Advertising Supplement to the to the Daily Times

"A Day in the Life of..."

Community Reflections 2016 | March 26 | Section C

Mixing business with aviation

By Fred Pace
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Billy Whitaker's day used to consist of hours behind the wheel of an automobile driving to and from different business projects.

As owner of Solid Rock Construction (SRC) Services, Whitaker was on the road traveling across several states daily to check on construction sites, attending pre-bid construction meetings, bid openings and other types of meetings and projects.

"The company provides a full range of demolition, abatement, remediation, decommissioning, deconstruction, site and utility services for a broad spectrum of multifamily, commercial, institutional and public redevelopment," Whitaker said. "Our goal is to provide every client with safe, innovative, cost-effective and environmentally sound solutions while maintaining safety excellence. We are committed to a customer-focused philosophy and driven by a highly experienced workforce and senior management team."

SRC is a very successful business. It has locations in Portsmouth and West Portsmouth.

"We built one of the largest environmental containment ever built three years ago," Whitaker said. "I work all over Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia and several other states as well."

Whitaker says that the company sometimes has as many as 10 to 11 different construction projects going on at the same time at 10 to 11 different locations.

"I was driving for hours and hours every single day and just go tired of it," Whitaker said. "I was once on the road driving for about 20 hours. That is just not safe, so I knew I needed to do something different."

That is when he decided to mix business with aviation.

"I started flying lessons in 1998," he said. "But I quit due to financial reasons. I just couldn't afford it."

Whitaker started skydiving instead.

"I did skydiving for about seven years," he said. "I just had a thrill and a love of aviation."

Three years ago, he started taking flying lessons again.

Once Whitaker obtained his flying license and became a pilot he began flying for business around three days a week.

Local pilot Billy Whitaker's view from the cockpit of one of his airplanes.

Local pilot Billy Whitaker with his Cessna 414 airplane.

"Now a four hour driving trip is a 45 minute plane flight," he said.

Whitaker now flies 425 to 450 hours a year.

"To be honest, I feel more nervous driving than I do flying," Whitaker said. "All the statistics show that you are far safer in the sky than in a car on the road."

Whitaker has two airplanes. One is a Diamond Star DA-40 he owns with other partners. The Diamond DA40 is an Austrian four-seat, single engine, light aircraft constructed from composite materials. Built in both Austria and Canada, it was developed as a four-seat version of the earlier DA20 by Diamond Aircraft Industries.

"Due to the weather, risk factors and night flight, I felt I need a larger plane, so I got a Cessna 414," Whitaker said.

The Cessna 414 is an American light, pressurized, twin-engine transport aircraft built by Cessna. Whitaker's is a seven-passenger plane that he flies most of the time.

"It's a big plane," he said.

Whitaker said he sometimes has to fly in bad weather situations, but he always reverts to training.

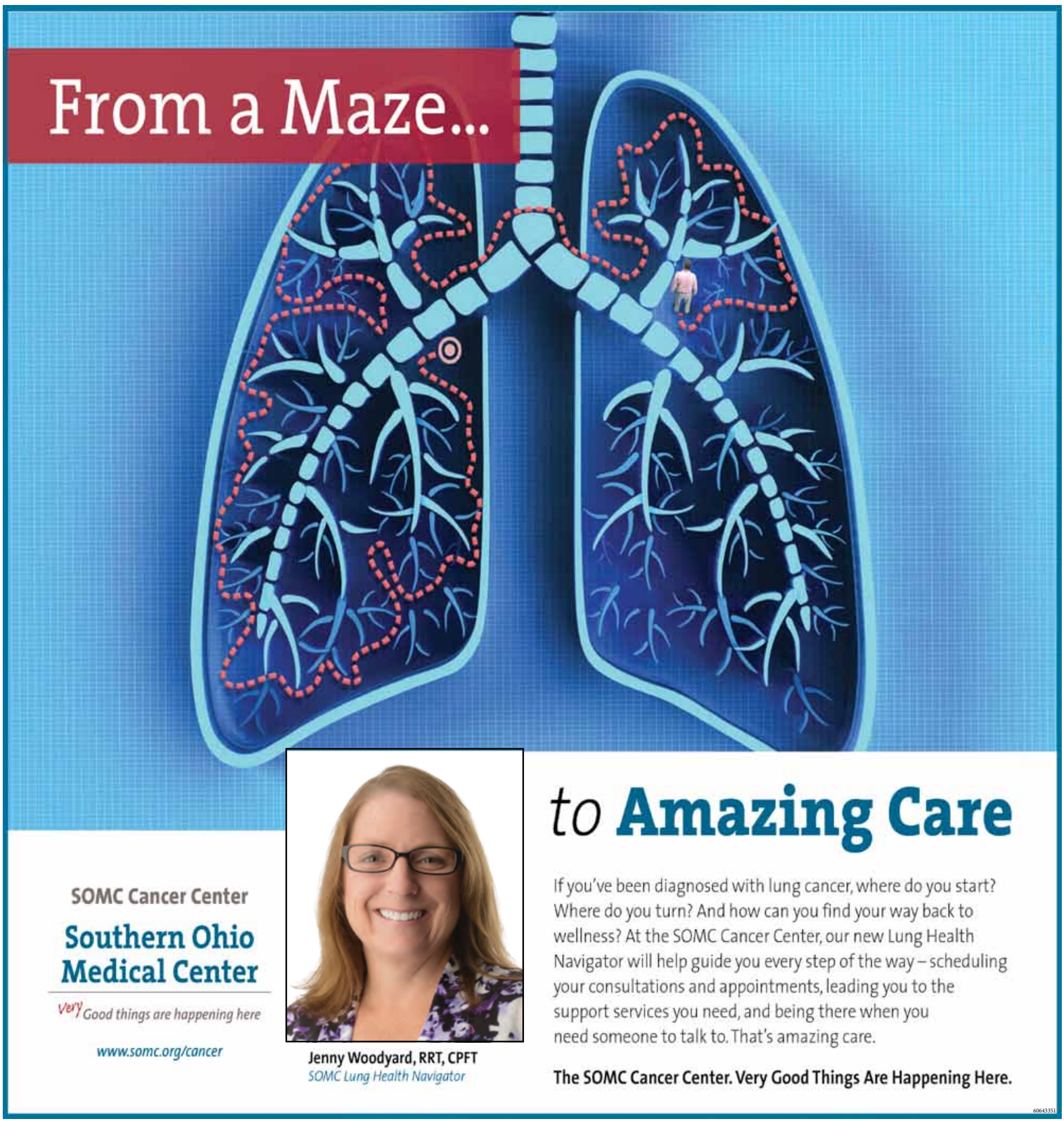
"Safety is always top priority," he said. "I know to just stay focused and calm and everything will be just fine."

Bill Whitaker is also a successful businessman and owner of Solid Rock Construction (SRC) Services.

Whitaker said only once did he have to make an emergency landing.

"At 6,500 feet I had some engine trouble on a six-passenger Turbo Lance and told the air traffic controller I thought I was losing power," he recalled. "The problem was that I was 16.9 miles from the

See AVIATION | 18C



She's fed clay's students for over 11 years

By Ciara Williams-Conley
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For most, the morning doesn't start until 6 a.m., with the work day beginning at 8 a.m. but that's not the case for Karen James.

"I am a school cook, and I've fed Clay's students for over 11 years," James said.

For James, the morning starts at 4 a.m.

"By 6 a.m. I am in the kitchen preparing the 'most important meal of the day,' which is breakfast," she said. "The line starts around 7:30 and by 9, the students are on their way to the first class of the day."

"There is a lot of extra effort put in behind the scenes to in order to make lunchtime a success."
- Karen James

After breakfast, James and the rest of the kitchen crew begin preparing for the first wave of lunch-goers.

Clay's building houses students from pre-kindergarten all the way up to senior year, and James and the crew feed them all.

"The first lunch period begins at 10:30, starting with the Junior High students," she explained. "The second group to come through is the High School Students, next comes the Pre-K through second grade kids, and then third through fifth graders."

For James, the most rewarding part of the job is seeing the kids well-fed and satisfied.

"But it's not just about serving kids," she said. "There is a lot of extra effort put in behind the scenes to in order to make lunchtime a success."

James isn't "just a lunch lady."

James orders the supplies, receives and puts away the deliveries, puts together the lunch calendar, takes payments for the students accounts, serves the meal and preps the meal for the next day.

These tasks are often taken for granted, especially with the new food regulations enacted by the Obama administration.

These regulations require that James monitor the nutritional value of the foods being served, offering a variety of healthy options, and teaching students how a meal should be balanced.

The changes were met with resistance from the students at first, but James has done her best to get the kids excited about lunch time once again.

James has the serving time down to a science, quickly accommodating students, getting them their lunches quickly. But it can all vary from one day to the next.

"Sometimes the kitchen crew is thrown a curveball, despite the snow days, special lunch meetings, and nutritional guidelines, they can't be stopped, not as long as there are hungry students to feed and smiles to serve," she said.

Junior High students enjoying lunchtime.

Reach Ciara Williams-Conley at 740-353-3101 Ext 1924 or via Twitter @PDT_Ciara

Retired, but still a man on the go

By Fred Pace
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Robert "Bob" Morton retired as president of the AAA South Central Ohio, Portsmouth in May 2003.

"After my retirement, my wife and I moved to Hillview about 10 years ago," Morton said. "We were the second ones in Water's Edge and basically got our choice of apartments. It is a great place to retire."

Morton, a native of Indiana, was raised in Cross Plains where he went to high school, played baseball and basketball and worked in his family general store.

"I graduated from Indiana University in 1954 with a BA in Economics," he said. "I also received a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army."

Morton served in Germany and was discharged as a Captain in Nov. 1961.

Morton served in many areas during his time with AAA, mainly in Ohio.

"I retired as president," he said.

Although he is retired, Morton says it is just another phase in his life.

"I stay active as a member of Rotary, a past president of the Chamber of Commerce, past president of the Sister City Association and the current president and one of the founders of Portsmouth Murals," Morton explained.

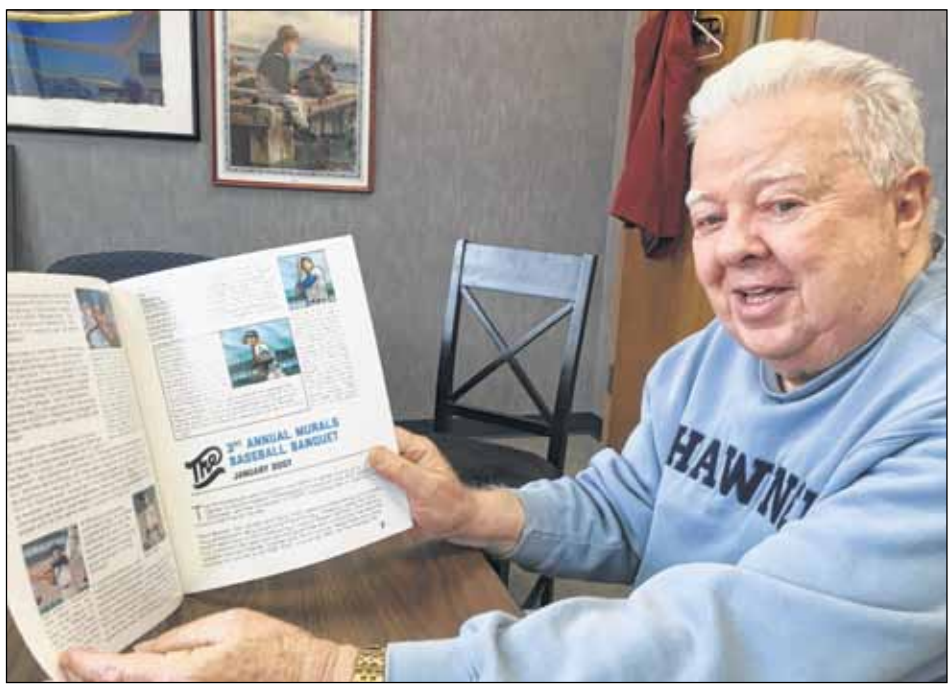
Morton has written several historical books and articles about the Portsmouth Murals, including "The Floodwall Murals: How it All Began" that also had a part two, as well as "The Murals of Portsmouth - a history" and "The Portsmouth Murals Annual Baseball Banquets - a history."

"I was in the original group pushing the idea of the murals with Ava Chaboudy and her husband Dr. Louis Chaboudy who said, "The floodwall in Portsmouth would be a good place for mural and they would fix something that has been an eyesore for over 50 years."

Morton continues to promote the murals and supports Portsmouth Murals, Inc., a non-profit agency the supports the maintenance

See RETIRED | 3C

Morton dedicated this history booklet to his wife, Janet, who was a faithful attendee of every banquet until her passing in Dec. 2011. She is pictured here, right, along with Karen Morton Davis, left, and Reds radio broadcaster Marty Brennaman, center.



Photos / Fred Pace

Bob Morton shows a copy of his booklet he wrote on the brief history of the Portsmouth Murals Annual Baseball Banquets.

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Revolutionary War soldier gets monument

Staff report

Revolutionary war soldier Kimber Barton received a military monument Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2015, in a ceremony led by the Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Mr. Kimber Barton was born November 26, 1745, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, to Thomas and Mary (Kimber) Barton.

In 1771, he married Elizabeth Lewis in Fauquier County, Virginia. Kimber and Elizabeth had between nine and eleven children.

He died January 9, 1814 in Scioto County.

He was one of the earliest settlers in the French Grant, now Green Township, Scioto County.

The "History of the Lower Scioto Valley, Ohio" published in 1884 says, "The first Justice of the peace of Greene Township was Kimber Barton, appointed in 1801, before the county was organized. "

Courtesy photos

Revolutionary war soldier Kimber Barton received a military monument Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2015, in a ceremony led by the Cincinnati Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Kimber and Elizabeth are buried in the Day Cemetery in what was probably their back yard, but on land that now belongs to the Ohio University Horse Park.

His descendant Robert Vint of Arizona did much research to get this marker for his ancestor. He also had the help of many locals.

Brenda Schweinsberg pushed through heavy brush and weeds to actually locate the overgrown cemetery. Green Township Trustees got the cemetery mowed.

Ohio Horse Park officials were involved and very helpful in Robert's endeavor. F

lowers Monument in Lucasville placed the new marker and repaired the broken marker of Elizabeth Barton.

Several were present at the placing of the marker including Horse Park officials, the CCSAR Color Guard, Brenda Schweinsberg, township trustees, members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, and Scioto Chapter of the Ohio Genealogy

Courtesy photos

Kimber Barton was born November 26, 1745, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, to Thomas and Mary (Kimber) Barton. He died January 9, 1814 in Scioto County.

Scouting wasn't always black and white

Gene Bennett faced life-altering decision

By Chris Slone
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Gene Bennett is synonymous with scouting as Babe Ruth was to hitting round trippers. But the three-time champion and member of 10 Hall of Fames wasn't always destined to carry a clipboard.

Before the prospects of scouting even entered Bennett's mind, he first entertained the notion of becoming a professional baseball player.

After losing his father in December of 1951, Bennett was offered that chance by the Cincinnati Reds who gave him a contact to play during the summer of 1952.

Bennett played five seasons in the Reds' farm system before a shoulder injury forced him to trade in his glove for a notebook.

"I told the Reds once the 1957 season was over with, I wasn't going to play no more," Bennett said.

Once he revealed his intentions to the team, Cincinnati management still wanted Bennett to work for the organization. Bennett received two options — he could manage a class D team in New York or he could become a scout.

"I told them to let me think about it because I knew I wasn't going to play anymore," Bennett said.

Bennett returned home to weigh his decision when he accidently ran into Branch Rickey. Shortly after the two men began conversing about baseball, Rickey asked Bennett about his plans for the future when Bennett realized he had an opportunity to gain a perspective from one of the most respected individuals in the game.

"After we started talking I thought, 'This would be the perfect person to talk too,'" Bennett said.

Bennett proceeded to tell Rickey about the two offers he held from the Reds. After explaining his dilemma, Rickey gave Bennett the advice he was looking for, clearing up Bennett's choice.

While Bennett devoted his entire life to scouting, he realizes his contributions directly impacted Cincinnati's ability to win three world championships.

"(Rickey) said, 'If you take that managerial job and you don't have good players, you're going to get fired. If you taking the scouting job and you work hard, you can spend a lot of your time at home and work from here,'" Bennett said.

One day after his conversation with Rickey, Bennett called Cincinnati and accepted a scouting position. Although he classified himself as an amateur when he began scouting, Bennett knew he had the necessary traits to be effective.

"I could always compare players," Bennett said. "I could compare

See SCOUTING | 4

Photo Submitted

Gene Bennett speaking with a reporter before a tryout camp.

Retired

From page 2

and future painting of murals.

Morton said he also enjoyed going on "mystery tours" with his wife and others while retired.

"People would try to guess where the tour was going and what was planned at each stop," he said. "We really enjoyed them."

Morton's wife, Janet, passed away in, 2011 and he dedicated his last history book done on the Portsmouth Murals Annual Baseball Banquets to her.

"Jan always rooted for the Reds, but she was a Cleveland Indians fan at heart having grown up in Columbus," he said. "Jan was an original Portsmouth Murals, Inc. board member."

Morton remains active in senior activities at Hill View.

"There are many social activities here, like wonder dinners, social events, tennis and I even like shooting a good game of pool with friends," he said.

In 2009 and 2010, Morton and his son placed second in a local tennis tournament.

Morton used to enjoy going to Cincinnati Reds spring trainings, but since they moved to Arizona for it he prefers to watch it on his 60-inch television set in his living room at Hill View.

"I try to remain a man on the go, but Arizona is a little far away," he said. "With this new large screen television, it sometimes feels like I am still there."

Morton says he loves to do jig-jaw puzzles and many area framed for display at Hill View.

"I have framed some and other have framed some, but they are all pretty amazing and worth a see if you visit Hill View," he said.

Morton has been honored by the Chamber of Commerce as "Citizen of the Year."

"It was an honor, but I have always loved my community and wanted to help and be a part of making it a beautiful and wonderful place to live or visit," Morton said.

Recently, he helped in a Rotary Club fundraiser selling roses.

"I sold 40 dozen," he said. "I love the Rotary Fish Fry and so many other Rotary events. I just want to remain active and involved in my community as long as I can. Remaining active is part of the quality of life at this phase in my life so I try to remain a man on the go."

Reach Fred Pace at 740-353-3101, ext. 1927, of follow him on Twitter @fcpace62.

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Scouting

From page 3

to so-and-so, who didn't make it, and compare him to a high-school guy who wasn't quite as good. I just started putting together something for judgment."

Shortly after he began scouting, Bennett was responsible for a territory of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Kentucky and Ontario, Canada. With a large territory to cover and not much experience, Bennett turned to the past for guidance.

After studying successful scouts before him, Bennett realized he needed contacts in each area, which were called "Bird Dogs."

After he aligned his map and concentrated on his more popular areas, Bennett ended up with approximately 30 Bird Dogs.

"I gave them a little contract, and if they recommended a player too me, and we signed that player, then they could earn some money as they moved up the line," Bennett said.

Aside from hiring Bird Dogs, Bennett also held various tryout camps. He worked out approximately 4,500 players each summer. Each camp was intended to give the Bird Dogs an opportunity to bring players from their respective areas to that camp, so Bennett could garner his first look at each player on one day.

Each tryout camp maximized time and productivity, two things Bennett was always conscious of when he was on the scouting trail.

"Those camps helped a lot," Bennett said. "They brought everyone together. You might have a good kid in Waverly but I don't have time to go see that kid because on that day, I've probably got 20 good kids to see. You've got to be where the best guy's at and that's how I figured out how to see them all."

After finding success early in his tenure, Bennett received a promotion in 1975 to scouting supervisor. The promotion meant Bennett had a wider area to scout, which wasn't a problem because he found a successful formula and he continued to use that formula.

Bennett, aside from covering the aforementioned states, began covering the plethora of pro leagues in existence. The biggest dilemma for Bennett was continuing to hold tryout camps while scouting the pro leagues, which all played their games during the summer.

"It meant more time, more traveling and you needed a lot of good advice from the people that you trusted," Bennett said.

Bennett, already use to putting in 14-hour days covering high school and collegiate players, was used to putting in the time but once again, maximizing Bennett's time was his No.1 priority.

Bennett always tried to see more than one game a day. In fact, he attempted to catch three games per day. If every game was scheduled around the same time, he would usually attend a contest and try to catch a couple of innings before moving on to the next game.

The only wrench in Bennett's plan was watching guys he had already worked out at tryout camps.

"If I went to watch a guy that I knew could throw and run, I wouldn't sit there one or two innings and watch him strikeout," Bennett said. "I would sit right there until he showed me something because he showed me something in a tryout camp or I wouldn't have been there.

"But I always felt like the more players that you could see, the better your percentages would be. If I only saw one player a day and he couldn't play, that was it. If I saw four a day and just one of them worked out, then you might have something there."

After finding success as a scouting supervisor, Bennett received another promotion in 1991, this time as the senior assistant general manager. Once he was promoted, Bennett began advanced scouting, which meant Bennett was responsible for scouting the Reds' next opponent and creating detailed scouting reports on every member Cincinnati would potentially face in the series.

After watching the finale of his series, Bennett was responsible for getting the scouting reports to the Reds before they were scheduled to face that opponent the following day while also trying to catch his flight to the next season.

"Those reports were an all day and night job," Bennett said. "They had to have that report by a certain time that next morning, which meant you had to have it faxed early. And also, you had to get up and be at the airport at 7 a.m. to go see the next team.

"I did that for two or three years and that was tough. You had to know everything about the game."

While Bennett devoted his entire life to scouting, he realizes his contributions directly impacted Cincinnati's ability to win three world championships.

"Scouting is the lifeblood of any organization," Bennett said. "If you don't have good scouts, you're probably not going to have good players. Owners don't like it much, especially now, when a scout goes out here and gives a player a million dollars, and he can't play."

Bennett has re-defined the scouting industry, which began with a decision he made after speaking with Rickey many years prior.

"I didn't speak to Mr. Rickey much but I know one thing, I never forgot one word he told me because he was the best in the game," Bennett said.

Reach Chris Slone at 740-353-3101, ext 1930, or on Twitter @ crslone.

Photo Submitted

Gene Bennett ready to watch prospects at a tryout camp.

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Rase named 'Farmer of the Year'

By Wayne Allen
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The Portsmouth Area Chamber of Commerce has been recognizing a "Farmer of the Year" annually since 1957 and this year was no different.

On Thursday night, the chamber held a banquet at which Ken Rase was named the "2016 Farmer of the Year."

Every year, the Portsmouth Area Chamber of Commerce accepts nominations for area's farmer honor.

"Although farming has changed considerably since 1957, the Portsmouth Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to honor the farmer of the year, each year. The farmers we are seeing now are third, fourth and fifth generation framers. It's a big part of Scioto County and southern Ohio," said Lisa Carver, Executive Director of the Portsmouth Area Chamber of Commerce in a released statement.

According to nomination information, "Ken Rase was born to Carl and Madalyn Rase of Minford, as the second of seven children. He was born into a farming family. His father, Carl was a beekeeper and sold both honey and vegetables commercially. His grandfather George Hoover was a dairy farmer and his other grandfather Henry Rase was a dairy farmer."

Having been exposed to a farming life, it was easy for Rase to carry on the family tradition of farming.

Wayne Allen | Daily Times

Ken Rase was named the 2016 Portsmouth Area Chamber of Commerce, Framer of the year at a ceremony Thursday night.

At the age of ten Rase started raising tomato plants and selling them for $0.10 at the age of 10. The money raised from the tomato plants was saved along with his lunch money to purchase a pony at the age of 12.

He got one of his first jobs at Phleger's Grocery Store and was paid $0.40 an hour. Again he saved the money to purchase his first calf for $6 and then additional calf's. At the age of 17, Ken was raising 4,000 tomato plants and hired employees to work for him, paying the $0.75 an hour.

In 1978 Rase purchased a farm in Minford and has since purchased five adjoining farms to increase his farm to 520 acres, one of the largest contiguous farms in Scioto County.

According to nomination information, "Currently there are about 100 beef animals, nine mules and one horse (on the Rase Farm). The numbers have been recently scaled back due to the bypass highway construction through the farm. At one time, he had 350 head of cattle on five farms, totally over 1,000 acres. He operated one of the largest beef operations in Scioto County. He has owned cattle for 60 years. The Rase Farm provides enough beef to feed 1,000 people for a year or all of Scioto County for three days."

Rase had a large number of family members in attendance and said he was humbled to accept the award that so many had accepted before him.

"It's an honor for me to join the ranks of guys that I've respected all of my life," Rase said. "My grandfathers were both farmers and I chose to be a farmer, primarily for these four kids (family members) here. It's been a long journey and I appreciate this very much."

For more information about the Portsmouth Area Chamber of Commerce visit www.portsmouth.org.

Wayne Allen can be reached at 740-353-3101, ext. 1933 or on Twitter @WayneallenPDT

Submitted Photo

Rick Morgan (left), President of the Portsmouth Area Chamber of Commerce is pictured with 2016 Farmer of the Year Ken Rase (right).

PAST 'FARMERS OF THE YEAR'

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353-5710
SINCE 1948

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LUTE SUPPLY INC.
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64 YEARS
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SINCE 1952

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ATOMIC CREDIT UNION
800-652-2328
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740-947-2104
SINCE 1956

54 YEARS
BARBOUR AUTO PARTS
3 LOCATIONS
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Lucasville
Ashland, KY
SINCE 1962
60641763

52 Years
Roger W. Davis Funeral Home
1310 3rd Street
West.Ports, OH
858-4100
SINCE 1964

52 YEARS
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SINCE 1964

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OHIO PEST CONTROL
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SINCE 1967

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ALLEN'S AUCTIONS
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36 Years
COUNSELING CENTER
411 COURT ST.
740-354-6685
Since 1980
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36 YEARS
The Community Common
Your Community Newspaper
Since 1980

33 YEARS
HILL VIEW
A Continuing Care Community
(740) 354-3135
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32 YEARS
Donnie Martin Heating & Cooling
35 West St.
Lucasville, OH
740-259-4512
SINCE 1984

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SINCE 1986

28 YEARS
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26 Years
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353-7727
SINCE 1990
60644510

24 Years
J.T.'S Auto Service
1316 Findlay St.
Portsmouth
354-3352
SINCE 1992

23 Years
Affordable Homes Inc.
574-4405
"Since 1993"

22 YEARS
Interim HEALTHCARE
4130 Gallia Street
New Boston, OH
354-5550
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20 YEARS
Real Estate Gallery
740-574-9902
60641202

6 YEARS
Kennelodge
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5 YEARS
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142 Pit Rd,
South Shore
606-932-2271
Since 2011
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3 YEARS
Ohio AUTOMOTIVE CENTER
Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram
1202 Offnere St.
866-914-4018
SINCE 2012

3 YEARS
Compass Community Health
1634 11th St.
740-355-7102
SINCE 2013
60641219

Hilley keeps on writing, completes ninth novel

By Portia Williams
portiawilliams@civitasmedia.com

FLATWOODS, Ky. — Impassioned with a love for, and commitment to his writing, author Leonard D. Hilley II, of Flatwoods, Ky. has written nine novels to date, with his latest being Forrest Wollinsky: Vampire Hunter.

Hilley said it is different for each and every writer, all possessing eccentric ways.

"First, let me simply say that all writers are different. No two authors come from the same mold. We're all eccentric in our own ways," Hilley said. "Last week I finished my ninth novel Forrest Wollinsky: Vampire Hunter."

Hilley is a now a full-time author, something he enjoys immensely.

"In 2014, my epic fantasy novel, 'Shawndirea', was released. I was blessed to see this novel remain in the Top 100 Fantasy Novels on Amazon for ten weeks.," he said. "Shawndirea qualified me for membership with the Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers of America, which had been a dream of mine when I first starting writing. The second book in this series, Lady Squire: Dawn's Ascension, was released in January."

Hilley's writing day starts at two to three a.m. with a fresh cup of coffee.

" I have an Espresso machine so it's caffeine first. While drinking coffee, I check all of my social media sites for messages and emails. I reread the pages I've written from the day before, revise, and add more description or dialogue. At 5 a.m. I go to the gym for a little over an hour and then eat breakfast," he said.

A transitional period begins at 7 a.m., bringing his day to a close at 4 p.m.

"Generally, I begin writing new material around 7 a.m. and stop around 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Depending upon my mood, I write in my home office or in our living room. I unplug the router and disconnect the Internet while I work. This is a necessity. Otherwise, I don't get as much writing done.," he said. "For example, with the Internet running, I write approximately six to eight pages. Without the temptation of the Internet, I can write 16-22 pages. My best day produced 28 pages."

"I unplug the router and disconnect the Internet while I work. This is a necessity. Otherwise, I don't get as much writing done."
– Leonard Hilley II

He said most of his projects require research, therefore, while writing, he jots down any questions or topics to look up at the end of the day.

"I love to research, so this is why the Internet can become a time-suck for me during the hours when I need to be writing," he said.

A typical question regarding novel-writing is the length of time that it takes to complete one.

"Honestly, this depends upon the characters and the flow of the story. Forrest Wollinsky: Vampire Hunter was written in 22 days," he said. "This book simply gushed out. I have a science fiction novel that I have been working on for over ten years now. Predicting how easily a book can be written is impossible. No two authors are alike, and no two books evolve in the same manner."

Following the characters is a method that keeps freedom in his writing, as opposed to utilizing an outline.

"As an author, I have never outlined a book. I follow the characters. A predetermined outline constricts the characters' leeway. Forcing the characters to do something often brings about their own sense of rebellion," he said. "Without an outline I get the same "Ah-ha!" moment as the reader when a character does something unexpected. Elements of surprise keep readers reading, and this writer writing."

The story belongs to the characters in his estimation, therefore knowledge of one's characters in a story is imperative, according to Hilley.

"When I taught English courses at Daymar College, I explained my writing process to my students. I am simply the note-taker. I write down what I see and what the characters say. It's their story," he said. "A good writer has to know his or her characters inside and out. Discover their likes, dislikes, and what makes them tick. Trust me, if you know your characters, they can sort through their own dilemmas and find a resolution that neatly wraps up a novel."

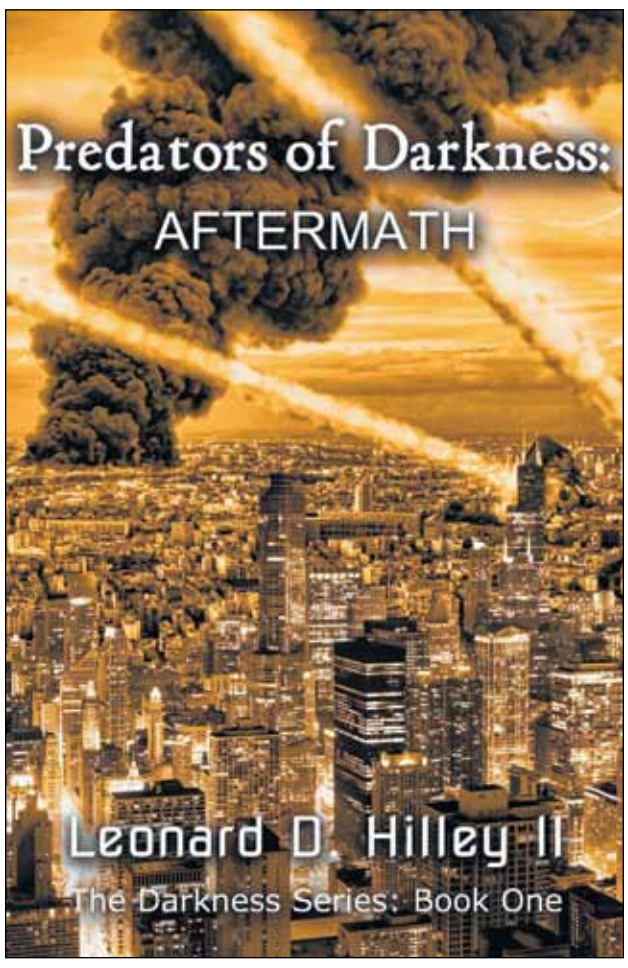
He highly recommends those who desire to be a writer to keep a notebook handy at all times.

"If you wish to become a writer, keep a notebook on hand at all times. Snippets come from time to time and if not written down while fresh in the mind, these words can become lost later when you want them the most. I also keep a daily journal; listing the number of words I write each day, so I have an accurate page number. This is good for tallying progress over time," he said.

While teaching, I'd write before classes began, during quarter breaks, between day classes and night classes, or on the weekends.
– Leonard Hilley II

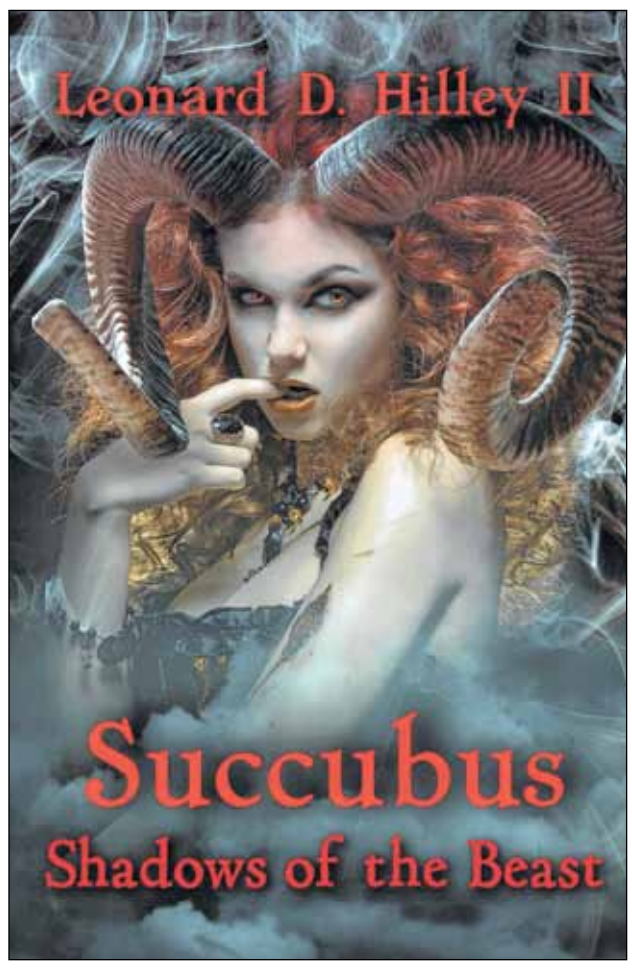
An experience that occurred in 1996 led to his use of keeping a notebook close by.

"Here's a reason why a notebook is handy: In 1996, I was getting ready to go to sleep when an opening sentence for a science fiction novel came to me. "Dropping a cat from the top of a ten-story office building was not the best way to remain hidden, but it was necessary." (Before anyone frets, the cat isn't a normal cat," he said. "It's a genetically created shifter that looks like a cat. It isn't killed or injured from the fall.) The sentence intrigued me, so I wrote it down. I didn't have any characters, no plot, and essentially no idea where that line would take me. But from this one sentence, four books in the Predators of Darkness Series have evolved with three more planned in the future. And the cat, by the way, is one of the most beloved characters in the series."



Courtesy photos

'Predators of Darkness: Aftermath,' written by author Leonard D. Hilley II



Courtesy photos

'Succubus: Shadows of the Beast,' written by author Leonard D. Hilley II

Getting the unexpected is the beauty that enhances a writer's life.

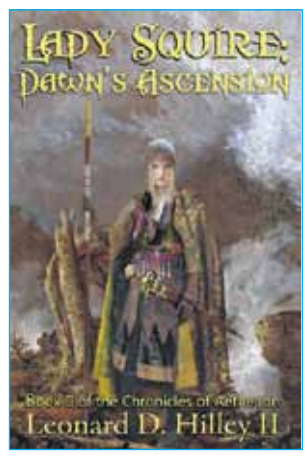
"The beauty of a writer's life is getting the unexpected. Shawndirea was never meant to be an epic fantasy. It was intended as a novella back story for Devils Den, but these characters were over 20 years old in my mind. When the opportunity was presented for them to come alive on the page, they took over," he said. "I had anticipated a 40,000-word novel but ended up with 128,000 words. Lady Squire: Dawn's Ascension was even longer—200,000 words. A third novel in this series is in the works."

Those who are employed in other vocations full-time can find the time to infuse writing into their day.

"Almost a year ago, I was teaching full-time. Two years earlier, I contacted one of my professors from graduate school, complaining that I was too exhausted to write and didn't have the time to write," he said. "His reply? "A true writer will find the time to write regardless."

The poignant statement from his graduate school professor was the catalyst for Hilley incorporating writing back into his life.

"That line hit home, and I've never looked back. While teaching, I'd write before classes began, during quarter breaks, between day classes and night classes, or on the weekends. Whenever I could squeeze in time to write, I did," he said. "I finished two novels in two years during my spare time. Books don't write themselves. Words become sentences. Sentences become paragraphs, and paragraphs become pages. Over time the pages add up



'Lady Squire: Pawn's Ascension,' written by author Leonard D. Hilley II

See HILLEY | 9C

PHS teacher featured in Ohio Schools magazine

By Portia Williams
portiawilliams@civitasmedia.com

PORTSMOUTH — Arthur Lard, a teacher at Portsmouth High School (PHS), graced the February 2016 cover of the Ohio Schools magazine, a publication of the Ohio Education Association (OEA) for his teaching of financial literacy at Portsmouth Trojan Print Shop classes at the high school.

Lard has been teaching at PHS for 25 years, and has been teaching financial literacy for six year, as well as teaching and the Portsmouth Trojan Print Shop class. He said gaining recognition for his classes, and being featured in the magazine was a wonderful experience for not only himself, but most importantly his students.

"I think it was wonderful, and as far as my students, they really enjoyed it too," Lard said. "It is nice to get recognized for something that you are doing well. "A lot of times it goes unknown, but they are putting forth the effort, and they are doing a very good job."

Recognition for Lard's teaching of financial literacy came through his attending the OEA meetings.

"I met with the President of the Ohio Education Association because I attend some of the meetings, and she has seen some of the things that we've done as a class for the Southern Ohio Education Association," he said. "I was talking to her at one of the meetings about my class, and she said, man that would be a great story. The next thing I knew a lady was calling me from the magazine wanting to do a feature based upon what she'd heard from the president."

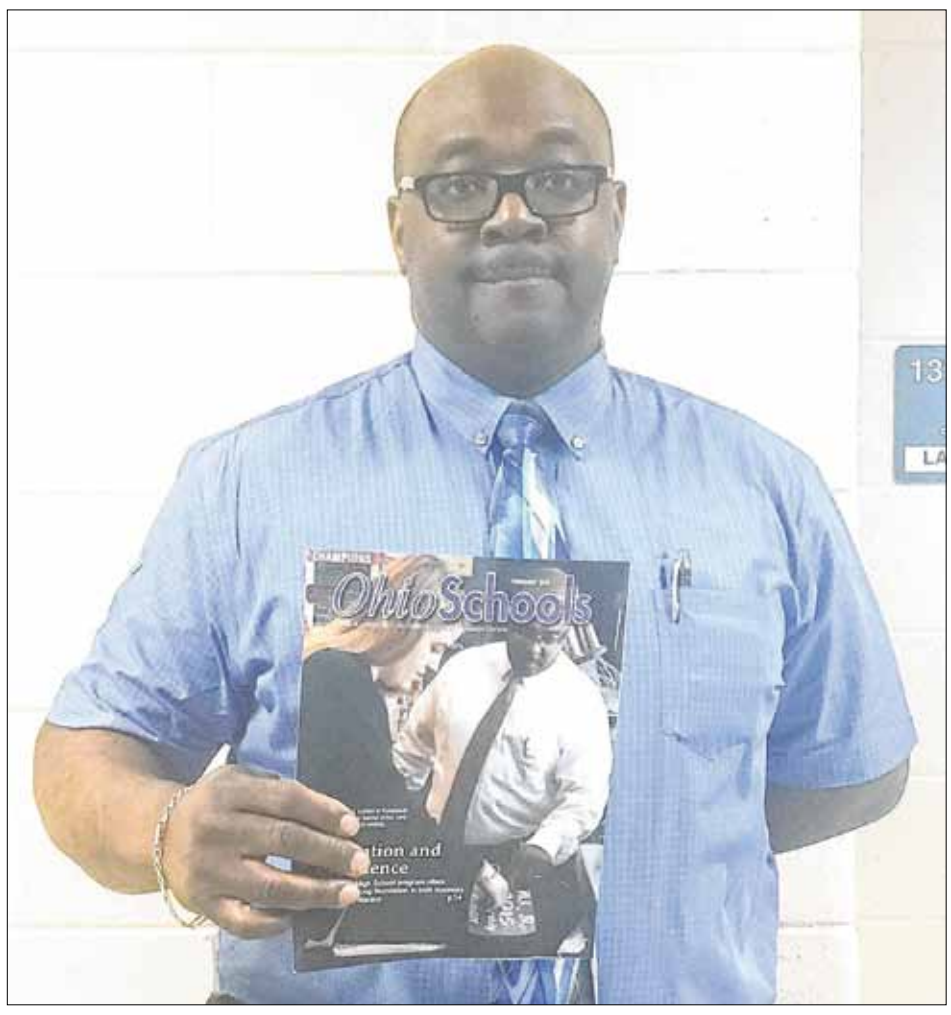
Teaching financial literacy is to equip students to be knowledgeable about money matters for the future.

"Last year we received recognition for one of the schools in the area that is taking part in the financial literacy initiative to help students become what they call, "fiscally fit," he said. "The purpose of it is to provide students with knowledge so that they will know what is going on, and by the time they graduate they will not make the same mistakes that their parents have made with money. So by taking the class they will have a better understanding of what's going on."

Lard has worked in conjunction with American Savings Bank in Portsmouth to offer his students a financial literacy course called Everfi. Lard received an award by the State of Ohio for teaching financial literacy in the classroom.

"For three years I have worked with American Savings Bank to do a program called Everfi and it has nine modules, and it takes the kids through banking, savings, investing, preparing for college, getting a car, paying for college, and then saving money for the future and buying their first house," he said. "It is like a computer program that simulates, and let's them make right and wrong choices, and then the outcome of those choices without having to go through life and actually making them, and getting punished for it."

Lard was also recognized by the Portsmouth City School District (PCSD) on March 3, at the Educational Forum for being featured in the Ohio Schools magazine. PHS Principal Amy Hughes both congratulated Lard at the Forum, holding up a copy of the magazine for group to see.



Portia Williams | Daily Times

Arthur Lard, teacher at Portsmouth High School was featured in Ohio Schools magazine for his Financial Literacy and Portsmouth Trojan Print Shop classes that he teaches at PHS.

"I want to say a congratulations to Mr. Lard. Every teacher who is a part of the Teacher's Union in Ohio received this, and Mr. Lard was on the front cover," Hughes said. "They came and did an article on him, his financial literacy class, and his print shop class, and I've asked him to come and tell you guys a little bit about this article just in case you didn't receive this magazine."

Two things that make Lard happy are being part of PCSD, and offering the programs.

"I am just so happy to be a part of Portsmouth City Schools, and to be able to offer the program that we offer," Lard said.

Reach Portia Williams at 740-353-3101, ext. 1929, or on Twitter @PortiaWillPDT.

Paul Yost helps as contributing author

Staff report

PORTSMOUTH – Paul W. Yost, visiting faculty in the Shawnee State University's Digital Simulation & Gaming Engineering Technology program, is a contributing author in the newly published textbook, Interaction Design for 3D User Interfaces, by Francisco R. Ortega, Fatemeh Abyarjoo, Armanda Barreto, Naphtali Rishe and Malek Adjouadi.

Interaction Design for 3D User Interfaces was published Jan. 25, 2016 by CRC Press. The textbook looks at user interfaces with an input perspective.

It is broken down into four parts: theory of input devices and user interfaces with an emphasis on multi-touch interaction, advanced topics that help reduce noise on input devices, hands-on approach to allow the reader to gain experience with some of the new devices mentioned in the book, and a case study that reveals how a complete solution can be completed using speech as input.

The textbook provides a detailed guide to understand the direction on the field of input devices and user interaction for researchers, developers and students.

Yost authored Chapter 20, "Hands-On: Inertial Sensors for 3D Input." He has also collaborated with Mr. Ortega on other chapters of the book as well as other projects.

Mars Colony game uses real science

Challenger designed by Shawnee State University's Howard Dortch used as teaching tool in Scotland

Staff report

PORTSMOUTH – The Mars Colony: Challenger game designed by Howard Dortch, instructor of the Fine, Digital and Performing Arts at Shawnee State University, is used as a teaching tool at a school in Argyll and Bute in Scotland.

Mars Colony: Challenger is based on an imaginary colonization mission that uses science is a key part of the game, as players consider various aspects, such as air and water supplies, as they navigate through the game.

The idea to use the game as a teaching tool was undertaken by Hugh O'Donnell who teaches English at Dunoon Grammar. The goal was to use the game to research the impact of gaming in literacy and science skills. The students played the game over a term while learning about the three states of matter and then were asked to write a "personal-imaginative narrative" based on the game, such as how bad would it feel to be so far away from home, potential frustrations caused by crew members, and different scenarios one could face if the game was a real mission. O'Donnell's research showed significant progression in writing among all 28 students.

"Game-based learning, such as the activities undertaken with Mars Colony: Challenger, can support writing across many disciplines." said O'Donnell.

Game-based learning can profoundly change how disaffected learners in a class regard school and this form of learning holds exciting potential for future educators and students.

"A few schools outside of the one in Scotland have contacted me previously to use the game in the classroom, and I was more than happy to let them," said Dortch. "It's very exciting to see your work being utilized as a teaching tool to help engage the younger students."

Riverview Retirement Center to get new look

By Wayne Allen
tallen@civitasmedia.com

PORTSMOUTH - A nearly $10 million renovation project is taking place at Riverview Retirement Center in downtown Portsmouth.

Renovation work is ongoing and is anticipated to bring a new look to the inside of the facility.

Lance Cranmer, spokesman for National Church Residences, owners of Riverview Retirement Center said the majority of the work is being done on the inside of the center and very little work will be done on the exterior.

"Everything is underway and some of the residents during the construction are being temporally relocated to Bristol Village in Waverly," Cranmer said.

He said roughly half of Riverview Retirement Centers residents have been relocated.

When asked about the scope of work for the renovation project Cranmer said, "It's going to be a full renovation to all of the rooms and common areas. There will be full mechanical system upgrades, which includes heating and cooling systems. All of the handicap accessible units will have new upgrades."

There are 106 unites inside the facility.

He said all of the units at Riverview will receive new appliances, new cabinets, new flooring, windows and fixtures for plumbing and lighting.

Riverview Retirement Center consists of two renovated historic hotels, Biggs House and Washington House. Biggs House was originally constructed in 1836 and rehabbed in 1978/79 with Housing and Urban Development 202 Program funding. Washington House was originally constructed in 1900 and rehabbed in 1978/79.

He said the total cost for the construction contract is $9.3 million. Ruscilli Construction received the contract to do the work and Berardi is the architect on the project.

Cranmer said, once work in complete it will seem like a new facility on the interior.

"We're not doing very much work on the exterior because they are historic buildings, we're going to keep the integrity of the buildings so it does not change at all," Cranmer said. "Internally it's going to look like a brand new place. I think everyone's going to be pleasantly surprised, how beautiful it's going to be."

Before the end of 2015, National Church Residences sold the buildings on the Riverview Retirement Center campus occupied by United Scioto Senior Activities Inc., to the organization for $2.

"The building that houses the senior center, we sold to them for $2. We recognized they have been there for a very longtime and have put a lot of resources into the facility, so we agreed it was best for them to own the space they've been operating out of," Cranmer said.

For more information about National Church Residences visit, www.nationalchurchresidences.org.

Wayne Allen can be reached at 740-353-3101, ext. 1933 or on Twitter @WayneallenPDT

Kurtz finding a home at Shawnee State

By Wayne Allen
tallen@civitasmedia.com

Dr. Rick Kurtz has been President of Shawnee State University (SSU) for nearly a year. Since coming to campus, Kurtz said he beginning to understand why people think this is a great place to live, work and play.

"I started officially July 1 (2015). Last year about this time (February) I was planning for my visit to campus and my campus interview. That time from February to July was a bit of a blur, because I made several visits to campus during that time and it was a real good transition," Kurtz said.

"We want the community to thrive and do well because that's a reflection on us as a university,"
- Dr. Rick Kurtz
Shawnee State University President

When he became President of SSU he took over for the retiring SSU President Dr. Rita Rice Morris.

"When you come on board with a new organization, you try to learn as much as you can about the organization, you visit the websites and you talk with people. Once you get day-to-day with an organization you really start learning about it," Kurtz said.

When asked if there was such a thing as a typical day in his job Kurtz said, "a typical day is a series of back-to-back. Sometimes it's a real whirlwind and if you're not good at time management you will have to develop that skill."

Kurtz said he's spent a good bit of time, meeting with different groups on and off campus that has ties to SSU.

"A good bit of my time has been spent carried out the marching orders when I was hired. Coming in I was charged with developing a new strategic plan for the university. It had been several years since they had last done a strategic plan," Kurtz said. "Also, 2016 is our 30th anniversary as a university When you go through a generation as a university, it's a chance to celebrate, which we did at homecoming."

He said the time of celebration is also a time to elevate where you want to go in the next 30 years as a university.

"The intuition (SSU) has changed a lot; it's gone through a growth phase and over the last few years the demographics of Ohio have changed. The traditional student age population has gotten smaller," Kurtz said. "We all know the state went through a great recession and much like many other states, aid to public universities was cut. All of these things factor in as we're thinking about the next 30 years."

To engage the community in the conversation, SSU held three community forums.

Kurtz said the invitation was open to everyone, but they specifically reached out to students, staff and the interested community beyond the walls of Shawnee State University.

Courtesy photo
Shawnee State University President Dr. Rick Kurtz, talking with students.

Kurtz said SSU employs roughly 800 people and they realize what kind of an impact that has on the local and regional economy.

He said each of the forums was shaped to discuss particular topics.

"As we move forward we, wanted to be clear on what we're doing and why," Kurtz said.

He said at each of the forums, there was alignment across the tables and across ideas.

"From every one of those forums, we saw a set of themes that came up," Kutrz said.

Among the many topics that came up in the forums, Kurtz was SSU's impact of the community.

He said SSU employs roughly 800 people and they realize what kind of an impact that has on the local and regional economy.

"We want the community to thrive and do well because that's a reflection on us as a university," Kurtz said.

He said the ideas and information from the forums will be used to formulate a new SSU strategic plan.

Kurtz said once complete, the strategic plan will serve the university as a self evaluation and a roadmap moving forward.

He said over the Christmas break he and his wife asked themselves if they made the right decision coming to Portsmouth to be the President of SSU.

"We both agreed it was the right decision and we find the community real enjoyable," Kurtz said.

For more information about the office of Shawnee State University President visit, www.shawnee.edu/offices/president/index.aspx

Hilley

From page 7

and you have finished a novel. But it never happens if you say, "One day when I have more time I'll... ."

Since that time, Hilley has written nine novels. For those who enjoy epic fantasy like The Lord of the Rings or The Game of Thrones, check out Hilley's Chronicles of Aetheaon Series: Shawndirea [Book One] and Lady Squire: Dawn's Ascension [Book 2]. Devils Den is set twenty years after Shawndirea.

For sci-fi and end-of-the-world enthusiasts, check out the Predators of Darkness Series. Predators of Darkness: Aftermath, Beyond the Darkness, The Game of Thrones, and Death's Valley. For paranormal romance/urban fantasy: Succubus: Shadows of the Beast.

For updates about future novels, Hilley encourages anyone interested to like the Leonard D. Hilley II author page on Facebook. He said the author website is forthcoming and will be announced on his author page.

Reach Portia Williams at 740-353-3101, ext. 1929, or on Twitter @PortiaWillPDT.

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60644034

Teaching careers in gaming industry not a game

By Ciara Williams-Conley
cwilliams@civitasmedia.com

After graduating from Shawnee State University in 2013 with his B.F.A in Game & Simulation Development Arts, Wesley Paquette went on to become an adjunct professor for his alma mater, where he has taught for the past two years.

Paquette has been giving students the necessary foundations for a successful career in the gaming industry. Currently, the Game Design programs at Shawnee State University are ranked #8 in the Princeton Review's Top Game Design Programs in the U.S. and Canada.

A typical day for Paquette includes teaching three courses back-to-back. The first course is Digital Foundations, which teaches students how to use computer software such as Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and another program called Sculptris. These programs allow students to design and create images.

"They are all tools that get used in a multitude of disciplines. I give them the introductory taste, but it gives a method to express their visual ideas digitally," said Paquette.

Paquette also teaches two sections of Digital 3D Foundations. Digital 3D Foundations builds upon the skills students acquire in their first years working with design programs.

"The program is designed to always encourage going above and beyond what's asked of you, so when they have a solid foundation they can play with it and learn from it as they go," said Paquette.

In the past, the Gaming and Design programs have faced misconceptions about their students from the outside community and from students within the University setting.

"Since games are something people do for fun, there's often a misconception about how much time and effort go into designing the games," said Paquette.

"Since games are something people do for fun, there's often a misconception about how much time and effort go into designing the games."
– Wesley Paquette

"In the course of three weeks, where I have them do a project, students will say, "oh that's so long to do this." Then they spend every day working on something, and a lot of times they'll finish and say "I wish I just had one more day to work on it."

Paquette finds his work as professor rewarding, and enjoys aiding his students in developing their careers.

"I really like that I can pass on what I know, and even on the other side, I learn stuff from my students all the time. Everybody goes into an especially complex program like Maya (a 3D modeling software), and they have their needs, and they want to do something. If I've been using it for long enough, I'll take something that is a feature for granted. They'll go and they'll look up it online and learn how to do something differently. I've learned new tools from my students who've just wanted to do something a little bit above and beyond. It's really cool for me to be around people who care about what they're doing and are willing to expand their own knowledge and mine," said Paquette.

Paquette finds his work as professor rewarding, and enjoys aiding his students in developing their careers.

"I feel like even if I have my shortcomings as a teacher, I can at least go into it knowing that the people that are going on to graduate from Shawnee started in the right place."

Reach Ciara Williams-Conley at 740-353-3101 Ext 1924 or on Twitter @PDT_Ciara

Photos / Ciara Williams-Conley
Wesley Paquette's 3D Digital Foundations Course.

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Students building a crate in Maya software.

Photos / Ciara Williams-Conley
Students working on projects in 3D Digital Foundations.

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An Elementary School Prinicipal's Day Begins Early

By Ciara Williams-Conley
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You never know what's going to happen behind the doors of Bloom-Vernon Elementary, but principal Sandy Smith manages to steer through it all.

Smith started her career in the district after graduating from Bloom-Vernon herself in 1979.

During her college years, she served as an aide in the schools.

She taught 1st grade for 21 years and she's currently serving in her 5th year as an administrator.

Smith starts her day around 5 o'clock in the morning, she starts off with exercise and heads back home. She drinks her coffee, checks her emails, and catches up on work before heading to school.

Once Smith arrives at the school around 8 a.m. she immediately starts taking care of the needs of students and teachers.

"I like to circulate throughout the hallways as kids are coming in so I can greet them, but more often than not, this is a time that parents come in with questions, new students register or teachers have a need for conversation," said Smith.

The bell sounds at 8:45, the students head to their classrooms, and Smith heads to her office.

While Smith is in her office, she replies to emails, answers phone calls, attends and plans meetings, and still finds the time to address the concerns of parents who come in to visit.

"I want to think that people feel comfortable enough to approach me when they have questions or concerns. On a typical day, there is a line of folks waiting to see me if I am in the office. Oftentimes, they joke about who is "next" in line. It's important to give our folks my attention and I try to be of service and help to them as I possibly can," Smith said.

At 3:10, the end-of-the-day announcement start, and for the students, the day ends at 3:20.

But, Smith works on.

Oftentimes, Smith mans the radios, keeping in contact with bus drivers to make sure her students make it home safely.

If there is no one home to see a student off the bus, the drivers bring them back to the school.

Smith and the drivers make calls to the parent, and Smith waits with the student at the school until the parent can pick-up the student.

"I have no doubt I am where I am supposed to be, doing what I am supposed to do, and that is serving kids in the Bloom-Vernon Local School District – for this, I am most thankful."
– Sandy Smith

Smith, as well as the rest of the Bloom-Vernon staff, spend many hours outside of the classroom, going above and beyond to provide the best education for their students.

According to Smith, the biggest struggle of being a principal is the lack of time.

"Like teachers and students in the classroom, there is just never enough time to do everything I'd like to get done. I work from early in the morning, til late at night, very often," Smith said, "I spend my weekends trying to catch up on the most critical things I didn't get done during the week."

Another issue that the district has been facing in recent years is the ever-changing educational standards.

"A big struggle over the past few years has been the changes that have occurred within education. Our teachers have spent tons of hours outside the regular school say unpacking the Ohio Learning Standards, creating lessons, collaborating about the best practices, creating assessments that align with the standards and analyzing student data. The changes in the state testing systems have created uncertainty in knowing exactly what our kids are expected to be able to do to be successful," said Smith.

"We work hard so that our students can be successful, and we have high expectations for everyone, students and adults. We want to be able to look at trends in the data so we can learn and grow from it, but when there is no consistency, this is difficult. But we will keep doing the things we know to do that help kids learn and grow, and we will adjust more as we learn more."

Smith goes above and beyond for her students, partnering with local organizations, like the Steven A. Hunter Hope fund, to make sure even her student's basic needs are met. For her, that is one of the most rewarding parts of the job.

"I love seeing kids succeed. I love to see students who work hard finally "get it!" I love to help kids and their parents solve problems. I love helping provide students with opportunities to help themselves. We feed kids, cloth some, provide shoes for them, take them for dental work, we have taken kids to the doctor when they were unable to get there; we try to do whatever we can. We truly love our kids and care about them, and I believe they know that. We believe having positive relationships with them is important to us, and to them. I love working with parents and helping them help their kids, "said Smith.

Smith believes the two things that matter most when it comes to the kids are education and relationships.

Submitted photo

Sandy Smith in her office at Bloom-Vernon Elementary.

"I love working with the staff we have here at Bloom-Vernon. Bus drivers, cooks, maintenance, aides, secretaries, teachers, administration, the nurse...we have the best staff around. We aren't really co-workers, we are a family. Most everyone who serves kids in our district, do so because we feel we are called to do so. It isn't "just a job." We have many retired folks who volunteer at the elementary school because they want to help. Folks want to be here, students, teachers, staff, even the volunteers come because they want to help and be a part of something special."

Smith is proud to serve as the principal of Bloom-Vernon Elementary, and wouldn't change her hectic days.

"I have no doubt I am where I am supposed to be, doing what I am supposed to do, and that is serving kids in the Bloom-Vernon Local School District – for this, I am most thankful," said Smith.

Reach Ciara Williams-Conley at 740-353-3101 Ext. 1924 or via Twitter @PDT_Ciara.

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DAILY TIMES

637 Sixth Street, Portsmouth OH, 45662
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Bethlehem resident on oppression in 'Holy Land'

By Frank Lewis
flewis@civitasmedia.com

Mary Mussalam is a Christian living in Bethlehem and from her stories of oppression, she lives between a rock and a hard place. On one side, the Israeli government. On the other side, the Palestinians.

"The city is made up of Muslims and Christians," Mussalam said. "They (Christians) have diminished. According to the latest statistics, in 1947 they used to be around 40 percent of the population, but after 1947 and up to now, we are less than two percent."

In 1948, prior to the first Arab-Israeli war and the establishment of Israel, there were 145,000 Christians in Palestine, which was made up of 1,908,724 inhabitants. Thirty-four thousand Christians remained in what became the state of Israel; 60,000 became refugees. Accordingly 51,063 Christians were residents in the West Bank and Gaza prior to the first Arab-Israeli war in 1948. The toll of the first war and the continuous conflict explains why a majority of two-thirds of Palestinian Christians are found at present outside their country.

"Quoting our patriarch in Jerusalem, 'The 'Holy Land' risks becoming a spiritual Disneyland, full of glittering rides and attractions, but empty of its Christian population.'" Mussalam said. "The decline is part of the Christian exodus all across the Middle East and every one of us knows that the Christians are less and less every day."

Mussalam said the mass exodus of Christians began with the Arab-Israeli conflict, followed by the lack of economic opportunity.

"That means if I am highly educated and want to work as a young woman or a young man, I cannot find work," Mussalam said. "We have little opportunities, this is due to the closure to the world. Christians in the area tend to be more educated and they have the better chance of getting out."

The *Daily Times* asked Mussalam if it is the goal of the Christian in that region to leave that region.

"It is not the goal. We are obliged to leave," Mussalam said. "When you have a house and you have your land and you have your family, you don't set a goal for yourself to leave, but you are going to search for a better opportunity and a peaceful place to live." She said aggression and oppression are part of every day life in Bethlehem and most people in the west don't know about what is going on there.

"We are living in a prison as Palestinian Christian Arabs," Mussalam said. "The problem is in Europe and in the west they don't realize we are Christians living in the Holy Land. They are not well informed about us."

Mussalam, who was visiting Scott and Alice Kay Rawlings in Portsmouth this week, and scheduled to speak at the Kentucky Christian University, grew up in Bethlehem and says her family has been of Christian heritage for 400 years.

"We are born Christians," Mussalam said. "Where we live, the Holy Land is the title of Christianity. This is where Christianity bloomed and we're all over the world. The message of peace came in our land. The angels appeared in our land in the shepherd's field. At the time the angels said, "Glory be in the highest, peace of earth."

"The problem is in Europe and in the west they don't realize we are Christians living in the holy land. They are not well informed about us."
– Mary Mussalam
Bethlehem resident

Mussalam has a degree in social science, a degree in English and her third degree is a Phd in education. She speaks English, French, Italian, Czech and Arabic and was awarded the Danish Peace Prize for her work with non-government organizations in the Palestinian community focusing on the empowerment and education of women.

"I've been a teacher for more than 25 years," Mussalam said. "I taught in elementary and high school and I wrote a book about Palestinian embroidery and heritage. I taught in Bethlehem University and worked with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems to prepare for the first election since the Palestinian authority (Yassir Arafat) took over. After that, I worked as a consultant."

Mussalam worked in other phases of government work including the National Security Force. She was also in charge of the first group of released prisoners after the Oslo Accords and was in charge of all the private schools for the orthodox community.

Photo / Frank Lewis

Mary Mussalam from Bethlehem, talks about life as a Christian in the holy land.

What can people in America do to help the Christians in Palestine?

"I think our Christian brothers and sisters are very important to us," Mussalam said. "First of all they should get knowledge that they have brothers and

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Faith, family and community drives Davis

By Wayne Allen
tallen@civitasmedia.com

If there's one thing that can be said about Scioto County Commissioner Bryan Davis, he's a busy man.

Davis

In addition to being a commissioner, he's a small businessman, a husband, a father and a minister.

"I was born and raised in Portsmouth; I spent a little bit of time out of the area between the ages of 16 and 18. My dad was a radiologist at the hospital, so we moved around from hospital to hospital," Davis said.

Davis said he met his high school sweetheart (Lori) in Piketon and drove to Piketon, his senior year of high school. He married his high school sweetheart.

"When we got married I was working at Mitchellace and worked there for 19.5 years before they went under," Davis said.

While employed at Mitchellace Davis had various jobs including, Tipping Operator during the first Gulf War.

"I ran the tipping machines during Desert Storm. We we're running 12 hour shifts and one of my jobs was to make the laces for the war effort. We had to chip those laces to Cincinnati, to be put in a kit for the solders," Davis said. "I've had several solders here in our area say, they received the laces from Portsmouth, Ohio and it reminded them of home."

Some of the other jobs Davis had while working at Mitchellace included, quality control, engineering, operations, plant manager, Vice President of Manufacturing, Vice President of Sales and now part owner.

When Mitchellace when out of business several employees went together with local investors to purchase the business to form a new company called Sole Choice Inc.

"What's now 26 year career in manufacturing, I've been blessed to have this job and many of the people I work with now, are people I hired in 1990," Davis said.

He said there are only a handful of manufactures that do what Sole Choice does in America. He said there are only a few places that make and tip shoelaces, with most of that business going off shore in the 1980's and 1990's.

"We like to think we're the largest and we're growing. We're picking up that market share that Mitchellace had," Davis said.

He said it's the intent of Sole Choice to add more jobs and grow in the future.

When asked what sparked his interest in public office Davis said, "that was not in my plans when I first got involved with the (Republican) party. It was not the politics that motivated me to get involved as a commissioner it was the port authority," Davis said.

Faith is also a big part of who Davis is. He serves as a pastor of a small church in Kentucky that's an hour commute.

Prior to seeking the office of Scioto County Commissioner, Davis was an appointed member of the Southern Ohio Port Authority and worked closely with marketing efforts.

"When Skip (Riffe, former Scioto County Commissioner) announced his retirement, I saw an opportunity to do that (get into the commissioner's office)," Davis said.

Since being elected to the office of Scioto County Commissioner, Davis said he's not been able to catch up with himself.

When asked if there was such a thing as a typical day for him Davis said, "I wake up early in the morning, drink my coffee, spend my time with God and that prepares me for the rest of the day."

Faith is also a big part of who Davis is. He serves as a pastor of a small church in Kentucky that's an hour commute.

"Being a pastor and having been an evangelist for 18 years, I traveled a lot in southern Ohio and met a lot of people and preached in a lot of churches in this county," Davis said. "What's really great is to run into those individuals and I do all the time at different revivals and camp meetings. What I love about running into those individuals is the love of God always supersedes politics or work and it should."

He said faith has been his moral compass in life.

"A really wise person once told me politics is not really meant to be personal and so many times people make it personal. Maybe they did not get their way or they do not like the way things are happening. When you look a politics and you look at making decisions, it's not supposed to be personal," Davis said. "Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you, love your neighbor these are basic biblical principles and these are things we should always strive to master in our own lives. It's not always easy, but we practiced that and made it part of your way of living you're going to do so much better."

He uses Sunday as a day of rest even though he stays connected to his email or phone. He also uses the hour commute to church as quality time with his wife.

"I'm involved in all of these things, but I enjoy being busy. To me it's all part of servant leadership, it's all about getting out there to serve others, we're called by God to do that," Davis said. "At the end of this life whenever I'm done, hopefully someone will be able to say he did something."

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Rapp recognized for 65 years in ministry

By Portia Williams
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LUCASVILLE — For 65 years, Tim Rapp has served faithfully in ministry, and was recently honored by his home church, Center Street Church in Lucasville for the longevity of years in service and his commitment to his God.

Rapp is a native of Waverly, where he said he has spent the majority of his life. He attended welding school in Troy, Ohio, the trade which he worked in all of his life, and was employed as a welder at the Atomic Plant for 20 years, in addition to serving in ministry.

"I was converted in 1951, and soon thereafter I started singing and teaching. I started at the Waverly Church of Christ in Christian Union, I'm currently going to Center Street Church in Lucasville, where I teach a Bible study class there each Sunday evening at five o'clock. I have been doing that for five years."My current pastor, Phil Howard, I can't say enough about him," Rapp said. "He's a wonderful pastor and I am privileged to serve there under his leadership."

"I am currently 82 years old, and I attribute my long life and great happiness to the fact that I was engaged in something that will outlive my life,"
– Tim Rapp

His belief is that his ministry will continue even when he is time here on earth is completed.

"I am currently 82 years old, and I attribute my long life and great happiness to the fact that I was engaged in something that will outlive my life," Rapp said. "I've worked in and out of denominations. I've worked in tent meetings, as well as churches. I have ministered in as much as 50 or 60 funerals. Most of my ministry has been in the state of Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia."

He is married to Regina Rapp, and has a son Martin Jay Rapp and a daughter, Robin Fernandez.

"I had a diverse ministry in song evangelism and also in preaching and teaching. So those three areas is where I have spent most of my time," Rapp said. "Song evangelism is where you are responsible for all of the music of the camp meeting services. I sing and I utilized other singers also.

Tim Rapp was recently honored at Center Street Church in Lucasville for 65 years of service in ministry.

Singing is an essential part of life for most people, according to Rapp.

"It seems to me that the majority of people enjoy music. That is verified by the millions of records that are sold each day," Rapp said. "Music is a joyful sound and I have found Christianity to be joyful religion, so they blend well together."

Pastor of Center Street Church Phil Howard, said Rapp is a joy to have in their congregation.

"He (Rapp) has been in ministry for 65 years, but he has just been with us for five years," Howard said. "He is a wonderful Bible scholar, and he teaches for us on Sunday evenings and just does a wonderful job. We are just so blessed to have him in our midst."

Rapp said some of his highlights in his journey would be song evangelism at the Circleville Camp Meetings, where he served for two years. Nipten Camp Meeting, located in a small community outside of Chillicothe where Rapp served for 14 years as a song evangelist.

"It has been a rewarding lifetime of seeing people's lifestyle change and to see them actually accept Christ. It has been very rewarding," Rapp said.

Bethlehem

From page 14

sisters in the holy land. Second, to raise the awareness. We need them to visit the holy land, to make contacts within the local community. I want to be a citizen and not to be tolerated as a minority. I refuse that. As a minority I refuse that. As long as I am not breaking the law I have the right to raise my children in a peaceful environment. Our Christian brothers and sisters (in the west) have to know how we live and what our suffering is. Maybe if we only speak of our suffering it will make us feel better."

Reach Frank Lewis at 740-353-3101, ext. 1928, or on Twitter @franklewis.

Habitat takes on wall building project

By Portia Williams
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PORTSMOUTH — Members of Scioto County Habitat For Humanity (SCHFH) were hard at work Saturday at the Lute Building in Portsmouth. The group gathered to build the walls for their next home located on Stanton Ave. in New Boston.

Jim Climer, work site coordinator, said they met their goal to have 100 volunteers to assist SCHFH with the wall building project.

"Today is Saturday, the fifth of March, and we are having our wall building event going on today. We have participation of 100 people, which was our goal for today, representing about seven or eight different churches here in the county, "Climer said. "So we appreciate the help, and things are coming along."

Paul White, president of SCHFH, this is the organization's first attempt at wall-building.

"We are trying to get the walls built for our next Habitat house. We have never done this before. We've used this organization Crossroads Mission, but we've always asked mega churches from other areas to do the build for us, and they've paid for the material and provided the labor and so forth," White said. "I kind of felt like we were creating church welfare, and we needed to be doing it ourselves locally, if we could. So that is why we tried to involve a lot of the local churches and different organizations to come in and help."

SCHFH is doing a ceremonial today, and will place them at the actual site at a later date.

"Basically, we are getting all of the interior and exterior walls built today, and we'll be able to set those on the subfloor and it will really help with the speed of the building of the house," White said. "We are going to do a ceremonial. We are going to stand the walls up, so you can see the house configuration, but that will just be a ceremonial thing, they won't be permanently in place they will be on the back parking lot. Then later it will be set up on the site and nailed in place, but today it's just going to be a ceremonial. I am thinking that its going to be in the next two to three weeks."

In addition to the support from some local churches, Climer said Judge Mowery and Judge Alan Lemon sent volunteers to help with the wall building as well.

"One other thing that I would like to do is thank Judge Steve Mowery of the Municipal Court, and Judge Alan Lemons of the Juvenile Court," Climer said. "They assigned some folks for community service to come down and help us out, and they've been a great help."

Reach Portia Williams at 740-353-3101, ext. 1929, or on Twitter @PortiaWillPDT.

Portia Williams | Daily Times

Volunteers from local churches assisted Scioto County Habitat For Humanity with the wall building efforts for Habitat's next home that will be dedicated soon.

Portia Williams | Daily Times

Scioto County Habitat For Humanity had 100 volunteers to come to the Lute Building in Portsmouth to help with a wall building project.

Williams sworn in to fifth term as Auditor

By Frank Lewis
flewis@civitasmedia.com

One of the longest running tenures in local government continued this past January when Portsmouth City Auditor Trent Williams was sworn in for a fifth term. He also took the time to reflect on what he has seen in the day to day operation of the city over recent years.

Williams said the city has improved a lot over the past several years. He talked about the fact that the city went into Fiscal Caution in 2011 and Fiscal Watch in 2013, but said the city administration has been working through the process with City Manager Derek K. Allen to get the city back into good financial condition and to try to avoid Fiscal Emergency and any further major fiscal problems.

"It has been difficult to improve," Williams told the *Daily Times* in an exclusive interview. "We've been fortunate the citizens of Portsmouth have approved two income tax increases over the past five years, but the first one in 2012 was offset tremendously by the loss of other governmental revenue, most of which was the local government funding and then estate tax and personal property tax.

He cited the hiring of a city manager as a move in the right direction and said Allen has been able to come in and put a plan together to stabilize the city financially and to ultimately make the city look better and actually be a better place.

See AUDITOR | 20

SOUTHERN OHIO Antique Mall LLC

Danny Gleim of Don Gleim Auctions & Real Estate, LLC, is excited to announce the opening of Southern Ohio Antique Mall. Southern Ohio Antique Mall is located at 1499 State Route 522, Wheelersburg, Ohio, in the former location of The Southern Ohio Craft Mall. Southern Ohio Antique Mall is the only antique mall located in Wheelersburg, Ohio. With approximately 50 booths of antiques and collectibles you are sure to find that piece you have been looking for to add to your collection or that one of a kind gift for someone special. Southern Ohio Antique Mall will also be carrying P. Graham Dunn merchandise and Jelly Belly Jelly Beans. Southern Ohio Antique Mall is also the home of Party On Rental & Supply. Southern Ohio Antique Mall will be holding a Grand Opening April 15-17, with specials, door prize drawings, and refreshments. Southern Ohio Antique Mall will be open Sunday 1:00 pm- 5:00 pm this weekend only. Southern Ohio Antique Mall hours are Monday- Friday 10:00 am- 6:00 pm and Saturday 10:00 am- 4:00 pm. There are booths still available for rent. Like us on Facebook at Southern Ohio Antique Mall. If you are interested in booth rentals or have any questions, please call the Southern Ohio Antique Mall at 740-574-2218.

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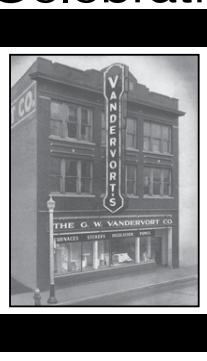

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Gleim Firearms & Ammo will be opening its doors this week at 1499 Unit B State Route 522, Wheelersburg, Ohio. Gleim Firearms & Ammo is a retail and online store carrying a variety of guns from many manufacturers such as Glock, Smith & Wesson, Springfield, Armory, Beretta, Sig Saur, Remington, Savage, Colt, and many more. Gleim Firearms & Ammo will be selling new and used guns. Consignments of guns are always welcome. Gleim Firearms & Ammo can be found online at www.gleimfirearms.com. Gleim Firearms & Ammo owner, Danny Gleim, is a FFL License Dealer. Gleim Firearms & Ammo will have weekly specials and offer competitive prices on their merchandise. Special Ordered guns usually arrive in 2 business days. Shop at Gleim Firearms & Ammo for all your gun needs and gun supplies. Remember, you can shop Gleim Firearms & Ammo anytime at www.gleimfirearms.com. Retail store hours will be Monday- Friday 10:00 am- 6:00 pm and Saturday 10:00 am- 4:00 pm. Contact Gleim Firearms & Ammo at 740-574-9899 with any questions.
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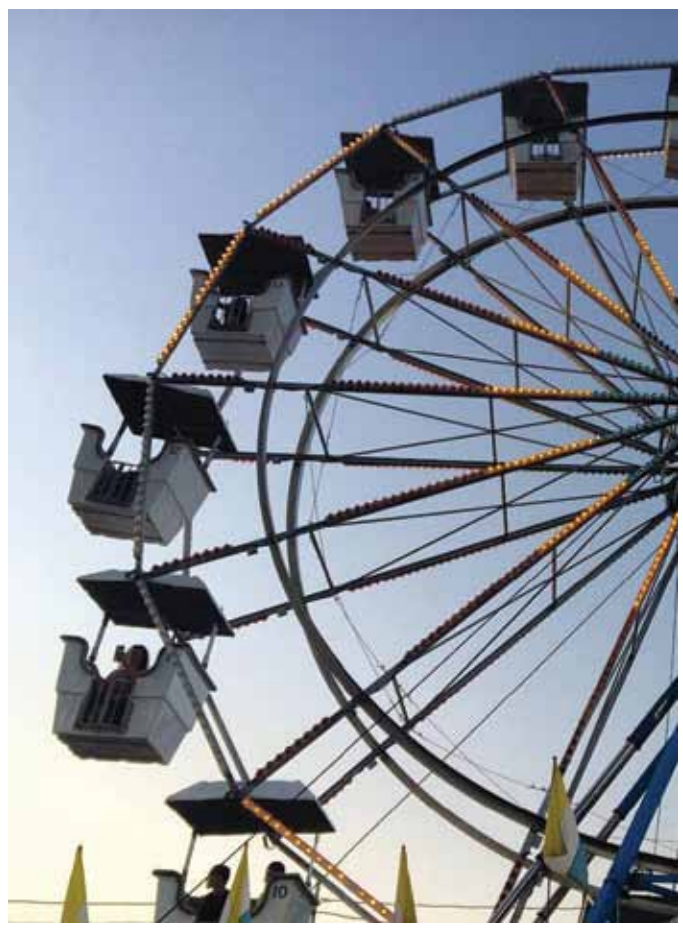

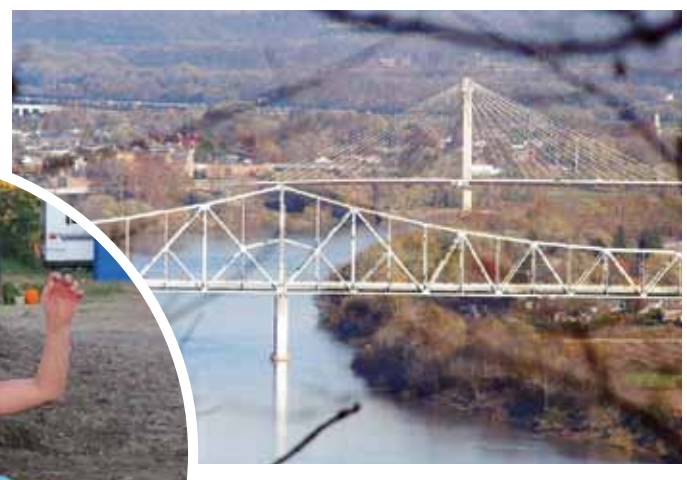

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Raber featured in researcher profiles

Staff report

PORTSMOUTH — Dr. Christine Raber, Professor of Shawnee State University's Master of Occupational Therapy program, was selected as the feature researcher in OhioLINK's Researcher Profiles for her outstanding work in rehabilitation of dementia patients.

Mary Cummings, Research and Instruction Librarian at the Clark Memorial Library, is a member of OhioLINK's User's Services panel and nominated Dr. Raber as an outstanding researcher.

"To me, nominating Dr. Raber just made sense. Her research to improve the quality of the lives of people with dementia is admirable," said Cummings. "She has presented her research all around the world, including in the UK, Sweden and Japan. She is an incredibly intelligent and professional woman and I admire all the work she puts into her research. "

Dr. Raber utilized the many benefits of OhioLINK, including its array of search engines, and resources at the CML to facilitate her mission to improve the lives of those living with dementia.

"I feel very honored that my research was highlighted by OhioLINK, but really the profile underscores the essential services and support of the librarians and staff at CML. SSU is very fortunate to have the depth and breadth of library services, including OhioLINK, to support scholarship and a culture of inquiry at all levels on our campus," said Dr. Raber.

To read the full article featuring Dr. Raber, go to OhioLINK's website at https://www.ohiolink.edu/press/raber_uses_ohiolink_resources_anywhere_anytime_further_dementia_research.

Submitted photo

Dr. Christine Raber, Professor of Shawnee State University's Master of Occupational Therapy, working with some students.

New GIS system comes online, available to everyone

By Wayne Allen
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As a result of collaborative effort between several Scioto County Offices, city of Portsmouth Offices and the Southern Ohio Port Authority (SOPA) a new Geographic Information System (GIS) has been made to benefit the community.

The collaboration includes Scioto County Commissioners, Scioto County Auditor, Scioto County Sanitary Engineer, Scioto County Engineer, Southern Ohio Port Authority and the Scioto County Economic Development Office.

The GIS system is a collection of maps that provide relevant data on parcels of land throughout.

Prior to the maps being available online, anyone interested in gaining that information would have to visit the Scioto County Courthouse. Now, the information will be available to anyone and everyone.

Craig Opperman, Scioto County Engineer, said the official announcement of the system completion will be Monday.

"It's (GIS) on our website (www.sciotocountyengineer.org) as a link, under the maps tab, right now," Opperman said.

He acknowledged the completion and availability of the system is a result of a lot of efforts by a lot of people and a lot of offices.

"This puts tax maps right at the public's fingertips. One of the main focuses of getting these online was economic development, that's why SOPA and the commissioners are on board. Everyone one is pushing to use this as an economic development tool," Opperman said.

Instead of having to drive to the courthouse a business or site selector that's looking to locate to Scioto County, they can now look at every parcel of land from Rarden to Franklin Furnace, without leaving their desk.

Scioto County Commissioners Doug Coleman, Mike Crabtree and Bryan Davis all expressed joy in the system coming on line and say this will be an asset to the community in a number of ways.

Coleman said the system is able to come online as a result of collaborative efforts of a lot of people.

Crabtree echoed Coleman's comments and said the level of corporation to make this happen is great. He said the system has the opportunity to be a very good thing for the county.

Davis said the system is going to benefit the county in a number of ways including economically.

Opperman said there is some information about each parcel currently on the system. He said they are hopeful to add other layers of information in the future such as, utilities lines and where they are located.

"The first step was to get everything online and get the system operational," Opperman said.

When compared to the previous GIS system, Opperman said the new system is extremely fast.

He said the new GIS system took existing systems and incorporated them together in various layers.

"This is long term investment and everybody is committed to its success. We're looking to expand this system, add more information to it," Opperman said.

Some of the features of the system include documents. If someone is looking at a particular parcel of land they can also look at surrounding parcels to see if there is a survey on file.

"We attached our documents to parcels, you can look on there to see if your property has a survey and if it's in our records," Opperman said. "There is also differing Arial photography on there. Our 1999 imagery, our 2008 images and also our 2013 images are all on there. This way you can look at various historical photos back in the system."

SOPA Executive Director Jason Kester said, "I've talked to the Scioto County Bar Association, I've talked to a number realtors and they've all commented this will make their job and doing business in Portsmouth significantly eaiser, which is what we're trying to do."

Kester said on Friday he had someone asking about parcel of land in the county for a potential development project. He sent them a link to that particular parcel using the GIS system. The person then commented how great the link was and how the information available was easy to use and understand.

He said there will a bit of a learning curve with the system, just like there is with any new technology.

Once you have access to the system you can search for various things and there is a search bar that will suggest things as you type them out. System search capabilities go off road names, owner's names or parcel numbers.

Opperman said the system has print functions and the ability to share maps on Facebook, Twitter on an email.

"I would advise people to play around with it, if you have questions or if you see something you may have a concern with call our courthouse office at 740-355-8265 and those guys will look into it," Opperman said.

He said the system can also be use on mobile devices and across platforms.

Some of the other functions of the system include a markup's tool. This tool allows users to mark on the map. Also there's a triview, "The triview will bring up Google Maps and if there is a street view of a particular road. It will show you an Ariel view of a parcel, street view and a roadmap of what you're looking at," Opperman said.

For access to the system visit www.sciotocountyengineer.org/oneview.

Wayne Allen can be reached at 740-353-3101, ext. 1933 or on Twitter @WayneallenPDT

Billy Whitaker also uses his plane to fly to the beach for vacations with his wife Allison and his three kids, Clayton, Lake and Elijah.

Billy Whitaker is also involved in the Scioto County Republican Party. Here he is pictured with Ohio governor and presidential candidate John Kasich.

Aviation

From page 1C

nearest airport."

Whitaker said a private airport was located six miles away, but he was told there was no lighting at the small airport and there was a farm tractor sitting in the middle of it.

"I just reverted back to training, circled the airport until I could shoot an approach in to land," he said. "Everything went perfect. It was quite an experience. I know if I had to do it again, I could."

Whitaker is a successful businessman, pilot, Sunday School teacher and is very involved in politics and his community.

"I am second vice chair of the local Republican Party Executive Central Committee, president of the Scioto County Republican Club and on the Ohio Valley Regional Development Board," he said.

Whitaker has been honored for his community service and recognized for his efforts within Scioto County's Republican Party.

Whitaker is from Scioto County and is married to his wife Allison. The couple has three kids, Clayton, 18, Lake, 13, and Elijah, 3. He grew up in Clay Township and McDermott and now lives in Stout. He is a 1985 graduate of Northwest High School.

His company, SRC, has a solid reputation as a trustworthy partner for all demolition, asbestos and site development needs.

"SRC is well-managed, and experienced to assure an orderly, on-time and within-budget completion of your demolition projects," Whitaker said.

Whitaker says although his planes have helped him save time, there never seems to be enough.

"Entrepreneurship is challenging and also finding time for my family and community service is tough, but I don't mind working 75 to 80 hours a week," he said with a smile. "I do enjoy getting up and going to work each day."

Reach Fred Pace at 740-353-3101, ext. 1927, and follow on Twitter @fcpace62.

Scioto Tech providing workforce needs of local economy

Provided by Scioto County Career Technical Center

The Scioto Tech mission is to provide workforce appropriate to the needs of the local economy, deliver advancing technologies for that workforce and create partnerships across the regional network.

Partnering with business and industry to design and deliver programs that are results-driven and demonstrate a positive return on investment. Scioto Tech programs provide students with the education and training necessary to be highly competitive in the labor market.

Leading political strategist Tony Carnivale has long touted the benefit of career-based educational opportunities that not only reward the employer but give the prospective employee the needed "edge" to succeed.

His basis for support comes from the 1:2:7 principle which states in the United States marketplace: every 1 student needs an advanced degree, every 2 students need bachelor's level work, and the additional 7 are dependent entirely on market-driven need.

In 1950, this same formula existed, but with the caveat that of the 7 only 1 of the 7 needed skills training. Today that same 7 has been reversed with 6 out of the 7 needing a skill-set for employment marketability. And this is where Career Technical Education (CTE) comes into the formula that "college for all" being a standard for educational success actually translates better into post-secondary certification or licensure for ALL being the actual need.

Scioto County Career Technical Center (Scioto Tech) students of all ages can pursue realistic career pathways. Earning a license or industry certification can be more valuable than earning a degree.

Harvard Graduate School of Education's "Pathways to Prosperity Project" found that "27 percent of people with post-secondary licenses or certificates—credentials short of an associate's degree—earn more than the average bachelor's degree recipient."

For 45 years, Scioto Tech students have earned licenses and certificates by completing quality career technical education programs.

While the traditional programming of secondary high school student juniors and seniors are still a focus of the district, Scioto Tech has evolved into so much more with programming pathways from middle school students through associate degree programs.

What is Career-Technical Education?

High school career technical programs include courses that align rigorous content with challenging academic and technical content standards to prepare students for post-secondary education and careers. CTE focused post-secondary programs also have rigorous content standards that give post high school students the skills needed to enter the workforce or pursue additional post-secondary educational opportunities.

Career-Technical Education Makes Economic Sense for Scioto County

Scioto Tech's customized training programs have created partnerships with local business and industry that benefit both the employer and students. All of the career technical programs offered at Scioto Tech provide students with industry certifications, licensures and/or college credit.

According to the Ohio Association for Career and Technical Education, high school students get a head start and graduate from a career technical program with choices to continue their education with knowledge in their chosen field, start their career, or do both at the same time.

This experience is further enhanced with the pairing of pre-high school career exploration programming, which allows students knowledge bases for their next steps in educational choice.

Without these critical measures many students begin the process of career exploration later in their education career and not only waste time, but money, in educational endeavors that are not of their interest or aptitude level.

Post-secondary students take advantage of the educational opportunities by attending Scioto Tech and increasing their marketability in the workforce—Scioto Tech is a cost effective option for post-secondary students to gain new skills and knowledge.

New skills mean new opportunities in today's economy while providing local business and industry with a needed workforce.

Mission

Scioto Tech is the region's driving force for workforce development and the leader in technological advancement and the creation of partnerships. Currently, Scioto Tech is involved in taking steps to ensure a well-educated, technologically advanced structure for systems and equipment that are cutting edge for our business and industry partners.

Scioto Tech has invested heavily in auto technology simulators and related equipment while fully upgrading its dental equipment with the industries newest forms of analysis and diagnostic systems.

The district has begun rehabilitation of an industrial mall in the Lucasville area at the site of the Balzer Industrial Park. This site has already received the first of its needed occupancies and will be hosting both a Truck Driver Academy with Southern State Community College and a new industry interest that will bring up to 100 new jobs to the region.

Several of the current programming offerings that have been seasonal will also be moving onto the site to better utilize space on the main campus.

These are only several examples of the many areas of constant upgrade that Scioto Tech uses to support the community workforce and enhance its societal development.

Scioto Tech currently is also actively engaging industrial practices in additive and reductive manufacturing to develop new areas of study that could be used to not only enhance our student knowledge, but also attract new employer development to the region.

The new programming space will be at the new campus and be actively dedicated to Advanced Manufacturing training and production area that will not only allow public access to equipment new to the region, but also enhance the ability for our economic development partners to use as recruitment for new business.

Scioto Tech is in an unprecedented upswing in enrollment

With this being the case, Scioto Tech has chosen to offer 7th and 8th grade partnerships; which allows students while at their local school district to learn areas of career exploration dedicated to the individual school district's individual interests.

These "foundation" programs are cost effective for the districts, and deliver competitive (to other regions of the state) technical programming which allows students a basic knowledge for their futures and delivers skill-sets aligned to the career technical area chosen by the individual school district (a new elective).

An example is our middle school Vocational Agriculture program at five of the local school districts, while Scioto Tech has pre-engineering and construction at other individual school districts.

These being enacted for the middle school population, while the expansion of associate degree programming which creates a concerted pathway to success for students with true focus on college and career success.

The district mission continues to be met by achieving positive Indicators of Performance from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) for secondary, and Ohio Board of Regents (OBR) for post-secondary.

According to the 2013-2014 (the most recent studies available) ODE Indicators of Performance, secondary met the State Performance Standards in academic attainment (reading, language arts, and mathematics), technical skill attainment, secondary school completion, and secondary placement.

Post-secondary programming also met the OBR Performance Standards in technical skill attainment, credential/certificate, student retention, and student placement.

The purpose of the Performance Standards is for accountability and continuous improvement. Performance Standards are mandated by the federal Perkins legislation that emphasizes CTE reform, innovation and continuous improvement to ensure that students acquire the knowledge and skills to meet rigorous and challenging academic standards and industry-recognized skill standards necessary for post-secondary education, life-long learning and high-skill high-wage careers.

These indicators; are only a measure of the districts viability in that the true outcomes for the students remain being able to compete globally with other likeminded students and be productive to the workforce. We see an 87.5 percent post positive placement for our post secondary while 82.5 percent in our secondary outcomes.

Evidence of Success (awards and community enhancements)

The district continues to feel strongly that the initiatives and outcomes that have been identified for successes have been reinforced from the past year.

While our students, board and staff continues to compare well with students, boards, and staff throughout the state. Scioto Tech continues to be the "award-winning" career technical district in the region.

Scioto Tech students continue to represent the area well in skills-based competitions with a state winner in metal fabrication and sculpture (attached image).

Additionally, many other students compete successfully in secondary program "Olympics" with students winning numerous business and trade & industrial awards.

We also attempt to evolve our operations and have made several changes to services; such as, applying for a new Secondary-JROTC program, post secondary Cosmetology program for Scioto Tech secondary program students, Advanced Culinary program for high school graduates, and advanced levels of Advanced Manufacturing certifications aligned directly to industry need.

Scioto Tech has partnered with the local four county Workforce Investment Board to house their operations and host many strategies of business and education alignment activities.

Scioto Tech has also procured a new "Human Simulator" for the health programs, which will be housed at the main campus and allow students the ability to train on the most advanced of simulation devices.

Collaborations & Partnerships

Preparing students for the world of work requires collaboration and community partnerships. Scioto Tech works with community leaders, business and industry, secondary and post-secondary institutions to develop internships, externships, certifications, licensures, and post-secondary articulations.

The following examples demonstrate how Scioto Tech actively collaborates to expand training opportunities in our region.

Collaboration with Southern State Community College is providing secondary students with College Credit Plus opportunities during their senior year.

Qualifying students can enroll in college level academic classes taught on the Scioto Tech campus while completing a career technical program.

This saves each student over $4000.00 toward a post-secondary degree.

Southern State Community College (SSCC) also provides college classes on the Scioto Tech campus for post-secondary students enrolled in the aforementioned SSCC LPN-RN program.

In addition to the LPN-RN program, SSCC can offer associate degrees in Computer Technology, Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement and Technical Studies on the Scioto Tech campus.

Post- secondary students can receive articulated credit for the Scioto Tech career technical program and take SSCC academic course work on site.

The Higher Learning Commission has approved the programs; this approval will allow SSCC to expand degree program offerings on the Scioto Tech campus.

With a new partnership the district is in active development of a "bridges" program with Shawnee State University to "bridge" students that may find a higher level of success either through or aligned with "training programs" from Scioto Tech. This alignment will allow for a deeper success potential of all students with more options for our citizenry.

And we are proud to announce a new partnership with BridgePort Healthcare Center. BridgePort will sponsor pre-qualified students enrolling in the Nurse Aide program.

Career Technical Programs

Scioto Tech is currently offering many traditional programs while expanding new offerings such as the Culinary and Food Service Operations program.

Culinary programming is an example of the more than 30 programs of study aligned with the Ohio Department of Education and CTE.

While most are familiar with the traditional on-site programs, the district continues to expand satellite programming with: Building and Property Maintenance, Pre-engineering, and Vocational Agriculture located at home districts.

The district has began and continues to expand new programs specifically for middle school students that provide a foundation for programming and allow students in Scioto County to understand careers and the relationship of the skill-sets for those related careers.

Students at an earlier age will be able to engage with instructors that have real world-experiences to make students aware of areas of study such as: Auto Cad and 3-D Modeling with Design Practices and 3-D Printing, Vocational Agriculture practices in various forms and Construction Technology basics.

All of the experiences will be done in a project-based learning environment.

All high school programs use community service projects to explore real-world problems and challenges.

Last year, over 1200 hours of service was given toward community projects and non-profit organizations throughout the county.

Projects focused on the betterment of the community and provided valuable experiences for the student; helping the community in creation of its next workforce.

High school students are taught by a highly qualified teaching staff and receive rigorous academics and program instruction in 17 career fields—allied health, auto body, auto technology, building/property maintenance, carpentry, care and guidance

See SCIOTO | 20

Auditor

From page 16

"I believe we are heading in the right direction financially and I think we will see the results from that over the coming years," Williams said. "In some years we've had too much bickering and fighting within city government that did not make a favorable impression on the city as a whole and I think that has improved as well in recent years."

Williams said he has seen positive improvements in the downtown area over the past few years and hopes to see it continue to grow. As examples, Williams mentioned new schools, the growth of Shawnee State University, hospitals, small local shops, restaurants, and loft style apartments.

"I would like to see more retail shops and industry but that will take time," Williams said. "The city, in getting its act together financially and making improvements will help, but again that does take time and a lot of planning and effort that I also see happening. There's also been more communication and cooperation between the city, (Scioto) County, Southern Ohio Port Authority, etc. It will take everyone involved working together in the same direction to see continued growth and development in our community."

Williams was asked what he enjoyed most about being City Auditor.

"I have enjoyed being able to contribute to the city in many positive ways such as building relationships with a lot of really good people in the Portsmouth area through being the Auditor and working in city and county government that I may not have if not for working here."

"I have enjoyed being able to contribute to the city in many positive ways such as building relationships with a lot of really good people in the Portsmouth area through being the Auditor and working in city and county government that I may not have if not for working here."

– Trent Williams

City Auditor after being sworn in to his fifth term

He also cited modernizing the Finance office through new computer systems and software. He said the city has gone through two major changes in their systems over the past 8 to 10 years. Most recently, just over the last year, have implemented digital approval systems and that they are now moving toward paperless purchasing. As a result, he said the city is not moving as much paper and is faster and more efficient.

"I have a great staff of dedicated, hard workers that I'm very proud of. My staff and I work hard every day to make a positive influence in our City," Williams said. "We have refinanced some of the City's debt. This is now the second time we have refinanced the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund debt. The first time was in 2001, we cut off 8 years and saved over $800,000 in principal and interest payments. This time we cut off another 2 years and will save an additional $330,000. This is the City's only existing general obligation debt and will be completely retired in 2025 instead of 2035."

Williams was referencing the city's decision to issue bonds in the amount of $1.25 million to pay off those debts

Submitted Photo

City Auditor Trent Williams taking the oath of office on Wednesday afternoon as he is sworn in to a fifth term as Portsmouth City Auditor by Juvenile/Probate Court Judge Alan Lemons while Court Administrator Dawn Keller holds the Bible.

"I've always been proud to live in Portsmouth and of what it has to offer," Williams said. "I am very proud to have served the citizens of Portsmouth and grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve another term as your City Auditor. I want to thank the citizens of Portsmouth. I appreciate their trust and support. I wish everyone a happy and prosperous new year."

Reach Frank Lewis at 740-353-3101, ext. 1928, or on Twitter @franklewis.

Scioto

From page 19

of children, cosmetology, criminal justice, culinary arts, dental assisting, electricity, engineering, industrial maintenance, information technology, masonry, medical office management and welding.

The focus of Scioto Tech's post-secondary workforce education and training is to be labor market driven—providing long-term and short-term skill training programs that result in certifications and licensures to meet identified labor market needs.

Post-secondary programming is accredited by the Council on Occupational Education (COE).

Accreditation is a status granted to an educational institution that has been found to meet or exceed stated criteria of education quality and student achievement.

COE requires candidates to participate in an extensive self-assessment that demonstrates compliance with the Council's standards and criteria on educational quality for occupational education institutions.

Post-secondary career technical programs are taught by highly qualified instructors and receive rigorous program instruction in career fields—automotive technology, medium/heavy truck technology, information technology professional, medical office technology, dental assisting, nurse aide, patient care technician, pharmacy technician, phlebotomy, practical nursing,

surgical technology, police academy, emergency medical technician, managing cosmetology, industrial maintenance, power line mechanic industrial/constructional electricity, and welding.

Post-secondary education's consultative and community programs focus on identified needs within the community, business and industry.

An industry certification is earned in short-term programs. In the past year, nurse aides have been trained, while the firefighting program has prepared firefighters for service in our community.

Scioto Tech offers monthly classes for contractors renewing CEUs for the Ohio Construction; in addition to the OCILB classes, Scioto Tech offer fours additional short-term programs—First Aid/CPR, ServSafe, and Small Engine Repair.

Scioto Tech has designed over 20 customized training programs and services specifically targeted to meet the consultative needs of business and industry.

Generally these services are delivered onsite to better accommodate a company's needs.

Companies contract for on-site OSHA and American Heart Association CPR/First Aid training on a continual basis, while on-site skill training and testing for the specific needs of local business and industry is expanding.

A Perfect Fit

Scioto Tech is "A Perfect Fit" for; middle school students who are interested in learning career exploration measures, juniors and seniors in high school with traditional hands-on skill-set training, businesses and adults who want to earn high-quality industry-recognized certifications to make them more easily employable or as the first-step to earning a post-secondary degree.

For more information about Scioto Tech visit www.sciototech.org or call 740-259-5522—740-259-5526.

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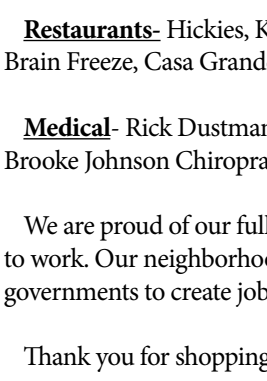

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The New Boston Mall- Tractor Supply, CATO, Vision Center, Hibbetts Sports, GNC, Goody's, Ollies, Creative Possibilities, Pat Catan's.

The K-Mart Mall- K-Mart, Praises, Label Shoppers, Shoe Sensation, LA Nails, Nat'l Cash Advance, Cosmo Prof, Dollar General, H&R Block.

Other businesses within our Village are- Rent 2 Own, CVS, Wagner Rental, Blackburns Market and Fuel Stop, Coopers Truck and Accessories, Splash and Go / Laundry Mat, Dragon Appliances, Pauley's Plumbing, The Wig Shop, Carpet Plus, D.W. Swick Funeral Home, MP Printing and Design, Skinner Printing, Shawnee Computer, BMV Licenses Examinations Station, Hollywood Hair, Corner Cuts, Salon 7, Smart Styles, Hair Company, Shorty's Barber Shop, Family Dollar, Ameriprise Finance, All-State Insurance, Powell Insurance, US Bank, Kyle Signs, Scotty's Satellites, Advanced Auto Parts, Meenach's Service Station, Interim Health Care, Genesis, Dove Car Wash, Scent from Heaven Bakery, Chamberlins CPA, Delille's, Bakers Construction, Be In Touch, Automania.

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Restaurants- Hickies, KFC, Tudor Biscuit, Arby's, Bob Evans, Applebee's, Subway, Jade East and Shake Shoppe, Papa Johns, Brain Freeze, Casa Grande.

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Mayor William D. Williams, Jr.

60644773

Wastren Advantage completes DOE mentor, protégé program

Staff report

PIKE COUNTY – Fluor-BWXT Site Project Director Dennis Carr presented Wastren Advantage, Inc. (WAI) President and CEO Steve Moore with a plaque Feb. 18 marking the successful completion of their Mentor/Protégé Program.

The program is designed to encourage Department of Energy (DOE) prime contractors to assist Small Business Administration (SBA) certified small disadvantaged businesses in increasing their business and performance acumen and capabilities as a commercial contractor performing work within the government sector.

In addition, the program seeks to help these businesses extend their services to other DOE sites and commercial customers across the U.S. in a prime contractor capacity.

"The Mentor Protégé Program can help foster long-term business relationships both commercially and within the government," Carr said. "The Fluor and BWXT parent companies have been working successfully in the government sector for decades. This program gives us an opportunity to share that hard-won experience while at the same time receiving the benefit of specific skills and expertise offered by WAI. It's really a great model for both companies and we are fortunate to have Mentor-Protégé Program support from the DOE."

"The Mentor Protégé Program can help foster long-term business relationships both commercially and within the government."

Dennis Carr
Fluor-BWXT Site Project Director

WAI is headquartered in Piketon, Ohio with project offices throughout the U.S. Their clients include the DOE, Department of Agriculture, U.S. Air Force, EPA and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. With almost 500 employees, WAI provides facilities, operations and remediation services supporting environmental cleanup projects as well as project management expertise. Their major projects include: PORTS Facility Support Services in Piketon; the Hanford 222-S Laboratory Analysis and Testing Services and the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility in Washington; TRU Waste Processing Center Services in Oak Ridge; and Paradox Valley Unit: Operation, Maintenance and Repair near Bedrock, Colorado. Inc. Magazine named WAI to their list of "500 Fastest Growing Companies" in 2012 and 2013.

In response to participating in the program, Moore said "Our relationship with Fluor-BWXT over the last five years has been mutually beneficial. We have successfully performed a variety of work at the PORTS site through this program, which has allowed us to provide high-quality technical services using local resources to support the D&D project."

Courtesy photo

In February 2016 Wastren Advantage Inc. (WAI) successfully completed the DOE Mentor Protégé Program on the PORTS D&D Project in Piketon, Ohio. Fluor-BWXT Site Project Director Dennis Carr presented WAI President and CEO Steve Moore with a plaque to mark this successful partnership. Shown (from left) Jennifer Chandler, WAI project manager; Mark Ashby, Fluor-BWXT contracting officer; Moore; Carr; Doug Collins, WAI director Project Management Office; Amanda Spriggs-Rhea, WAI Operations Coordinator and Karen Davis, Fluor-BWXT Mentor Protégé Program Coordinator.

Fluor-BWXT Program Coordinator Karen Davis and WAI's Operations Coordinator Amanda Spriggs-Rhea have worked closely over the past five years to identify areas to develop and leverage the capabilities of this local business on the massive PORTS D&D Project. The decontamination and decommissioning of the former uranium enrichment plant is expected to take decades and will be the largest project in the state of Ohio.

Even though WAI has "graduated" from the Mentor Protégé Program this doesn't mean their work is done. WAI will continue to build upon the PORTS experience and directly pursue work for which they've developed a strong portfolio.

Each year, Fluor-BWXT issues approximately $61 million in subcontracts to small businesses. Two other Mentor Protégé companies perform work under contracts with Fluor-BWXT and the DOE: Innovative Solutions, also based in Pike County, and Boston Services Group with offices locally and in Oak Ridge, TN.

"Our continued goal is to support small businesses and strengthen the regional and local economy," Carr said. "Through the Mentor Protégé Program we have a unique opportunity to help businesses grow, which in turn provides more jobs in our surrounding communities."

Fluor Corporation (NYSE: FLR) and BWX Technologies, Inc. (BWXT) (NYSE: BWXT), two world-class companies with significant Ohio experience, formed Fluor-BWXT Portsmouth LLC (FBP) to address the decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) needs at the Department of Energy's (DOE) Portsmouth Site in Pike County, Ohio.

Fluor-BWXT which employs 1,900 workers includes two local mentor/protégé companies, InSolves and Wastren Advantage, Inc., and a small business, Pro2Serve, brings unparalleled experience, insights, and lessons learned from across the DOE complex.

The Fluor-BWXT Portsmouth mandate is to clean up the Portsmouth Site safely and compliantly, provide strong uranium stewardship and partner with local communities to achieve a sustainable economic future.

For more information, visit www.fbportsmouth.com.

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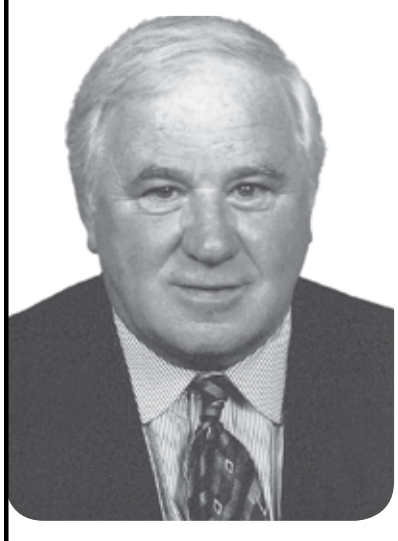
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Columbia Gas breaks ground in New Boston

By Frank Lewis
flewis@civitasmedia.com

New Boston continues to rebuild the infrastructure that lay dormant since the closing of Empire Detroit decades ago.

The latest activity was the groundbreaking in Dec. 16, 2015, for the new Scioto County facility for Columbia Gas of Ohio, at 208 Vine Street in New Boston.

NiSource Columbia Gas of Ohio corporate officials joined with community leaders at the site on in December, shovels in hand.

"This is our 17th project with Columbia Gas," Steve Pagura the developer with the Brewer Company said. "These are transportation mods. It's where they dispatch the crews to repair lines and we're real excited about doing another project with them, bringing these jobs to Portsmouth."

Pagura said the facility will begin with the maintaining of the current 29 employees and will add more because of the scope of the new facility.

"It's brand new. You've got a more energy efficient building and bigger building than the one they're coming out of," Pagura said. "It will make the work flow a lot better."

Shane Cartmill of Columbia Gas of Ohio told the *Daily Times* the facility was built with safety in mind.

Submitted Graphic

Artist rendering of the new Scioto County facility for Columbia Gas of Ohio on Vine Street in New Boston.

"The space is ergonomic with the intent of keeping the employees safe and productive," Cartmill said. "For example, there are details like pull-through parking which helps to reduce backing collisions."

See BOSTON | 23

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Schmidts acquire 25 additional Wendy's

By Frank Lewis
flewis@civitasmedia.com

On Dec. 28, 2015, Justin "Juice" Schmidt and Scott Schmidt of the Schmidt Family Restaurant Group, whose headquarters is located in Portsmouth, completed the acquisition of 25 company-owned Wendy's restaurants in the Charleston/Huntington, West Virginia market. The franchise previously owned and operated 14 restaurants across Ohio and West Virginia.

Juice Schmidt said, with the acquisition, the Franchise will operate 22 Wendy's restaurant locations in West Virginia, 13 in Ohio, and 4 in Kentucky.

"This is an exciting time for our company and I am proud to be a part of such a capable team," Juice Schmidt, President of Schmidt Family Restaurant Group, said.

"This is an exciting time for our company and I am proud to be a part of such a capable team,"
– Juice Schmidt, President of Schmidt Family Restaurant Group on the announcement that they have acquired 25 Wendy's restaurants.

During the more than 40 years with Wendy's, Schmidt Family Restaurant Group has been recognized with multiple system awards for franchise operations.

In 2006, they were recognized with a Wendy's Founder's Award for excellent operations, people development, local marketing and reinvestment; and in 1996 with a Wendy Award for outstanding operations.

In addition, in 2013, Scott Schmidt was recognized with a Wendy's Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award for extraordinary efforts and significant contributions to the Wendy's Brand.

In addition to the Wendy's franchise, Schmidt Family Restaurant Group owns and operates four Buffalo Wild Wings locations in Ohio and Kentucky, with a fifth to open in Pikeville, Kentucky in 2016. The company also has a LaRosa's Family Pizzeria in Jackson, Ohio.

Reach Frank Lewis at 740-353-3101, ext. 1928, or on Twitter @franklewis.

Submitted Photo
Juice and Scott Schmidt at Wendy's Headquarters in Dublin, Ohio on the day of signing to acquire 25 additional Wendy's Restaurants in the tri-state area.

Boston

From page 22

Don Hadsell of Hadsell Construction will build the facility.

"This means more jobs for local people and it's a continuation of everything that we've done up here in New Boston," Hadsell said. "We're about out of property now. We've got about another three acres around the corner and next we're (Hadsell) going to move to the Harmon Street location in Portsmouth and then there should be an announcement coming from the Southern Ohio Port Authority (SOPA) on the (Ohio) 522 lot. It's coming here in the next few weeks. With what I hear that some people want to do up there (522 in Wheelersburg), there may be another plant coming up there."

"This means more jobs for local people and it's a continuation of everything that we've done up here in New Boston." - Don Hadsell of Hadsell Construction at the groundbreaking of the new Columbia Gas facility in New Boston

Hadsell said the project is a continuation of the vision of the late Bob Walton who made it his life's goal to create a successful industrial complex on those grounds.

"It doesn't have the 2,000 jobs it used to (when Empire Detroit Steel was located there), but up and down there now, with this, which is 29 more, that makes probably 700 to 800 jobs in here," Hadsell said. "It's not what we had but it's better than if it went into a brownfield. Bob Walton fought and gave his life for this area, so this is just a continuation of his dream and that of Mick Sturgill and (the late New Boston Mayor) Jim Warren."

President of Village Council Mike Payton welcomed the company to New Boston.

"This is a great opportunity for New Boston," Payton said. "We have seen it grow from Jim Warren's days, making a rebound after the mill left and we have come back a long way. It's a team effort."

Pagura said the company hopes to be under roof at the new building by June 1, 2016.

Reach Frank Lewis at 740-353-3101, ext. 1928, or on Twitter @ franklewis.

Frank Lewis | Daily Times
NiSource Columbia Gas of Ohio officials and local political leaders break ground for the construction of the new Scioto County facility for Columbia Gas of Ohio on Vine Street in New Boston Wednesday.

FUELS OF THE FUTURE...TODAY

MarkWest owns and operates an LPG (Liquefied petroleum gas) products facility in South Shore, KY. The major raw feed source is from MarkWest-owned extraction plants located in Kenova, WV, Clendenin, WV and Boldman, KY. The feedstock at the South Shore facility is fractionated into propane, iso-butane, normal butane and natural gasoline. The finished products are then shipped by truck, rail and barge to area retailers, chemical plants and refineries. Annual propane production exceeds 200 million gallons.

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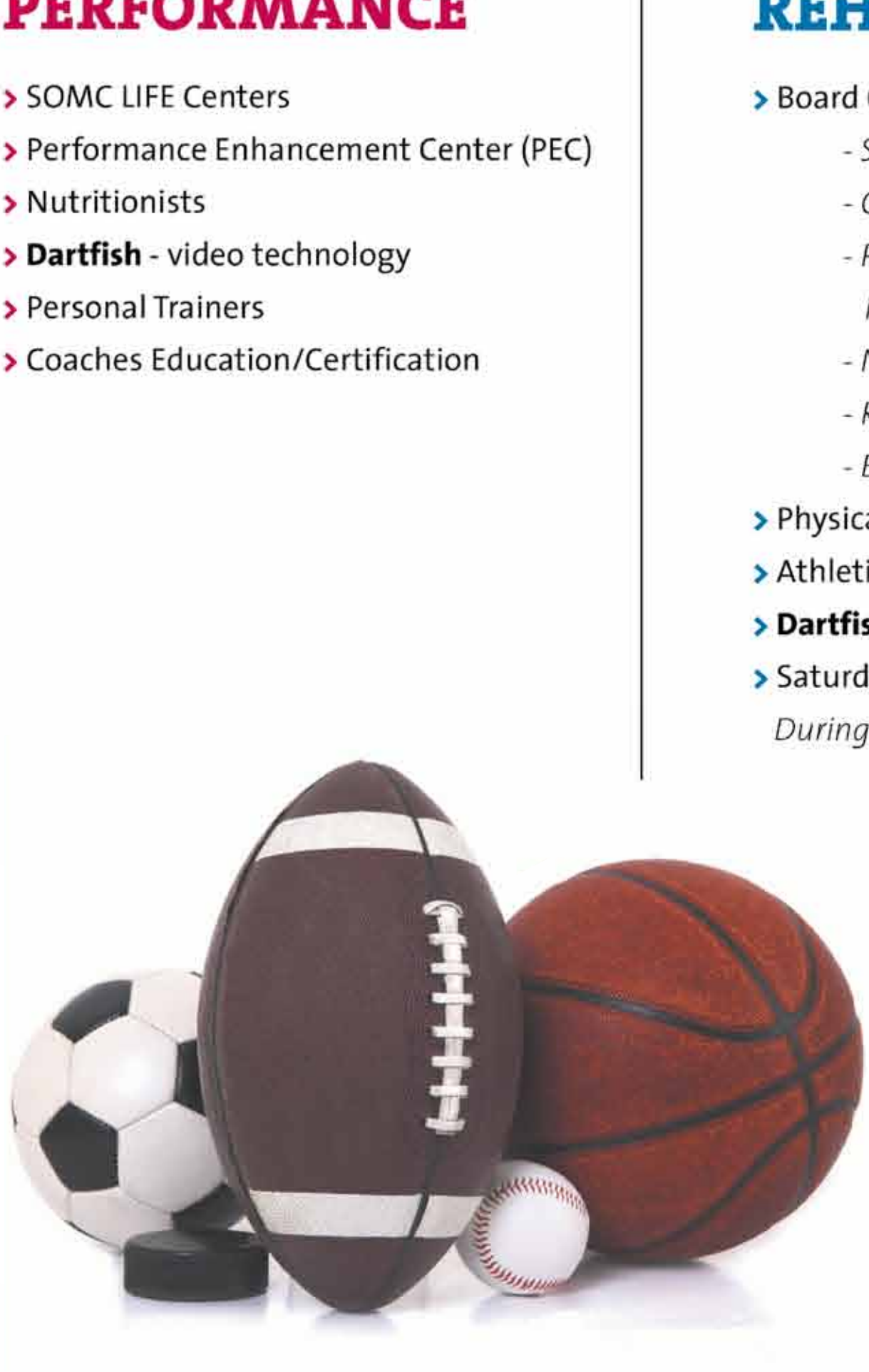

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