winter session will begin the week of January 18, 2016.

For more information, call the Troy Library at 937-339-0502 ext. 121, or visit www.tmcpl.org.

Troy Night Market

January 5, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
11 N. Market St.

The market is a collaboration of local farmers market vendors who grow and produce ‘Local Foods’ and food related items. The market is being presented with the support of producers who are volunteer committee members of The Miami County Food Council under the guidance of The OSU Miami County Extension Office.

The Troy Night Market vendors embrace the slogan “In Support of Local Food” and will be offering a variety of locally based food products for sale. Products include homemade jams, jellies, fruit butters, baked goods, gourmet roasted coffee, herbal seasoning, mixes, tea blends, candy, honey, sorghum, maple syrup, popping corn, and many other items.

Seasonal fresh produce, herbs, flowers and garden plants will also be offered in season.

The market will also offer a limited number of handmade kitchen/household related items such as soaps, cutting boards, wooden tureen ware, ceramic ware, rolling pins and other hand-crafted items.

For more information visit the market on

Facebook at, “Troy Night Market” or call (937) 216-0949 or e-mail TroyNightMarket@gmail.com.

Friday Night Movies

January 8, 7:30 p.m.

Troy-Hayner Cultural Center

Everyone needs something to do on a Friday night. Why not go to the movies?

Friday Night Movies at the Hayner Center feature classic movies with an introduction to the film, café style seating, and popcorn and soft drinks. All films begin at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

This week’s movie is Top Gun with Tom Cruise and Kelly McGillis.

Sounds of the Hammered Dulcimer

January 15, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Troy Hayner Cultural Center

The Mountain Dulcimer Society of Dayton Concert featuring Mark Wade.

Mark is a multi-instrumentalist that has performed and recorded on Piano, Trumpet, Classical/Acoustic Guitar, Bass Guitar, Pennywhistle, Hammered Dulcimer, and Mountain Dulcimer.

Mark was the first place winner in the 1998 National Hammered Dulcimer Championship in Winfield, Kansas, and is one of America’s premier Hammered Dulcimer Soloists and Clinicians.

Please call 937-339-0457 or visit TroyHayner.org for more information.

Two Candidates Nights Announced

The Leadership Troy Alumni will be sponsoring two back-to-back evenings to Meet the Candidates in February 2016.

The first night is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, 2016 and will feature candidates for Sheriff of Miami County, Prosecuting Attorney, and Miami County Commissioner, as well as the Troy Schools levy.

The second evening, scheduled for Thursday, February 25, 2016, will feature fifteen candidates with opposition for the 8th Congressional District Race.

“The important issue and races along with the number of candidates running in the Primary Election has necessitated the additional night,” says Steve Baker, Chairman of the event. “Mark your calendars and be sure to join us to help you make an educated decision in the Primary Election on March 15, 2016.”

Both of these forums will be held at the Troy Jr. High School gymnasium at 556 North Adams Street in Troy. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. The program will begin each evening promptly at 7:30 p.m. and will last ninety (90) minutes.

Leadership Troy Alumni have been hosting the Meet the Candidate forums since 1990. Leadership Troy includes residents of the Troy area who, since 1984, have successfully completed an extensive program designed to increase the quality and quantity of men and women capable of accepting leadership roles in community organizations.

Tai-Chi for Health Class at YWCA

Dea Davis will facilitate a new session of Tai Chi for Health Practice with a four week session beginning Monday, January 4, from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the YWCA.

“The class will focus on improving balance, relaxation and breathing,” said Davis. “The movements will be gentle, smooth and continuous with emphasis on gaining strength and better balance,” she continued. “Tai Chi enhances one’s overall health and quality of life.” New students are welcome according to Beth Royer, YWCA Program Director.

For more information on membership requirements or to register, stop at the YWCA Piqua at 418 N. Wayne Street or call 773-6626. The YWCA is handicap accessible.

Library Offers Adult and Teen Winter Reading Program

The 2016 adult and teen winter reading program at Troy-Miami County Public Library begins at three library locations on Monday, January 11, 2016 and ends Friday, March 18, 2016. The program’s theme is “Chill Out With A Good Book.”

Participants will receive a reading log when they register at the Troy or Pleasant Hill libraries or on the Bookmobile. After they have read or listened to four books of their choice, the completed reading log can be turned in for the prize drawing. There will be one winner in each age group for all three locations.

For more information, call 937-339-0502 ext. 117.

Chess Club at Troy-Miami County Public Library

Challenge your friends or learn a new skill at the Checkmate Chess Club at 6:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month at the Troy-Miami County Public Library. You’ll be amazed at how your game will improve. The scheduled dates for the chess club are January 7, February 4, March 3, April 7, and May 5, 2016.

The chess club is open to everyone with an interest in the game, even if you’ve never played before, and it is a great activity for the whole family.

The Troy-Miami County Public Library is located at 419 West Main Street, Troy, Ohio.

For more information, call 937-339-0502, ext. 127, or visit www.tmcpl.org.

Still Time to See Christmas Display at the Troy-Hayner Cultural Center

Each year proud Troy residents bring their out-of-town guests to the see the Christmas decorations and exhibit at the Troy-Hayner Cultural Center. Don’t miss your opportunity to see what all the fuss is about. This year’s exhibit, A Handmade Christmas, is a juried exhibition of family heirlooms and artistic creations that will be on display through January 3, 2016. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

Every area of the Hayner Mansion is decked out in spectacularly adorned trees, mantels, and windows that display the talents of several local decorators. The Hayner Center would like to thank our 2015 decorators and sponsors.

2015 Decorators
The Courtyard, East Room, Hall, & Lower Staircase: Mary Nilsen,

Rich Nilsen, Donna Crosier, Aaron Gosser, Amber Howard, Josh Howard, Vicky Hand, Sue Nelson, Diane Rench, & Rosemary Woodard

The Upper Staircase & Window Seat: Jackie Boyd, Rhonda Copeland, Juanita Walker & Pam Voisard with contributions by Aja Fiessinger, Meghan Fiessinger, Lauren Fiessinger, Doug Copeland, & Alan Walker

The Fulkner-Nichols Gallery: The 3 Wierd Sisters Studio – Doris Richards & Kelly Rank

The Solarium: Touch of Elegance – Lisa Phyllaier & Sarah Clark
The Study: David Fair on the Square – David Fair, Gina Griffith & Beth Akins

The Parlor: Your Personal Florist – Lori Stotler

The Conference Room: James Duty & Sheila Fuls

The Ball Room: Frame Mill Gallery – Greg Rogers & Lindsey Cherry
The Art Studio: Dawn Flory, Instructor, Home School Art Students, Jaiden & Landon Flory

2015 Christmas Sponsors
Minster Bank, UTC Aerospace Systems, Alvetro Orthodontics and

Friends of Hayner

A Handmade Christmas is a juried exhibit featuring hand crafted Christmas decorations and works of art. Items on display range from delicate tree ornaments to sculptures with mediums that include paper, fiber, wood, metal, paint, as well as many others. Entrants submitted heirlooms or their own handmade works. Submissions were judged on workmanship, originality, and adherence to the Handmade Christmas theme.

A Handmade Christmas Award Winners

Best of Show – Log Cabin by Frank Copeland

First Place – Heading Home by Diana Hoke

Second Place – Christmas Lap Quilt by Diana Scowden

Third Place – Heirloom Santa by Ginger Godfrey

Honorable Mention – Mommy Our Tree is So Beautiful by Emily Moore

Honorable Mention – Pretty Yites by Rita Hollenbacher

First Place Youth – Christmas Fire by Emma Miller

Second Place Youth – Jeweled Tree by Madison Frey

The Troy-Hayner Cultural Center is proudly supported by the citizens of the Troy City School District through a local tax levy and generous gifts to the Friends of Hayner.

Troy-Hayner Cultural Center is located at 301 West Main Street, Troy, OH 45373. Hours of operation are Monday 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Friday & Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., and Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. The Hayner Center is closed on holidays. For more information, please visit www.troyhayner.org or call (937) 339-0457.

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2015 – A Year in Review

continued from Page 1

died from carbon monoxide poisoning earlier this year against the owner of the South Elm Street home where they were living.

Matthew Simmons was sworn in as Troy’s new fire chief.

The Miami County Board of Elections hired Todd Krueckeberg as new director, replacing Drew Higgins, who resigned earlier in the year.

A former Miami County dispatch supervisor was found guilty of stealing money from the Covington Little Bucs youth football and cheerleading organization. Judge Christopher Gee returned the verdict after hearing evidence in county Common Pleas Court.

June

The Troy Strawberry Festival returned for its 39th year attracting thousands to its split venue on the river levee and downtown.

A study of the Troy Fire Department by The Novak Consulting Group of Cincinnati found the department is staffed adequately and the most cost effective way to increase shift staffing would be adding part-time firefighters to the current full-time set up.

The Miami County Board of Elections accepted the resignation of Todd Krueckeberg as director, who cited personal reasons for leaving a month after being hired.

Troy Community Works said it hoped to buy the former David’s Shoes building on the northeast corner of Troy’s Public Square if Troy City Council approved its request for an \$850,000 forgivable loan from city loan programs.

Miami County Sheriff Charles Cox fired long-time Deputy Tina Waymire, an action her lawyer said was in retaliation for legal action she had filed.

July

The Troy City Schools Board of Education placed a renewal levy on the ballot at the request of the Troy-Hayner Cultural Center.

Ohio’s 2nd District Court of Appeals upheld the 2014 conviction and sentence of Jason Sowers of Troy in the October 2013 fatal shooting of Nate Wintrow during a robbery at Wintrow’s Canal Street residence.

Troy City Council authorized the sale of \$9 million in bonds for the riverfront development project.

Troy’s school board welcomed Tom Kleptz, who was appointed following the departure of board member Stephen Lucas, who resigned because he was relocating to Columbus.

Clopay announced a \$30 million expansion of its Troy garage door facility at Interstate 75 and State Route 55.

August

Miami County’s Board of Elections invalidated a record number of petitions by candidates hoping to seek office in the November general election. The rejections were based on filing requirements not being met.

Troy City Council agreed to buy 117 acres north of Duke Park for the

park’s expansion.

The Treasure Island Marina Building renovation project wasn’t completed as scheduled by July 31 due to added work on supports uncovered during project demolition.

Residents of the Carriage Crossing subdivision and those who regularly used its park asked Troy City Council to deny funding for a water tower anywhere in that park and to search for an alternative location.

Troy firefighters voted to reject a proposed memorandum of understanding on staffing because it included adding part-time firefighter/EMTs or firefighter/paramedics.

Troy Schools Superintendent Eric Herman said the district was complying with the law by allowing a transgender student use the boys’ restroom.

Troy City Council supported plans for expansion and renovation of Hobart Arena.

A Miami County jury deliberated 14 hours over three days before telling Judge Christopher Gee that it would not be able to reach agreement on charges of murder, gross abuse of a corpse and tampering with evidence against Frank Bowen in the death of Joseph Graley. Graley, 31, was found deceased behind his home in October 2014. The jury found Bowen guilty of safecracking. A new trial is scheduled for January.

September

Thousands of people, including many school children, visited the Lincoln Funeral Train during the train’s stop in Troy.

The Miami County commissioners approved the purchase of a new backbone for the county 911 radio system for \$2.5 million.

Troy City Council approved a new location for a second northwest side water tower, agreeing to buy property off West Stanfield Road.

Opponents and proponents of a Troy schools decision allowing a transgender student to use the restroom matching their gender identity stood outside the board of education offices to share their positions with passersby.

October

Two long-time area law enforcement officers announced their intentions to run for Miami County sheriff in the March Republican primary. Chris Anderson, a recently retired Troy police captain, and Steve Cooper, a retired captain with the sheriff’s office, will be on the ballot along with two other candidates who filed later.

The Troy schools board of education received a brief look at a district building assessment that President Doug Trostle said would serve as the starting point for discussions on aging buildings.

November

Troy voters elected Doug Trostle and Michael Ham to the board of education and Doug Tremblay as 2nd Ward

councilman in the general election. Voters also approved a levy for the Troy-Hayner Cultural Center while the referendum of the Trafalgar rezoning in Concord Township again was successful.

The Troy High School marching band received a superior rating in the state band finals at Welcome Stadium, Dayton.

The Troy Area Chamber of Commerce named Kathy McIntosh, Troy schools band director, Teacher of the Year.

The Miami County commissioners told those gathered for the annual State of the County address that the county continues to be strong and vibrant.

The Miami County commissioners agreed to open a third pod at the county Incarceration Facility for housing female prisoners. The other option was for the county to continue to pay Shelby County \$55 per day per prisoner to house offenders because of lack of space for females locally.

The Troy Kiwanis donated \$30,000 to the proposed Miracle League of the Miami Valley project.

Miami County’s Board of Elections introduced a new candidate checklist that will be given to those obtaining nominating petitions. The checklist was developed after the board invalidated a record number of candidate petitions following the August filing deadline.

An agreement was reached between former Deputy Tina Waymire and the Miami County Sheriff’s Department in her challenge of her firing. The details of the agreement were not disclosed. A hearing officer with the state Unemployment Compensation Review Commission decided in August that Waymire was entitled to unemployment benefits she lost when she was fired in June. The officer said she was discharged “without just cause in connection with work.”

December

Chief Deputy Dave Duchak joined the race for Miami County sheriff in the Republican primary in March.

The Troy United Way reported at its annual campaign celebration that it was well on its way to the 2015 goal of \$810,000.

Katherine Hayes, Troy Main Street executive director, announced she was leaving the nonprofit at year’s end for a job in economic development in the Cincinnati area. Stephanie Silk will serve as interim director.

Former Miami County Sheriff’s Deputy Paul Reece announced his plans to run for sheriff in the March Republican primary, making him the fourth candidate for that race.

The Miami County Fraternal Order of Police continued its COPS (Christmas Outreach Program and Services) delivering gifts and food to around 40 families and nearly 90 children. Officers make the deliveries with the help of Santa Claus and other volunteers from the law enforcement community.



The Elm Street home in which three teenagers died of Carbon Monoxide poisoning



Deputy Tina Waymire



Community leaders celebrated Troy’s advancing to Quarter Finals in the America’s Best Communities competition



The statue of Abraham Lincoln arrived on several trucks



Just two of the thousands of visitors to the Strawberry Festival



The lighthouse was returned to Treasure Island

Red Cross Ready for Home Fire Preparedness Program

continued from Page 1

the scene of a fire to assess the situation and provide support for the families. It might sound really silly but sometimes the first practical thing we do is offer a hug.” According to Gump, a hug not only gives the victim an opportunity for emotional release but it turns them away from watching the fire consume their home and possessions.

“It takes compassionate people to serve the community like our volunteers do,” Gump said. “And it changes their lives to be involved.” Gump and the other board members at the Miami County Red Cross are looking for more volunteers to participate in the Home Fire Preparedness Campaign in the New Year. The more homes they are able to visit, the more their organization will have the opportunity to promote safety in the community. Everything from key roles with high-level position descriptions to basic documenting and data input are needed. The Red Cross is hoping for partnerships with local businesses and organizations to see this initiative grow exponentially prior to their upcoming Fire Preparedness Rally in Miami County in February.

Interested businesses, organizations, and individuals are encouraged to contact Gump at lynne.gump@redcross.org or at 937-492-6151. The volunteer link is also available at redcross.com/NMVO.

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