

DRAWING CURTAIN ON RESTROOM MANDATE BRINGS SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS

Compiled by the Richland Community Prayer Network, November 29, 2016; Updated October 23, 2017

Pastors representing one hundred and two congregations (102) in Richland County, Ohio defend Biblical definition of gender by sending correspondence to school officials and State Board of Education advising them to disobey federal government restroom mandate. The pastors' letter is released to the media on August 2nd, 2016 and the following phenomenon is observed in Richland County the next month in August 2016.....

1) Deuteronomy 28: 4 "Blessed shall be the fruit of your body..."

No childhood mortalities reported in August 2016, in Richland County according to Richland Public Health https://www.richlandhealth.org/upload/documents/Births_Deaths/deaths-16_final.pdf and Shelby City Health Department (Phone call 419.347.5131 Friday, 100716)..... In 2011, Richland County infant mortality was 10.16 deaths (children under 1 year old) for every 1,000 live births; vast majority of these deaths involve children dying in their sleep.....The United States has an infant mortality rate of 6.1 per 1,000 live births. However, stacked against other wealthy countries, the nation's rate is abysmal; a study by the Center of Disease Control (CDC) compared the U.S. infant mortality rate with 26 other wealthy European countries. The U.S. was ranked dead last. "Healing Hope: Infant mortality a complex problem locally and nationally," by Brittany Schock, Richland Source, 90616, http://www.richlandsource.com/news/infant-mortality-a-complex-problem-locally-and-nationally/article_276805ae-6fa6-11e6-ac42-0b58e65d319b.html

2) Deuteronomy 28:6 "Blessed in your coming and goings..."

No motorist fatalities in Richland County for month of August 2016 (WMFD "August 2016 Richland County Traffic Fatalities Update 90116, <http://www.wmfd.com/news/single.asp?story=69684> Richland County has approximately 1,576 miles of roads with 262 miles being Interstate, US, and State Routes, <http://www.rcrpc.org/transportation/roads-and-bridges/> Based on a sixteen year study, August historically has been found to be the deadliest month to drive in the nation: http://www.safemotorist.com/articles/deadliest_days_on_the_road.aspx2015 saw the largest percentage rise in motor vehicle deaths in the past 50 years, according to the National Safety Council. It estimates that last year, 38,300 people were killed on U.S. roads, "2015 Traffic Fatalities Rose By Largest Percent In 50 Years, Safety Group Says," 21816 by Bill Chappell, NPR, <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/02/18/467230965/2015-traffic-fatalities-rose-by-largest-percent-in-50-years-safety-group-says>

3) Deuteronomy 28: 7 "The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you be defeated before your face they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways...."

Those who oppose GOD and the Bible are the enemies of GOD. Opponents of GOD have fled Richland County in different directions: after second annual gay pride event, religious freedom opponents originally pledged their group would push for a Mansfield City non-discrimination ordinance adding sexual orientation to protected class, which would marginalize religious freedoms("Event's goal is sharing LGBT awareness," Mansfield News Journal 72116); However, fifteen months later, these activists have yet to approach City Council, likely due to Pastors' letter to schools opposing transgender mandate. In addition, one of the local gay pride event organizers, a transgender man, publicly stated that his "future is uncertain", and that he is "thinking of moving to a bigger city, noting it's hard to find a relationship in Mansfield." "Moving toward transgender acceptance, by Mark Caudill, Mansfield News Journal 111316, www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/story//news/local2016/11/13/moving-tward-tramsgemder-acceptance/93553126/ In addition, 2 of 3 pagan psychic stores closed on or around month of August: "Waves of Light," at 305 East Main Street in Lexington, http://www.richlandsource.com/business/waves-of-light-opens-holistic-store-in-lexington/article_f9f84aec-2816-11e6-b7df-c3ce43c79628.htm closed before Labor Day weekend after owner moved to Florida, and The Hopkey Pagan Store at 390 Orange Street; owner went to jail, "Mansfield man faces federal child porn charge after "trying to set up housemate," by Emily Dech, 82916, Richland Source http://www.richlandsource.com/news/mansfield-man-faces-federal-child-porn-charge-after-trying-to/article_c7f0d4a2-6ded-11e6-b19a-377263e70b50.html this is significant considering there are six paranormal locations in Richland County, Ohio according to the Mansfield Convention and Visitor's Bureau <http://www.mansfieldtourism.com/what-to-do/haunted-mansfield-> and there is also an annual Metaphysical Expo , "9th Annual Divine Heart Expo Held," by Kaylie Spotts of WMFD News, 101616 <http://www.wmfd.com/news/single.asp?story=70123>

4) Deuteronomy 28:10 “Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD...”

Media exposure of Pastors’ correspondence from: the following national and international media outlets:

The USA Today: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2016/08/03/100-pastors-tell-ohio-schools-ignore-transgender-bathroom-mandate/87996882/> ..**The Christian Post:**

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/100-pastors-ohio-school-officials-ignore-obamas-transgender-bathroom-directive-167565/> ...**World Religion News:** <http://www.worldreligionnews.com/issues/100-ohio-pastors-urge-schools-to-ignore-transgender-bathroom-mandate> ...**World Net Daily:** <http://www.wnd.com/2016/08/judge-blocks-obamas-transgenders-schools-mandate/> ...**The Independent from the United Kingdom:**

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/supreme-court-blocks-transgender-bathroom-ruling-everything-you-need-to-know-a7172596.htm>

See also: **Louisville Courier Journal:** <http://www.courier-journal.com/story/news/politics/2016/08/03/supreme-court-transgender-bathrooms-virginia/88037966/>

5) Deuteronomy 28:12: “The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its due season...”

In August of 2016, Mansfield Ohio received 3.5 inches of rain during a moderate drought. According to National Weather Service (NWS), the drought commenced inside Richland County the week of July 12, 2016 and ended the week of September 27, 2016 for a total of twelve weeks, <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/MapsAndData/MapArchive.aspx>According to NWS John Hopkins Airport Branch, July 2016 was the ninth driest on record, and the tenth warmest on record. In Richland County, the sweltering heat of August 2016 made it the second warmest August in history (email correspondence: nwscl@noaa.gov 102916 at 11:28 AM, 216.265.2370, Lori contact) Despite this, the area still received significant rainfall

6) Deuteronomy 28:11: “The LORD will grant you plenty of goods, in the produce of your ground....”

“Although a moderate drought in the middle of the summer stunted growth of many of the plants, a series of rains in late August seems to have saved the harvest from complete disaster.” (“Harvest smaller after drought,” Mansfield News Journal, 90716), “To the relief of many Ohio farmers, the heavens opened in the third week of August...’that saved us Crawford County farmer Greg Lutz said. ”“Harvest season outgrows expectations,” by Zach Tuggle, Mansfield News Journal 101216).....in a survey of nine farms spanning eight different townships in Richland County findings include: “In seventy-four years of farming, I have never had eighty bushels of soybeans an acre like I did in 2016,” says Bill Ramsey of Adario Road (Field interview 102317) “I was pleasantly surprised with the good yields; corn was way better than we thought,” says John McCarron of Amoy Ganges Road. (Phone Interview 102716) “Ivan Zimmerman of Rome Greenwich Road reported that this year to his surprise, he harvested a robust seventy-five bushels of soybean an acre, which is his biggest bumper crop in his twenty years of farming. Similarly, Ivan averages four cuts of hay during the growing season, but this year he had five cuts of hay. “The rain came at the perfect time in August and produced a great yield,” Ivan says (Phone interview 102616)..... Ken Burrer of Kaster Road said he had an excellent year for alfalfa hay with four cuts (Phone Interview 102716)..... Robert McConckie of Stouffer Road reported “Harvest way better than thought; turned out wonderful, couldn’t believe it. The beans were big” he said laughing. “One field had sixty bushels an acre yield; another field did even better than that.” (Phone interview 101816).....A survey of two local beekeepers: Beekeeper educator Dave Duncan, who has sixty-five area hives stated that this past summer’s bee season was the best in a decade; he collected thirty-three swarms this past year (Phone interview 102516) Swarming is the reproduction of new honey bee colonies) Hager Hicks, President of the local Beekeeper’s Association of State Route 598, collected thirteen swarms and had the best watermelon harvest he has ever had. In 2014, Hager lost all ten of his hives to colony collapse disorder. (Phone interview 102816)

7) Deuteronomy 28:4 “Blessed shall be the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle....”

Theoretically, August is one of the hottest months of the year; therefore, dairy cows historically produce the least amount of milk in August due to heat stress. According to U.S. Department of Agriculture marketing report, August 2016, Richland County dairy cows produced 11,464,034 pounds of milk,

<http://www.fmmaclev.com/Statistical%20Summary/State%20&%20County/2016/aug%202016%20State%20and%20County.pdf> which was a 43% increase in milk produced compared to last year’s 7,994,197 pounds

<http://www.fmmaclev.com/Statistical%20Summary/State%20&%20County/2015/Aug%202015%20State%20and%20County.pdf> This is a staggering total considering August 2016 was the second hottest August in Richland County history!

100 OHIO PASTORS URGE SCHOOLS TO IGNORE TRANSGENDER BATHROOM MANDATE

08 AUG 2016 POSTED BY GARY NGUYEN



IN A LETTER TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS, OVER 100 PASTORS SAID TO IGNORE MANDATES ALLOWING TRANSGENDER STUDENTS TO USE THE RESTROOM OF THE GENDER THEY IDENTIFY WITH.

Pastors in the vicinity of the Richland County, Ohio school districts sent out a back-to-school letter regarding a topic that is not typical back-to-school fare. The letter, **supported by over 100 local pastors**, urged school districts to ignore the U.S. Department of Education's mandate from last May that allows transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with their gender identity, reports *USA Today*.

According to the letter, the pastors believe "there is no authority except from God," and the Department of Education's directive "defies objectivity and logic," and also "jeopardizes the privacy and safety of vulnerable women and children." The letter goes on to cite several Biblical verses that refer to civil disobedience, and **encourages schools to disobey** the order rather than "sacrifice the safety and privacy of women and children on the altar of political correctness."

Ben Mutti, head of the Richland Community Prayer Network and initiator of the letter, declined comment, stating that the pastors were speaking with "one voice," and "the letter speaks for itself." **Ohio is not the only state experiencing friction with the Obama administration's transgender bathroom mandate.**

The Supreme Court ruled in favor of a Virginia district which opposed the mandate, blocking a federal appeals court ruling against the Gloucester County School Board while they consider whether or not to hear the case of Gavin Grimm, a trans boy who wishes to use the boys' bathroom.

More examples like this exist across the country as Republican lawmakers attempt to force students to use restroom and locker facilities that correspond to their gender at birth, while transgender students and their supporters seek to give people the right to follow their gender identity.

Large sums of money could be at stake here, as funds could be withheld from public schools that refuse to comply with the mandate.

<http://www.worldreligionnews.com/issues/100-ohio-pastors-urge-schools-to-ignore-transgender-bathroom-mandate>

FEDERAL COURT BLOCKS OBAMA'S TRANSGENDER-BATHROOM ORDER

'This president is attempting to rewrite the laws enacted by elected representatives'



Published: 08/22/2016 at 11:38 AM

In a major blow to the Obama administration's alternative-sexual-behaviors agenda, a federal judge in Texas late Sunday night blocked the president's order to open public school restrooms and shower rooms according to "gender identity" and allow boys who believe they are girls to use girls' facilities.

U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor of Fort Worth found that the Obama administration did not follow proper procedures in creating the directives. Further, he said the guidelines contradicted existing statutes and regulatory texts, [the Dallas Morning News reported](#).

The ruling follows the Obama administration's order to allow transgendered persons to serve in the military.

In defense of its order, the government has cited Title IX regulations, arguing "sex" is a protected class. The lawsuit counters that the government is presuming that when Congress adopted the law in 1972, it had open restrooms and shower rooms in view.

Reacting to the ruling, Matt Sharp of [Alliance Defending Freedom](#) said the Obama administration "cannot unilaterally disregard and redefine federal law to accomplish its political agenda of forcing girls to share locker rooms and showers with boys."

"The court in this case made clear that the administration ignored the federally required public notice and comment process as well as the crystal clear meaning of Title IX in its attempt to force its will on the American people," he said.



"We are currently reviewing the order to determine the positive impact this order has for the cases that ADF is litigating against the departments of Education and Justice in Illinois, North Carolina and Ohio. Schools have a duty to protect the privacy, safety, and dignity of all students, and this order certainly helps them in fulfilling that duty."

The judge pointed out, "It cannot be disputed that the plain meaning of the term sex as used in [existing law] when it was enacted by DOE following passage of Title IX meant the biological and anatomical differences between male and female students as determined at their birth."

[Liberty Counsel's](#) Mat Staver said the Obama directive "was a lawless and ridiculous act by the president and we must continue to reject the Obama bullies."

"The facts show that one in four girls and one out of every six boys under 18 will be sexually assaulted," Staver said. "This unconstitutional mandate would have only increased those statistics."

The U.S. Supreme Court already has stepped into the issue [blocking a court order in Virginia that gave a girl who identifies as a boy the right to use boys' restrooms](#). The order will stand until the Supreme Court decides whether to accept the case.

[See what American education has become, in "Crimes of the Educators: How Utopians Are Using Government Schools to Destroy America's Children."](#)

The decision in Fort Worth came in a case brought by Texas and about a dozen other states. Texas officials said the administration's demand "hold a gun to the head" of school districts, threatening them with the loss of funding.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton told the Morning News it was an "illegal federal overreach."

“This president is attempting to rewrite the laws enacted by the elected representatives of the people, and is threatening to take away federal funding from schools to force them to conform,” he said in a prepared statement.

The preliminary injunction, which comes as public schools prepare to reopen, applies nationwide.

“This case presents the difficult issue of balancing the protection of students’ rights and that of personal privacy when using school bathrooms, locker rooms, showers, and other intimate facilities, while ensuring that no student is unnecessarily marginalized,” the judge said.

Dozens of pastors in Ohio lobbied for the state to ignore Obama’s mandate, and in Texas, officials suggested that was a viable option.

The Ohio pastors said in a letter that the Department of Education’s transgender advocacy “defies objectivity and logic.”

Further, it puts in jeopardy the safety of “vulnerable women and children.”

[WND reported in July](#) when family policy experts at the [Ruth Institute](#) warned the Obama administration agenda to push transgenderism on public schools forces children to adopt the “ideological agenda” of homosexuality. The organization has issued a report on Obama’s [“Guidance to Help Schools Ensure the Civil Rights of Transgender Students”](#) released in May by the departments of Justice and Education.

The guidance requires that public schools and universities allow students to choose their “gender identity” and grant them access to gender-specific facilities. Since such identities are “fluid,” a student could see himself as male one day and female the next, according to administration guidelines.

It would allow a boy to shower with girls, for example, if he tells school officials he is a girl on that particular day. Obama’s rules specifically forbid schools from asking for any sort of documentation or medical evidence that a student is receiving hormone treatment or has had any surgery.

[See what American education has become, in “Crimes of the Educators: How Utopians Are Using Government Schools to Destroy America’s Children.”](#)

The guidance, however, ignores the right of students not to be exposed to unclothed members of the opposite sex.

A separate group of states also had sued, in addition to the case led by Texas, which charged Obama “conspired to turn workplaces and educational settings across the country into laboratories for a massive social experiment, flouting the democratic process, and running roughshod over commonsense policies protecting children and basic privacy rights.”

The Ruth Institute, dedicated to creating a Christ-like social movement to address family breakdown, said in its report that even “transgender” children are not helped.

“The transgender movement is controversial, even among the wider gay rights movement,” the report said. “Lesbian feminist professor Sheila Jeffreys describes male-bodied transgenders as invading women-only spaces and exercising a form of male privilege. The federal government should not be imposing an ideological agenda, much less taking sides in an internal quarrel within the larger gay rights movement.”

The report continued: “The public schools have no business enlisting small children in an ideological crusade of any kind. Creating a day to day living environment that implements the most controversial plank of the transgender political regime does exactly that: enlists the children in an ideological crusade. Certainly, the federal government should not be conscripting every public school in America in an ideological movement, an drafting every public school child in America as its foot soldiers.”

The report said school boards are within their rights to refuse to participate “in the federal government’s war against nature.”

The report was prepared by Jennifer Roback Morse, institute founder, who said the dictates from Washington are not helping people.

The guidance allows students to hide from their parents that they are presenting themselves as “transgender,” establishes “transgenders” as a political class but not a medical class and “will certainly harm the millions of ordinary children who are not struggling with gender identity issues,” the report said.

“These guidelines do not serve the interests of children. Young people are not fully developed in their sense of identity, including their sense of gender identity. Children who are so confused about who they are that they identify as something other than their bodily gender need adult supervision, and greater bodily privacy, not less of each. They would benefit from the supervision and privacy afforded by use of a single stall or staff bathroom,” the institute said.

Obama’s executive action allowing as many as 5 million illegal aliens to remain in the United States also has been suspended by a federal judge in an ongoing case.

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Read more at <http://www.wnd.com/2016/08/judge-blocks-obamas-transgenders-schools-mandate/#H8mTEYoA2SIEIcFK.99>



INDEPENDENT

Supreme Court blocks transgender bathroom ruling: Everything you need to know

Teenager Gavin Grimm, who identifies as male, will be blocked from using the boys' bathroom when he returns for the new school year

Tim Walker US Correspondent Thursday 4 August 2016 20:04 BST

The US Supreme Court has temporarily blocked a ruling by a lower court that would allow a transgender Virginia teenager to use the school bathroom befitting his gender identity.

Wednesday's order, which comes amid growing controversy over constraints on the use of school and public bathrooms by transgender people, means 17-year-old Gavin Grimm will be blocked from using the boys' bathroom when he returns for the new school year.

Grimm was born female but identifies as male and has undergone hormone therapy.

School officials had allowed him to use the boys' bathroom until some pupils and parents complained, after which he was told to use only the girls' bathroom or a unisex bathroom.

Grimm sued the school board in Gloucester County, Virginia, and in April a federal court ruled in his favour, saying that if the school board stopped him using his preferred bathroom, it would be in violation of Title IX, a 1972 law banning sex discrimination in federally funded schools.

Lawyers for the school board intend to appeal the decision, claiming they want to "protect the basic expectations of bodily privacy of Gloucester County students."

The Supreme Court this week agreed to block the order by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals while the board prepares to make its appeal, which it hopes the Supreme Court itself will consider when the Justices return from the Summer recess.

How did the bathroom issue get so fraught?

Last year, the Obama administration issued advice to school districts nationwide, formalising its opinion that Title IX – that 1972 sex discrimination law – was applicable to the rights of transgender people. In a letter, a lawyer from the US Department of Education said transgender students should be permitted to use the bathrooms and changing rooms that are "consistent with their gender identity."

The appeals court in the Grimm case agreed with the Department of Education's assessment. The Gloucester County school board did not. Its lawyers said: "Depriving parents of any say over whether their children should be exposed to members of the opposite biological sex, possibly in a state of full or complete undress in intimate settings, deprives them of their right to direct the education and upbringing of their children."

This isn't just about one case in rural Virginia though, is it?



No. The issue of transgender people and bathrooms has stirred controversy in more than 20 states, with Republican politicians trying to force transgender students to use the bathroom that coincides with the gender on their birth certificates, and transgender activists and their allies arguing for their right to choose.

In May of this year, the Department of Education followed up last year's guidance with a directive threatening to withhold federal cash from schools that continued to discriminate against their transgender pupils.

Eleven states quickly sued over that directive, and last month they were joined by 10 more. **Last week a group of more than 100 pastors wrote to Ohio's school districts, urging them to ignore the Obama administration's mandate.** Meanwhile, in North Carolina, a federal judge is considering whether to block the state's controversial HB2 law, adopted in March, which says all school and public bathrooms and changing facilities must be segregated according to the gender "stated on a person's birth certificate".

Similar bills have been brought in several other states, but North Carolina's Pat McCrory is the only governor to have actually signed one into law.

Is this an election issue?

With even the economy and global terrorism being overshadowed by Donald Trump's hourly offences on the campaign trail, the matter of transgender people and bathrooms is unlikely to get much play as a presidential election issue. Hillary Clinton takes the same view as the Obama administration; the day after Mr McCrory signed North Carolina's bathroom bill, she tweeted: "LGBT people should be protected from discrimination under the law – period."

Mr Trump's position is less clear. After initially saying the North Carolina law had "a lot of problems" and that transgender celebrity Caitlyn Jenner could use whichever bathroom she preferred if she ever visited Trump Tower, the Republican nominee later walked back those remarks, saying the bathroom issue ought to be decided by individual states. His running mate, Indiana Governor Mike Pence, faced his own backlash in 2015 after signing a "religious freedom" law seen as allowing discrimination against the LGBT community.

But even if it doesn't appear to impact the national race, transgender rights are a crucial issue in North Carolina, which is looking more and more like a swing state.

The Tar Heel state has voted Republican in eight of the last nine presidential elections, but polls currently put Ms Clinton and Mr Trump neck and neck there. Mr McCrory himself is facing a tough re-election fight, especially after HB2 turned the state into something of a pariah, with high-profile musicians cancelling North Carolina shows, and several major companies cancelling plans for expansion there.

In a battleground state, small issues can have a big impact, and the Clinton campaign knows it. On Wednesday, Ms Clinton's running mate Tim Kaine was in North Carolina, where he called on voters to go "forward, not backward" on LGBT issues. Lamenting the passage of HB2, he said: "You all have stood up in a major way and you've said this is not who we are. This is not who North Carolina is. These are not our values. And that's one of the reasons why North Carolina is so intensely focused on this race."

Where does the Supreme Court stand on transgender rights?

If it decides to consider Gavin Grimm's case in the autumn, it will be the first time the Supreme Court has intervened in the issue. Its order this week blocking the appeals court ruling was seen as a blow to the transgender rights movement, but it may be more of a formality.

Since the death of Justice Antonin Scalia in February, the eight-person court has been split evenly between liberal and conservative justices, with Senate Republicans refusing to entertain the idea of confirming President Obama's nominee, Merrick Garland, to fill the vacancy. Wednesday's order was a 5-3 decision because liberal Justice Stephen Breyer joined the court's four conservatives as a "courtesy" to keep the issue on hold until they return from recess.

Justice Breyer implied, however, that he did not support the school board's appeal. If the Supreme Court were to take the case and come to a 4-4 tie, the Fourth Circuit's ruling would stand

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/supreme-court-blocks-transgender-bathroom-ruling-everything-you-need-to-know-a7172596.html>



Supreme Court blocks transgender victory on bathrooms

Richard Wolf, USA TODAY Published 5:10 p.m. ET Aug. 3, 2016 | Updated 8:10 p.m. ET Aug. 3, 2016

The Supreme Court on Wednesday blocked a court order giving a transgender student access to the boys' bathroom at his Virginia high school, in what is the high court's first ruling on an increasingly contentious topic. The ruling permits the Gloucester county school board to continue barring Gavin Grimm, a trans boy, from using the boys' restroom until the supreme court decides whether or not to hear Grimm's challenge to the school board. The decision is a major setback for the teenager and will probably bar him from using the bathroom consistent with his gender identity when he begins his senior year of high school. In April, Grimm won a key victory before the fourth circuit court of appeals that granted him access to the boy's bathroom. USA TODAY

The Supreme Court sided Wednesday with a Virginia school board opposed to the Obama administration's directive that transgender students be allowed their choice of public bathrooms.

The justices blocked a federal appeals court ruling against the Gloucester County School Board while they consider whether to hear the case. If they do, it would mark the high court's first foray into the issue of transgender rights.



The case was brought by a transgender student, Gavin Grimm, who contested the school district's refusal to let him use the boys' bathroom. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit ruled in his favor in April but put its ruling on hold so the school board could appeal. The Supreme Court's order keeps the old rules in place.

The court's four conservative justices were joined by Justice Stephen Breyer in blocking the transgender student's earlier victory. The three other liberal justices said they would have denied the school board's request.

The battle over so-called bathroom bills has played out in many states as Republican lawmakers seek to force students to use facilities that correspond to their gender at birth, and transgender students fight for the right to follow their gender identity.

Just last week, more than 100 pastors in the midwest sent a letter to Ohio elected officials and school districts, calling for schools to ignore a May mandate from the U.S. Department of Education allowing transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with their gender identity.

The letter states the pastors believe "there is no authority except from God" and the U.S. Department of Education's directive to school districts "defies objectivity and logic." It also "jeopardizes the privacy and safety of vulnerable women and children," the pastors said.

In early July, 10 states sued the federal government over rules requiring public schools to allow transgender students to use restrooms conforming to their gender identity, joining a dozen other states in the latest fight over LGBT rights.

The July lawsuit was filed in federal court in Nebraska and included nine other states: Arkansas, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

The filing comes after 11 states sued in May over the same Obama administration directive. North Carolina officials also sued the federal government in May over the same issue. Vast sums of federal funding are at stake: Money could be withheld from public schools that refuse to comply with the federal directive.



<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2016/08/03/supreme-court-transgender-bathrooms-virginia/88037966/>

Romanchuk: Schools 'should stand on principle' on transgender rule

Dillon Carr, Staff Reporter, August 5, 2016

MANSFIELD — State Representative Mark Romanchuk encouraged school principals and superintendents to “vote their conscience, so to speak” when it comes to complying with the federal government’s transgender bathroom mandate.

A group of 102 area pastors wrote a letter to state government officials urging them to recognize a call to civil disobedience against the nation’s recent gender identity rules for schools. Although an act of civil disobedience is not, in Romanchuk’s opinion, the best method of fighting the mandate, he understands the concern.

“It’s a shame that the federal government has to threaten states to comply by taking away funding — that’s a problem,” Romanchuk said, adding he thinks the transgender bathroom policy is “bad.” “Schools should stand on principle and not yield to a threat,” he said. The best way to combat the transgender rule, he said, is to find the presidential candidate that aligns with the voter’s conscience come November.



The U.S. Department of Education mandated in May 2015 all school districts and universities must comply with the federal government’s restroom mandate that allows individuals to choose which gender specific bathrooms they wish to use.

The letter states that school districts may be subject to lawsuits and withdrawal of federal funding if the school does not comply with the federal mandate. It cited a recent case between the U.S. Justice Department and the state of North Carolina. The lawsuit was filed in May because the Justice Department contended the state’s law, HB2, violated the rights of transgender people by requiring them to use the bathroom corresponding to the sex on their birth certificate.

“The federal government has demonstrated an open hostility to its citizens and more specifically our women and children by forcing its radical form of orthodoxy which undoubtedly will destabilize the school environment from learning. We cannot sacrifice the safety and privacy of women and children on the altar of political correctness,” reads the letter. The letter was sent Thursday, July 27, U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown, along with several other state officials, were recipients.

Mid-Ohio Educational Services Center Superintendent Linda Keller believes the decision to comply with the federal government’s mandate on transgender bathroom rules rests with individual school administrators.

“Certainly everyone has an opinion,” Keller said. Keller did not offer advice to schools; however, she said, “right now there is not a definitive authority of financial consequences.”

Romanchuk was not as confident, but his suspicions are similar to Keller’s inclination.

“I don’t know. I’m at the state level so I don’t know what the authority is, but it’s safe to say there are three avenues of funding for schools: local, federal and state. And the federal is what is in question. They (the federal government) might not have as much leverage as they think,” he said.

Mansfield City Schools Treasurer Robert Kuehnle said the district receives \$7 million in federal funding each fiscal year. Mansfield City Schools Superintendent Brian Garverick said the school’s policy will stay the same. “We always have and will make accommodations for kids,” he said. “This year, like every year, we’ll meet with parents and accommodate on a case-by-case basis.”

“Including if someone has a certain condition maybe they have to use a different restroom. We make accommodations. Public education is not in the business of excluding kids,” Garverick said.

Currently, he said, Mansfield schools do not have transgender bathrooms or locker rooms. He neither confirmed nor denied whether the school has plans to include additional bathrooms. “It’s not been an issue to date,” Garverick said.

http://www.richlandsource.com/education/romanchuk-schools-should-stand-on-principle-on-transgender-rule/article_3119ce7a-5a7f-11e6-a2ca-0be8140046b6.html



USA TODAY NETWORK

Courtney Day, The Mansfield (Ohio) News Journal | August 3, 2016

100+ pastors tell Ohio schools to ignore transgender bathroom mandate

MANSFIELD, Ohio—More than 100 area pastors sent a letter last week to Richland County school districts and Ohio elected officials calling for schools to ignore a May mandate from the U.S. Department of Education, which allows transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with their gender identity.

The letter states the pastors believe "there is no authority except from God" and the U.S. Department of Education's directive to school districts "defies objectivity and logic." It also "jeopardizes the privacy and safety of vulnerable women and children," they say.

The letter then cites several Bible verses that refer to civil disobedience and calls for schools to exercise civil disobedience rather than to "sacrifice the safety and privacy of women and children on the altar of political correctness."



Signed with the names of 102 local pastors, the letter was initiated by Richland Community Prayer Network leaders Ben Mutti and El Akuchie, according to the Rev. Thomas Hunt of Providence Baptist Church.

Mutti declined to comment Tuesday, responding to a phone call from the News Journal with an email saying, "Regarding the pastors correspondence sent to school officials, no additional comments will be made at this time. The pastors speak with one voice, the letter speaks for itself."

Hunt said he was contacted via email by the group and asked to lend his name to the cause. "I lent my name because just from a religious point of view, in my opinion, the Bible tells us the Lord made man in his image, he made male and female," Hunt said. "Trying to be politically correct, we blur that line sometimes."

"When it comes to following man's law or God's law, I'm going to follow God's," Hunt said.

Many local school administrators were out of their offices Tuesday for a meeting at Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center, but those who responded to the News Journal's inquiries about the letter said they do not have or intend to create an official policy regarding transgender students' bathroom use.

"At Shelby City Schools, we have not added to, deleted from or changed our policy in any way in regards to the issue," Shelby Superintendent Tim Tarvin said.

Ontario Superintendent Lisa Carmichael echoed similar sentiments. "Know that Ontario Schools does not have an official board adopted policy or protocol regarding transgender bathroom use," she said. "Federal mandate or no federal mandate, I do not see us adopting any type of policy in the immediate or near future. Like all 'hot topic' issues, we will proceed with caution and good common sense."

"The bathroom issue is a major shift in public thinking," Clear Fork Valley Superintendent Janice Wyckoff said. "We respect and support our clergy's opinions. At Clear Fork, we deal with this issue on a case-by-case basis."

Superintendents from Mansfield City and Lexington school districts could not be reached for comment Tuesday. Officials at Mansfield Christian and Temple Christian schools previously told the News Journal the private schools would not allow students to use restrooms that did not correspond with their biological sex.

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation-now/2016/08/03/100-pastors-tell-ohio-schools-ignore-transgender-bathroom-mandate/87996882/>

THE CHRISTIAN POST

100+ Pastors to Ohio School Officials: Ignore Obama's Transgender Bathroom Directive

BY [MICHAEL GRYBOSKI](#), CHRISTIAN POST REPORTER

Aug 5, 2016 | 4:18 PM

Over 100 pastors recently signed on to an open letter to Ohio officials encouraging them to ignore President Barack Obama's controversial transgender directive for public schools.



Earlier this year, President Obama issued a directive to public schools across the country to allow transgender students to use the restrooms of their choice rather than their biological sex.

Richland Community Prayer Network gathered together 102 pastors to sign an open letter to Ohio officials including the school board and Ohio Governor John Kasich.

"The federal government has demonstrated an open hostility to its citizens and more specifically our women and children by forcing its radical form of orthodoxy which undoubtedly will destabilize the school environment from learning," [stated the letter.](#)

"As pastors and spiritual advisers representing over one hundred congregations in Richland County, Ohio, we officially call for civil disobedience to the unlawful restroom mandate issued by the Department of Education dated May 13, 2016."

In May, Obama issued a directive telling public schools to allow transgender students to be able to use the restroom of their chosen gender identity rather than their biological sex.

In an interview with BuzzFeed News, Obama argued that such a move was necessary to protect the dignity of transgendered individuals.

"We're talking about kids, and anybody who's been in school, been in high school, who's been a parent, I think should realize that kids who are sometimes in the minority — kids who have a different sexual orientation or are transgender — are subject to a lot of bullying, potentially they are vulnerable," [said Obama.](#)

"I think that it is part of our obligation as a society to make sure that everybody is treated fairly, and our kids are all loved, and that they're protected and that their dignity is affirmed."

The directive has prompted much opposition from political conservatives as well as a lawsuit filed by several states arguing that the directive is an example of federal overreach.

Soon after the directive was issued, a group of 11 states filed a lawsuit challenging the federal guidance in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas

Those 11 states were Texas, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Arizona, and Maine.

For its part, Ohio joined a separate lawsuit with nine other states that was filed in July. Led by Nebraska, states in this litigation included Arkansas, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Wyoming.



"[Obama's directive] supersedes local school districts' authority to address student issues on an individualized, professional and private basis," [stated Nebraska's Office of the Attorney General](#).

"When a federal agency takes such unilateral action in an attempt to change the meaning of established law, it is incumbent upon those who want to maintain the rule of law to pursue legal clarity in federal court in order to enforce the rule of law."

The Christian Post reached out to the Ohio Department of Education regarding the matter, but they responded that they could comment

due to it being tied to pending litigation.

The Richland Community Prayer Network was also contacted by CP, but they did not return comment by press time.

Read more at <http://www.christianpost.com/news/100-pastors-ohio-school-officials-ignore-obamas-transgender-bathroom-directive-167565/#yBLzAt8ocPEozQo3.99>

THE CHRISTIAN POST

Obama Transgender Bathroom Resistance Had 'Showers of Blessing,' Pastors Say

BY [MICHAEL GRYBOSKI](#), CHRISTIAN POST REPORTER
Mar 23, 2017 | 3:34 PM

A group of Ohio pastors who garnered headlines last year for calling on state officials to resist then President Barack Obama's transgender directive for schools say that this resistance was rewarded with "showers of blessing" for their community..



The Richland Community Prayer Network, a coalition of pastors based in Richland County, sent a letter in August of 2016 with over 100 signatures from clergy to Ohio state leadership demanding that they not implement President Obama's directive that public schools allow transgender students to pick whatever bathrooms they want to use.

Pastor Randy Raynes of Fellowship Baptist Church of Mansfield, Ohio, one of the letter's signatories, [told American Family Radio](#) that soon after the release of their letter, the county received what the radio station and the pastors dubbed "showers of blessing."

"That's one of the promises of the LORD in Deuteronomy 28 how that if GOD's people will get right and God's people would take a stand, that GOD would bless the nation in many different ways," stated Raynes.

Pastor Eric Byrom of Mansfield Grace Fellowship echoed these sentiments to The Christian Post, explaining in an interview that "Deuteronomy 28 articulates various blessings that will happen when God's laws are obeyed and respected."

"God's laws are similar to the laws of nature in that if they are followed, there will be specific results. For example, if we do not heed the law of gravity and jump off a cliff, we will fall and be injured or die," said Byrom.

"In the same way, if we do not follow God's laws as a nation, we will experience the curses described in Deuteronomy 28 for disobedience. Also, if we follow them, should we not expect to see the blessings?"

The pastors noted that they [sent the letter in early August](#). For the rest of the month there were multiple areas of improvement to life in Richland County, Ohio, including no reported childhood mortalities, no reported motorist fatalities, and the end to a period of drought with 3.5 inches of rainfall.

Pastor James Spencer of People's Baptist Church, located south of Mansfield, Ohio, told CP that he believed that "God through trials and difficulties has continued to be faithful."

"As Christians, our tendency is to put our heads in the sand, and pretend that everything will get better, but God, sometimes, calls men to take stands for what He says is right," said Spencer.

"Psalm 133:3 speaks of the Lord commanding the blessing. Not just God's men stood, but God's people stood in a spirit of unity, for God, in a time of national crisis. God took notice."

When asked by CP about whether this could be coincidence, Spencer responded with the question of "was it a coincidence when God saved Noah from the flood?"

"Was it a coincidence when God delivered David from the hand of Saul? Was it a coincidence when God blessed the tiny nation of Israel in the days of Solomon?" added Spencer.

"Was it a coincidence when God led our forefathers to the shores of America? No, it was the blessing of God."

Follow Michael Gryboski on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#)



Read more at <http://www.christianpost.com/news/obama-transgender-bathroom-resistance-showers-of-blessing-pastors-178457/#VL66uKKS8jbtWdlx.99>

Ohio Pastors Say Their Resistance to Obama Transgender Bathroom Directive Was Rewarded With 'Showers of Blessing'

March 24, 2017

A group of Ohio pastors who garnered headlines last year for calling on state officials to resist then President Barack Obama's transgender directive for schools say that this resistance was rewarded with "showers of blessing" for their community.



The Richland Community Prayer Network, a coalition of pastors based in Richland County, sent a letter in August of 2016 with over 100 signatures from clergy to Ohio state leadership demanding that they not implement President Obama's directive that public schools allow transgender students to pick whatever bathrooms they want to use.

Pastor Randy Raynes of Fellowship Baptist Church of Mansfield, Ohio, one of the letter's signatories, [told American Family Radio](#) that soon after the release of their letter, the county received what the radio station and the pastors dubbed "showers of blessing."

"That's one of the promises of the LORD in Deuteronomy 28 how that if GOD's people will get right and God's people would take a stand, that GOD would bless the nation in many different ways," stated Raynes.



Pastor Eric Byrom of Mansfield Grace Fellowship echoed these sentiments to The Christian Post, explaining in an interview that "Deuteronomy 28 articulates various blessings that will happen when God's laws are obeyed and respected."

"God's laws are similar to the laws of nature in that if they are followed, there will be specific results. For example, if we do not heed the law of gravity and jump off a cliff, we

will fall and be injured or die," said Byrom.

[100+ Pastors to Ohio School Officials: Ignore Obama's Transgender Bathroom Directive](#)

"In the same way, if we do not follow God's laws as a nation, we will experience the curses described in Deuteronomy 28 for disobedience. Also, if we follow them, should we not expect to see the blessings?"

The pastors noted that they [sent the letter in early August](#). For the rest of the month there were multiple areas of improvement to life in Richland county, including no reported childhood mortalities, no reported motorist fatalities, and the end to a period of drought with 3.5 inches of rainfall.



Pastor James Spencer of People's Baptist Church, located south of Mansfield, Ohio, told CP that he believed that "God through trials and difficulties has continued to be faithful."

"As Christians, our tendency is to put our heads in the sand, and pretend that everything will get better, but God, sometimes, calls men to take stands for what He says is right," said Spencer.

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"Was it a coincidence when God led our forefathers to the shores of America? No, it was the blessing of God."

SOURCE: The Christian Post
Michael Gryboski

<http://blackchristiannews.com/2017/03/ohio-pastors-say-their-resistance-to-obama-transgender-bathroom-directive-was-rewarded-with-showers-of-blessing/>



Showers of Blessing on Ohio Community for Biblical Stance

By Bill Bumpas, American Family Radio, Broadcast on March 7, 2017

More than one hundred pastors in Richland County, Ohio wrote a letter to state government and school leaders defending the Biblical definition of gender and urging the leaders to ignore what was at the time a mandate from the U.S. Department of Education allowing students to use the gender specific bathroom of their choice.

One of the pastors writing that letter was Pastor Randy Raynes:

“It gave us a John the Baptist moment where we could stand up and say “You know what? This is wrong and it this should not be happening. And it gave the people a chance to stand with us because most of the time people just wait for somebody to take a lead. And if we the pastors are not taking the lead then nobody will.”



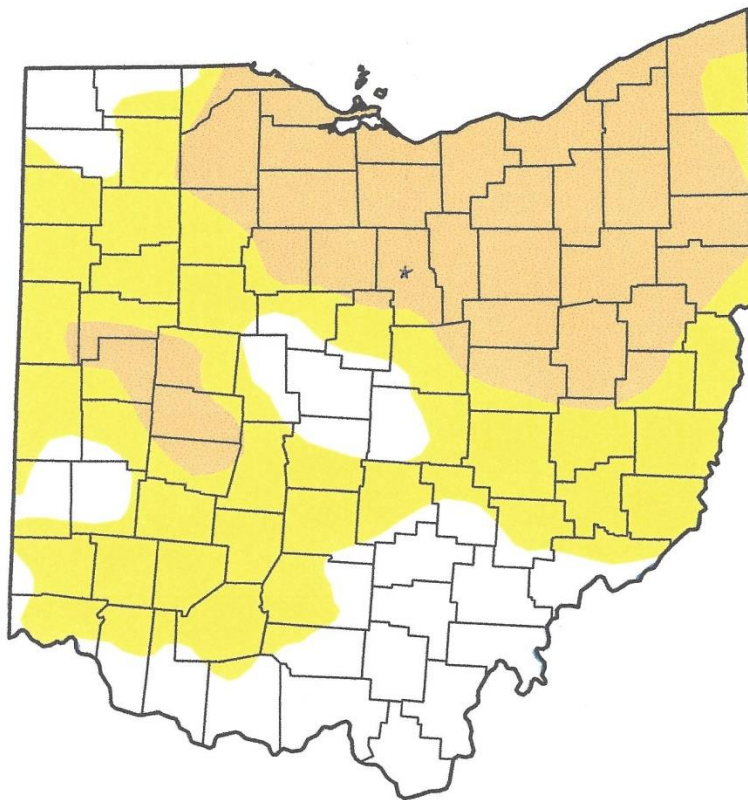
The letter was sent in early August and pastors began tracking all that GOD did in that month: there were no childhood mortalities, and there were no motorist fatalities for the month of August. A drought was ended that month which saved the crops. And there was a huge increase of milk production despite the hot weather.

“That’s one of the promises of the LORD in Deuteronomy 28 how that if GOD’s people will get right and God’s people would take a stand, that GOD would bless the nation in many different ways.”

Raynes says there shouldn’t be any surprise that GOD would bless a community for its obedient stance.

U.S. Drought Monitor Ohio

July 26, 2016
(Released Thursday, Jul. 28, 2016)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

| | None | D0-D4 | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4 |
|---|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Current | 24.39 | 75.61 | 33.67 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Last Week 07-19-2016 | 29.66 | 70.34 | 29.39 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 3 Months Ago 04-26-2016 | 99.53 | 0.47 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2015 | 49.91 | 50.09 | 3.83 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Start of Water Year 09-29-2015 | 77.24 | 22.76 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| One Year Ago 07-28-2015 | 100.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

**Mideast Federal Order 33
 Producer Milk By State and County
 August 2016**

| <u>State</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>Code</u> | <u>Producer Count</u> | <u>Producer Pounds</u> |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| OHIO | CARROLL | 019 | 30 | 2,610,364 |
| | CHAMPAIGN | 021 | 12 | 1,101,669 |
| | CLARK | 023 | 4 | 6,674,283 |
| | COLUMBIANA | 029 | 77 | 12,107,181 |
| | COSHOCTON | 031 | 23 | 2,127,644 |
| | CRAWFORD | 033 | 8 | 2,379,607 |
| | DARKE | 037 | 41 | 10,413,329 |
| | DEFIANCE | 039 | 9 | 6,275,636 |
| | DELAWARE | 041 | 4 | 147,303 |
| | FAIRFIELD | 045 | 9 | 552,149 |
| | FULTON | 051 | 11 | 4,641,535 |
| | GALLIA | 053 | 4 | 82,894 |
| | GEAUGA | 055 | 53 | 4,140,814 |
| | GREENE | 057 | 4 | 896,527 |
| | GUERNSEY | 059 | 5 | 485,044 |
| | HANCOCK | 063 | 3 | 887,699 |
| | HARDIN | 065 | 9 | 8,064,767 |
| | HARRISON | 067 | 6 | 420,257 |
| | HENRY | 069 | 8 | 4,186,353 |
| | HIGHLAND | 071 | 23 | 883,210 |
| | HOLMES | 075 | 177 | 12,512,587 |
| | HURON | 077 | 49 | 5,306,800 |
| | JACKSON | 079 | 4 | 81,347 |
| | JEFFERSON | 081 | 7 | 685,475 |
| | KNOX | 083 | 31 | 8,423,150 |
| | LICKING | 089 | 12 | 3,038,363 |
| | LOGAN | 091 | 26 | 3,280,054 |
| | LORAIN | 093 | 17 | 1,723,981 |
| | MADISON | 097 | 11 | 14,231,360 |
| | MAHONING | 099 | 31 | 5,985,450 |
| | MARION | 101 | 4 | 6,442,970 |
| | MEDINA | 103 | 22 | 3,807,807 |
| | MEIGS | 105 | 6 | 540,698 |
| | MERCER | 107 | 97 | 29,053,543 |
| | MIAMI | 109 | 10 | 1,280,426 |
| | MONROE | 111 | 10 | 648,016 |
| | MONTGOMERY | 113 | 3 | 305,414 |
| | MORGAN | 115 | 7 | 1,629,118 |
| MORROW | 117 | 10 | 2,608,138 | |
| MUSKINGUM | 119 | 13 | 1,063,042 | |
| PAULDING | 125 | 9 | 22,094,426 | |
| PERRY | 127 | 3 | 377,797 | |
| PICKAWAY | 129 | 5 | 214,002 | |
| PIKE | 131 | 8 | 248,613 | |
| PORTAGE | 133 | 12 | 2,615,532 | |
| PREBLE | 135 | 10 | 1,493,554 | |
| PUTNAM | 137 | 13 | 7,135,126 | |
| RICHLAND | 139 | 110 | 11,464,034 | |
| ROSS | 141 | 4 | 67,290 | |
| SANDUSKY | 143 | 8 | 701,037 | |
| SENECA | 147 | 3 | 785,564 | |
| SHELBY | 149 | 43 | 8,407,921 | |
| STARK | 151 | 73 | 12,383,053 | |
| TRUMBULL | 155 | 29 | 4,331,955 | |

**Mideast Federal Order 33
 Producer Milk By State and County
 August 2016**

| <u>State</u> | <u>County</u> | <u>Code</u> | <u>Producer Count</u> | <u>Producer Pounds</u> |
|--------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| OHIO | CARROLL | 019 | 30 | 2,610,364 |
| | CHAMPAIGN | 021 | 12 | 1,101,669 |
| | CLARK | 023 | 4 | 6,674,283 |
| | COLUMBIANA | 029 | 77 | 12,107,181 |
| | COSHOCTON | 031 | 23 | 2,127,644 |
| | CRAWFORD | 033 | 8 | 2,379,607 |
| | DARKE | 037 | 41 | 10,413,329 |
| | DEFIANCE | 039 | 9 | 6,275,636 |
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| | FAIRFIELD | 045 | 9 | 552,149 |
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| | GALLIA | 053 | 4 | 82,894 |
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| | GREENE | 057 | 4 | 896,527 |
| | GUERNSEY | 059 | 5 | 485,044 |
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| | HARDIN | 065 | 9 | 8,064,767 |
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| | HENRY | 069 | 8 | 4,186,353 |
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| | HOLMES | 075 | 177 | 12,512,587 |
| | HURON | 077 | 49 | 5,306,800 |
| | JACKSON | 079 | 4 | 81,347 |
| | JEFFERSON | 081 | 7 | 685,475 |
| | KNOX | 083 | 31 | 8,423,150 |
| | LICKING | 089 | 12 | 3,038,363 |
| | LOGAN | 091 | 26 | 3,280,054 |
| | LORAIN | 093 | 17 | 1,723,981 |
| | MADISON | 097 | 11 | 14,231,360 |
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| | MERCER | 107 | 97 | 29,053,543 |
| | MIAMI | 109 | 10 | 1,280,426 |
| | MONROE | 111 | 10 | 648,016 |
| | MONTGOMERY | 113 | 3 | 305,414 |
| | MORGAN | 115 | 7 | 1,629,118 |
| | MORROW | 117 | 10 | 2,608,138 |
| | MUSKINGUM | 119 | 13 | 1,063,042 |
| | PAULDING | 125 | 9 | 22,094,426 |
| | PERRY | 127 | 3 | 377,797 |
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| | PUTNAM | 137 | 13 | 7,135,126 |
| | RICHLAND | 139 | 110 | 11,464,034 |
| | ROSS | 141 | 4 | 67,290 |
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| | SENECA | 147 | 3 | 785,564 |
| | SHELBY | 149 | 43 | 8,407,921 |
| | STARK | 151 | 73 | 12,383,053 |
| | TRUMBULL | 155 | 29 | 4,331,955 |

TABLE 48

Broiler Production, Price and Value, Ohio and United States, 2005-2006¹

| Item | Ohio | | United States ² | |
|--|---------|---------|----------------------------|------------|
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2005 | 2006 |
| Number produced (000 head) | 43,100 | 45,600 | 8,872,000 | 8,882,000 |
| Pounds produced (000 pounds) | 228,400 | 241,700 | 47,855,600 | 48,794,900 |
| Price per pound (dollars) ³ | 0.44 | 0.39 | 0.436 | 0.386 |
| Value of production (000 dollars) | 100,496 | 94,263 | 20,877,916 | 18,851,054 |

^{1/} Broiler production including other domestic meat-type breeds. ^{2/} Excludes states producing less than 500,000 broilers. ^{3/} Live-weight equivalent price.

TABLE 49

Turkey Production, Price and Value, Ohio and United States, 2005-2006

| Item | Ohio | | United States | |
|---|---------|---------|---------------|-----------|
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2005 | 2006 |
| Number produced (000 head) ¹ | 6,000 | 5,100 | 252,053 | 261,960 |
| Pounds produced (000 pounds) | 223,800 | 190,740 | 7,095,977 | 7,417,935 |
| Price per pound (dollars) ² | 0.44 | 0.46 | 0.449 | 0.479 |
| Value of production (000 dollars) | 98,472 | 87,740 | 3,182,767 | 3,551,127 |

^{1/} Based on turkeys hatched September 1, previous year, through August 31, current year. Excludes young turkeys lost.

^{2/} Liveweight equivalent price.

TABLE 50

Number of Layers by District, Ohio, December 1, 2002-2006

| District | Hens and Pullets of Laying Age | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
| | | | Thousand | | |
| 10 Northwest | 1,110 | 1,250 | 1,090 | 1,250 | 855 |
| 20 North Central | 2,330 | 2,160 | 2,340 | 2,155 | 2,110 |
| 30 Northeast | 1,460 | 1,890 | 1,180 | 1,620 | 1,130 |
| 40 West Central | 15,350 | 16,100 | 16,670 | 17,200 | 17,200 |
| 50 Central | 10,320 | 7,300 | 6,200 | 6,050 | 5,650 |
| 60 East Central | 220 | 185 | 180 | 175 | 215 |
| Southern Region ¹ | 205 | 271 | 240 | 326 | 315 |
| State | 30,995 | 29,156 | 27,900 | 28,776 | 27,475 |

^{1/} Includes Districts 70 Southwest, 80 South Central and 90 Southeast.

TABLE 51

Bee Colonies and Honey Production, Ohio, 2002-2006¹

| Year | Honey Producing Colonies | Yield Per Colony | Production | | Stocks Dec 15 ² | | Average Price Per Pound ³ | Value of Production |
|------|--------------------------|------------------|------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| | Thousand | Pounds | Thousand | Pounds | Thousand | Pounds | Cents | Thousand Dollars |
| 2002 | 18 | 70 | | 1,260 | 504 | | 144 | 1,814 |
| 2003 | 15 | 50 | | 750 | 278 | | 140 | 1,050 |
| 2004 | 16 | 58 | | 928 | 353 | | 152 | 1,411 |
| 2005 | 15 | 69 | | 1,035 | 580 | | 142 | 1,470 |
| 2006 | 14 | 56 | | 784 | 282 | | 145 | 1,137 |

^{1/} For producers with 5 or more colonies. ^{2/} Stocks held by producers. ^{3/} Prices weighted by sales.

TABLE 48
**Broiler Production, Price and Value,
 Ohio and United States, 2010-2011¹**

| Item | Ohio | | United States ² | |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|----------------------------|------------|
| | 2010 | 2011 | 2010 | 2011 |
| Number produced (1,000 head) | 60,000 | 59,600 | 8,623,600 | 8,607,600 |
| Pounds produced (1,000 pounds) | 376,800 | 375,500 | 49,152,600 | 49,702,300 |
| Value of production (\$1,000) | 181,618 | 174,983 | 23,691,553 | 23,161,274 |

^{1/} Broiler production including other domestic meat-type breeds. ^{2/} Excludes states producing less than 500,000 broilers.

TABLE 49
**Turkey Production, Price and Value,
 Ohio and United States, 2010-2011**

| Item | Ohio | | United States | |
|---|--------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|
| | 2010 | 2011 | 2010 | 2011 |
| Number produced (1,000 head) ¹ | 4,600 | 5,000 | 244,188 | 248,500 |
| Pounds produced (1,000 pounds) | 192,740 | 210,000 | 7,110,527 | 7,319,252 |
| Price per pound (dollars) ² | ³ | ³ | 0.615 | 0.682 |
| Value of production (\$1,000) | 119,499 | 143,220 | 4,373,866 | 4,991,732 |

^{1/} Based on turkeys hatched September 1, previous year, through August 31, current year. Excludes young turkeys lost. ^{2/} Liveweight equivalent price. ^{3/} State level price per pound discontinued.

TABLE 50
**Number of Layers by District,
 Ohio, December 1, 2007-2011**

| District | Hens and Pullets of Laying Age | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|--------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 |
| | | | Thousand | | |
| 10 Northwest | 1,080 | 1,245 | 1,120 | 1,340 | 1,335 |
| 20 North Central | 2,100 | 2,150 | 2,230 | 2,160 | 2,170 |
| 30 Northeast | 1,050 | 1,340 | 1,320 | 1,130 | 1,150 |
| 40 West Central | 16,755 | 15,820 | 16,680 | 17,830 | 17,860 |
| 50 Central | 5,085 | 5,960 | 6,050 | 5,375 | 5,380 |
| 60 East Central | 195 | 235 | 240 | 240 | 170 |
| Southern Region ¹ | 313 | 313 | 198 | 222 | 290 |
| State | 26,578 | 27,063 | 27,838 | 28,297 | 28,355 |

^{1/} Includes Districts 70 Southwest, 80 South Central and 90 Southeast.

TABLE 51
**Bee Colonies and Honey Production,
 Ohio, 2007-2011¹**

| Year | Honey Producing Colonies | Yield Per Colony | Production | Stocks Dec 15 ² | Average Price Per Pound ³ | Value of Production |
|------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| | Thousand | Pounds | Thousand Pounds | Thousand Pounds | Cents | Thousand Dollars |
| 2007 | 14 | 61 | 854 | 376 | 177 | 1,512 |
| 2008 | 14 | 53 | 742 | 371 | 168 | 1,247 |
| 2009 | 11 | 50 | 550 | 132 | 281 | 1,546 |
| 2010 | 18 | 62 | 1,116 | 346 | 228 | 2,544 |
| 2011 | 15 | 66 | 990 | 228 | 226 | 2,237 |

^{1/} For producers with 5 or more colonies. ^{2/} Stocks held by producers. ^{3/} Prices weighted by sales.

Dairy Products: Annual Production Totals — Ohio: 2012 - 2016

| Product | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | (1,000 gallons) | (1,000 gallons) | (1,000 gallons) | (1,000 gallons) | (1,000 gallons) |
| Ice cream, fullfat, total | 23,549 | 21,844 | 21,027 | 24,690 | 24,766 |
| Ice cream, lowfat, total | 20,684 | 17,322 | 16,821 | 16,270 | 16,221 |
| Ice cream mix, fullfat | 12,228 | 11,597 | 10,499 | 12,251 | 12,825 |
| Ice cream mix, lowfat | 7,112 | 6,673 | 6,784 | 7,217 | 6,967 |
| | (million pounds) | (million pounds) | (million pounds) | (million pounds) | (million pounds) |
| Cheese, total | 199 | 196 | 202 | 211 | 215 |
| Cottage cheese, curd | 13 | 12 | 12 | 15 | 18 |
| Cottage cheese, creamed | 15 | 13 | 13 | 17 | 20 |
| Cottage cheese, low fat | 9 | 8 | 8 | 11 | 14 |
| Cheese, Swiss | 138 | 135 | 138 | 147 | 150 |
| Sour Cream | 64 | 67 | 72 | 73 | NA |
| | (number) | (number) | (number) | (number) | (number) |
| Number of plants | 70 | 69 | 69 | 66 | 65 |

Honey: Number of Colonies, Yield, Production, Stocks, Price, and Value — Ohio: 2012-2016

[Producers with 5 or more colonies.]

| Year | Honey producing colonies ¹ | Yield per colony | Production | Stocks December 15 ² | Average price per pound ³ | Value of production ⁴ |
|------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | (1,000) | (pounds) | (1,000 pounds) | (1,000 pounds) | (cents) | (1,000 dollars) |
| 2012 | 18 | 60 | 1,080 | 410 | 246 | 2,657 |
| 2013 | 17 | 45 | 765 | 390 | 329 | 2,517 |
| 2014 | 15 | 61 | 915 | 256 | 358 | 3,276 |
| 2015 | 17 | 50 | 850 | 357 | 360 | 3,060 |
| 2016 | 15 | 79 | 1,185 | 664 | 384 | 4,550 |

¹ Honey producing colonies are the maximum number of colonies from which honey was taken during the year. It is possible to take honey from colonies which did not survive the entire year.

² Stocks held by producers.

³ Average price per pound based on expanded sales.

⁴ Value of production is equal to production multiplied by average price per pound.

Commercial Hog Slaughter — Ohio: Monthly 2015-2016

| Month | Number slaughtered | | Total live weight | | Average live weight | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|------------|
| | 2015 | 2016 | 2015 | 2016 | 2015 | 2016 |
| | (1,000 head) | (1,000 head) | (1,000 pounds) | (1,000 pounds) | (pounds) | (pounds) |
| January | 80.7 | 81.4 | 22,872 | 23,390 | 284 | 288 |
| February | 72.6 | 80.8 | 20,221 | 22,870 | 279 | 284 |
| March | 86.0 | 87.4 | 23,864 | 24,196 | 278 | 277 |
| April | 76.8 | 77.5 | 21,308 | 21,611 | 278 | 280 |
| May | 74.3 | 83.9 | 20,636 | 23,215 | 278 | 277 |
| June | 82.3 | 82.7 | 22,730 | 22,685 | 277 | 275 |
| July | 86.5 | 80.4 | 23,906 | 21,958 | 277 | 273 |
| August | 82.3 | 98.4 | 22,665 | 27,285 | 276 | 278 |
| September | 86.2 | 91.3 | 23,704 | 25,471 | 275 | 280 |
| October | 61.7 | 90.3 | 18,556 | 25,128 | 301 | 279 |
| November | 75.0 | 83.9 | 21,838 | 23,415 | 292 | 280 |
| December | 88.8 | 84.3 | 25,280 | 23,609 | 285 | 281 |
| Annual Total | 953.2 | 1,022.2 | 267,580 | 284,834 | 281 | 279 |

Phone Interview with Ivan Zimmerman October 26, 2016

419.896.3205

Ivan Zimmerman owns a sixty acre dairy farm on Rome Greenwich Road in Bloomingrove Township, Richland County.

Ivan reported that this year to his surprise, he harvested a robust seventy-five bushels of soybean an acre, which is his biggest bumper crop in twenty years of farming.

“The rain came at the perfect time in August and produced a great yield. The harvest came as a surprise since I usually average between sixty to sixty-five bushels an acre.”

Similarly, Ivan averages four cuts of hay during the growing season, but this year he had five cuts of hay.

“All because of the rains that came late; the hay really took off since the nutrients had not been used up because of the dry summer....Hay was bad during the summer but then it really turned around in August.”

Almost every farmer in the area had the same conditions on their farms too Ivan says.

On another note, Ivan installed a septic system for Hager Hicks of Plymouth last month. Hicks is a beekeeper who manages eight to ten hives at his residence. Hicks commented to Ivan that he had a “great year for bees this past summer.” Hicks can be reached at 419.709.3673.

Due to the customary hot weather in August, milk yields are usually their lowest of the year. Because of this trend, Ivan recommends comparing dairy yields from August with other August yields for a fair comparison.

Phone Interview with Ken Burrer October 27, 2016

419.566.3487

Ken Burrer owns one hundred and ten acres on Ranson Road in Bloomingrove Township, Richland County.

Ken reported that he had a sixty-four bushel yield per acre, which was a good yield in his mind.

“I had no idea that it would be that good. I was personally surprised. Rain at end of July really made the difference.”

Ken has been farming for twenty-five years and has seven ponies. Ken also commented that his alfalfa did pretty good; he ended with four cuts of hay on the year.

Phone Interview with Ambrose Metzger, October 27, 2016

419.347.5568

Ambrose Metzger farms one thousand and three hundred acres with his son on Hummel Road in Sharon Township, Richland County. He has farmed for over sixty years.

“We had a good bean crop; they turned out to be pretty decent. Soybean did well and we had an average corn crop. The corn did better on the southern areas of our fields.”

According to Ambrose, he averaged in the mid-fifties for soybean bushels per acre but in one field he had sixty-two bushels. Rain seemed to help the soybeans more than the corn.

Apparently there was a bumper crop for corn out west in Illinois, Iowa and Indiana so the cost for corn really dropped; therefore a low yield of corn did not really hurt Ambrose financially. Ambrose commented that last year was his best year for corn.

“With the drought, the beans really surprised me. The beans were short, but they had a lot of pods all the way to the top.”

Phone Interview with John McCarron, October 27, 2016 **419.564.4475**

John McCarron has six hundred acres on Amoy Ganges Road in Franklin Township, Richland County.

“I was pleasantly surprised with the good yields; corn was way better than we thought,” says John.

According to his estimates, he averaged one hundred and seventy bushels of corn per acre and over fifty bushels of soybean per acre. John had four cuts of hay which was not too bad in his opinion.

“We did really well overall. Planting time had a lot to do with it.” He credits the technological advances to the hardiness of his crops that survived through the drought.

Phone Interview with Dan Wittmer, October 28, 2016 **419.512.0423**

Dan Wittmer farms one thousand and one hundred acres around Marion Avenue in Troy Township, Richland County and farmed his whole life.

According to Dan, he thought the harvest would be way below average because of the drought that began in middle July thru late September. Despite the conditions, he had average yields in both soybean and corn.

“I had fifty-five bushels an acre for soybean, and so far I have one hundred fifty bushels an acre for corn, but I am not finished with corn yet.”

According to Wittmer, in his fields ,deer are responsible for \$10,000-15,000/ year from crop damages.

Phone Interview with Robert McConkie, October 28, 2016 **419.886.3232**

Robert McConkie farms two hundred twenty acres of soybean and four hundred fifty acres of corn in the Stouffer Road area in Jefferson Township, Richland County. The eighty-two year old has farmed all his life and presently partners with his son.

“Harvest way better than thought; turned out wonderful, couldn’t believe it. The beans were big” he said laughing. “One field had sixty bushels an acre yield, another field did even better than that.”

According to Robert, this year’s crop was the most resilient crop for a drought year that he could remember. Being in the Bellville valley, fog and dew accounted for most of the moisture for the crops since there was not much rain in August.

Phone Interview with Dale Hult, October 28, 2016

419.544.4004

Dale Hult Farms nearly four hundred acres near Osburn Road and surrounding areas in Weller Township, Richland County.

“For soybean, my soybean crops were twenty percent off the average yield,” he said. “It could have been a total loss but I was surprised it wasn’t.” I am not finished harvesting the corn however.”

Field Interview with Russ Reed, November 29, 2016

Russ Reed owns over two hundred acres on Mount Zion Road in Mifflin Township, Richland County. When asked if the 20106 drought affected his crops, he said, “not much.”

“July corn did not look good, but the yields did not seem to be affected at all. It really turned out to be a good year after all.”

Field interview with Roger Cook, February 1, 2017

Roger Cook was at the local Verizon store in Ontario when I spoke with him.

Roger owns a two hundred fifty acre farm in Mifflin Township, Richland County. Roger commented that “the August rains saved my crops.” He said this drought year was nothing like the 1988 drought year. Roger said he had thirty bushels an acre for his corn and his soybean crop “turned out well with between 40-50 bushels an acre of soybean.” He also had four cuts of alfalfa grass which is above average for him.

It’s always a gamble every year trying to get enough rain each year. Roger has been farming all his life.

Field interview with Bill Ramsey, October 23, 2017

I met with Bill Ramsey at his residence at 1517 Adario Road in Butler Township, Richland County.

John owns a two thousand acre farm in Butler Township, Richland County, with sixteen hundred acres farmed with soybean. “In seventy-four years of farming, I have never had eighty bushels an acre of soybeans like I did in 2016. It was unusual. Of course I know we had a drought last summer..... I got my first calf in 1942.”

John, at age 92, has three hired hands and two farming combines to farm the massive piece of land.

Phone Interview with Hager Hicks 10.28.16

419.709.3673

Hager Hicks is a beekeeper on State Route 598 in Plymouth Township. Hager is the President of the Beekeeper's Association and has sixteen years' experience keeping hives, which presently number ten. Hager comments that this year he had a better year despite the dry weather that transpired the summer of 2016. He was able to capture thirteen swarms this past growing season which is unusually high for him. In 2014, Hager lost all ten of his hives to colony collapse disorder.

Hager also noted that his wife has a watermelon garden consisting of twelve plants. According his wife, they had the best year for watermelon in 2016 than they have ever had in there gardening careers; watermelon harvest in Ohio between August and September.

Phone Interview with Dave Duncan 10.25.16

<http://www.beeology.com/index.html>

419.560.6757

Presentation at Rotary Club at Holiday Inn, Dave shared that he believes that 2016 goes down as the best year in a decade for local beekeepers in Richland County, Ohio. He collected thirty-three swarms this past year and that the nectar conditions were perfect. Swarming is the reproduction of new honey bee colonies.

The same day after the Rotary presentation, Dave shared on the phone that he has about forty years' beekeeping. He has published articles on beekeeping, is a member of the Richland County Beekeepers' Association, and is a frequent public speaker educating the public on beekeeping. In his experience as a beekeeper, he considers 2016 as exceptional and "one of the best years I have had."

According to the Crestline beekeeper, there are around one hundred apiaries (locations with one or more hives) and between 400 and 600 hives total in Richland County, Ohio. Dave is one of the bigger beekeepers in the area, managing sixty-five hives of wild bees sprinkled around the area and specializes in comb honey.

Dave stated that beekeeping is in a constant state of flux due to the sensitivity of bees and the conditions of their habitat. If the weather is too windy, the bees cannot fly, if the weather is too wet, pollen is not available, if the weather is too dry, nectar is not available. In the same way, bees have to contend with pesticides, the threat of beekeepers taking too much honey, and mites.

From 2005 thru 2012, Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) was claiming the lives of nearly a third of the honeybee population each year. ("Bees Vanishing," Mansfield News Journal April 5, 2013) Ohio beekeepers still contend with CCD to this day.

Dave commented that for 2016 in Richland County, there were a large number of flying days where excessive winds were not occurring, and the weather was not too wet which could have limited pollen formation, and not too dry which could have prevented nectar from being available. The frost did not occur too early nor too late, and as a result, floral longevity was considerable.

He said that although not much goldenrod honey was produced in the late summer, the August rains that occurred had a significant impact on the resiliency of the bees, allowing for ample nectar. "If it doesn't rain in August, the bees would have gone into winter skinny."

Dave recommends contacting Sonny Barker, the Richland County Beekeeper Inspector, reading a Medina, Ohio magazine "Bee Culture," and referring to survey results conducted by the Apiary Division of the Department of Agriculture that estimates the number of hives and amount of honey produced by county.

MANSFIELD'S SCANDAL OF 1962

The famous Central Park Underground Restrooms

Timothy Brian McKee, Columnist Jan 30, 2016

When people are new to this area they ask me various questions about our past. There is a fairly predictable sequence to these questions according to how long they've been here and what they have heard.

Sooner or later everyone gets wind of the 1962 scandal in Mansfield, and they want to know about the famous underground restrooms in the Square.

It has been more than 50 years since it happened, but still people lower their voice when they mention it like it might be a wound still too tender to touch ... even with a 10-foot pole.

The men who were there at the time — the ones who I interviewed 30 years ago — acted exactly the same way: they spoke of the event only in a hushed voice, or refused to speak of it at all. If there was one common term they all used to describe August of 1962 it was “witch-hunt.”



The Life and Times

Sociologists and historians of social psychology will tell you that every historic witch-hunt follows the same pattern — whether it was in Medieval Europe or Colonial Salem or in Congress of the 1950s — the stew has the same ingredients:

Stage 1) A population of people is nervous, tense, unsettled and frightened;
Stage 2) Some event triggers a panic that brings all that fear to the surface; so
Stage 3) They look for scapegoats to criminalize.

That's exactly how it happened in Mansfield. The scapegoats in 1962 were gay men. There were gay people living in this city forever — in every generation of the city's history.

Mansfielders have always had gay neighbors who were more or less obvious, more or less known or wanting to be recognized as such. Certain professions in the business of conducting a city have always been typically and stereotypically staffed by gay people, and it wasn't ever really a problem.

Of course in every generation you have the haters and bigots and judgmental folks who insist that everyone be just like them. But as far as oppressing the gay community goes it was not as big a deal as, say, Italians and Poles in the 1890s, or African-Americans in the 1910s, or even Irish in the 1860s. Gays were just another cultural minority that were part of the melting pot.

Stage 1)

But in 1962, America had just come through a decade of very nasty witch-hunting for Communists; scientists were dropping atomic bombs in the Pacific and talking about how many millions of Americans our enemies could kill with similar bombs. People were building bomb shelters in Mansfield and teaching their kids how to duck and cover when the bomb went off, and the country was revving up for the Vietnam War home and abroad.

The America they knew was in the process of changing, and in any generation that always looks like the world is coming apart at the seams.

It was being called the Age of Anxiety. All of that just set the stage.

Stage 2)

Then in Mansfield a horrific bloody headline smacked the front page about an unbelievably brutal and senseless murder. Two little girls were killed in very weird circumstances in a public place. When a young man was captured for the crime everyone had to wonder why he would be so deranged.

It seemed kind of reassuring to find out that the boy was mentally unstable — it seemed to account for the unaccountable. But then as the police questioned further, it turned out the boy's unbalanced life centered around a certain particular spot in the community: a well-known and very public landmark downtown. It was suddenly revealed that unspeakable things were going on in the heart of town.

This landmark was the underground men's restroom in Central Park, located across North Park Street from Reed's.

In 1962 the word "gay" meant happy and carefree, and at that time our current connotation for the word did not yet exist. In 1962 those men who we call gay today were known in the headlines as "deviates."

Stage 3)

The scandalous news broke on Aug. 22, 1962 and that was the day it became very dangerous in Mansfield to be gay. Police had set up a secret camera in the underground restroom to film the carnal intimacies of gay men's covert rendezvous.

Mansfield Police prepared the scene like a movie set: with specially repainted walls, and photo-conductive lighting. They replaced the little mirror in the men's towel dispenser with one that their candid camera could hide behind. With an officer underground manning the camera; one up in a nearby department store window with binoculars; and one on the street to gather identification data; they conducted their sting operation quietly.



For three months they were able to assemble data, images, names and addresses, with no one suspecting what they were doing until the day they pulled the plug on the underground activity, and started going out to make arrests.

The Shaming

Ohio operated at that time under what was called a Deviant Law from 1939 that made deviating from conventional marriage a felony crime with a mandatory sentence of one year in prison. MPD had dozens of names, they made 79 arrests and asked folks to rat out their queer neighbors. During the ensuing months there were 39 trials and — convicted by home movies — the gay felons were sent off to Lima State Institution for the Insane to be evaluated for their level of deviancy.

All totaled, local men spent 68 years in prison for their crimes against humanity.

At least one of them committed suicide — a caterer to the high society families in town. One man, a church organist at the biggest church in town, was away on vacation when the news broke so he simply never came back to Mansfield again. His wife came back and sold the house, and they moved to the West Coast.

There was one man — well known in the community from a distinguished family — who simply bought his way out of the papers, but in the process lost his wife and his sobriety from the ordeal. Of course they weren't all prominent people — most of them were just hapless souls who happened to get their foot caught in the revolving door of popular anxiety.

For years afterward the famous restroom bust was a cause for blackmail in Mansfield — at least socially — and men I interviewed still turned pale at the thought of it 30 years later, or refused to talk at all.

It's easy to understand their silence when reading the newspaper accounts of the Central Park Restroom incident. True to the outsized fear that pervaded the nation in 1962 — the year of the Cuban Missile Crisis — all the rhetoric surrounding the scandal was oversized and pretty alarmist and unrealistic.

The Chief of Police was quoted in the paper as saying, "This is to be a continuous investigation to assure that this type of subject is not permitted to run at large in the City of Mansfield. These men are from all walks of life, not just one class of society. Any sex deviate may be a potential killer."

The Credits

Mansfield was not the only place this was going on — not by far. These years of the early '60s were famous for "sex-crime panic" cases all over the country in mid-sized cities like ours. We were just part of the greater societal wave.

Typical of Mansfield, however, was the fact that we were not only carried by the wave, we were surfing on top of it — leading the way. Our city has stood out for generations as a place where industrial and business innovations have led the country, and in the matter of societal sex panic prosecution we were no different.

Not only did this city film the crimes, we published rules and guidelines and provided technical know-how assisting every other city in America to obtain convictions in the same way.

A Mansfield-based film company put out an award-winning documentary for law enforcement agencies detailing exactly how the Mansfield Underground Restroom Scandal could be duplicated in every other precinct in America.

Fifty years later

To recognize who we are today by looking at who we once were, it is appropriate to acknowledge that Mansfield has historically done its share of shaming gay people. So what is the antidote, the opposite of shame? The opposite of shame is Pride.

It is significant that Mansfield's first Gay Pride celebration, held in 2015, was organized by a committee of young adults who were born long after the city buried the Central Park restrooms. They don't remember that shame. They are free to focus on the pride they feel in Mansfield.

http://www.richlandsource.com/area_history/the-famous-central-park-underground-restrooms/article_16b1c4d2-c503-11e5-890c-6360a850aa28.html

Waves of Light opens holistic store in Lexington

Emily Dech, Staff Reporter Jun 6, 2016

LEXINGTON -- Mary Ann Holston is the proud owner of a new metaphysical, holistic and spiritual store in Lexington.

Located in the Lex Charm Plaza, **Waves of Light** has a variety of products, from salt lamps to crystal prisms, jewelry, stones and more. The store also offers various services, including intuitive readings, Vajra classes, Reiki sessions, massage therapy, psychic development classes, among other services.

Waves of Light officially opened its doors for business last week.

"I've always just wanted to have a place where people could come and feel safe, for healing and to meet any spiritual, mental, physical, emotional needs," Holston said.

After participating in a few expos last fall--including the Divine Heart Expo at the Richland County Fairgrounds--she and her husband Jerry decided to open a business.

"The next thing you know, here we are," she said.

The Lexington couple said they saw a need for a spiritual, holistic and metaphysical store in the area.

"Everyone in the area has to drive over an hour to find a shop that even sells any of this," Jerry said. Their products are sourced from multiple locations, including Tennessee, Arkansas, Pakistan, China and the Middle East. Customers may purchase items in-store or online at <https://squareup.com/store/waves-of-light>.

The store, located at 305 E. Main St. Regular store hours will be posted on the door for after June 5. Classes will be posted on the [website](#) and [Facebook page](#). People may sign up for group and/or individual classes by calling 419-884-7142.

Mary Ann began offering classes and services in 2007. "When I give a reading to somebody, automatically I'm sensing things, feeling things," she said. "I can see the aura, I can see inside the body if there are any illnesses, ailments or anything like that.

"I'm not a doctor; I'm not allowed to say I'm a doctor or what I do will heal anyone, but I can see and tell them that they should go see a physician about this, this or this."

At the end of the day, she hopes to help people. "I'm one of those people who would give the shirt off my back to help somebody," she said. "Even if it was the last shirt I had and a person needed it, I would give it to them."



http://www.richlandsource.com/business/waves-of-light-opens-holistic-store-in-lexington/article_f9f84aec-2816-11e6-b7df-c3ce43c79628.html

Mansfield man faces federal child porn charge after "trying to set up" housemate

Emily Dech, Staff Reporter Aug 29, 2016

MANSFIELD -- Levi A. Wade, 33, is in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service after trying to "set up" a housemate by downloading child pornography onto his housemate's computer and then reporting it to police, according to an affidavit.

The Mansfield man was arraigned Friday on a federal child pornography charge. He appeared before Magistrate Judge William Baughman in Cleveland.



A detention hearing is set for Thursday, Sept. 1 at 11 a.m. before Magistrate Baughman. If convicted, Wade could spend at least five years in federal prison.

According to the affidavit, Wade told Mansfield police in July that he discovered what he believed were child pornography files when he was trying to repair his housemate's computer.

On Aug. 23, a search warrant was executed at 390 Orange St. at which time the housemate's computer was seized.

A short time later, Wade admitted that he lied to FBI agents, saying he downloaded the files himself in an attempt to frame his housemate because of a fight the two had months prior when he was accused of cheating on a woman.

Wade stated that he "only downloaded and viewed child pornography to make sure it was located on (his housemate's) computer," the affidavit says.



Photo of 390 Orange Street, Mansfield

Police found nine pictures and eight video files depicting child pornography on the computer.

http://www.richlandsource.com/news/mansfield-man-faces-federal-child-porn-charge-after-trying-to/article_c7f0d4a2-6ded-11e6-b19a-377263e70b50.html

CAUSES OF DEATH
Richland Public Health • Richland County 2016

| CAUSE | Month | | | | | | | | | | | | Total | PCT. | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | | | |
| DEATHS | 56 | 48 | 50 | 53 | 54 | 42 | 60 | 50 | 50 | 53 | 51 | 57 | 624 | 0.54 | |
| Male | 36 | 47 | 48 | 38 | 39 | 46 | 39 | 35 | 47 | 47 | 48 | 60 | 530 | 0.46 | |
| Female | 92 | 95 | 98 | 91 | 93 | 88 | 99 | 85 | 97 | 100 | 99 | 117 | 1154 | | |
| CAUSE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Heart-All Cases | 41 | 33 | 42 | 34 | 32 | 39 | 33 | 24 | 32 | 41 | 31 | 40 | 422 | 0.37 | |
| Heart-Male | 25 | 17 | 22 | 22 | 23 | 19 | 18 | 15 | 16 | 22 | 16 | 19 | 234 | 0.55 | |
| Heart-Female | 16 | 16 | 20 | 12 | 9 | 20 | 15 | 9 | 16 | 19 | 15 | 21 | 188 | 0.45 | |
| Cancer | 20 | 16 | 14 | 16 | 19 | 18 | 15 | 15 | 24 | 13 | 22 | 26 | 218 | 0.19 | |
| Accidents | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 15 | 12 | 7 | 14 | 6 | 6 | 84 | 0.07 | |
| Acc. Death by Drug OD | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 11 | 10 | 6 | 11 | 5 | 4 | 61 | | |
| Acc. Death by Falls | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 17 | | |
| Acc. Death Traffic-related | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | | |
| Lung Diseases | 8 | 10 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 10 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 81 | 0.07 | |
| Strokes/CVA | 2 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 60 | 0.05 | |
| Alzheimers/Dementia | 1 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 56 | 0.05 | |
| Flu/pneumonia | 5 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 34 | 0.03 | |
| Renal/Kidney | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 33 | 0.03 | |
| Suicide | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 17 | 0.01 | |
| Homicides | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0.01 | |
| Infant Mortality | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.00 | |
| HIV/AIDS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | |
| Pending | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | |
| Other/Unknown | 9 | 15 | 11 | 15 | 7 | 13 | 20 | 13 | 8 | 9 | 8 | 14 | 142 | 0.12 | |
| TOTAL | 92 | 95 | 98 | 91 | 93 | 88 | 99 | 85 | 97 | 100 | 99 | 117 | 1154 | 1.00 | |
| Cancer Deaths | 20 | 16 | 14 | 16 | 19 | 18 | 15 | 15 | 24 | 13 | 22 | 26 | 218 | 0.36 | |
| Lung | 8 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 83 | 0.36 | |
| Prostate/Colon | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 5 | 28 | 0.13 | |
| Breast/Ovarian/Cervical | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 21 | 0.10 | |
| Other | 7 | 8 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 13 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 86 | 0.39 | |
| Ages of Women with: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Breast Cancer | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40-45 | 46-50 | 51-55 | 56-60 | 61-65 | 66-70 | 71-75 | 76-80 | 81-85 | 86+ | 86+ | 10 |
| Ovarian/Cerv. Cancer | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 11 |
| Heart Death Ages with: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| *Hypertension | under 35 | 35-39 | 40-45 | 46-50 | 51-55 | 56-60 | 61-65 | 66-70 | 71-75 | 76-80 | 81-85 | 86+ | Total | 146 | *underlying cause listed |
| *Diabetes | | 1 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 7 | 21 | 22 | 47 | 4 | 28 | |

Does Not Include Shelby. 2016 HUIrr

HEALING HOPE

Infant mortality a complex problem locally and nationally



[Brittany Schock, Staff Reporter](#) Sep 6, 2016

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part one of a three-part series on infant mortality in Richland County. Parts two and three will follow on Wednesday and Thursday.

MANSFIELD – There are seven plots of land in Mansfield Cemetery where babies are buried. Scattered across the cemetery's expansive grounds, these sections play host to hundreds of tiny coffins. They're easy to spot, often decorated with stuffed animals or balloons commemorating birthdays that will never come. Brightly-colored children's toys contrast sharply with the dull granite headstones.

One stone in the cemetery is etched with the name of 34-year-old Shanay Crawford's infant daughter, Jesselyn – born May 17, 2005 and died July 20, 2005 just after her two-month milestone. Hers is one of the few headstones with the luxury of having a death date separate from her birth date.

Jesselyn was born with a cleft palate, the fourth most-common birth defect in the United States, and jaundice. Crawford remembers calling her daughter's doctor with concerns about her baby continuously losing weight and projectile vomiting. She made an appointment with a gastroenterologist.

"As a mom, you know your kid and you just get this feeling," Crawford said. "I remember feeling like this was never going to end, and I didn't think she was going to make it. But as a mom I'm doing whatever I can to make sure my feelings are wrong."

Jesselyn died before she made it to the doctor. She stopped breathing in her sleep while taking a nap at daycare. Cause of death was determined as SUID – sudden, unexpected infant death.

"It was surreal," Crawford remembers. "When your baby passes, in your mind you want the whole world to stop and mourn with you."

Angel babies

No parent expects the hopes and dreams they have for the tiny person they created to end in a tiny grave. But this is a reality for hundreds of parents in Ohio and Richland County whose children become a victim of infant mortality – the death of a live-born baby before his or her first birthday.

Between the years 2005 and 2015, there were 14,877 live births in Richland County and 108 deaths, according to the Ohio Department of Health. Jesselyn is part of that statistic.



This equals an infant mortality rate of 7.3 infant deaths per 1,000 infants born – only slightly lower than the state’s 10-year rate of 7.6.

Rate is calculated as the number of babies who died during the first year of life per 1,000 live births. A 10-year aggregation is used due to Richland County's low annual birth numbers rendering a yearly infant mortality rate statistically invalid.

Comparatively, the United States has an infant mortality rate of 6.1 per 1,000 live births. However, stacked against other wealthy countries, the nation’s rate is abysmal; a study by the Center of Disease Control (CDC) compared the U.S. infant mortality rate with 26 other wealthy European countries. The U.S. was ranked dead last.

Why are our babies dying at such an alarming rate?

“It’s a socioeconomic problem,” said Peggy Sutton, former public health nursing supervisor at Richland Public Health. “We’ve lost jobs, we have a high rate of public assistance in Richland County. And it’s a statewide issue because of economic and racial disparity.”

The problems in Richland County trickle down from fundamental problems nationally. For example, national statistics say states with the highest level of infant mortality also have high rates of poverty. In 2015, 15.9 percent of the population in Richland County was living in poverty, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. These “big-picture” problems directly affect three of the leading causes of infant mortality in Ohio and Richland County: Child Fatality Reviews in Ohio show that 46.6 percent of infant deaths in 2013 were due to premature and pre-term births, 15 percent of infant deaths were due to sleep-related causes including SUID, asphyxia or other undetermined causes, and 13.8 percent of deaths were due to serious birth defects.

These numbers have mobilized Richland County into taking action. Local doctors Mark and Sarah Redding have created the Community Health Project and “Pathways” model to address risk factors that lead to infant mortality. A partnership between Third Street Family Health Services, OhioHealth and the March of Dimes brought a Mom & Baby Mobile Unit to reach pregnant women with limited access to healthcare. The local infant mortality task force hosted a community forum last fall to illustrate the serious nature of this problem in the minority community.

Richland Public Health also leads a number of efforts to combat the causes of infant mortality. For example, Public Health Nurse Jennifer Crotty heads the organization’s prenatal home visit and newborn home visit program, aimed at assessing a mother’s needs.

“We talk about taking prenatal vitamins, eating correctly, not smoking and drinking,” Crotty said. “We also start safe sleep education there.”

Education extends to making mothers aware of the services available across the county to encourage healthy pregnancies and healthy babies.

“I went into the home of a woman who has lived here for two years and she didn’t know half the services she could get,” Crotty said. “Sometimes mothers don’t know what services are available, and sometimes they don’t necessarily know what they need to be doing to take care of themselves.”

The “ABCs of Safe Sleep” campaign is Richland Public Health’s biggest educational effort to combat infant mortality. They encourage babies to sleep alone, on their backs and in a crib with a firm mattress.



In 2015, the Ohio Department of Health released its annual Child Fatality Review for the years 2009 through 2013. It determined that 836 infants died in a sleep environment - 16 percent of the total 5,174 infants to die over the five-year period in Ohio.

Of the 836 infants who died in a sleep environment, 26 percent (219) of the infants were asleep in a crib or bassinet, as is recommended. However, 56 percent (471) of the deaths occurred in adult beds, couches or chairs.

The numbers don't lie, and yet it's still not enough to convince some parents to put their babies in a safe sleep environment. The American Academy of Pediatrics recently released a study that video-recorded infant sleep patterns - most parents, even when aware of being recorded, placed the infants in environments with established risk factors for sleep-related infant deaths, including positioning the infant on their side or stomachs, on a soft sleep surface, with loose bedding or bed-sharing.

Still, Richland Public Health's safe sleep campaign is a tangible step in a fight that often seems futile.

“We’d love to drive mothers to all their appointments and make sure they get prenatal care,” Sutton said. “We’d love to prevent all congenital disorders, but we can’t. What we can do is educate people on the right way to put your baby in bed.” Fortunately, Sutton and Crotty aren’t alone in their fight against infant mortality in Richland County. From task forces to community health initiatives – across the medical and political landscape, at the county and state level – people are working diligently to answer one question: How do we keep our babies alive?

http://www.richlandsource.com/news/infant-mortality-a-complex-problem-locally-and-nationally/article_276805ae-6fa6-11e6-ac42-0b58e65d319b.html

August 2016 Richland County Traffic Fatalities Update

9/1/2016 5:10:47 PM Jay Jackman, Local News

MANSFIELD, OH - The Richland County Safe Communities Coalition reports that for the month of August there were no traffic deaths in Richland County. There have been five (5) total traffic-related deaths this year in Richland County.

In 2015 there were also no August traffic fatalities but 10 for the year through August. The five fatalities this year are the lowest since 2013 at this point in the year. The chart below reflects the five-year totals of traffic-related fatalities in Richland County for August and for the first eight (8) months of the year:

| Year | August Fatalities | Through Eight Months |
|------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 2016 | 0 | 5 |
| 2015 | 0 | 10 |
| 2014 | 3 | 7 |
| 2013 | 1 | 5 |
| 2012 | 1 | 11 |

According to the Federal Highway Administration's comprehensive costs for traffic fatalities, each fatality has a comprehensive cost of \$1.4 million associated with it. The five traffic fatalities this year have cost Richland County \$7 million.*

With all Richland County schools back in session, the Richland County Safe Communities Coalition is reminding drivers to be aware of school speed zones and cross walks and to remember safety while driving around school buses. School speed zones are 20 miles per hour during school hours or when school zone lights are on.

Drivers also must stop at school crosswalks when pedestrians are present.

State law requires all vehicles on roads with three or fewer lanes to stop at least 10 feet from the front or rear of a stopped bus with its red flashers on and stop arm extended.

On roads with four or more lanes, only the vehicles traveling in the same direction as the bus must stop.

<http://www.wmfd.com/news/single.asp?story=69684>

The Deadliest Days on the Road

It's well known that law enforcement officers patrol the roads in force during the holidays, but statistics show it's with good reason. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's study of traffic between 1986 and 2002, 40,000 people in the U.S. died each year on the road with holidays being among the worst times to travel. However, the information has helped troopers and drivers prepare, and the numbers have been improving as a result.

In 2010, the last year with full results reported, the number of fatal accidents fell to just over 30,000, which is the lowest total since the NHTSA started keeping track in 1975. Additionally, the Fourth of July had been the deadliest travel period between 1986 and 2002, but does not appear among the top ten deadliest driving days for 2010 despite falling on a weekend that year. However, July did take over the top spot for deadliest month to drive. Saturday and Friday are still the two deadliest days to drive, and rush hour from 3:00 – 6:00 pm is still the deadliest time to drive.

10 Deadliest Days of the Year to Drive

Historical

1. July 4
2. July 3
3. December 23
4. August 3
5. January 1
6. August 6
7. August 4
8. August 12
9. July 2
10. September 2

2010

1. September 18
2. October 16
3. October 2
4. June 26
5. August 14
6. September 25
7. July 31
8. September 4
9. October 10
10. May 22

Deadliest Month to Drive

Historical

1. August
2. October
3. July
4. November
5. September



SafeMotorist.com

2010

1. July
2. October
3. August
4. September
5. May

Deadliest Day of the Week to Drive

Historical

1. Saturday
2. Friday
3. Thursday
4. Wednesday
5. Monday
6. Tuesday
7. Sunday

2010

1. Saturday
2. Friday
3. Sunday
4. Thursday
5. Monday
6. Wednesday
7. Tuesday

Deadliest Time of the Day to Drive

Historical

1. 3:00 – 6:00 pm
2. 6:00 – 9:00 pm
3. 9:00 – Midnight
4. Noon – 3:00 pm
5. Midnight – 3:00 am

2010

1. 3:00 – 6:00 pm
2. 6:00 – 9:00 pm
3. 9:00 – Midnight
4. Noon – 3:00 pm
5. Midnight – 3:00 am

Know the traffic rules and drive safely to help try to make this the safest year to drive.



SafeMotorist.com Driving Safety Articles:

This article was written by SafeMotorist.com defensive driving staff writers and reviewed for accuracy by defensive driving instructors. All articles are based on current traffic laws and defensive driving practices. This article is intended for educational purposes only, and should not be taken as legal advice or literal interpretation of any specific traffic law. http://www.safemotorist.com/articles/deadliest_days_on_the_road.aspx

2015 Traffic Fatalities Rose By Largest Percent In 50 Years, Safety Group Says

February 18, 2016 1:59 PM ET

[BILL CHAPPELL](#)

"Americans take their safety on the roadways for granted," says Deborah A.P. Hersman, president and CEO of the National Safety Council.
Ross D. Franklin/AP

Despite gains in car safety, 2015 saw the largest percentage rise in motor vehicle deaths in the past 50 years, according to the National Safety Council. Cheaper gas and a stronger economy were likely key factors in the rise, the nonprofit group says.

The figures are preliminary estimates from the [National Safety Council](#), which says it currently estimates that last year, "38,300 people were killed on U.S. roads, and 4.4 million were seriously injured, meaning 2015 likely was the deadliest driving year since 2008."

In its report, the group lists four states that saw the biggest percentage rises in traffic deaths:

- Oregon — 27 percent
- Georgia — 22 percent
- Florida — 18 percent
- South Carolina — 16 percent

Only 13 states saw their fatality rates go down; among them:

- New Mexico — 20 percent
- Kansas — 7 percent
- New Jersey — 2 percent



"These numbers are serving notice: Americans take their safety on the roadways for granted," said Deborah A.P. Hersman, president and CEO of the National Safety Council. "Engage your defensive driving skills and stay alert so we can reverse this trend in 2016."

The findings reverse a general downward trend that in 2014 culminated in a record low of 1.07 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) said.

In its own early estimates that were released late in 2015, NHTSA reported seeing a 3.5 percent rise in vehicle miles traveled in the U.S. But it also said the fatality rate — the number of deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled — was rising at a slightly higher pace of 4.4 percent.

Factors such as job growth and low gas prices can also have particular impact, NHTSA's experts say, because they tend to be associated not only with more miles on the road but with more leisure driving and more miles logged by young drivers.

Both the NSC and NHTSA urge several steps to make driving safer, from cutting incidents of drunk driving to using seatbelts and avoiding driving when fatigued or distracted. The rise in fatalities came despite reports last year that found marked improvements in vehicle safety.

For instance, a study by the [Insurance Institute for Highway Safety](#) found that when looking at 2011 models through the 2012 calendar year, driver deaths per million registered vehicle years fell to 28; just three years earlier, the driver death rate was 48.

A record nine car models recorded driver death rates of zero in the IIHS study, which attributed the gains to safety features such as electronic stability control and design improvements that made cars safer in front-end crashes.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/02/18/467230965/2015-traffic-fatalities-rose-by-largest-percent-in-50-years-safety-group-says>

RICHLAND SOURCE

Promoting & Connecting Richland County

Local pastors promote prayer, public repentance

Emily Dech, Staff Reporter, Posted: Thursday, July 23, 2015 7:00 pm

Speakers: Russell Stanford, pastor of All Believers in Christ Church; Harrison Gapter, pastor of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church; and Nate Meiers, senior pastor of Berean Baptist Church (from left to right) lead a press conference that occurred Thursday at Ed Pickens' Cafe on Main. As part of a proclamation issued by the Richland Community Prayer Network, the pastors encouraged county residents to devote time this Sunday for "corporate prayer, public repentance and private fasting to the Almighty God," as stated in the proclamation.



MANSFIELD, Ohio -- During a press conference Thursday morning, the Richland Community Prayer Network, an organization consisting of lead pastors from at least 66 congregations in Richland County, issued a proclamation recommending that this Sunday, July 26, be "set apart for corporate prayer, public repentance and private fasting to the Almighty God," as stated in the proclamation.

Three of the 66 pastors who signed the proclamation--Nate Meiers, senior pastor of Berean Baptist Church; Harrison Gapter, pastor of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church; and Russell Stanford, pastor of All Believers in Christ Church--led the press conference held at Ed Pickens' Cafe on Main.

"Our general message today is that we would like, as a community, to invite the community to seek God for His blessing on us," said Meiers. "We recognize that all of us have strayed from what He calls us to do and calls us to be as a people, and we seek His blessing, knowing that His promises in the scriptures are that if we humble ourselves before Him, He will lift us up."

Meiers said that with what has been reported locally about different issues affecting the community, such as sex trafficking and drug problems,

"We just thought this summer would be a good time for us to focus on this idea that we need God to help us." He continued, "It is difficult to get out of some of the troubles we've gotten ourselves into, and we're hoping, by His grace, as we come together, as He sees us in unity, that He could help rescue us from some of these problems."

The proclamation says there is evidence of "contemporary turnarounds where societies are tangibly redeemed when Biblical principles are practiced..."As an example, Meiers discussed what happened when the residents of a Canadian town, Pond Inlet, "decided to turn to the Lord."

When that happened, Meiers said, "There was a great movement of repentance in that community so that even the Royal Canadian Mounted Police helped them as they disposed of a lot of illicit material. They valued that material at about \$100,000."

Meiers said the proclamation was written "in the context of a long history of proclamations that our country has done.

"We just thought this summer would be a good time for us to focus on this idea that we need God to help us." Rev. Nate Meiers

"The Second Continental Congress, every year, had a day of prayer and seeking the Lord from 1775-1783. Abraham Lincoln called for a day of prayer. In 1952 it became a national day. Locally, in 1992, some local pastors came together and asked for a day of prayer and seeking the Lord. And most recently, in 2009, when the GM plant locally closed, the local pastors came together and asked for a time of seeking the Lord.

"Scriptures tell us that it is God's kindness that leads us to repentance--that because God loves us, it is a safe and good thing for us to turn to Him in repentance and to seek His blessing. He desires us to live in righteousness, to live in truth, to live in blessing, and so we are seeking that blessing together.

"In the Book of James it says, 'When we humble ourselves before God, recognizing His sovereign leadership over us, that He then exalts us,' and that's really what we are seeking to do today."

Emily Dech, Staff Reporter

season, the recent stretch of sunshine and warmth sweetened the berries and added depth and character to their flavor, making this a perfect time to pick.

"You really need the sunshine and the heat for the flavor," Beilstein said. "That's why from the time you start picking a variety until the time you end picking of a variety, the taste does change slightly."

See BLUEBERRIES, Page 3A

Natale Troiano, 4, of Upper Sandusky picks berries at The Blueberry Patch.

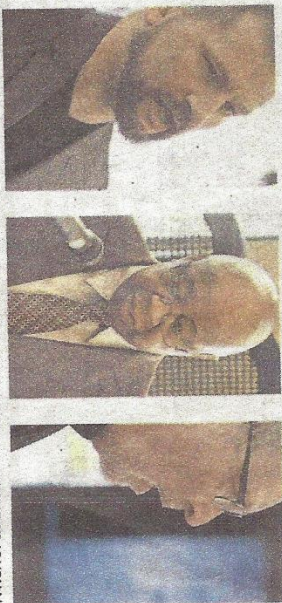


JASON J. MOLYNEUX/JOURNAL

• • •
 "Every July, it's almost like Christmas. You just never know what you're going to get."

LISA BEILSTEIN
 OWNER, THE BLUEBERRY PATCH

66 church leaders urge community to pray, repent, fast



PHOTOS BY MITCHELL PE MASILUNIEWS JOURNAL

Pastors Nate Meiers of Berean Baptist, Russell Stanford of All Believers in Christ and Harrison Gapter of Mount Zion Lutheran read a proclamation Thursday at Ed Pickens' Cafe. Sixty-three other area pastors signed the proclamation, saying there have been too many cases of violent crimes, drug use and sex trafficking in the community.

News events prompt their proclamation

KAITLIN DURBIN
 NEWS JOURNAL

MANSFIELD — The Richland Community Prayer Network is calling the community to church.

In a media only event at Ed Pickens' Cafe Thursday, local pastors Nate Meiers, of Berean Baptist, Russell Stanford, of All Believers in Christ, and Harrison Gapter, of Mount Zion Lutheran read a proclamation call-

ing the community to pray, repent and fast to earn God's forgiveness and turn the community around.

Sixty-three other area pastors also signed the proclamation, saying there have been too many cases of violent crimes, drug use and sex trafficking.

"Our general message today is we would like, as a community, to invite the community to seek God for his blessing on us," Meiers said. "We recognize that all of us have strayed from what he calls us to do and to be as a people."

Meiers said the move was

prompted by recent events in the news, particularly related to sex trafficking and drug problems in the community.

In 2010, Richland County was declared the sex predator capital of the state, Meiers reminded media. A News Journal analysis of Ohio Attorney General statistics that year showed nearly 28 of every 10,000 Richland County residents were Tier II or Tier III sex offenders.

Richland County also is located on the outskirts of Ohio's heartland of human trafficking

See PASTORS, Page 2A



HOURS
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LOTTERIES

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Pick 3 (D): 3-1-0

Pick 4 (D): 6-1-5-5

Pick 5 (D): 7-3-7-6-9

Rolling Cash 5: 2-4-23-25-30

Pick 3: 0-0-6

Pick 4: 9-1-8-4

Pick 5: 7-8-5-2-4

BIBLE DIGEST

Who is like you, O Lord, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, working wonders?

Exodus 15:11

News Journal

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Rachel Ballitch, intern at the academy and piano performance major at Ohio Wesleyan University, played the piano and sang in two songs from the musical "Wicked," as well as "On My Own" from Les Miserables.

Ballitch grew up in Mansfield and attended Mansfield Christian School.

Vocalists Heidi Zentz and Craig Green also performed at the concert, and Sharon Grimes provided piano accompaniment.

with the Richland County Community Development Group's art week.

"We try to collaborate with RCDG for art week every year, and knowing we had Ballitch here interning, we decided it would be the perfect opportunity to showcase her talents, Williams said.

Ed Olson, retired Richland County Commissioner, said the performance was "very good."

"I like coming to these small gatherings," Olson said. "It's a good way to

Ballitch said she tries to perform as much as she can. She has performed at recitals organized by the Richland County of Ohio Music Teachers Association, the Ohio Federation of Music Clubs and the Mansfield Music Study Club. She also received a gold medal at the 2014 Richland County of OhioMTA Sonata Festival.

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The case was assigned to the Richland County Sheriff's Major Crime

CORRECTION

Maevie Donley is Fiona Donley's article "Mansfield teen wins into Thursday edition.

An article on 1A Wednesday inc Ohio has cut nearly \$5 billion in creases and decreases.

Timely Announcements

Antique Show & Flea Market
Richland Co. Fairgrounds
July 25 & 26; 9am-4pm

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Pastors

Continued from Page 1A

— Toledo, he said.

"We just thought that this summer would be a good time for us to focus on this idea that we need God to help us," Meiers said.

The move also comes days ahead of Mansfield's first-ever gay pride festival. But homosexuality was not the focus of their event, according to Meiers.

"That's just one sin among many," Meiers said.

That said, the only "sins" specifically listed in the proclamation were sex related: "The following immoral behaviors are considered sin in The Holy One's eyes: adultery, bestiality, covetousness, homosexuality, incest, pedophilia, pornography, premarital sex, prostitution and the like..." it said.

The result of sin, ac-

ording to the proclamation, is an increase in communicable disease, the abuse of vulnerable women and children, the elimination of religious freedoms, and the increase of statutory confusion leading to costly litigation.

But history has shown faith can redeem a community, the leaders said.

They showed a YouTube video highlighting Canadian town Pond Inlet as an example "where societies are tangibly redeemed when Biblical principles are practiced."

The community was once polarized and fighting additions to illicit drugs and pornography, which caused a rise in spousal abuse and sexual abuse of children, Meiers said. Then there was a movement of repentance — \$100,000 of materials were destroyed — and one church experienced what they claim to be a visit from God.

Richland's church leaders have already started that quest, Stan-

ford said. Churches are involved in numerous community improvement actions, including financial counseling, marital counseling, addiction counseling, visitation ministries, food pantries and free meal programs, free clothes closets ministries, liter pick-up and park maintenance, prayer walks, blood drives, neighborhood watches, donating school supplies, disaster relief ministries, among others.

Churches need to continue to be involved in community conversations to keep moving Richland forward, he said.

"In the Book of James it says, 'When we humble ourselves before God, recognizing his sovereign leadership over us, that he then exalts us,' and that's really what we're seeking to do today," Meiers said.

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Bite

Continued from Page 1A

owner pulled the dog back as Dittrich retreated to a safe location and called for help. Dittrich then applied pressure to the wound until paramedics arrived. The homeowner was visibly upset over the incident and offered to aid or call for help as Dittrich awaited the squad.

Dittrich had already done so. The dog warden cited the homeowner for multiple charges. At this time, the dog in question is a pit pull breed, according to the report.

According to the sheriff's report, Rozeland T. Bateman, 36, resides at the residence.

Scott said the dog did not have a valid 2015 dog license. It is roughly a year old.

The dog's owner will have to go appear Aug. 6

in Mansfield Municipal Court, Scott said.

Scott said he has never seen so many dog bites this year.

"I've never seen so much of this in almost 12 years (on the job)," he said.

He handled a dog bite Wednesday night and Thursday in Lucas.

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North central Ohio recognizes Porn Awareness Week

Leaders across region warn of addictive dangers of pornography

By Benjamin Mutti, Richland Community Family Coalition, Nov 1, 2017

The week of Oct. 29 through Nov. 4, 2017 has been designated as “Pornography Awareness Week” by government officials across the state, county, municipal, and township levels throughout Richland County, Ohio. Last year, eight of the nine municipalities in the county in concert with the “White Ribbon Against Pornography” campaign, raised awareness to the public on the harms from pornography.

The naked truth is that pornography is devastating lives, destroying relationships, and breaking up marriages. Nearly every American family has seen its impact. The “1986 Attorney General’s Commission on Pornography” defined pornography as “material that is predominantly sexually explicit and intended primarily for the purpose for sexual arousal.”

Interestingly, in a landmark 1973 Supreme Court ruling, the Court did not interpret the freedom of speech to include obscenity and considered obscenity to be outside the protection of the First Amendment.

Suffice to say, speech in our local history that is protected under the First Amendment involved leading pastors from sixty-six area congregations in 2015 calling for a day of prayer, repentance, and fasting from the societal sin of immorality; specifically the use of pornography.

It is no small matter that this past spring of 2017, 14 clergy sent a letter to METRICH regarding suspected human trafficking at a local massage parlor. With the assistance of local law enforcement, the business was shut down.

Attorney Laura Lederer, a founder of America’s anti-trafficking movement, warned, “We should not say that pornography leads to sex trafficking; pornography is sex trafficking.”

All things considered, social scientists across the board warn that regularly viewing pornographic images could adversely alter the brain. Their research suggests that pornography’s intense stimulation of the brain brings about significant changes to the brain similar to drug addiction.

While Americans find pornography “morally unacceptable” by a two-to-one margin in a 2016 Gallup poll, the eye catching reality is that the pornographic industry annually makes more money than the National Football League, the National Basketball Association, and Major League Baseball combined.

In 2015 an explicit video sharing internet site reported that people around the globe viewed 4,392,486,580 hours of its content equaling 501,425 years! If that didn’t make your head spin, 54,000 cases of “revenge porn” involving extortion appear on Facebook news feeds every month!

Due to excessive social costs, the five states of Utah, South Dakota, Virginia, Tennessee, and Arkansas have officially declared pornography a dangerous epidemic and a public health crisis. In fact, one of the two major political parties has also declared pornography a “public health crisis” in its party platform.

Public requests have caused a ripple effect, with corporate giants like McDonalds, Starbucks and Hilton Hotels now blocking pornography from their WiFi networks and video on demand.

It bears worth repeating that the eye is the lamp of the body, if the eyes are healthy, the whole body will be full of light. While pornography tries to pull individuals thru a maze of unfulfilled expectations, with a moral compass and persevering leadership, there is light at the end of tunnel.

http://www.richlandsource.com/north-central-ohio-recognizes-porn-awareness-week/article_d5595704-beff-11e7-9f0c-ef856faa43f1.html



Clergy tip led to massage parlor investigation

Lou Whitmire , March 2, 2017 |

MANSFIELD - The Tuina Studio massage parlor at 1504 W. Fourth St. had been flying under the radar until local clergy tipped off authorities in August that the business might be involved in human trafficking. Wednesday, police raided the massage parlor following an investigation of suspected prostitution and sexual-related activity at the business.



"It was 90 minutes for \$90, cash only," said Mansfield police Chief Ken Coontz.

On Aug. 29, 2016, a group of area pastors sent a letter to Coontz concerned about the business.

"This past week we had concerned citizens report about suspicious activity at the Tuina Studio, located at 1504 West Fourth Street in Mansfield. According to a report we received, there are purportedly women living at this massage business and a number of male customers that frequent this business throughout the day and night hours; allegedly Asian women are involved. In addition, high security measures exist at the location," said the ministers in the letter.

"While we are not certain human trafficking or any criminal activity is occurring at this business, we would greatly appreciate if our local law enforcement could investigate this situation," the letter said. "As 14 pastors of our community, we are calling for your assistance in helping preserve the sanctity and quality of life in Mansfield," the letter concluded.

Coontz said the business attracted male customers who trolled the internet through advertisements on websites such as Mansfield Backpage, Adultlook, Craigslist and sites including threads like USASexGuide.

Mansfield Backpage showed photographs of young Asian Girls, hoping to draw customers from towns including Mansfield, Ashland, Youngstown, Ashtabula, Fostoria, Tuscarawas County and Zanesville, according to an advertisement.

From West Fourth Street, only a small sign was posted at the business in the strip mall across from Brookwood Way North. White curtains covered the front window Wednesday night; a posted cardboard sign read, "Out of Business."

The investigation continues into the business, which METRICH raided with assistance from Mansfield police, the local office of the FBI and Secret Service, the latter which provided a Chinese translator, Coontz said.

No arrests have been made, but METRICH and the FBI are following up to identify any possible connections to human trafficking, METRICH Commander Lt. Joe Petrycki said Wednesday.

Coontz said the Asian women working at the Tuina Studio were sleeping on the floor of the business, on folding doors positioned off the floor by small blocks of stone.

He said two girls inside the business when the investigation started were no longer here when the raid was conducted. He said it appeared to law enforcement that the owner was rotating the women in and out of the business, he added. Women at the massage parlor were in the United States on work VISAs, Coontz said. They were not from the area. The women did not seem to know each other very well, knew almost no English and had

very little money, he said.. "I feel bad that maybe we lost two girls to human trafficking," Coontz said. "We feel like human trafficking was going on."

The massage parlor had massage rooms with walls made of doors which did not go all the way to the ceiling, Coontz said.

At the time of the raid, two male customers were inside the business, the chief said. One customer was a 63-year-old Mansfield man and the other was a 55-year-old West Salem man. No charges have been filed against them.

Coontz said Kurt Stimens, the owner of the building, immediately changed the locks and immediately began the eviction process after learning of the potential criminal element alleged to be going on here. Stimens said Thursday he believes the tenant has been at the property for about a year.

Detectives seized an assortment of potential evidence, and other businesses in the strip mall supplied information.

"We have a lot more investigation to complete on this case," he said.

The 14 pastors who signed the August letter to Coontz included Harrison Gapter, Mount Zion Lutheran; Russell Stanford, All Believers in Christ; Henry Bradley, New Community Temple COG; Jeremy Muncy, Westwood Alliance; Eric Byrom, Grace Fellowship; Randy Raynes, Fellowship Baptist; Les Vnasdale, Cornerstone Grace Brethren; El Akuchie, Richland Community Prayer Network; Jerry Laudermilk, Ontario Abundant Life; De Wayne Smith, Main Street Methodist; Willie Mack, Philippian Community Church; Clarence Sanderfer, New Life Baptist; William Jordan, Faith Temple COGIC, and Sylvester Ginn, Hesed Agape Fellowship.

lwhitmir@nncogannett.com

419-521-7223

<https://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/story/news/crime/2017/03/01/police-raid-massage-parlor-west-fourth-street/98606706/>



Police Search Tunia Studio For Alleged Prostitution Activity

3/1/2017 WMFD, Reporter Sartaj Aujla

MANSFIELD, OH- The METRICH Enforcement Unit assisted by the Mansfield Division of Police and Mansfield Office of F.B.I executed a search warrant at Tunia Studio for alleged prostitution and sexual-related activity.

The warrant was a result of an ongoing investigation of allegations of suspected prostitution and sexual-related activity at the massage parlor. Potential evidence was seized by detectives at the location.

A group of pastors worked with authorities regarding complaints at the business.

Tunia Studios, located at 1504 West Fourth Street, has been closed for business and was issued an eviction order by the property manager. The METRICH Enforcement Unit and Mansfield Office of the F.B.I will be working on the case to identify connections to human trafficking. The case is still under investigation.

Anyone with additional information regarding Tunia Studios is asked to call METRICH at 419-755-9728 or the Crime Tip Hotline at 419-52-CRIME (419-522-7463).

<https://www.wmfd.com/news/single.asp?story=71551>

Officials: Suspected prostitution leads to search at business

Trista Thurston, Reporter, Updated 3:27 p.m. ET May 4, 2017

LANCASTER - Police executed a search warrant at a local massage studio with the reported potential for human trafficking Thursday.

The Major Crimes Unit, along with Lancaster Police and the Bureau of Criminal Investigation with the Ohio Attorney General's office, collected evidence from the Acupressure Tuina Studio after an investigation showed suspected prostitution and potentially human trafficking at the business, officials reported.

"We have been aware of its existence here for a few months," Major Crimes Unit Commander Dennis Lowe said. "Based on what we've learned to this point, there was certainly reason to execute our warrant."



No arrests were made, though officers reported they did find one woman inside the 616 Forest Rose Ave. location.

"The woman we encountered today is from China," Lowe said.

Investigators need to determine the woman's legal status in the United States, how she got here, and where she has been staying. Lowe said the woman might have been living inside the business.

In similar situations, a business is opened, and a woman is brought to the country in exchange for providing sexual services, though this may not necessarily be the case in this situation, Lowe said.

Patrons are thought to have frequently been coming from locations outside of Lancaster, which is the case in similar circumstances.

"We don't want this kind of activity in our community," Lowe said.

The investigation is still ongoing.

tthurston@lancastereaglegazette.com

740-681-4345

<https://www.lancastereaglegazette.com/story/news/crime/2017/05/04/mcu-serves-search-warrant-acupuncture-studio/101290752/>



Police: Sex for sale at 2 Lancaster massage parlors

GLENN MCENTYRE, UPDATED: 06/02/17 03:15 PM EDT.

LANCASTER, OHIO Major Crimes investigators in Fairfield County have raided two massage parlors in one week in Lancaster. They say both investigations began with tips from the community. 10TV spoke with one neighbor who alerted police after noticing suspicious activity at Jin's Wellness Center, which advertises itself as a massage parlor.

The neighbor, who 10TV is not identifying, said the clients were all male, and many of them were not local. He said the cars in the lot had license plates from "as far away as Utah and Texas and Florida. All the states that surround Ohio have been here."

He said he also witnessed women being dropped off at the business for days at a time.

"It looked like a family dropping off one of their relatives or something. A couple guys and a young child dropping off a 20, 30-year-old Asian lady. leaving her here for days, and then coming back days later and picking her up."

He took his concerns to law enforcement, and after months of investigation, Thursday the Fairfield Hocking Athens Major Crimes Unit raided Jin's Wellness Center.



"People were paying for what was listed as a massage and receiving not only a massage but sexual activity," said Commander Dennis Lowe.

They arrested 65-year-old Jinrong Hedrick of Columbus. Just last week, they raided Accupressure Tuina Studio, where they say sex was also for sale.

Lowe said there's no evidence the two were linked. "Finding these businesses here in Lancaster is somewhat unusual," he said. "But I think based on what we've seen not only in Ohio but across the United States, these businesses have started to appear in smaller communities."

One woman was taken into custody in last week's raid, but not charged.

In 2015, multiple massage parlors were raided in Dublin, Powell, and West Columbus. Investigators say in that ring, 18 women were brought to the US from Asia, held captive here, and forced to sell sex. Lowe said it's not clear yet whether the Lancaster operations involve human trafficking.

"These girls that were working here, who knows their situation? We feared for them too," said the neighbor.

He said he's grateful law enforcement took their complaints seriously and took action. "You see something you don't think should be there, you've got to let somebody know."

Hedrick is charged with two misdemeanor counts, including solicitation. Her husband spoke with 10TV off-camera. He said she came here from China three years ago in search of a better life. He said there is no way she is knowingly involved in prostitution.

After the 2015 massage parlor raid, the Salvation Army told 10TV about the difficult transition for trafficking survivors. They say the victims were kept in isolation by their traffickers- in a foreign country, unable to speak the language, without access to their money or legal documents. The Salvation Army connected them to counseling, English language classes, and support services. In that case, two sisters running the operation were each sentenced to 10 years in prison.

<https://www.10tv.com/article/police-sex-sale-2-lancaster-massage-parlors>

Year-end crime stats show 3rd straight year of reduced crime in Mansfield

Noah Jones, Staff Reporter Feb 11, 2018

MANSFIELD -- The city is ready for more growth, according to Mansfield Police Chief Ken Coontz. Coontz released the department's 2016 to 2017 crime statistics, which boasted a 7-percent decrease in overall part-one crimes. Part-one crimes include arson, homicide, manslaughter, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny and auto theft.

This is the third consecutive year of decreased numbers in such crimes.

"What we're looking at are generally very severe type of crimes," Coontz said. "Some violent crimes and property crimes."

According to the MPD statistics, arson crimes dropped eight percent from 25 reported offenses in 2016 to 23 in 2017, rape dropped 30 percent from 80 reported offenses in 2016 to 56 in 2017, burglary went down 13.7 percent from 668 offenses in 2016 to 576 in 2017, larceny dropped 3.9 percent from 1828 reported cases to 1756. Auto theft dropped 38.9 percent from 136 cases in 2016 to 83 in 2017.



"We try to look back and see where we were 10 years ago. We were surprised to see that reported part-one crimes are actually less today than they were 10 years ago. That is huge for us," Coontz said. "That is huge for the community."

"What it says is that the Mansfield community is being progressive and trying to move forward and we really are ready for businesses to move back into Mansfield."

Still, statistics also showed there was an influx in homicide cases. In 2016 there were three murders. In 2017, there were seven, a 133.3 percent spike.

"I would be surprised if that number is ever duplicated," Coontz said. "Homicide was really strange (this) year for us."

Robberies also jumped 15.1 percent from 66 cases in 2016 to 76 in 2017. Assault was up 49 percent after 55 cases were reported in 2016 and jumped to 86 last year.

"Although some categories went up and some went down, when you calculate the overall category, you'll find a 7-percent decrease in reported crime from 2016 to 2017," Coontz said. "Of course our overall goal is to impact all violent crime."

"We're a police department and we are going to keep trying to hit these areas and violent crime is extremely important to us."

Coontz said he and the department are proud of the decrease in crime, and gave credit to the community.

"The community has been really involved since 2014," he said. "You have to look at the business owners and what they have done to the downtown area. I mean if you were to look at what it was 10 years ago, it would look vastly different than today. I think the downtown business owners have done fantastic things for the downtown area and community down there.

"We've also had unprecedented church involvement for several years," he continued.

"They've been very supportive and have helped to uplift the community and helped get involved in (solving) crimes. We had several churches monitoring what they thought was sex trafficking and we looked into that and were able to shut down a massage parlor on Fourth Street. They've done great things."

Violent crimes have been reduced thanks in part to community-involved programs created by the MPD, Coontz said. The Focused Deterrent program puts most violent or chronic offenders on watch. Also, the city has seen gun violence deflate by 21.21 percent, and shots fired in the community decreased 25.15 percent.

Mansfield Mayor Tim Theaker applauded the community and the hand they lent in reducing the city's crime rate again.

"The community plays a big role. It's not just the police or Mansfield (officials). When citizens see something that's not kosher, they report it."

Theaker added the reduction of crime only means positives for the city's business community. "The downtown businesses deserve to feel safe," Theaker said. "They feel they can grow their business. The more people who know of our reduced crime rate, the more people will come to the downtown and be customers for those businesses."

Assistant Chief Keith Porch said the department has been able to make contact with 65 percent of opioid addicts, and 63 percent of those contacted have entered treatment.

"Mansfield had 123 responses to 100 individuals, 68 resulted in contact and 42 of those contacted entered treatment," Porch said. "This is definitely a proactive step on our part." Still, the police department knows it has work to do.

"There are still a lot of statistics we don't like on here," Coontz said. "Robberies have historically been hard to impact. We at the shift levels with watch commanders, lieutenants and patrol officers, have all come up with plans that have been able to result in a reduction ... really putting a huge effort in protecting businesses and residential areas."

http://www.richlandsource.com/news/year-end-crime-stats-show-rd-straight-year-of-reduced/article_d3d66b7e-0c2a-11e8-9f4a-83705c7dd675.html

Psychic joins in hunt for killer

By Roger G. Neilsen

MANSFIELD — Police detectives have enlisted the aid of a California psychic to help find the killer of Dianna Shaw, the 24-year-old Mansfield barmaid who was brutally murdered one year ago today.

The psychic, Kathlyn Rhea of Cupertino, Calif., was brought into the Shaw case by Lt. Charles Hriesik, the Mansfield police detective who is heading the investigation.

Ms. Shaw was found stabbed and strangled to death last Sept. 30 on the floor of her 97 West Sixth St. apartment.

Although Hriesik says he is "just using this as an aid to assist," he clearly is impressed by Ms. Rhea's work in another of his investigations, and by the recommendations of investigators in California.

"It's unbelievable how she can come up with information," Hriesik said. "In this (Shaw) case I haven't gotten anything concrete from her. I have been working with her on another case and got something from her that checked out already."

"She claims you can give her your information and she can compile a composite of a suspect," he said.

Ms. Rhea made national news in February 1979 when she helped California authorities locate the body of an elderly man who had been missing for five months. Hriesik said the California officers, who referred him to Ms. Rhea claim she is 95-percent effective.

Hriesik said she was able to find a connection between two people in pictures he told her about, although she had never seen the pictures. "She's got some way she visualizes," he said.

Richland County Sheriff Albert O'Neil, a former Mansfield police detective who worked with Hriesik, said a psychic can be a worthwhile investigative tool, though he has never worked with one. "In this business, you grasp at any aid you can get to try and solve it. I don't think we can overlook any area as an aid," he said.

Although Ms. Rhea has been of little help so far, Hriesik will be in contact with her again this week. Meanwhile, he

has been checking a couple of his own leads for "a length of time."

"Everything we checked out so far, we haven't been able to come up with anything. Just because it's a year old, we haven't given up."

Investigators have cleared a couple of suspects and have partially eliminated the "logical suspect" in the murder. Also cleared as a suspect was Richard Lawler, who was convicted last March of the ice-pick murder of 11-year-old Kevin Green of Cleveland.

Lawler claimed to have information about the Shaw murder but was unable to provide accurate details when questioned by detectives.

Ms. Shaw came to Mansfield from New Philadelphia in August 1979, taking a job as a barmaid at Saprano's Bar, 79 North Main St. She moved here to be closer to her husband, who was in the Ohio State Reformatory for rape and kidnapping. Her daughter was at a baby sitter's house when the murder occurred.

No matter what investigative tool solves the mystery, however, detectives hope it will provide a break in the similar and also unsolved murder of 21-year-old Deborah Holbrook late last June.

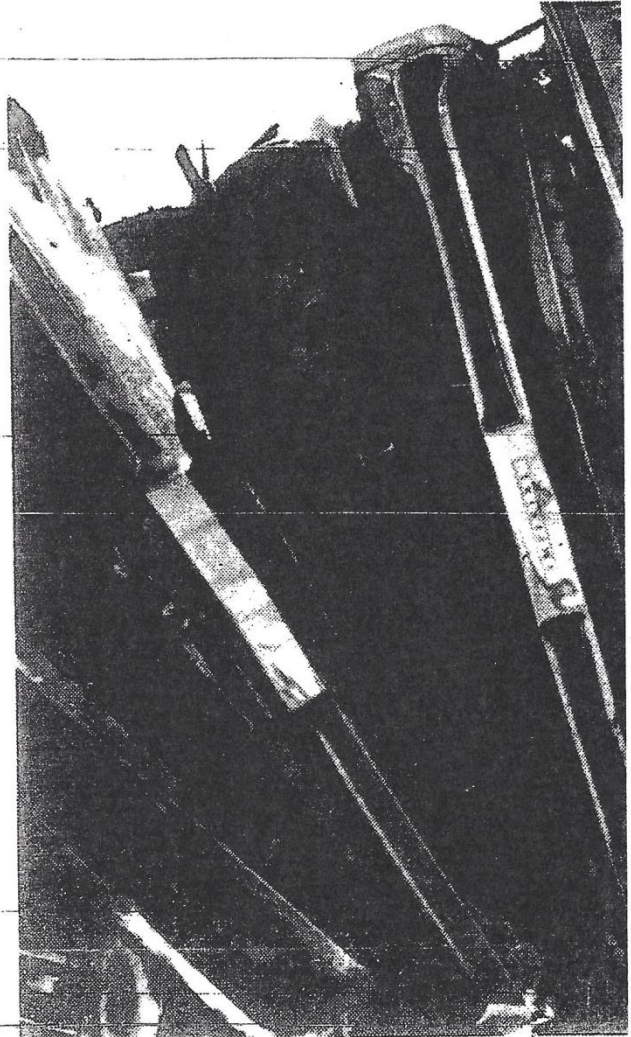
Ms. Holbrook, whose body was found June 27 in a wooded area at Camp Glenn Taylor in Mifflin Township, was known to frequent some of the same bars as Ms. Shaw. Both women had similar backgrounds and lifestyles, and the weapons used and types of wounds incurred were similar.

"This (Dianna Shaw investigation) is going with the Debbie Holbrook case since there were some similarities there, but nothing definite to tie them together," Hriesik said.

"We certainly have to look at it as being the same person being involved in it," said O'Neil, whose detectives are handling the Holbrook investigation and are sharing information on both cases with Mansfield police investigators.

"You need input from citizens," the sheriff said. "You just keep getting information that you run down."

"It just takes one little break."



Cars wrecked - again

A flatbed semi-rig overturned in the median strip on Ohio 13 after losing control as it exited from Interstate 71 Monday at 2:40 p.m. The truck spilled

Octoberfest shopping

MANSFIELD — Ten-cent bus rides are returning to the Mansfield area this weekend, members of the Richland County Transit Board were informed Monday.

The Downtown Growth Association has agreed to subsidize the dime rides in conjunction with the merchants' Octoberfest festivities Friday and Saturday.

Passengers can ride to and from the downtown bus stop for a dime each way on both days. Transfers will still cost the full 40-cent fare, however.

The downtown merchants will make up any fare box revenue lost by the

transit board over an average of Saturday income.

The store owners sponsor a program during July's downtown walk sales.

"The more of this we do, we are and the better of town merchants are," board Chairman John Hue

Transit board members held a pair of public hearings on new bus service for schools students. The scheduled for Oct. 24 at 1:25 p.m. at the transit second floor of the Richland

March route will change for Halloween parade

MANSFIELD — This year's Halloween parade, sponsored by the Mansfield Jaycees, is slated for Oct. 28 at 6:30

Haines, Park Avenue West on the Miracle Mile will afford the participants a wider street and the onlookers better



| Ohio NASS Year | WheatYield |
|-------------------|------------|
| 1970 | 38 |
| 1971 | 44 |
| 1972 | 45 |
| 1973 | 32 |
| 1974 | 41 |
| 1975 | 42 |
| 1976 | 40 |
| 1977 | 47 |
| 1978 | 39 |
| 1979 | 48 |
| 1980 | 49 |
| 1981 | 44 |
| 1982 | 43 |
| 1983 | 49 |
| 1984 | 44 |
| 1985 | 62 |
| 1986 | 46 |
| 1987 | 58 |
| 1988 | 50 |
| 1989 | 51 |
| 1990 | 60 |
| 1991 | 49 |
| 1992 | 53 |
| 1993 | 52 |
| 1994 | 58 |
| 1995 | 61 |
| 1996 | 39 |
| 1997 | 63 |
| 1998 | 64 |
| 1999 | 70 |
| 2000 | 72 |

| | |
|------|----|
| 2001 | 67 |
| 2002 | 62 |
| 2003 | 68 |
| 2004 | 62 |
| 2005 | 71 |
| 2006 | 68 |
| 2007 | 61 |
| 2008 | 67 |
| 2009 | 71 |
| 2010 | 61 |
| 2011 | 57 |
| 2012 | 68 |
| 2013 | 70 |
| 2014 | 74 |
| 2015 | 65 |
| 2016 | 80 |
| 2017 | 77 |
| 2018 | |

Samson, Joe - NASS <Joe.Samson@nass.usda.gov>

to me

Attached is all of the information we published for winter wheat in Richland county.

From: B Mutti [<mailto:bimutt@gmail.com>]

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2017 12:33 PM

To: Samson, Joe - NASS <Joe.Samson@nass.usda.gov>

Subject: Re: Richland County Ohio Cattle and Milk Cows Inventory

January 5, 2016

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Beilstein
The Blueberry Patch
1285 Hanley Road West
Mansfield, Ohio 44904

RE: Concern over upcoming psychic event

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Beilstein,

We trust that the LORD has blessed your family, and your blueberry business over this past year; the frigid winter and early wet summer the Heavenly Father provided probably made for a robust berry-picking season in 2015. Recently it has come to our attention that your business has been advertising on your signs and your coming events calendar inviting the public to an event on January 8, 2016 which includes a psychic reader.

A flier disseminated to customers and located on the Blueberry Patch website reads that psychic Jen Lopez will conduct readings using astrology and numerology, that she will be accurate, and that fifteen minute readings will cost fifteen dollars.

While the Blueberry Patch has been an important community partner, selling nutritious fruit to the public, and playing a prominent role in the annual Blueberry Festival in the Village of Lexington, this upcoming psychic event inviting the public has brought great sorrow to a number of area congregations, families, and most notably local pastors. **As chaplains of this community, we strongly believe the upcoming psychic event is associated with deviant behavior, is not in harmony with the identity of our community, and will tarnish the reputation of the Blueberry Patch and therefore advise that the event be cancelled.**

It is our desire that the Blueberry Patch does not jeopardize its blueberry business, nor its standing in the community. This is why we have chosen to support the Blueberry Patch by saying the following:

The practice of foreseeing future events with various means including but not limited to: reading omens, the use of astrology, numerology, the use of necromancy, and the like is called divination. **The Bible clearly forbids divination.**

Leviticus 19:31 clearly states "Do not turn to mediums or necromancers, do not seek them out, and so make yourselves unclean by them. I am the LORD your GOD." Similarly, this practice of fortune telling in the marketplace was actually opposed by leaders of the faith in Acts 16: 16-19. In fact we are instructed to not believe every spirit but to test the spirits to determine if they are from the Spirit of GOD (1 John 4:1-2). Other similar Biblical texts can be located in Deuteronomy 18: 9-12, 1 Chronicles 10:13-14, Galatians 5:20, and Revelation 21:8. As a business owner, you are free to run the Blueberry Patch contrary to these texts; all things considered, your practices may not gain the approval of your customers and loyal patrons.

Ultimately businesses prosper when they provide good customer service, and **we are persuaded that successful local businesses must strongly consider the Bible based heritage of its clientele.** A 2006 study on churches in Richland County found that nearly 47,000 people in Richland County belonged to a Bible based congregation. ¹ The Richland Community Prayer Network, which conducted this study cites that there are presently at least two hundred-thirty Bible believing congregations in Richland County, not counting home churches. ² This comes as no surprise when Mansfield, Ohio historically is known as the "City of Churches." ³ It bears worth noting that clergy in the past have publicly addressed this issue of divination and the occult and the dangers it poses. ⁴ For your review, a copy of an op editorial article has been attached to this letter discussing the public outcry over a fortune teller that came to the Renaissance Theater. ^{5, 6, 7}

(Next page please)

In closing, as (36) thirty-six spiritual leaders of this area, we are convinced that hosting a psychic reading will jeopardize the good standing the Blueberry Patch has with Richland County, **imperiling the individuals that attend this psychic event, and endangering the financial well-being of the fruit farm.** Psychic reading is fraudulent and can involve financial scams of unsuspecting persons. By bringing this fortunetelling event to your business, loyal patrons will unfortunately equate manipulation and fraud associated to psychic reading with the Blueberry Patch; this would be tragic! The members of our local congregations are very familiar with the teaching in the Bible about good fruit and bad fruit. Jesus told his followers that a bad tree cannot bear good fruit and a good tree cannot bear bad fruit (Matthew 7:18). Our hope is that your fruit farm bears good fruit and fruit that remains. With that being said, it is our moral responsibility to warn you so that you take steps to have as bountiful of a harvest as you had in 2015. In short, this psychic event leaves a sour taste in peoples' mouths, so we ask that the Blueberry Patch stick with what you are the best in the state at doing: growing blueberries and educating us on this remarkable berry.

Sincerely,

Reverend Jerry Lauder milk, Abundant Life Tabernacle
Reverend Russell Stanford, All Believers in Christ
Reverend Ted Howard, Apostolic Holiness
Reverend Gary Lambert, Belmont Community
Reverend Merle Stewart, Bethesda Fellowship
Reverend Mike Stine, Clear Fork Alliance
Reverend Les Vnasdale, Cornerstone Grace Brethren
Reverend Chris Thomas, Diamond Hills Baptist
Reverend Bruce Copley, Faith Chapel
Reverend Bill Henderson, First Baptist
Reverend Floyd Glick, First Church of the Nazarene
Reverend James Streib, Fusion Church
Reverend Dennis Nezrick, Grace Evangelical Free
Reverend Eric Byrom, Grace Fellowship
Reverend Ferlie Yates, Hanna Road Church of God
Reverend Sylvester Ginn, Hesed Agape Fellowship
Reverend Dr. Bruce Philippi, Journey Life Center
Reverend Kevin Evans, Liberty Baptist

Reverend Ron Kosa, Living Word
Reverend Robert Kurtz, Mansfield Baptist Temple
Reverend Don Wilson, Mansfield Faith Assembly
Reverend Dave Guild, Mansfield Foursquare
Reverend Art Kennard, Maranatha Christian Center
Reverend Les Farley, My Father's House
Reverend Harrison Gapter, Mt. Zion Lutheran
Reverend Henry Bradley, New Community Temple COG
Reverend Larry Hulver, New Liberty
Reverend Patrick Bailey, North Bend Church of Brethren
Reverend James Spencer, Peoples' Baptist
Reverend Mark Barth, Real Life Community
Reverend El Akuchie, Richland Community Prayer Network
Rabbi William Halbrook, Sar Shalom Messianic
Reverend Darrin Thurber, Seventh Day Adventist
Reverend Rick Lewis, Shelby Church of God
Reverend Doug Tackett, Taylortown Community
Reverend George Lewis, Temple of God

Cc: Washington Township Board of Trustees
Mayor of the Village of Lexington
President of the Richland Area Chamber of Commerce

References

1 "The Nehemiah Project," survey of 150 area pastors and census of 220 local congregations conducted by Richland Community Prayer Network, 2006, contact 419.884.3648.

2 Countywide congregation listing, last updated 1.03.15, compiled by the Richland Community Prayer Network, contact 419.884.3648.

3 "Mural will be dedicated during open house," Tribune Courier, November 28, 2013, p. 5. Large mural dedicated with historic slogan "Mansfield: City of Churches," depicting steeples throughout Mansfield's skyline dedicated in public open house. Slogan "Mansfield: City of Churches," was mentioned as early as July 1, 1911 in the Mansfield News.

4 "Occult films can be danger, pastors say," by Jeff Brumley, Mansfield News Journal, August 5, 1999, p. A1.

5 "Medium's upcoming show ignites protests," by Jami Kinton, Mansfield News Journal, November 14, 2008, A1.

6 "Protesters pray for audience," by Angel Taylor, Mansfield News Journal, November 24, 2008, p. A1.

7 "Renaissance Theatre fires top executive: CEO cites dismal economic situation," by Jami Kinton, Mansfield News Journal, January 23, 2009

Richland Co. housing market rides dramatic upswing

Emily Dech, Staff Reporter May 23, 2016

MANSFIELD -- An unusual, but optimistic trend is unfolding in the Richland County housing market, much different than years past.



"It looks like what's happened is there are so many buyers in the market that as soon as a home is put on the market, it's taken," said Rich McCleery of Coldwell Banker Mattox McCleery Realtors. "It's crazy what's happening."

Jerry Holden of The Holden Agency, as well as Peter Haring of Haring Realty, have also noticed that if homes are reasonably priced, it's not long before one or more offers are made.

According to data from the Mansfield Multiple Listing Service (MLS), the average number of days on the market in Richland County from Jan. 1 to May 3 has dropped dramatically from 205 days in 2014 to 125 days in 2016.

"That's almost unheard of," McCleery said.

More data from Mansfield MLS shows there were 299 active listings in 2014, which jumped to 356 listings the following year and 366 listings in 2016.

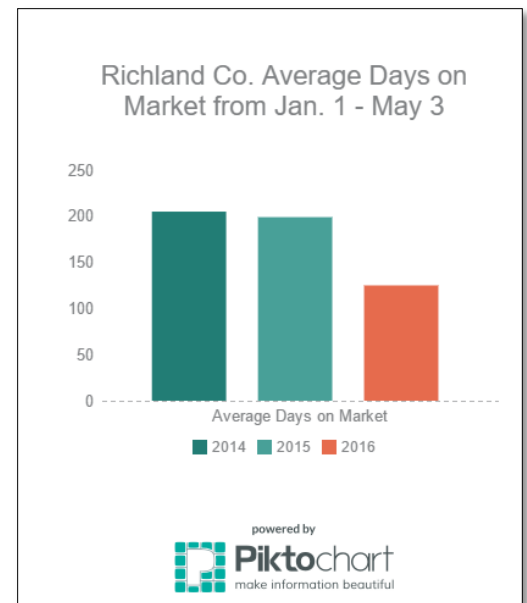
"There's not really a shortage of listings, it's just that the absorption rate has increased tremendously," McCleery said. "In other words, the supply of homes in certain price ranges are turning faster now."

According to Holden, there are many homes on the market for under \$100,000, but inventory is much lower for homes between \$100,000 and \$300,000.

Holden said there are many large agencies like Gorman Rupp, Warren Rupp, Avita Health System and OhioHealth that are bringing new talent to the area. In turn, that diminishes the supply of homes that are listed in the \$150,000-plus range.

Although buyers could purchase a fixer-upper for less than \$100,000, many are uninterested in spending money on repair and remodeling costs, Holden said.

"Lifestyles are changing and people just want to turn the key, walk in and live," he said. Another thing is that not every buyer is a handyman.



"And if they are, they don't have time because they're working 12 hours a day, and the last thing they want to do is come home and work," he said.

The local real estate market has gradually become tighter and tighter over the last six to 12 months, and it's especially evident this spring, Haring said.

But not all areas in the county are experiencing as much of an impact. Take Mansfield, for instance. "We really don't have a supply shortage in Mansfield from \$50,000 to \$100,000," Haring said. In that price range, there's about a six-month supply of homes for sale," he said. "Economists will say for a balanced real estate market, you have between a five- and seven-month supply of homes."

Lucas, on the other hand, is a different story.

"Right now we have less than a two-month supply of homes on the market in Lucas," Haring said. Lexington is another area where demand is greater than supply.

"That's probably where we have the biggest shortage right now, and that's for anything under \$300,000," Haring said.

McCleery said the "hot markets" are Lexington, Ontario and Madison.

"I've never seen a real estate market like the one we're having now," Haring said. He noted that today's housing market trend is in stark contrast to what was observed three to eight years ago.

"At that time, homeowners were competing with bank-owned properties and competing with sellers under distress who were doing a short-sale, meaning they were willing and able to sell the property for less than what they owed on it," he said.

But many other homeowners chose not to sell under such distressed conditions and to instead refinance their property and perhaps remodel certain rooms. By doing that, homeowners may now be less inclined to move, which could be contributing to the current housing market trend, Haring surmises.

"They've kind of settled in and they're not moving," he said. Plus, there are homeowners who feared their home wouldn't sell, at least not at or near asking price.

"A less informed market can keep sellers away," Haring noted.

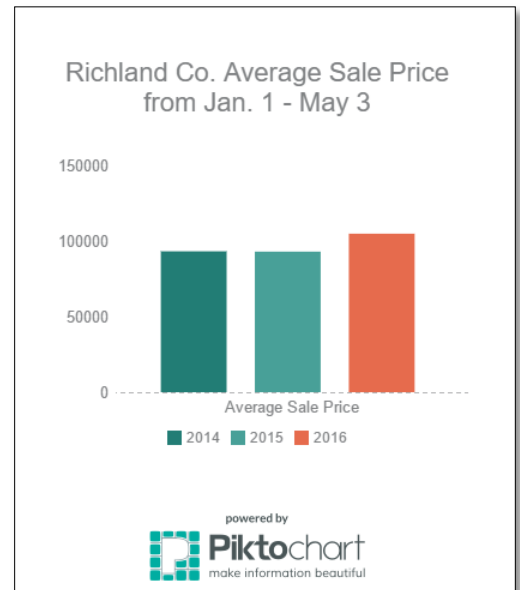
But Haring believes change is coming. "I think we're going to see more homes on the market," he said. That's especially true since the average sale price has escalated.

"When prices go up, it will bring sellers off the sidelines, so I think we're going to start seeing more sellers on the market," he said.

Though average prices have increased, buyers are OK with spending the money because comparable sales are supporting it, Holden said.

"I think people are seeing they need to get on the bandwagon and purchase a home before prices go higher," McCleery said.

Plus interest rates are more reasonable compared to seven or eight years ago, which could give more incentive for people to buy, he said. It's hard to say exactly what the county's housing market will look like in the coming months.



"But it will be fun watching it unfold," McCleery said.

Richland Co. Housing Market Stats for 2014-2016

This table includes housing market data for Richland County from Jan. 1 to May 3 for 2014, 2015 and 2016. The data was provided by Rich McCleery and sourced from Mansfield Multiple Listing Service.

| Description | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Active Listings (all price ranges) | 299 | 356 | 366 |
| Median Listing Price | \$99,900 | \$109,900 | \$119,900 |
| Average Listing Price | \$139,153 | \$150,868 | \$150,868 |
| Average Days on Market | 205 | 199 | 125 |
| Homes on the Market for over 365 Days | 30 | 40 | 18 |
| Number of Sales | 542 | 562 | 590 |
| Dollar Volume All Sales | \$50.5 million | \$52.3 million | \$61.8 million |
| Average Sale Price | \$93,184 | \$92,973 | \$104,830 |

http://www.richlandsource.com/business/richland-co-housing-market-rides-dramatic-upswing/article_5b614936-1adf-11e6-8820-e36b68981fda.html

Mansfield News Journal

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Foreclosure projections for Richland County decrease for 2017

Mark Caudill, Reporter Published 12:30 p.m. ET Dec. 19, 2017 | Updated 12:33 p.m. ET Dec. 19, 2017

MANSFIELD - Foreclosures in Richland County were way down in 2017. Clerk of Courts Lin Frary said her office is projecting 413 foreclosures by the end of the year. In 2016, Richland County had 675 to rank second in the state.

"We are down significantly," Frary said of the 38.9-percent reduction. "It's a huge drop, and I'm not completely sure why."

The clerk of courts said Richland County's foreclosures are the lowest they've been since 2002. Frary revealed the good news on the heels of a report by Policy Matters Ohio, which recently released numbers for 2016. Richland County's total of 675 last year ranked behind only Mahoning County.

In 2014 and 2015, Richland County led the state in foreclosures with 774 and 955, respectively. Matt Fingfeld, deputy director for the treasurer's office, offered a reason for the drop.

"The Land Bank was a tool for us to clean up some of those," he said. "I do think it (number of foreclosures) is getting back down. We work with a lot of people as far as payment plans even if we file on them."

There are two types of foreclosures, tax and bank. "We're still seeing a lot of bank foreclosures," Frary said of ones in which homeowners are not paying their mortgage.

Frary offered one downside to a reduction in foreclosures. "It's good overall, but it affects our fees that we contribute to the general fund," she said.

Kathy O'Donnell handles foreclosures for the civil department at the sheriff's office. "I'm still getting them," she said. "It's not like there's any kind of a lag in processing them, but I do believe they have definitely declined."

Policy Matters Ohio is a nonprofit founded in 2000. Its research focuses on economic issues facing low- and middle-income workers in Ohio. group's analysis on foreclosures dealt with 2016.

Policy Matters Ohio noted that while Ohio's foreclosure filings dropped steeply since their peak during the Great Recession, they remain almost 2½ times above the pre-housing crisis levels of the 1990s.

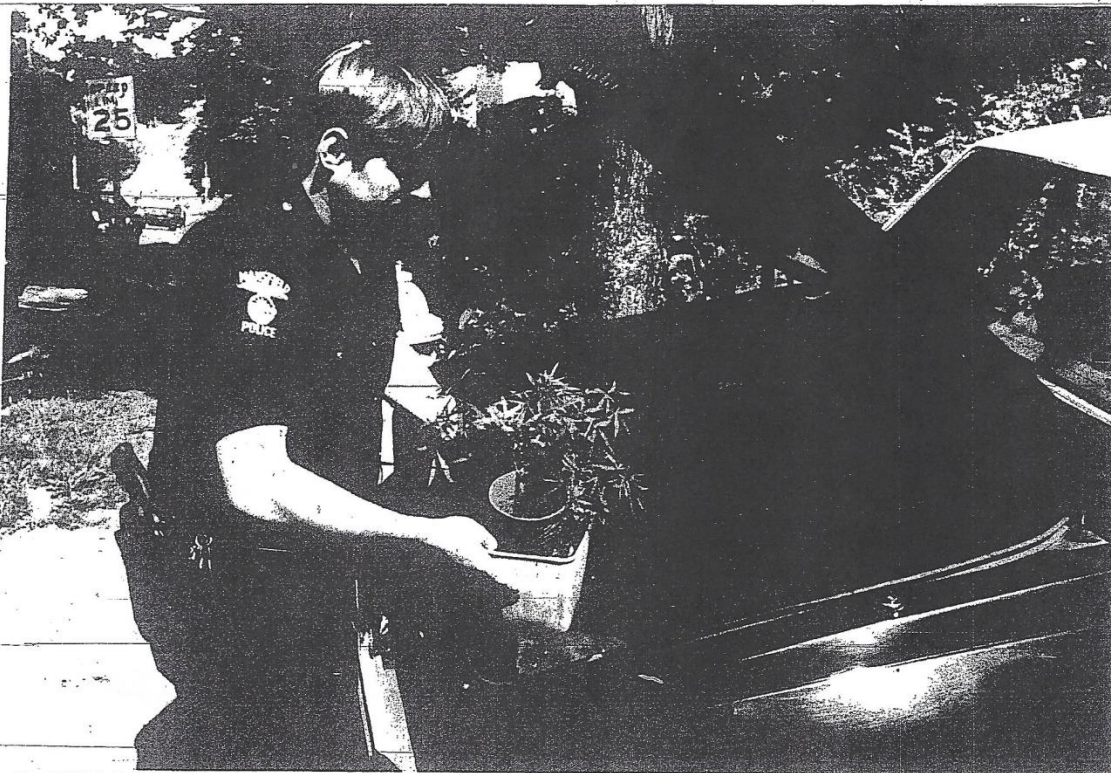
In 2016, Ohio had nearly 39,000 new foreclosure filings, about one for every 132½ housing units or 3.4 foreclosures per 1,000 people.

After falling off by over half since the worst of the crisis, the decline in filings is tapering off, with just a 3.8 percent drop last year. Sixty percent of Ohio's 2016 foreclosure filings came from the 10 largest counties. Smaller, rural counties also continue to struggle with foreclosures, according to Policy Matters Ohio.

"Ohio's foreclosure crisis has dragged on for close to two decades," report author Hannah Lebovits said. "We're no longer hemorrhaging, but the bleeding hasn't stopped, and it won't until federal lawmakers make stabilizing communities a priority."

<https://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/story/news/2017/12/19/foreclosure-projections-richland-county-decrease-sharply-2017/964277001/>





Mansfield Police Patrolman Glen Bishop puts into his cruiser trunk the two marijuana plants found Monday afternoon on the rooftop of Mitchell Chapel AME Church. (Photo by Jeff Sprang)

Church roof seemed like divine site for marijuana plot

MANSFIELD — When you get right down to it, who would think of looking for a stash of marijuana on the roof of a church? If you are of the bent to grow the leafy plant, it might seem like the perfect place — an almost divine location, if you will.

Two Mansfield teen-agers must have had that in mind until John

Hood, 514 Central Ave., heard the patter of little feet Monday afternoon on the roof of Mitchell Chapel AME Church, Glessner Avenue.

Hood, who was inside the church painting at the time, stepped outside to investigate just in time to see two young heads (no pun intended) peeking at him from over the roof in front of the church. They ran away,

and Hood climbed to the roof to find the object of their attention — two well-cared-for marijuana plants growing amidst an array of flower pots.

The aspiring young agri-businessmen even left behind two jars of water they had brought with them to water their crop.

"They even used my ladder,"

Hood said with a hint of indignation in his voice.

The Rev. Frederick Johnson, who arrived on the scene just as Mansfield police were carting away the vegetation, noted that when young people reach the heights of the two rooftop growers, he would prefer them to be angels.

Arbaugh's panel play

MANSFIELD — Brushing as arguments raised by an attorney the Richland County Commission as irrelevant and immaterial, attorneys for David Arbaugh, County Domestic Relations and Juvenile Court judge, charged the commission are playing politics by not funding Arbaugh's court.

Arbaugh's attorneys, Richland County Prosecutor John Allen; assistant prosecutor Donald McGee have filed a reply in the 5th District Court of Appeals case in which Arbaugh is attempting to force commissioners to fund his court the tune of \$818,426 instead of \$720,525 appropriated to him last year.

Arbaugh is seeking a court order from the appellate judges to create his budget allocation. Judge filed an action against commissioners in April after they refused to increase his budget to \$818,000 level.

In court documents filed by Allen and McGee, the attorneys say many of the arguments raised by commissioners are neither relevant nor material to the issue of adequately funding the court.

Marijuana 12 suspended

MANSFIELD — A Mansfield man arrested in raids on three No. Main Street bars in February was given two suspended six-month probation sentences and placed on the years' probation Monday by Richland County Common Pleas Court Judge Max Chilcote for peddling marijuana.

Rickey C. Moore, 22, of 741 Y. Ave., Lot 21, pleaded guilty May to selling marijuana to undercover officers on Jan. 21 and 26. In exchange for the guilty plea, the prosecution dismissed two other marijuana trafficking counts and a promising prostitution charge.

Dynamite stored

MANSFIELD — Sixty-nine sticks of unstable dynamite discovered in a barn yesterday were burned near Washington South Road resident sheriff's deputies said.

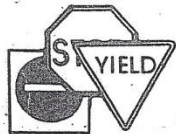
Betty Schag, of Washington South Road told deputies she and her family had bought the dynamite about

Damage heavy

MANSFIELD — Franklin Township Volunteer Firefighters are investigating the cause of a fire that caused heavy damage to a house at a dump truck and destroyed a garage and a car, according to Fire Chief Kenneth McFarland.

Neighbors in the area reported

Traffic calls



Ohio 42, Mansfield — Pauline Wampler, 64, of 1698 Evergreen Ave. was taken to Mansfield General Hospital Monday after she lost control of her car and overturned in front of Hillcrest Mobile Home Park. Highway Patrol troopers reported. There was no record of her having been treated.

Township Road 49, Mansfield — Patrick M. Williamson, 17, of 1126 Lexwood Road and Elizabeth A. Parkhurst, 18, of 103 Sherwood Drive, Lexington, were both taken to Mansfield General Hospital Monday after their car struck a utility pole, one-tenth of a mile east of Ohio 314 at 10:10 p.m., Highway Patrol troopers reported. There was no report of the two having been treated. No citation was issued.

Mansfield — Hobart Conley, 54, of 61½ Vennum Ave., was treated at

Mansfield General Hospital for bruises on the head and wrist and released after his vehicle hit a fire hydrant Monday at 2:14 p.m., according to hospital reports. There was no accident report available.

Park Avenue West, Mansfield — Lisa B. Rhodes, 12, of 133 Western Ave., was treated at Mansfield General Hospital for acute cervical pain and released Monday at 9:04 a.m. after she was hit by a car driven by Alberta L. Crank, 50, of 839 W. Third St., police reported. According to police reports, Lisa ran across the street from a bus stop, 34 feet east of Rowland Avenue, into the moving car.

Police calls



Ohio 603, Greenwich — Dick L. Dudley, 43, told sheriff's deputies that between midnight and 6 a.m. Monday someone broke into his barn and stole two mopeds valued at \$450.

588½ W. Fourth St., Mansfield — Olivia Smith, 24, told sheriff's deputies that someone broke into her home and stole a pack of pork ribs from the freezer Monday between 6 and 10 p.m.

At the courthouse

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Applied For

Brian L. Hathaway, 362 Jennings Ave., Mansfield, and Laura L. Emery, 492 Midland Drive, Mansfield.

William P. Paul, 422 Stewart Lane, Mansfield, and Mary V. Pannell, 422 Stewart Lane, Mansfield.

Kevin James Klink, 453 Lexington Ave., Mansfield, and Ravonne Rachelle Rowland, 741 Yale Ave., Mansfield.

James O. Hartson, 408 Lincoln Ave., Mansfield, and Amy S. Schamadan, 735 Courtwright Blvd., Mansfield.

Dennis P. O'Donnell, Medina, and Kimberly K. Sanders, 1176 Truxell Drive, Mansfield.

Robert Wade Jr., 774 Crall Road, Mansfield, and Argene Washington, 312 Second Ave., Mansfield.

Bob Lee Cushard, 327 N. Trimble Road, Mansfield, and Debra Sue Phelps, 331 N. Trimble Road, Mansfield.

John F. Dye, 821½ Red Oak

Drive, Mansfield, and Victoria Ann Thomas, Columbus, Ohio.

Courtnal Canada, 331 Greenlawn Ave., Mansfield, and Lillie Mae Sherred, 434 Central Ave., Mansfield.

Steven Todd Krock, 1666 Olive Drive, Mansfield, and Cynthia Sue Kunkle, 1813 S. Lexington-Springmill Road, Mansfield.

Robert F. Johnson, 1159 Pawnee Ave., Mansfield, and Carla J. Elkins, 164½ W. Dickson Ave., Mansfield.

Robert Brooks Jr., 157 Crestline Ave., Mansfield, and Corliss C. Davis, 157 Crestline Ave., Mansfield.

Mark William Mosier, 185 S. Franklin St., Mansfield, and Marguerite A. Gaspard, 233½ W. First St., Mansfield.

Peter Moore, Hoff Road, Mansfield, and Mary D. Moore, Hoff Road, Mansfield.

Mark Alexander, Honeycreek Road, Bellville, and Nanette S. Mathias, Honeycreek Road, Bellville.

Municipal court

Charges, persons charged and dispositions in Ontario Mayor's Court were:

Criminal damaging — Coy Porter, Bellville, RD 2, \$250 and costs, 10 days in county jail. \$150 fine and

Landslides kill 11

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Landslides triggered by heavy rains

THE FUTURE TO PEOPLE TECHNIC
You hear it everywhere. The Computer. The Era of High Tech.

Medical Marijuana Prohibition Letter Signed By Seventy Clergymen

March 5, 2017 12:40:50 PM, by Kaylie Spotts

RICHLAND COUNTY, OH - A letter has been provided to every township trustee board and city council in Richland County asking for a prohibition on medical marijuana within their respective jurisdictions. Notably, the letter has been signed by seventy clergymen from Richland County, spanning a wide array of denominations.

Medical marijuana refers to the use of cannabis or marijuana, including constituents of cannabis, THC, and other cannabinoids, as a physician-recommended form of medicine or herbal therapy.

Medical marijuana became legal in the state of Ohio on September 8th, 2016. Current restrictions in Ohio requires a user to have no more than 90-day supply in their possession. In Ohio, medical marijuana may be dispensed as oils, tinctures, plant material, edibles, or patches. The smoking or combustion of medical marijuana is prohibited.

Under existing Ohio law, the approved conditions for which medical marijuana may be prescribed are:

AIDS/HIV, Alzheimer's disease, ALS, cancer, chronic traumatic encephalopathy, Crohn's disease, epilepsy, fibromyalgia, glaucoma, hepatitis C, inflammatory bowel disease, multiple sclerosis, chronic, severe, or intractable pain, Parkinson's disease, PTSD, sickle cell anemia, spinal cord disease or injury, Tourette's syndrome, traumatic brain injury, ulcerative colitis.

The authors of the letter share multiple reasons as to why they believe medical marijuana should be prohibited in the community, such as addictions, crime rates, and the fear medical marijuana sends a bad message to the younger generation. The letter lists other communities who have banned medical marijuana despite residing in states where it is currently allowed. Ohio law currently gives township trustee boards and city councils the authority to ban medical marijuana in their jurisdictions.

Benjamin Mutti, Coordinator with the Richland County Prayer Network, said "just because something is called 'medical' doesn't mean that it [does] not have addictions or adverse effects, or that it [does not cause] criminal security breaches." Mutti also emphasizes the impressiveness that the letter was able to unify 70 different congregations across the county for one cause.

However, others in the community oppose the call for a ban.

One resident and attendee of the Ontario City Council meeting where the letter was dispensed, Lanny Hawkins, said "my opinion is that it is a legal medicine." He went on to add that medical marijuana is not considered a legitimate medicine in the public's eye, but finds it ironic that opiates such as vicodin or oxycodone are considered to be legitimate medicines despite their physically addictive natures.

No word on what actions, if any area, the local city councils and township trustee boards will make as a result of the letter.



Medical marijuana industry buzzes around north central Ohio

Tracy Geibel, Staff Reporter June 5, 2017

ONTARIO -- The medical marijuana industry seems to be focused on north central Ohio this year.

One company sought out Richland County earlier this year as a possible location for a medical marijuana cultivation facility before backing away. However, a different company is looking at a potential site in Ontario, and yet another is considering a Loudonville location.

Earlier this year, an unnamed Cleveland-based company, was considering Ontario as a potential site for a medical marijuana cultivation facility. But has since abandoned the idea, according to a Richland County official.

“One of the things they knew they needed to have was community support,” said Barrett Thomas, Richland County director of economic development. “We did not land that deal.”

But another company, 4Front Ventures, has also approached Ontario’s council and maintains an interest. Like the previous inquiry, it met with strong opposition at a recent city council meeting. In a crowded room, Thursday, May 25, Ontario’s economic development committee heard from more protesters than supporters.

“The silent majority is in favor of medical marijuana very strongly,” representative Sam Tracy said after hearing from Ontario residents. “If you look at any national polls, it always polls above 80 percent. Four out of five people recognize this is an important medicine that really helps people.”

According to a CBS poll, he’s right. An April 2017 poll shows 88 percent of Americans believe doctors should be able to “prescribe small amounts of marijuana for patients suffering from serious illnesses.” The term “serious illness” is not defined. Under Ohio’s legislation, patients may qualify for the use of medical marijuana if they have AIDS, Alzheimer’s disease, cancer or 18 other conditions. More conditions may later be added through a petitioning process.

“In these sort of settings, you tend to bring out the most passionate people on both sides of the issue,” Tracy said. “I feel like these meetings tend to be really polarized.”

4Front Ventures is also considering locations in Columbus or Coshocton, Ohio.

But like the previous company, 4Front Ventures values community support. Tracy said he wants to “get off on the right foot.” Ontario Council will need to decide prior to the end of June, as this is the deadline for 4Front Ventures to apply for a license in Ohio. Ontario Council meets Wednesday, June 7 and Wednesday, June 21.

Meanwhile, Ashland Area Economic Development Director Kathy Goon said the BZGIST LLC., also a Cleveland-based business that is using the name “Glasshouse Farma,” is applying for a medical marijuana grower’s license and considering Loudonville as a location.

“I haven’t found a whole lot of resistance,” Goon said. Loudonville mayor Steve Stricklen agreed. He explained that village council voted unanimously in support of the facility after holding three readings. No one from the public showed up to oppose it.

“Zero came in to voice their opinion,” Stricklen said.



There were a few phone calls, and Stricklen noticed the occasional letter-to-the-editor in local papers, but the negativity, he says, has been limited. On the other hand, Stricklen cited support from county commissioners, the Mohican Area Growth Foundation and the Chamber of Commerce.

If the facility is built, it would be in the Eastern portion of Loudonville. The company has a site selected in the Loudonville industrial park, which is just across the Ashland County line in Holmes County. Goon didn't know if it was considering other locations, too.

"I spoke with the company representative," Goon said in an email. "At this time, they are not available to comment or offer details." Like 4Front Ventures, the Glasshouse company considering an Ontario location needs to fill out an application to obtain a license before it can establish a cultivation facility.

In Richland County, Thomas said he has reached out to the company that was considering an Ontario location previously, but he didn't know if it was the same group that is now considering Loudonville.

"I cannot tell you that because I don't know," Thomas said. "I've asked him (a contact) and he never responded to that request."

He did, however, confirm that he hadn't worked with a business using the name BZGIST LLC or Glasshouse Farma. **In a February 2017 interview**, Thomas shared, "The company that I'm talking with won't be operating the business. They are the ones applying for the license."

The company name was never mentioned at Ontario Council meetings either. The topic was first brought up in the Feb. 1, 2017 meeting.

Thomas said a site selector reached out to him in early 2017 to discuss the possibility of setting up shop in the area. This was well before applications became available. The company had a site in mind, but he was unable to disclose the location. It would have been approximately a \$13 million investment, and the 45,000 square-foot facility was expected to employ 33 people with a \$1.6 million payroll.

But even the smallest possibility of having a medical marijuana facility within the county didn't sit well with some.

In March 2017, Richland Community Prayer Network Coordinator Benjamin Mutti organized a resistance movement. A letter signed by 70 county clergymen opposed the "harvesting and sale of medical marijuana in municipalities and townships within Richland County."

"That was kind of the death note," Thomas said. "Their reasons for not supporting it were that they didn't want medical marijuana at all."

Others like Ontario resident, Lanny Hawkins "didn't know why Ontario wouldn't want to make this part of our community," according to the council's March 1 meeting minutes.

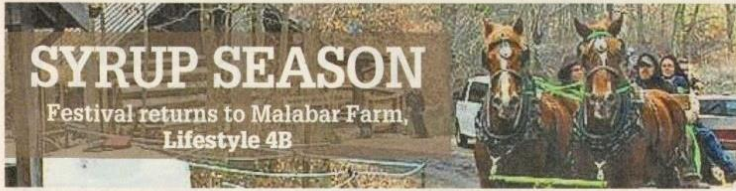
The application acceptance periods are from June 5 to 16 and June 19 to 30. There are two levels of licenses, each with a different acceptance period. Only a specific number of licenses will be issued.

"The Department anticipates high volume traffic as applicants submit their applications towards the end of the applicable application acceptance periods," reads the Cultivator Application Instructions.

Goon said there are more than 1,000 pages of documents that must be completed in the process.

Gov. John Kasich signed House Bill 523 in June 2016, making Ohio the 26th state to legalize marijuana for medicinal use. The bill took effect Sept. 8 and is required to be operational in two years.

http://www.richlandsource.com/business/medical-marijuana-industry-buzzes-around-north-central-ohio/article_6914323c-3c99-11e7-b7e3-67e755837323.html



SYRUP SEASON
Festival returns to Malabar Farm,
Lifestyle 4B

**CLEAR FORK
WINS OVER
GALION IN
TOURNEY**

Sports, 1B

News Journal

FRIDAY, 03.03.17 || MANSFIELD, OHIO || MANSFIELDNEWSJOURNAL.COM || PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Clergy sparks massage parlor probe

Fourteen pastors wrote letter urging police to look into business last August

LOU WHITMIRE
REPORTER

MANSFIELD - The Tuina Studio massage parlor at 1504 W. Fourth St. had been flying under the radar until local clergy tipped off authorities in August that the business might be involved in human trafficking.

Wednesday, police raided the massage parlor following an investigation of suspected prostitution and sexual-related activity at the business.

"It was 90 minutes for \$90, cash only," said Mansfield police Chief Ken Coontz.

On Aug. 29, 2016, a group of area pastors sent a letter to Coontz concerned about the business.

"This past week we had concerned citizens report about suspicious activity at the Tuina Studio, located at 1504 West Fourth Street in Mansfield. According to a report we received, there are purportedly women living at this massage business and a number of male customers that frequent this business throughout the day and night hours; allegedly Asian women are involved. In addition, high security measures exist at the location," said the ministers in the letter.

"While we are not certain human trafficking or any criminal activity is occurring at this business, we would greatly appreciate if our local law enforcement could investigate this situation," the letter said. "As 14 pas-

tors of our community, we are calling for your assistance in helping preserve the sanctity and quality of life in Mansfield," the letter concluded.

Coontz said the business attracted male customers who trolled the internet through advertisements on websites such as Mansfield backpage, Adultlook, Craigslist and sites including threads like USA Sex-Guide.

Mansfield Backpage showed photographs of young Asian Girls, hoping to draw customers from towns including Mansfield, Ashland, Youngstown, Ashtabula, Fostoria, Tuscarawas County and Zanesville, according to an advertisement.

From West Fourth Street, only a small sign was posted at the business in the strip mall across from Brook-

See MESSAGE, Page 4A



Members of Wendy Doup's third-grade class at Sherman Elementary answer questions from their readings of a Dr. Seuss book on Thursday afternoon. The activity was part of the school's participation in Read Across America.

BRIAN J. SMITH/NEWS JOURNAL

STUDENTS CELEBRATE DR. SEUSS' BIRTHDAY

COURTNEY MCNAULL
REPORTER

MANSFIELD - Schools all over the country welcomed "celebrity readers" Thursday for the 20th annual Read Across America Day, but at Mansfield's Sherman Elementary School, third graders got to be the celebrities.

Held each year on the birthday of Theodor Geisel, better-known as Dr. Seuss, Read Across America Day seeks to spread enthusiasm for reading. The occasion is often celebrated by bringing community leaders into schools to read to children.

Sherman marked the day with visits from guest readers including school board members, district administrators and volunteers from Gorman-Rupp and the Mansfield Fire Department. But third grade teacher Wendy Doup decided to let her students be the readers.

Members of her class visited classes of kindergarten and first graders to read to younger students in the morning. In the afternoon, they took turns reading their favorite Dr. Seuss books to an audience of parents during the first in a series of "open mic" events Doup has planned.

"Fluency is something I see these kids

"I'm a believer in making books come alive. ... It broadens kids' imagination and their thinking."

ROBIN BURKHARDT
SHERMAN LIBRARIAN

lacking in," Doup said, adding that practicing reading aloud with familiar books that rhyme can help the students gain confidence in their reading ability and improve their timing and inflection.

With made-up words, unusual plots, whimsical illustrations and memorable characters, Seuss books help ignite kids' imaginations and fuel their desires to read," Doup said.

"They really love it. Today, they want to read, and sometimes it's a struggle to get the kids to want to read," Doup said.

Doup's class spent the entire day on Seuss-themed activities, eating "Truffula Tree seeds" for a snack, writing biographies of Geisel and answering trivia questions to test their comprehension of the books they had read.

To add to the fun, the kids wore their pajamas to class and sat on blankets while they enjoyed a picnic lunch.

One of Doup's students, Mya Lindsay, said Dr. Seuss books are different from the other books she has read.

"Dr. Seuss books rhyme more than other books," she said. "I like it."

Johnny Smith said "Wacky Wednesday"

See DR. SEUSS, Page 3A

Council hears concerns of medical pot

Company considering opening growing operation in Ontario

LINDA MARTZ
REPORTER

ONTARIO - The company which has considered Ontario as one possible location for siting a medical marijuana growing facility made no appearance at a council meeting Wednesday — at which city officials earlier had hoped it could explain details of the proposal to the public.

Mayor Randy Hutchinson, who had asked residents to provide council with opinions for or against the issue at the meeting, said representatives from the business were not prepared to appear that night.

"They chose not to come tonight to discuss it. They

See COUNCIL, Page 8A



LINDA MARTZ / NEWS JOURNAL

Ben Mutti presents a letter signed by 70 pastors opposing opening of a medical marijuana growing business.

Family planning fundraiser after burn accident

EMILY MILLS
REPORTER

BELLVILLE - Keith Sansom was working as a contractor to remodel a Wendy's in Macedonia on Monday, Nov. 21, 2016.

Sansom, who's worked as a self-employed electrician for the last 20 years, gave his three employees the day off, as he was just planning on inspecting the site.

He was alone in one area of the building as he opened a panel box. As he did so, an arc flash knocked him to the ground, spraying burning pieces of metal at him.

An arc flash occurs when an electric current leaves its path and travels through the air from one



Keith Sansom

See BENEVOLENT, Page 3A

Mansfield News Journal

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Opiate crisis fuels Ohio needle exchange growth

Jona Ison Published 6:24 a.m. ET Feb. 15, 2016 | Updated 10:30 a.m. ET Feb. 15, 2016

PORTSMOUTH — More than two thousand years ago, moundbuilders roamed alongside the Ohio River in what is now Portsmouth. While most of their earthworks have been overcome by development, Mound Park is home to one of the final vestiges of their time.

However, that peaceful green space for families and children became threatened as the surge in drug use made it a haven for drug activity and a dumping ground for needles.

When the health department began a syringe exchange program in 2011, the park was probably the worst in the southeastern Ohio city, said Bobbi Bratchett, the rural AIDS coordinator and Ryan White program manager for the Portsmouth Health Department. “In a year (after starting the program), Mound Park went from one of the worst to no needles,” she said.

In 2015, Portsmouth’s program exchanged 85,891 needles — enough to provide four needles for every man, woman and child in the Portsmouth city limits.



The program was the second created in the state, coming 16 years after the first began in Cleveland. Since 2014, at least three new syringe exchanges have started in Ohio and that number is expected to grow because of the still climbing number of opiate overdose deaths — up [18 percent in 2014 to at least 2,482](#). Recent changes in state and federal law also are making them easier to start.

“Like the program or don’t like the program, but think of what it has done. Where would those 85,000 syringes have been?” Bratchett said. “I call it the good-bad program. Good you have it, bad you have to have it, but that’s the reality.”

Pulling off the Band-Aid

Drug overdoses were increasing and Scioto County, where Portsmouth is located, was regularly at the top of the list of Ohio counties with the highest rates of Hepatitis C.

Intravenous drug use is a leading risk factor for the transmission of blood-borne disease, particularly Hepatitis C, which damages the liver, and HIV, which attacks the immune system. Although rates of new HIV cases have been relatively stable in Ohio, acute cases of [Hepatitis C increased 400 percent between 2009 and 2013](#), according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A single case of Hepatitis C can cost upwards of \$100,000 to treat, Bratchett said. In 2015, there were 51,441 Ohioans on Medicaid with the disease.

In 2014, Scioto County had the highest rate of Hepatitis in the state — 556.5 cases per 100,000. The lowest rate, 9.2, was in Holmes County, according to the Ohio Department of Health.

Richland County’s rate was nearly 135 cases of Hepatitis C per 100,000.

In late 2010, Bratchett spearheaded discussions in Portsmouth and in January 2011, the city made the then requisite declaration of a public health emergency. The clinic was running within two months with the help of donations, the primary source of money and supplies for needle exchanges across the country.

In the midst of the process, she learned officials were watching Portsmouth to see what would happen. While [needle exchange programs are rare across the country](#), as few as 204, they're virtually nonexistent in rural communities. In December, the CDC released a [study highlighting that needle exchange programs are lacking](#) where they often are needed most, which is outside urban areas where at least half of intravenous drug users live. As such, the study recommended officials in rural and suburban areas should consider a needle exchange program as a way to reduce HIV and Hepatitis C transmission.

In 2009, needle exchanges spurred controversy in Richland County, when a group of Richland County pastors from 72 churches criticized a decision by the health department to donate 200 clean needles to the Portsmouth City Health Department in Scioto County.

A Richland Community Family Coalition spokesman said at the time that needle exchange programs were morally wrong and ineffective.

Former health commissioner Stan Saalman responded by saying the donated syringes were provided by the federal government at no cost to Richland County, were left over from the H1N1 vaccination program unused, were larger and thicker than those the department used for other programs, and could prevent the spread of disease.

Currently, there have been no discussions of a needle exchange program in Richland County, according to Selby Dorgan, director of health promotion and education at Richland Public Health.

Between 2010 and 2015 there has been an increase in the number of confirmed hepatitis B and C cases in Richland County.

"It is impossible from the statistics (alone) to identify whether or not the increase in cases is directly related to drug use," said Keith Evans, public health nursing supervisor at Richland Public Health.

Crawford County Public Health Director of Nursing Amy Ramirez said health officials there have not yet actively decided whether to consider operating a needle exchange program. "I know a lot of counties are doing it," she said. Locally, hepatitis "definitely has been on the increase in recent years," in both the Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C forms, she said. "We investigated a lot more cases last year than what we did the year before," Ramirez said.

Ray Herbst, public health emergency preparedness director for the Ashland County-City Health Department, said there has been some discussion. "I don't believe our board has made any particular decision on it, but this is something I believe will be considered," he said.

Public attitudes toward needle exchange programs "vary widely" from areas like the city of Cincinnati, to less urban areas, he said. "Some communities are quite open to it, but others are not," he said.

Determining whether a needle exchange program makes sense for an area like Ashland would take some time to gather local input, he said.

For Portsmouth, the process was smooth and quick – an unusual experience for many needle exchange efforts that face political pressure and concerns that such programs enable continued drug use. Although surprised by the ease, Bratchett said Portsmouth was very self-aware of how it was becoming overcome by drugs, brought on by economic losses and pill mills encouraging abuse of prescription painkillers.

"We were willing to rip off the Band-Aid to show the festering wound, mainly to get help," Bratchett said.

Changing climate

Cincinnati was the third Ohio community to start a needle exchange, but [the process wasn't nearly as smooth](#). The Cincinnati Board of Health declared an emergency in 2012, but the police chief opposed it, halting momentum until fall of 2013, according to reports from the Cincinnati Enquirer.

The [Cincinnati Exchange Project](#) then struggled to get communities to allow them to do exchanges from their mobile clinic. Opponents were concerned about the reputation of their community, that a program would attract more drug users to their community and send a message that drug use was acceptable.

“The real barrier was it was foreign to people in this part of the country and people are afraid of change,” said Libby Harrison who manages the Cincinnati Exchange Project.

Although not everyone is on board, the exchange is operating at four sites and serving more than 700 people. Recent changes to state and federal laws could make the process easier.

Language tucked into the Ohio budget lifted the requirement for health departments to declare an emergency before a program can start. Although they still have to consult with their community and officials, the change cuts a level of red tape, said Peggy Anderson, chief operating officer of the AIDS Resource Center. Anderson was part of talks in Dayton as they started an exchange, which opened in the spring, and led the Columbus effort, which opened in January.

The change also eliminates concerns that changes in community leadership could lead to the emergency declaration being rescinded and closing down the program, Bratchett said.

In December, Congress used the federal budget to [lift the ban on using federal tax dollars for needle exchange programs](#) with the exception that money cannot be spent on buying needles.

The change is crucial to continued growth of exchanges, Anderson said, because money often is a barrier for groups. Anderson said the group is willing to explore doing projects with their other nine offices around the state, which include Mansfield and Newark.

The shifting attitude on exchanges has come as the typical user has changed, Harrison said. “Now it’s rich white kids affected and it’s no longer just the poor and the homeless,” Harrison said.

Another big impact has been the fear of an HIV outbreak like the one in Indiana where there were [153 confirmed cases of HIV](#) in a county of 23,712 people. That situation prompted Indiana legislators to allow needle exchanges, but only after there’s been an outbreak of disease.

Ohio also had [a scare in Shelby County where three people who tested positive for HIV](#) reported they had shared needles. Two of the people also tested positive for Hepatitis.

The Ohio Department of Health investigated the reports, attempting to test everyone the trio had potentially exposed to disease. The effort resulted in four positive HIV tests, two of whom also had Hepatitis.

“That can happen anywhere, and I think for a lot of small communities, that will happen before they change their minds,” Anderson said.

In Portsmouth, although their Hepatitis C rates continue to place them among the highest in the state, Bratchett said they are slowly going down.

“There’s no quick fix. It’s going to take a long time,” Bratchett said.

Reporter Linda Martz contributed to this story.

jison@Gannett.com

<https://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/story/news/local/2016/02/15/opiate-crisis-fuels-ohio-needle-exchange-growth/80394630/>

Minutes of Richland County Fairboard Meeting

November 22, 2011

Donna opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was answered by 16 Board Members and 5 excused absences.

Several members of the Family Coalition were on hand to present a packet of 5 points why the beer garden is not a good idea. Ben Mutti spoke for the group. No other action was taken on this matter.

Carol Thoms moved to accept the minutes approved as read, seconded by Howard Harriman. Motion passed.

Don Daugherty moved to accept the Treasurers Report, seconded by Gary Blum. Motion passed.

A Thank you was received from Crestview FFA Buyers club for our donation to their club to buy fair animals.

Jack Spangler reported there are lots of events happening here during December.

Dean Wells reported that some of the contracts for the 2012 fair have been signed.

There was no old business.

Dean & Pat Wells, Loren McKinney and Gary Blum will be attending the Fairboard Convention on January 5-7. Loren McKinney will be the Delegate with Dean Wells as the alternate.

Jack Spangler moved to accept the slate of officers for 2012. Seconded by Ed Maglott. Motion passed. They are as follows: President – Gary Blum, V. President – Howard Harriman, Secretary – Fran Miller. They were sworn in by Donna Siebert.

There will tentatively be a December meeting to tie up loose ends. The board will be notified.

Sign up sheets to work Christmas Wunderland were available.

Meeting was adjourned.



LOCAL NEWS IN BRIEF

East Longview Avenue closed until Tuesday

MANSFIELD — East Longview Avenue from North Main Street to Ohio 545 is closed until Tuesday for repair of a water main. Local access will be maintained. Direct questions to the city's water repair department at 419-755-9806.

Compost facility closes for the season Dec. 1

MANSFIELD — The Richland County Yard Waste/Compost Facility at 441 Cairns Road will close Dec. 1. The facility will reopen in the spring.

Madison Twp. residents sought for zoning board

MANSFIELD — Madison Township Trustees are looking for people willing to serve on zoning boards.

Candidates must reside in Madison Township, be able to read and understand legal language, have a basic understanding of the Ohio Revised Code, support township zoning and be willing to invest time into reading the zoning resolution thoroughly.

Letters of interest may be submitted to 817 Expressview Drive, Mansfield, OH 44905. Direct questions to 419-589-9999.

Light Up Lexington is Monday

LEXINGTON — Lexington's 30th annual Light Up Lexington ceremony will kick off the holiday season at 7 p.m. Monday at the Village Square.

The event will include comments from Mayor Eugene Parkison, performances by the Lexington Fire and Ice and Lexington Symphonic Band and visits from Miss Lexington and the Clauses (Santa and wife). The Kiwanis will serve hot chocolate.

Winners of the elementary school poster contest promoting the ceremony will be announced. Their posters will be displayed at the library; others are on display around town.

Salvation Army will have a truck parked near Sharock Insurance, 10 Plymouth St., to collect donations and a Lexington school bus will be parked near the Square to collect contributions to Toy Time. Community churches will hold a live nativity nearby.

Finally, the Richland County Museum will serve refreshments at an open house starting at 6 p.m.

DAILY CALENDAR

**TODAY
FREE MEALS**

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner: For a ride or delivery for housebound elderly or disabled persons: 419-756-0892. St. Peter's High School, 104 W. First St., Mansfield, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Thanksgiving Dinner: No rides or deliveries. Shelby First Lutheran Church, 33 Broadway St., Shelby. Noon-2 p.m.

Free Thanksgiving Dinner: Sponsored by Prayer and Praise Christian Network. Free clothing, live music. Delivery available. Details: 419-564-1914. First United Methodist Church, 12 N. Diamond St., Mansfield. Free. 1-3 p.m. 419-522-7101.

Student death investigated

Crestview school officials say they will not tolerate bullying; boy arrested

By Mark Caudill
News Journal

OLIVESBURG — School and law enforcement officials say they will not tolerate bullying in the wake of last week's death of a Crestview sophomore.

Drew Austin-Lee Troxel, 15, died Nov. 17 at his Ashland home. "There's still a lot of questions why," Crestview Superintendent Bill Seder said. "You get into conversations about bullying."

School officials asked the Richland County Sheriff's Office

to investigate. According to a news release from Sheriff Steve Sheldon, a student was arrested and taken to the juvenile justice center.

Sheldon could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Seder said the sophomore boy taken into custody was placed on home assignment pending a hearing.

"Over the weekend, rumors and the social media took over," Seder said. "In our effort to investigate, we asked for law enforcement to assist us."

Sheldon assigned deputies to the school. As manpower permits, the sheriff's office will provide a marked cruiser at the beginning of the school day and have a deputy stop in periodically during school hours.

"We're doing everything we can to assure that our school is safe," Seder said.

The school also provided crisis intervention counselors Friday and Monday, and sent letters to parents Tuesday.

Troxel was a member of Ashland Christian Church,

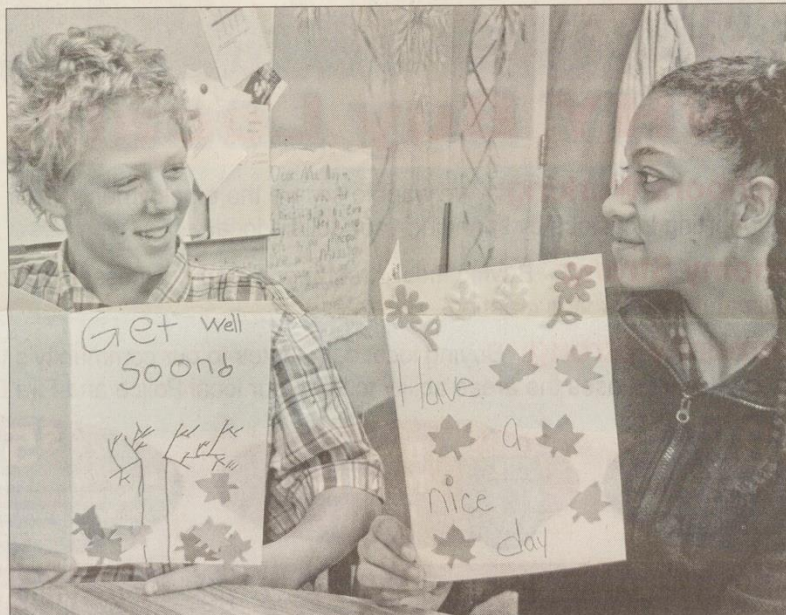
1480 Orange Road, Ashland. His family suggests memorial contributions be made to the church in Troxel's name.

"Anytime you have the loss of a student life, it's a loss to the community," Seder said.

The superintendent said he hoped there were no copycat situations.

"You hope any student who feels that way seeks out some help," Seder said.

mcaudill@mncogannett.com
419-521-7219



Skyler Gould and Charlotte Harris look over two of the many cards their Malabar K-Kids Club made to cheer children in the adolescent unit at MedCentral Mansfield Hospital. SUBMITTED PHOTO

K-Kids distribute handmade cheer to children in hospital

By Larry Gibbs
Special to the News Journal

MANSFIELD — Sixth-grader Charlotte Harris doesn't know any of the children in the adolescent unit at MedCentral/Mansfield Hospital, but she hopes a batch of handmade greeting cards will put smiles on their faces.

Harris and other members of the K-Kids Club at Malabar Intermediate School made about 40 of the colorful cards. Many contain get-well messages, while others offer wishes for a good day or an enjoyable autumn.

"We made the cards so that kids in MedCentral would get something from someone that would make them feel better," Harris said.

The cards will have a positive impact, said Marilou Day, the Mansfield City Schools tutor assigned full time to MedCentral. Day, now in her sixth year at the hospital, provides educational support to non-surgical hospital

patients in grades six through 12.

"These cards will help to make the children's stay as bright as possible," Day said. "Our educational unit at MedCentral is licensed by the State of Ohio. I work with children from all over north central Ohio to help them keep up with their school work. This is short-term care in the eight-bed adolescent unit, where students' average stay is five to seven days."

K-Kids adviser Vicki Dye, a guidance counselor at Malabar, said the club emphasizes service to others. Sponsored by Kiwanis, it is the elementary version of the high school Key Club.

"We have about 30 fifth- and sixth-graders who participate in K-Kids, and we'll add fourth-graders in the second semester," Dye said. "We meet from 7:40 to 8:20 a.m. on Wednesdays, so we won't cut into class time. The kids bring their breakfast with them."

Sixth-grader Skyler Gould said the club enjoyed making the greeting cards.

"We tried to make all the cards in one period, but it took a couple of meetings to get them all done. It was something the whole club did," he said.

Gould, who said K-Kids offers the opportunity "to do a lot of fun stuff," said he looks forward to Dec. 17 when the club will ring bells and sing carols at one of the Salvation Army's Red Kettle donation sites.

Last year, the K-Kids' projects included collecting more than 400 food items for the food bank at Grace Episcopal Church and raising more than \$800 for the Salvation Army's Million Penny Drive. Proceeds from the club's bake sales last year were donated to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.

"We get to do things to help others. That's why I like K-Kids," Harris said.

Larry Gibbs, a spokesman for Mansfield City Schools, can be reached at lgibbs@mansfield.k12.oh.us.

Baffling fireball reported

By Jami Kinton
News Journal

LEXINGTON — A bright fireball in the sky got Rick Beverly's attention at 1:30 a.m. Wednesday.

"I was headed north on Graham Road and was right about in front of my house when it happened," said the 1431 Graham Road, Lexington, man. "I was looking toward the east and noticed a big ball of fire fall from the sky. It was cruising."

Beverly said a red glow lit up a large section of woods behind his home. He thinks the fireball may have landed there.

Lt. Michael Vinson, of the Mansfield post of the Ohio Highway Patrol, said several agencies, including the Lexington Police Department, Troy Township Fire Department, the Richland County Sheriff's Office and the Air National Guard, responded.

"We were told that it may have been a plane crash," Vinson said. "But there was no evidence of any plane. We checked with Cleveland and Columbus FAA, and there were no flights in the area at the time."

The highway patrol orchestrated a fly-over to doublecheck the area that afternoon. Again, nothing was found.

Vinson said authorities believe the fireball may have been a meteor.

"It burned for about 45 minutes to an hour," Beverly said. The woods are about a quarter of a mile behind his home.

Beverly's father, Don, said his son pointed the strange phenomenon out to him.

"You could see the woods all lit up," he said. "When that first deputy arrived, we could see still the red embers and he took off for it, but it was like it suddenly just disappeared. There was no tree damage, not even a burnt spot."

"I'm thankful it wasn't a plane. I can tell you our adrenaline was flowing."

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UFO researchers investigate Lexington's November fireball

By Jami Kinton
News Journal

LEXINGTON — A baffling fireball report has gained the attention of an international UFO research agency.

This week, representatives of the Mutual UFO Network will come to Richland County to investigate a report registered with their agency. On Nov. 23, Rick Beverly, of 1431 Graham Road, said he saw what seemed to be a fireball shoot from the sky.

"I was headed north on Graham Road and was right about in front of my house when it happened," he said. "I was looking toward the East and noticed a big ball of fire fall from the sky. It was cruising."

Beverly said a red glow lit up a large section of woods behind his home. He called 9-1-1.

The next day, Lt. Michael Vinson, of the Mansfield post of the Ohio Highway Patrol, said multiple agencies, including the Air National Guard, spent hours searching the woods, to no avail.

His story hasn't changed.

"We never found anything," he said Tuesday. "Initially, it was reported as an airplane crashing. Then that night we sent troopers and other agencies, but couldn't

"I'm not out there to say everything we see in the sky is a flying saucer, but we would like to take a look at the area."

THOMAS WERTMAN

Chief field investigator for the Ohio chapter of the Mutual UFO Network

find anything. We checked with both Cleveland and Columbus, but found no aircrafts missing. The next day we did an aircraft flyover just to double-check, but there was no sign of wreckage."

Monday, Mutual UFO Network Chief Field Investigator Thomas Wertman, of the Ohio chapter, spoke with Beverly and set up an appointment to travel to Lexington.

Wertman said a man named Robert Kreiling, who called himself a local astronomer, contacted his organization.

"When we get certain classifications of sightings, they have different priorities," Wertman said. "We like to come and look at the lay of the land and see if we can find any remnants down there. According to the state patrol, they

didn't see anything, but if we go down there in the daytime we may get a better view. I'm not out there to say everything we see in the sky is a flying saucer, but we would like to take a look at the area."

MUFON investigates UFO sightings and collects data for use by researchers worldwide. The group promotes research on UFOs and educates the public on UFO phenomena.

Vinson said authorities believed the fireball may have been a meteor.

"It burned for about 45 minutes to an hour," Beverly said. The woods are about a quarter of a mile behind his home.

It's not the first time MUFON has looked into a Richland County event.

In 1973, a National Guard helicopter headed to Cleveland Hopkins Airport was just outside Mansfield, near Charles Mill Lake, when one of the crewmen spotted a lighted object he believed was a tower.

Wertman has studied the well-documented event extensively.

"This crewman didn't think much of it until he noticed the same light again, but it wasn't blinking like a tower. It was just a constant

See UFO, page 2A

UFO

Continued from Page 1A

red light," he said.

The crewman notified the commander, Lawrence Coyne, who instructed him to keep an eye on the object — which he said soon began coming toward their helicopter at "jet speed."

"Coyne put the helicopter into a dive. The object stopped right in front of them and began keeping pace with them," Wertman said.

Suddenly a green light swung around from the object, lighting up the interior of the helicopter.

"Coyne tried to contact Mansfield Lahm and did end up getting an acknowledgment from them, but then the transmit went dead," Wertman said. "But about 30 seconds later, the object just took off in the direction of Lake Erie."

Later, the crew was baffled to learn that, although they were nose-diving toward the ground, their helicopter had actually traveled up more than 1,000 feet.

"None of them said they felt themselves going up," Wertman said.

"I would like to stress one very important fact, and that is there is approximately 20 years of Army aviation experience between the four men aboard the helicopter that night," Coyne said in a video interview from 1973. "We have been trained to follow procedures and regulations in reporting incidents regardless of how they're accepted — and we reported the incident as it occurred and have avoided any speculation on the subject."

The News Journal is seeking any of the four people aboard the helicopter that day, anyone who witnessed the incident or any witnesses to the November sighting. Call reporter Jami Kinton at 419-521-7220.

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jection wells. Mobley said Tuesday he could not comment on the city's request for a monitoring agreement.

"I'm working through the issues with the city, through my lawyer. I don't have any plans to commence development any time soon," he said.

Earlier, Mobley said he planned to use the first well for disposal of waste shipped by rail from Pennsylvania.

Business conditions will dictate when construction starts, he said Tuesday.

"I doubt it'll be 2012."

NATION/WORLD IN BRIEF

Iran ends naval maneuvers; Europe mulls more sanctions

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran closed out naval war games in the Gulf on Tuesday much the way they began last month: striking a tone of military defiance while Western powers rallied behind tougher oil and financial sanctions as a crippling tool against Tehran's nuclear program.

The standoff atmosphere — less than a week after Iran warned it could block one of the world's key oil tanker sea lanes in response to economic pressures — appeared to deepen further with an Iranian general suggesting a U.S. aircraft carrier is not welcome to return to the Gulf.

In Paris, meanwhile, France's foreign minister said there is "no doubt" that Iran is moving toward a nuclear weapon and urged Europe to match America's tighter sanctions set in motion last week. Alain Juppe said the measures could include targeting Iran's Central Bank and imposing an Iranian oil embargo.

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DINNER



as they play at Lexington Park. DANIEL MELOGRANA/NEWS JOURNAL

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Amish men leave U.S. Federal Courthouse on Wednesday after the arraignment of members of a breakaway Amish group accused of beard- and hair-cutting attacks on fellow Amish in Cleveland. AP PHOTO/THE PLAIN DEALER, JOSHUA GUNTER

Amish plead not guilty in beard-cutting attacks

Judge won't free suspected ringleader ahead of trial

By Thomas J. Sheeran
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Twelve members of a breakaway Amish group pleaded not guilty Wednesday to beard- and hair-

cutting attacks on fellow Amish in a feud over church discipline.

The seven original defendants arrested in November and five more added in an indictment returned last month entered the pleas in the crowded federal courtroom.

U.S. District Judge Dan Aaron Polster refused a defense appeal to release on bond the suspected

See AMISH, page 4A

UFO probe placed on hold

Property owners thwart effort to look into Nov. 23 fireball

By Jami Kinton
News Journal

LEXINGTON — More witnesses have come forward, but further investigation of a mysterious fireball has been placed on hold.

On Nov. 23, Rick Beverly, of 1431 Graham Road, said he saw what seemed to be a fireball shoot from the sky.

"I was headed north on Graham Road and was right about in front of my house when it happened," he said. "I was looking toward the east and noticed a big ball of fire fall from the sky. It was cruising."

Multiple law enforcement agencies, including the Air National Guard, spent hours searching the woods behind the Beverly's home, where the fireball reportedly landed, but could not find anything out of the ordinary.

After a report was made to the Mutual UFO Network, Chief Field Investigator Thomas Wertman, of the Ohio chapter, attempted to set up an appointment to travel to Lexington to investigate the area last Saturday, but said Tuesday that plans fell through.

"When the original report was made, I guess other landowners in the area and the owner of those woods weren't happy about all the attention," Wertman said, noting that his agency is still trying to get permission to search those woods. "But for right now, it seems sort of dead in the water."

Stephanie Kurtz said she witnessed the same occurrence Nov. 23.

"I found it fascinating because my husband and I were driving south into Bellville from Mansfield area around Hanley Road that night and saw a blue light in the sky that appeared to fall," she said. "It was so fast though that we weren't sure what we saw. I just looked at him

See UFO, page 4A

girl that he needed the hosiery to fix the exhaust system on his car.

The episode was not captured by Crocker Park surveillance video.

UFO

Continued from Page 1A

and said, 'I think I saw a blue light in the sky up there.' He said, 'So did I! I wonder what was falling?'

"We never found out, but I'm interested to find out what all this might be."

Sarah Schoenman, of Lexington, said around the same time in November, her two sons, ages 13 and 9, came running into their Lexington home after seeing what she believed was the same occurrence.

"They were freaking out and just said they saw a fireball in the sky," she said. "I was thinking that it was probably a plane or fireworks, but when I saw the story in the News Journal I thought that had to be the same thing."

The Schoenmans live just a few miles from Graham Road.

"It was a big ball of light concentrated in one area and headed down," said Trevor, 13. "It was reddish orange and had a fainter light all around it. It was huge. I thought it was a big meteor or a ball of fire or something. My little brother (Garrett) was freaking out and was like, 'We're all going to die!'"

John Beiser, 33, said he was walking to Kroger, on Lexington Avenue, and saw what he believed was the same incident.

"I looked up and saw what seemed like might be a shooting star, but it was bigger. It was moving really fast toward Lexington and seemed like it was going to hit the earth," the Mansfield man said. "My niece told me later that someone

said they'd seen a UFO or fireball the same night and time, so I figured this must be it. I'd never seen anything like it before."

Fran Lentz, 71, said she, too, was intrigued by the story. The Steam Corners village resident didn't witness the November sighting, but it triggered a seemingly coincidental family story that happened nearly 100 years ago.

"My uncle Bill Volz lived on Graham Road and one morning he was in his kitchen having breakfast. Being a farmer, he got up every day at 4 a.m.," Lentz said. "He saw a red streaking object come shooting down from the sky."

A few days later, Volz found the fireball, which had made a small crater in the ground on his property.

Volz was so fascinated by the object that when he died, he had it built into his headstone. He is buried in a Richland County cemetery.

"My father repeated this story to us many times because us kids were always so curious as to why this object, which is such an off shape, was attached to his headstone," Lentz said, noting that the object is about three feet high, two feet wide and jagged.

"I just thought this story was odd because this happened around the same time, in the same area about 100 years apart."

"Can two things really happen in the same location? It looks to be so. I don't think there's any reason to doubt (Beverly's) story. I've heard the same one all of my 71 years."

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SUNDAY News Journal

A GANNETT COMPANY

www.MansfieldNewsJournal.com

Sunday, November 27, 2011

Custody policy questioned

Attorney claims Children Services' practices prevent adoptions

By Mark Caudill
News Journal

MANSFIELD — A local attorney says a Richland County Children Services policy is keeping kids from being adopted.

"Approximately two years ago, I became aware that the board was taking a position in its dependency, neglect and abuse court caseload that left children who were being permanently removed from the care of their biological parents in the position of never being able to be adopted by the alternate caregivers who had taken on the emotional, legal and financial responsibility for their care," Cathy Goldman said in a letter to county commissioners.

Goldman, who has practiced family law for 30 years and for-

merly served as a juvenile court magistrate, said Children Services will not seek permanent custody — thereby terminating parental rights — of a child unless it previously had temporary custody.

"If you're an aunt or an uncle, or brother or sister, or third party, that kid is never going to get adopted unless the biological parents consent," Goldman said. "The goal for kids is permanency. Adoption is the best-case scenario for any child."

Children Services officials, after granting two interviews lasting nearly two hours to the News Journal, asked to have all their comments withdrawn without explanation.

"We have no comment as to why we want our remarks withdrawn," spokesman Carl Hunnell

said in an email.

The local agency has a defender in Crystal Ward Allen, executive director of the Public Children Services Association of Ohio. She said Children Services received a national award for adoption excellence.

"Richland County is known for not letting kids linger in foster care," Ward Allen said. "They're a model for other agencies. I've got a high level of respect for them."

Differing philosophies

Goldman said the policy affected one of her former clients.

"The board's attorneys were never able to explain the reason for this policy, and as it was controlling the outcome of a case I was involved with, I subpoenaed



Richland County Children Services Board offices at 731 Scholl Road. DAVE POLCYN/NEWS JOURNAL

See ADOPTIONS, page 7A

Religious leaders want dry 2012 fair

Mutti and 'Company of Seven' ask board to scrub beer garden

By Lou Whitmire
News Journal

MANSFIELD — Although it's still months away, the Richland County Fair has come under scrutiny by local community activist Ben Mutti, who together with a group of like-minded religious leaders, wants to vanquish the beer garden at next year's fair.

The beer garden that debuted in August may return next year, the fair manager said Friday.

The fair board decided to green-light the beer garden in February, which sparked controversy before this year's fair, mostly because it is the first time in anyone's memory the fair served alcohol — and possibly the first time it has happened in the fair's 161 years.

This summer, the Richland Community Family Coalition, religious leaders and others spoke out against selling alcohol at the family-friendly event.

Mutti, who represents the Richland Community Family Coalition, and a contingent of local clergy who call themselves the "Company of Seven" last week attended a fair board meeting, asking the fair board to do away with the beer garden for several reasons, including that they believe the beer garden jeopardizes the security and well-being of children.

Mutti said the beer garden report given to media in August on the success of alcohol sales was embellished.

In August published reports, fair manager Dean Wells estimated the beer garden brought in about \$6,000 in net profit during the week-long fair.

Mutti said according to reports provided by the fair board president, the beer concessions made a net profit of \$2,219.

On Friday, Wells said the beer garden may return, anyway.

"If the board brings it up for another vote, we'll look at the outcome," he said.

"The beer garden had a profit, but not as much as we anticipated, but we're trying to figure a way to increase it next year," he said. He did not elaborate further.

"The only expense was the beer and the tent," Wells said, noting volunteers worked the



Mutti

MORE ON THE GAME

INSIDE SPORTS

PAGE 1B:

» Lexington graduate Courtney Avery's interception sealed Michigan's first victory since 2003.

PAGE 3B:

» Michigan teammates hail Avery as a hero.
» OSU-Michigan Report Card.
» Michigan head coach Brady Hoke has brought a fresh approach to the rivalry.

ON THE WEB

» PHOTO GALLERY:
Third annual Ohio State-Michigan Run

See it at MansfieldNewsJournal.com



Racing for the Wolverines



Adrienne Ruhe shows her Michigan pride as she participates in the third annual Ohio State-Michigan run Saturday morning in Mansfield before The Game. Michigan won 40-34. DANIEL MELOGRANA/NEWS JOURNAL

BRIGHTEN A CHRISTMAS » CASE NO. 3

Mom supporting son on 10 hours a week

By Holly Harman Fackler
News Journal

MANSFIELD — Case 3 in this year's Brighten a Christmas program features a single mom struggling to cover rent, utilities and food after having her work hours cut from 25 to 10 a week in the wake of their move to a small apartment.

There isn't any backup for this duo. The child's father is in prison and hasn't been part of the 9-year-old's life. Even so, the son is a described as a friendly fourth-grader who is "very funny and likes to do all sorts of activities." Mom has health problems, but is looking for a better job with more hours and

ABOUT BRIGHTEN A CHRISTMAS



Brighten a Christmas was established 64 years ago. The program is a loose collaboration among agencies, nonprofit groups and the News Journal, each doing its part to help readers extend a caring hand to neighbors during the holiday season.

better pay so she can continue to provide for her child.

Household needs include queen- and twin-sized blankets and sheet sets, a set of cooking pots, big bath towels (54/32) and a 19- or 20-inch TV.

Like most children, this one believes in miracles. His Christmas wish list includes an Xbox 360 and games, Hot Wheels track set,

Transformers, VTech learning games, an electronic tablet, a Sorry Spin game and electronic Monopoly game. He also needs clothes (size 34 to 36 waist and 29 inseam men's pants, adult XL shirts and large underwear) and size 7M shoes.

The mother requests clothes. She wears Plus 22/24 women's pants, size 3X tops, size 10 under-

wear, size 12 WW footwear and a size 3X coat.

Items for Case No. 3 should be taken to Volunteers of America, 280 N. Main St., from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. or 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Be sure to mark donations for Brighten a Christmas Case 3. Put gift or gas cards in a sealed envelope, write the case number on the outside and leave the envelope at the desk. If you are donating a large item you will need help unloading, call the VOA ahead of time to arrange it. The deadline is Dec. 19.

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See BEER, page 7A



103 clergy send apology letter to Israeli Prime Minister

Staff Report, Feb. 10, 2017

MANSFIELD - More than 100 clergy from Richland and surrounding counties have sent a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu apologizing for the Obama administration's refusal to veto a United Nations' resolution concerning Israel's claims to the West Bank lands.

On Dec. 23, the United States did not use its veto power during a UN Security Council vote on United Nations Resolution 2334, which states that Israel's claims to West Bank territory including East Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and the Golan Heights, have no legal validity. The Security Council vote was 14-0 with the U.S. abstaining.

"This letter was written to draw a line in the sand. While this anti-Semitic dictate opposes Israel's right to the Promised Land, we stand unapologetically with Israel; we give up no ground on this issue, said Benjamin Mutti, one of the letter's authors and coordinator of the Richland Community Prayer Network.

"For Zion's sake, we will not remain silent, for Jerusalem's sake we will not remain quiet. May the prime minister always know that his country will always have friends in North Central Ohio."

Mutti said 103 pastors and rabbis representing over 100 congregations endorsed the letter.

"We want to formally apologize to you, Prime Minister Netanyahu, and the citizens of Israel for the shameful actions of the Obama Administration and his State Department that have jeopardized the security of Israel and betrayed its trust," the letter read.

Area pastors believe this letter can "help facilitate the reconciliation process between not only the nations of Israel and America, but also between the God of Israel and America." They hope the Trump Administration will take a stronger stand supporting Israel, Mutti said.

He said this week the group has not had any response from the Israeli government to the letter, which was dated Jan. 21.



<https://www.google.com/amp/amp.usatoday.com/story/97703006/>



CHURCH

Ohio pastors have your back, Mr. Prime Minister

Tuesday, February 14, 2017
| Chad Groening (OneNewsNow.com)

A group of Ohio pastors has sent a letter to Israeli's Prime Minister to voice their support for the Jewish nation.

A total of 103 clergy from northern Ohio put their names on the letter addressed to Benjamin Netanyahu, pastor Benjamin Mutti says. The pastors belong to the Richland Community Prayer Network.



Netanyahu is coming to Washington, D.C. this week to meet with President Donald Trump.

"President Trump and I see eye to eye about the dangers emanating from the region, but also on the opportunities," he told reporters before departing to the United States.

According to Mutti, the pastors apologized in the letter to Netanyahu and Israel for the pro-Palestinian stance taken by Barack Obama in the closing days of his administration. The United States abstained from a UN resolution that condemned Israel over its claim to Jerusalem.

"This letter was written to draw a line in the sand," Mutti says. "And we believe strongly that we don't want to give up ground on this very important issue."

The pastors are also hoping that President Donald Trump will be a man of his word, and support and defend the state of Israel.

"Our hope is that he does not waver and recent news reports seem to indicate otherwise," warns the pastor.

<https://www.onenewsnw.com/church/2017/02/14/oh-pastors-have-your-back-mr-prime-minister>

Times-Gazette

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

Volume 167 • Issue 42

Times-Gazette.com

Regional clergy send apology to Israeli prime minister

NOELLE BYE
T-G Staff Writer

"Since our destinies are intertwined together, you will always have friends in Ohio," reads a letter to Benjamin Netanyahu, the prime minister of Israel, signed by more than 100 north-central Ohio pastors and rabbis.

The letter is a formal apology for the controversial United Nations Resolution 2334, which states that the Israelis' ownership of East Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the Golan Heights has no legal validity.

"The Jewish people have one small little state, and unfortunately, there's the appearance that the nations of the world are saying that they no longer deserve that one small state," said Benjamin Mutti, one of the authors of the letter, which

was signed by 103 leading pastors from north-central Ohio, including some from Ashland, Richland, Huron, Crawford and Morrow counties.

United Nations Resolution 2334 was passed the day before Hanukkah, on Dec. 23, 2016. The United States chose not to use its veto power during a U.N. Security Council vote on the resolution. The security council vote was 14-0 with the U.S. abstaining.

"It's a sign of the times," said Pastor John Bouquet, who helped round up support for the letter in Ashland County. "There's a huge progressive movement to be acceptable to everything, even sometimes at the expense of historical truth. And I think that's where the struggle comes in for some of us."

The letter, which was sent certified Jan. 21, had

several authors and about seven pastors who reviewed the text. Bouquet estimates about five pastors from Ashland signed the letter.

"It's central to what we do in Christianity," Bouquet said. "And I would be happy to also say that States doesn't mean at the expense to other people or other nations. But I do think that's where the United States took a wrong turn at the recent U.N. resolution. We've been a central figure in Israel's existence since 1948."

All of the pastors involved are associated with the Richland Community Prayer Network.

"We actually have a person with boots on the ground in Israel that has access to the inner circle of the prime minister, and

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Apology

From Page A1

they will be hand delivering it as well," Mutti said.

Several elected officials in both Israel and the United States also were forwarded the letter, including both Ohio senators and U.S. congressmen with an interest in Israel. In addition, mediated agencies in Israel and Tel Aviv received copies of the letter.

"Our hopes are that the folks in Israel can hear about how 103 clergymen in little north-central Ohio have a heart for them, support them and stand with them," Mutti said.

The letter also condemns a statement by then-Secretary of State John Kerry, suggesting that Israel should not be a Jewish and democratic state.

"Mr. Prime Minister, these words are extremely hateful and inaccurate considering that your nation is the only Jewish state in the world, and a Jewish state that happens to have seven million elected Arab members in your legislative body, the Knesset," the letter states. Mutti acknowledges that some may question why



Submitted photo
From left, Pastor Randy Raynes, Pastor Clinton Hearn, Ben Mutti, the Rev. El Akuchie and Pastor Jerry Laudermilk were involved with creating the apology letter to send to the Israeli Prime Minister for United Nations Resolution 2334.

the letter was sent after the administration that abstained from voting on the resolution has left the presidential office.

"The point is, no matter what president occupies the Oval Office, that U.N. resolution still states that Israel's occupation of that disputed land is an international crime," Mutti said.

The benefits of the letter are twofold: making peace

with a country and reconciling with God.

"Our hopes with this letter is that this will facilitate the reconciliation process not only between the Jewish state of Israel and with the United States, but more importantly, we believe that will help the reconciliation process between our nation and God the father, who some would call the Holy God of Israel or the God of Israel," Mutti said.

"We want to call attention to support for Israel, it's so important because support for Israel is support for the church for God," said the Rev. El Akuchie of the Richland Community Prayer Network. "They are God's people."

And making peace on spiritual and physical levels may have lasting benefits for our region, Mutti said.

"The Scriptures indicate the favor of the Lord occurs with people who bless Israel and the Jewish people," Mutti said. "And we don't know what that favor looks like, but we can draw a silhouette, so to speak. Maybe that means averting cataclysmic natural disasters in our region of north-central Ohio. Maybe that means the spiritual blindfold being removed from people's minds and hearts to the good news that the Bible brings. Or maybe that means Jewish businessmen coming from Israel to invest in our region and bring 1,000 jobs."

The letter connects not only Americans and Israelis but also religious institutions. "Anytime you can get 103 churches to agree on anything, it's historical," Bouquet said.

Ohio's investment reflects hope, support for Israel

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 Written by: Chad Groening, Bob Kellogg (OneNewsNow.com)

A pro-Israel activist in Ohio is praising that state for recently purchasing \$61 million worth of Israel Bonds in response to the BDS movement against the Jewish state.

In December, lawmakers in Columbus passed a statute prohibiting the state from contracting with companies that engage in the controversial boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. The measure increased from 1 percent to 2 percent the amount of funds the state treasurer or county treasurers may invest in foreign bonds meeting specified criteria, including [Israel Bonds](#).

Then earlier this month, Ohio State Treasurer Josh Mandell announced the state will take advantage of the new law to purchase a one-day record \$61 million in Israel Bonds, making Ohio the largest holder of Israel Bonds with \$165 million.

Benjamin Mutti is a coordinator with the [Richland Community Prayer Network](#), made up of 103 clergy from North Central Ohio. He is encouraged that his state is standing strong in support of the Jewish nation.

"Ohio is ... saying *We oppose boycotting Israel and we support contractors that do not boycott Israel and do not sanction Israel*," he tells OneNewsNow. "And that actually catapults Ohio to the largest owner of Israel Bonds in all the United States."

Mutti says he can't help but think that the state will be blessed as a result.

"It says in Genesis 12:3 [that] those who bless Israel, the Lord of Hosts will bless them as well," he points out. "Local and state governments are hoping that Israel will prosper and be successful. Whenever you have a bond for the Israeli government, you're actually supporting the Israeli government."

According to the Israel Bonds website, sales last year in the U.S. exceeded \$1.127 billion – the largest domestic total in the organization's history. Those investments, it says, send an unmistakable message to BDS advocates: "Israel's economy will remain strong."



A 'bogus' basis for BDS endorsement

Meanwhile, the student government of a university in Massachusetts is being accused of using questionable means earlier this month to pass a resolution endorsing the BDS movement.

The Tufts Community Union (TCU) Senate [passed a resolution](#) calling for the school to divest from companies it claims are implicated in the "occupation" and "apartheid" of "Occupied Palestinian territory." The companies specified in the resolution are Elbit Systems, G4S, Northrop Grumman, and Hewlett Packard Enterprises.

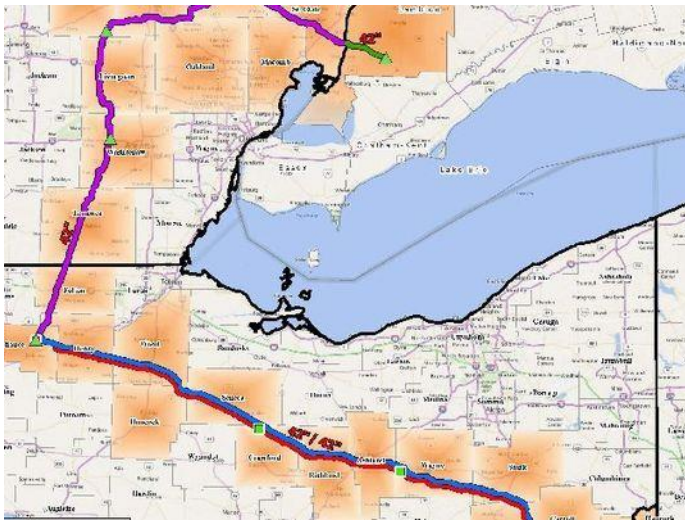
Tammi Rossman Benjamin, director of the pro-Israel [AMCHA Initiative](#), says this and other similar resolutions are bogus. "This has happened ad nauseam that we have a group like Students for Justice in Palestine who bring a sham resolution that accuses Israel of all kinds of ridiculous crimes," she says, "and then makes it the basis for essentially boycotting Israel or boycotting businesses that do business with Israel."

Benjamin says the TCU Senate used stealth tactics to get the resolution passed. "The student government actually timed the vote on this particular resolution to be at a time when many Jewish students were going home for Passover – it was on the Eve of Passover," she notes. While members of the student senate were ecstatic at their success, Benjamin says she is unaware of any university that has complied with the terms of any student-passed BDS resolution.

<https://onewsnw.com/politics-govt/2017/04/26/ohios-investment-reflects-hope-support-for-israel>

Landowners briefed on pipeline's progress

Todd Hill , Reporter Published 8:24 p.m. ET Jan. 28, 2015 |



The proposed Keystone XL pipeline that would transport oil from Canada down through the middle of the U.S. has been a political football for years. But while the nation's attention has been focused on that project, another planned pipeline, for natural gas, would be more than twice as large.

And that pipeline, the Energy Transfer Rover line, is projected to transit Richland and Crawford counties from one end of the region to the other.

The Keystone pipeline would be 36 inches across. The Rover line would be 42 inches in diameter, and there would be two of them, side by side.

"This is the biggest pipeline project in Ohio that I'm aware of, and one of the largest in the country," Columbus attorney Michael Braunstein said Wednesday evening. "These twin, 42-inch lines will set a record in Ohio for compensation. I don't think there's any question but that they're going forward."

Braunstein and his colleague, Bill Goldman, are eminent-domain attorneys who have fashioned a career representing landowners in pipeline easement contracts. With the Marcellus and Utica shale plays presently yielding more natural gas than there are pipelines to transport it, they're fairly busy these days.

On Wednesday they met with more than 50 area landowners at the Kehoe Center in Shelby, their third such meeting in the region since last August.

Energy Transfer pre-filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission last June for permission to pursue the Rover project across Ohio, with a full filing expected by Jan. 15. That hasn't happened, as pipeline officials are hurrying to make adjustments to the route in eastern Ohio. Construction would then begin in 2016, first one pipeline, then the other.

"It is a major experience, it will be a major disruption," Goldman told landowners Wednesday, many of them farmers from the northern reaches of Richland and Crawford counties.

The latest map detailing the pipeline's proposed route has it traversing Richland County in a nearly straight line from east to west, from near the crossroads of Pavonia in eastern Richland County to below Shelby, then northwest into Crawford County, where it would pass very close to the village of Tiro, south of New Washington, just north of Chatfield, and then up into Seneca County above Lykens.

The attorneys believe fighting the pipeline is a lost cause, but they cautioned landowners that they will need legal representation, whether it's with Goldman & Braunstein or someone else, should land agents contracted by Energy Transfer come knocking on their door.

"You're entitled to just compensation not just for your land taken, but the land not taken but damaged. It's not rocket science that this is not going to be an asset to your land. You're probably going to be insulted by their offer, but you might as well listen to it," Braunstein said.

Goldman cautioned that that's all they should do.

"The worst place to sign an easement contract is on the hood of your truck with a land agent looking over your shoulder. If you're offered \$40,000 to \$50,000 that may sound like a lot, but you're leaving money on the table," Goldman said.

"This is not a leasing deal, you have one opportunity only. You don't want an heir of yours to say, 'Grandpa was stupid.'"

The Rover pipeline, which energy analysts believe is just the first to be proposed for north central Ohio, would transport natural gas across our region at a pressure of 144 pounds. By contrast, gas enters your home at a pressure of two pounds.

In addition, the company plans to construct a 40-acre compressor station on the line just south of the Crawford/Seneca county line, along Albaugh Road north of the village of Lykens, which would feature an engine running at 42,000 horsepower.

"Any attorney who says they're going to fight this line, they're drinking their own bathwater," Goldman said. But his colleague encouraged landowners to get what they can from the pipeline company.

"They appear to have everything on their side, and they have an enormous amount of money," Braunstein said. "But we have a route that they need."

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<http://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/story/news/local/2015/01/28/landowners-briefed-pipelines-progress/22497393/>



\$4.3 BILLION ROVER PIPELINE APPROVED, WILL RUN THROUGH COUNTIES IN WEST VIRGINIA & OHIO

Posted on [February 7, 2017](#)

The \$4.3 billion Rover Pipeline system, portions of which will include 42-inch diameter conduit, will send Marcellus and Utica shale natural gas across Ohio because the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved the project.

The system — portions of which will run through Tyler, Marshall, Hancock, Monroe, Belmont, Jefferson and Harrison counties — will be able to ship up to 3.25 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day. For perspective, just 1 Bcf is enough natural gas to power 24,315 homes for an entire year, according to Cabot Oil & Gas.

The Rover, developed by Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners, is one of several pipelines natural gas producers have hoped would see approval to help them get their material to larger markets. Officials representing both manufacturers and pipeline builders celebrated the FERC approval.

“Construction of the project will generate a windfall of demand for American-manufactured pipeline components. And once in operation, these same organizations will have reliable access to natural gas, affordably powering their operations,” Ryan Augsburger, lobbyist for the Ohio Manufacturers’ Association, said. “Manufacturing has long played a prominent role in Ohio’s economy, and we are confident that the Rover Pipeline will provide opportunities for the industry’s success well into the future.”



Original prognostications showed the pipeline would open last year, but there were delays related to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and other environmental concerns. Developers believe they can get the entire system up and running before 2017 ends.

“We’re ready to get to work,” Geno Alessandrini, business manager of the Michigan Laborers’ District Council, said, while acknowledging some believe the Rover will support 10,000 construction jobs. “A

lot of the work for construction will go to our members, who are highly skilled and uphold the highest safety standards on our work sites. We're excited to get to work on the Rover Pipeline, and get the job done right."

According to the map, the Rover's route begins in Doddridge County, W.Va. It then heads northwest through Tyler County before reaching the Ohio River. It then crosses under the river and into Monroe County, where it eventually meets with another line in the Beallsville area. The line then heads east to the Clarington area.

The map shows a 42-inch pipeline running from the Clarington area, north through Belmont County. At this point, a 24-inch pipeline that travels westward and under the Ohio River from Marshall County will connect with the 42-inch line in the Jacobsburg area of Belmont County.

From there, the 42-inch line heads northwest through the St. Clairsville area and into Harrison County. It will then collect more natural gas from what the map shows as a 36-inch pipeline running westward from Washington County, Pa., as this line runs through Hancock and Jefferson counties.

The Rover route then heads northwest across Ohio and into Michigan.

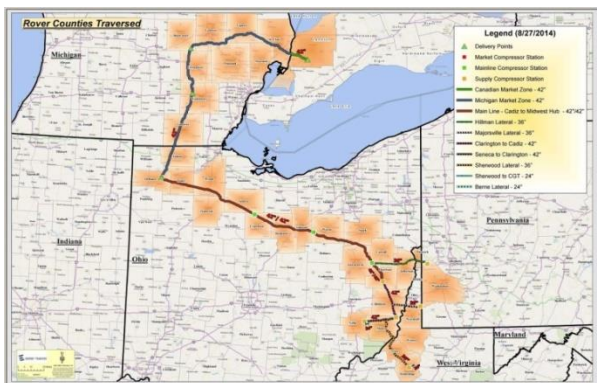
"Rover understands its responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and implementing regulations and with Rover's commitment to conducting tree clearing outside of the migratory bird breeding season it will abate any chance or direct take of protected species," a document Rover developers filed with FERC Jan. 4 states.

<http://horizonsupplycompany.com/2017/02/4-3-billion-rover-pipeline-approved-will-run-through-counties-in-west-virginia-ohio/>

Rover Pipeline fuels economy, and controversy in north central Ohio

Tracy Geibel, Staff Reporter May 19, 2017

MANSFIELD -- Mile by mile, the \$4.2 billion Rover Pipeline project is making its way across Richland County. It's arriving with money and controversy.



The Rover Pipeline begins in Southeastern Ohio, Western West Virginia and Southwestern Pennsylvania before it travels northwest across Ohio. It crosses the upper half of Richland County as well as through neighboring Ashland and Crawford counties, and concludes in Livingston County, Michigan. The pipeline is designed to transport 3.25 billion cubic feet of natural gas daily.

A fraction, 35 out of the total 713 miles, runs through Richland County, and this portion is expected to be complete by early summer. A second pipeline, which will run parallel to the first, should be complete this fall. The 713-mile pipeline is bringing more than natural gas through the county; it's bringing business that fuels the local economy.

Businesses like Ashland Railway, where a pipeline construction yard is located, and Emerson Automation Solutions, where a component for the pipeline was manufactured, are realizing dollars just like local restaurants and hotels, where the workers eat and sleep.

Barrett Thomas, Director of Economic Development for the Richland County Development Group (RCDG), explained the construction yard located on Ashland Railway's property is the key to the local economic impact.

"Each morning when those guys go to work, they stop by that construction yard," Thomas said. "So that means they are going to stay somewhere close."

They eat somewhere close. They shop somewhere close; and they find fun things to do somewhere close to that construction yard.

"Ashland Railway is proud to have played a role in bringing these companies and their employees to the area and we are pleased to see the positive economic impact it has had on Richland and Ashland counties," said Steve Nielson, senior marketing and sales director. "In our conversations with these companies, we know they are frequent customers at local restaurants, hotels, hardware stores and other businesses, which is helping the local economy."

Still, the pipeline has created issues. Last week, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) ordered **all horizontal directional drilling (HDD) is required to stop** along the Rover project.

A letter from FERC stated that HDDs must stop until the company receives authorization to proceed.

Brigham McCown, United States' senior energy and dangerous goods transport chief under President George W. Bush, offered an informed opinion on the situation.

"I don't think it's as big of a deal as some are making it out to be," McCown said in an exclusive interview with the Richland Source. "I think FERC is doing it out of an abundance of caution."

McCown grew up in southern Ohio, but at one time his job was to oversee most of the nation's energy transportation, via air, sea, railways, pipelines and more.

"We need (pipelines). We use them everyday," McCown said. "But pipeline companies need to be careful when operating them and installing them."

The latter point is what upsets local critics of the Rover Pipeline. The project has had a series of violations, which includes [an estimated 50,000-gallon spill in Mifflin Township](#) on April 14. Drilling fluids were dumped into wetlands near Amoy-Pavonia Road by crews working on the Rover Pipeline, according to documents filed with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

"We have experienced a small number of inadvertent releases of 'drilling mud' during horizontal drilling in Ohio," Energy Transfer spokesperson, Alexis Daniel said in an email statement May 9. "The drilling mud, which is a mixture of naturally occurring bentonite clay and water and is safe for the environment, is used to help facilitate horizontal directional drills (HDDs) and is used in all types of infrastructure projects that use HDDs as a part of the construction process."

Richland County Engineer Adam Gove said the only Richland County location that could be affected is where the pipeline crosses the Black Fork of the Mohican River at the Richland and Ashland County line.

"The inspector I talked to believed that they were already underway with that process and would be allowed to continue, but he did say that this location was under a different inspector's authority, and was not positive about where they were in the process," Gove said.

In addition, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency levied a \$430,000 fine against Energy Transfer for water and air pollution violations. Finally, on May 19, Rover Pipeline issued a statement regarding stormwater management:

"Rover Pipeline understands the concerns of Ohio farmers related to the issues caused by the unprecedented recent rainfall in the state, which have caused our construction workspace and pipeline trenches to fill with water.

"We are working with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Federal Energy Regulatory Agency (FERC) and the impacted farmers to remove the water from our construction workspace as quickly and as efficiently as possible, while at the same time avoiding and minimizing impacts to crops and working within the bounds of our certificated right-of-way as approved by FERC."

But the economic benefits of the pipeline project can't be ignored either.

Jeff Litzinger, co-owner the Backroom Bar and Grille, 880 Laver Rd., said workers frequently stop in for breakfast, dinner and evening entertainment including dart competitions, accounting for a 30- to 35-percent increase in sales.

"They are away from home, so they are looking for things to do," Litzinger said. While he'll miss their business when they go, he's thankful that the workers have drawn attention to the restaurant.

"A lot of people didn't know we served breakfast," he said. "But when people see the parking lot full of cars, it helps us."

Richland County Commissioner, Marilyn John has noticed an increase in sales tax, which she believes might be associated with the pipeline project.

"All these people are spending money in Richland County. Therefore, we've seen an uptick in our sales tax just over the last couple of months," John said. "It's not huge. It's not a windfall, but it's a slight uptick in our sales tax, and with some of the challenges we are seeing from the state, that uptick is definitely needed right now."

She knows the workers leave the county in a few months, but hopes some will later return to the area, bringing their friends and families.

"They are not only spending their money here, but they're having a great experience here, so that's helping us from a marketing standpoint," John said. "We want them to be thinking of this as a vacation spot even. "It's a great opportunity for us to really shine to all these people coming in ... I hope all the residents are taking advantage of that."

A 2015 Rover Pipeline press release estimated the project would spend more than \$85 million with Ohio-based companies. Among the vendors listed in this release was Emerson Process Management, now known as Emerson Automation Solutions, Actuation Technologies, at 2500 Park Ave W, Ontario.

Emerson manufactures valve actuation systems that open and close many of the valves on the Rover pipeline. Mike McQuade, senior product manager at Emerson, called it a "major project" that took approximately one month of production capacity.

The "actuators," or valve control systems, can be equipped with their own intelligence capabilities. The actuation systems are capable of closing valves if they sense abnormal conditions through an automatic line break detection system. "If for some reason there should be an abnormal release of gas, the actuators can be signaled to close the valves in order to minimize escaping gases," said Tom Young, Inside Sales/Quotation at the Mansfield facility.

The actuators were taken to a warehouse until ready for installation along the pipeline. Emerson has worked with Energy Transfer Partners, the Houston-based company that runs the pipeline project, for decades. Their actuators are already in use in other pipelines throughout the United States.

http://www.richlandsource.com/news/rover-pipeline-fuels-economy-controversy-in-north-central-ohio/article_93837d50-3039-11e7-8771-0f13e451ede8.html

Report: Mansfield was No. 5 in job loss

Linda Martz, Reporter Published 12:26 p.m. ET Dec. 15, 2016 | Updated 3:06 p.m. ET Dec. 15, 2016

But Mayor Theaker says he's flummoxed by numbers

MANSFIELD - The City of Mansfield was the nation's No. 5 city in job losses over the last year, according to a website citing figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. For October, the number of jobs declined from 50,576 the previous year to 49,399, a 2.33 percent loss.

Most cities showed an increased number of jobs over the past year, but 75 metro areas showed net losses in total employment, according to a [report by the website 24/7 Wall Street, 247wallst.com](#).

No other Ohio city was among the top five highest in job losses. The Lafayette, Louisiana, area had the most job loss, with employment falling by 4.5 percent, according to 24/7 Wall Street, which published a story on cities losing jobs Wednesday. That city's losses were followed by Casper, Wyoming, down 3.77 percent; Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana, down 3.74 percent; and Shreveport-Bossier City, Louisiana, down 2.35 percent.



24/7 Wall Street blamed heavy reliance on a single sector — manufacturing — and a low number of adults with at least a bachelor's degree (just 14.4 percent) for Mansfield's job losses.

But Mansfield Mayor Tim Theaker said he highly doubts those numbers.

"Personally, I thought there are a lot of jobs out there. I don't know where they got those statistics from," the mayor said. "Something is wrong with those numbers. There's no way there's 1,200 jobs that left Mansfield," he said. Theaker said he can think of no local company, except for Ideal Electric, that shed a significant number of jobs. "That's the only plant that would have been affected," he said. "There are a lot of places that are hiring."

In talking with economic development officials and state Rep. Mark Romanchuk (owner of a manufacturing company), Theaker said he has been hearing that there's a lot of jobs out there that people aren't filling. Preliminary BLS numbers showed the sectors with the highest job losses for the year in Mansfield were professional and business services, down 10.9 percent; and financial activities, down 6.7 percent.

Two sectors showed gains: mining, logging and construction, up 4.3 percent; and government, up 3.8 percent. Employment in leisure and hospitality showed no change from October 2015.

Job losses in other sectors in Mansfield included manufacturing, down 1 percent over the year; trade, transportation and utilities, down 2 percent; education and health services, down 1.2 percent; and "other" services, down 4.5 percent.

Total employment in the Mansfield area has steadily declined by about 10,000 jobs since at least October 2006, when it stood at 59,245.

Braintree CEO Bob Cohen found the overall job loss figure for Mansfield believable.

"At Braintree, we see this with startups, particularly the high-tech startups that we focus on helping. It is difficult for them to afford to hire employees, and even when they can afford it, it is difficult for them to locate people in our area that have the skills or credentials they need. So quite often these companies end up leaving the area and, of course, the potential jobs leave the area also," Cohen said.

"Yes, this has been a difficult year. In fact the last 10 years have been difficult," he said.

"Much of the economic recovery that has occurred has been focused on just a few sectors and relatively few companies. Startups are particularly susceptible to small changes in the economy, particularly negative changes. It's my opinion that many small companies have still not recovered from the economic downturn that began in 2007," Cohen said.

The 2.3 percent job loss figure for the one-year period "is more than a blip, and it has a ripple effect. Fewer jobs means less spending, which results in more layoffs and closures and therefore even fewer jobs and even less spending," Cohen said.

Downtown Mansfield Inc. CEO Jennifer Kime said jobs have remained an issue.

"Studies like this further highlight the need for a community like ours to continue to diversify and grow in economic independence through entrepreneurship," she said.

But job growth has been seen in some areas of the Mansfield metro area, she added.

"The downtown business community continues to grow in both technology and service oriented businesses. As a testament to the resilience of entrepreneurship, several of our businesses downtown have experienced record breaking years and remain in a growth trend," Kime said.

"While we need to continue to support and develop our manufacturing base, our economy will be most successful the more we can continue our goals of diversification," she added.

Karen Seman, workforce development director for the Richland Community Development Group, said sectors that offer the Mansfield area potential for job growth exist, but training or education may be the key to filling them.

"Manufacturing and health care are projected to be the two driving sectors within our local region. Both sectors offer projected employment openings which are identified as in-demand positions and will require some post-secondary training and/or attainment of a degree," she said.

"While any negative news is disappointing, I think this demonstrates the importance of retaining and growing skilled manufacturing employment within our local economy," Seman said.

"Manufacturing continues to play a key economic role, by offering a high multiple of spin-off jobs. So any job loss within this sector has a rippling effect."

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<http://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/story/news/2017/03/15/local-rover-pipeline-construction-begins/99203858/>



Ohio, Richland County Hunters Record Higher Wild Turkey Count

MAY 31, 2017

Ohio hunters checked a total of 21,015 wild turkeys during the combined 2017 spring wild turkey south zone hunting season; northeast zone hunting season; and the youth wild turkey hunting season, April 22-May 28, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). In 2016, hunters checked a total of 17,793 wild turkeys.

Hunters checked 19,095 birds during the 2017 wild turkey south zone and northeast zone hunting seasons compared to 16,229 birds in 2016. Youth hunters checked 1,920 birds during the 2017 youth season compared to 1,564 in 2016.

During the season, Richland County hunters recorded 347 wild turkeys as compared to 280 in 2016.

Ohio's 2017 spring wild turkey season was open from Monday, April 24, to Sunday, May 21, in the south zone and from Monday, May 1, to Sunday, May 28, in the northeast zone. The youth season was April 22-23. Hunters can view the 2017 spring turkey season zone map and harvest regulations at wildohio.gov.

Wild turkeys were extirpated in Ohio by 1904 and were reintroduced in the 1950s by the ODNR Division of Wildlife. Ohio's first modern day wild turkey season opened in 1966 in nine counties, and hunters checked 12 birds. The wild turkey harvest topped 1,000 for the first time in 1984. Spring turkey hunting opened statewide in 2000, and Ohio hunters checked more than 20,000 wild turkeys for the first time that year.



Source: Ohio Department of Natural Resources

<http://1812blockhouse.com/community/ohio-richland-county-hunters-record-higher-wild-turkey-count/>

From: Burt, Andrew
Sent: Thursday, December 28, 2017 3:02 PM
To: 'bjmutti@gmail.com'
Subject: Richland harvest

Mr. Mutti,

Attached are 2 files. One for Turkey Harvest and one for Deer Harvest in Richland County. Let me know if you have any questions on the files.

Andy Burt
Licensing Coordinator
ODNR, Division of Wildlife
[\(614\) 265-6330](tel:6142656330)

| Year | County | Buck | Button Buck | Doe | Total |
|------|----------|------|----------------|------|-------|
| 1985 | Richland | 300 | 97 | 247 | 646 |
| 1986 | Richland | 309 | 124 | 271 | 705 |
| 1987 | Richland | 390 | 207 | 478 | 1084 |
| 1988 | Richland | 365 | 180 | 434 | 981 |
| 1989 | Richland | 400 | 217 | 417 | 1037 |
| 1990 | Richland | 474 | 211 | 492 | 1177 |
| 1991 | Richland | 463 | 266 | 620 | 1351 |
| 1992 | Richland | 521 | 289 | 676 | 1498 |
| 1993 | Richland | 588 | 298 | 739 | 1629 |
| 1994 | Richland | 695 | 363 | 832 | 1903 |
| 1995 | Richland | 702 | 365 | 837 | 1917 |
| 1996 | Richland | 620 | 338 | 846 | 1820 |
| 1997 | Richland | 543 | 301 | 835 | 1688 |
| 1998 | Richland | 515 | 119 | 302 | 941 |
| 1999 | Richland | 622 | 130 | 385 | 1147 |
| 2000 | Richland | 786 | 172 | 531 | 1505 |
| 2001 | Richland | 879 | 178 | 535 | 1636 |
| 2002 | Richland | 896 | 208 | 682 | 1811 |
| 2003 | Richland | 1199 | 361 | 1196 | 2785 |
| 2004 | Richland | 1447 | 414 | 1533 | 3394 |
| 2005 | Richland | 1413 | 530 | 1716 | 3659 |
| 2006 | Richland | 1525 | 610 | 1994 | 4129 |
| 2007 | Richland | 1438 | 642 | 2049 | 4129 |
| 2008 | Richland | 1441 | 738 | 2363 | 4542 |
| 2009 | Richland | 1532 | 715 | 2507 | 4754 |
| 2010 | Richland | 1488 | 698 | 2509 | 4695 |
| 2011 | Richland | 1344 | 602 | 2092 | 4038 |
| 2012 | Richland | 1294 | 541 | 2016 | 3851 |
| 2013 | Richland | 1136 | 417 | 1689 | 3242 |
| 2014 | Richland | 1227 | 396 | 1521 | 3144 |
| 2015 | Richland | 1279 | 387 | 1523 | 3189 |
| 2016 | Richland | 1278 | 385 | 1583 | 3246 |

Richland County Ohio Cattle and Milk Cows Inventory

Samson, Joe - NASS Joe.Samson@nass.usda.gov 12/1/17

Good Morning Benjamin,

The attached file has the information you were seeking. If there is anything more I can help you with, please call me at [517-324-7063](tel:517-324-7063). I am also attaching a link to our online database for your convenience. <https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov/>

Joe Samson
Agricultural Statistician
Great Lakes Region - Indiana, Michigan, Ohio
3001 Coolidge Rd, Suite 400
East Lansing, MI 48823
Joe.Samson@nass.usda.gov
[517-324-5300](tel:517-324-5300)

| Year | Period | State | County | CATTLE, COWS, MILK - INVENTORY | CATTLE, INCLUDING CALVES - INVENTORY |
|------|--------------|-------|----------|---|---|
| 2017 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,500 | 24,500 |
| 2016 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,500 | 23,000 |
| 2015 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,500 | 21,500 |
| 2014 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,100 | 22,000 |
| 2013 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,100 | 20,000 |
| 2012 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,100 | 21,000 |
| 2011 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,100 | 20,000 |
| 2010 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,200 | 21,000 |
| 2009 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,300 | 21,000 |
| 2008 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,300 | 20,500 |
| 2007 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,000 | 20,500 |
| 2006 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,000 | 22,000 |
| 2005 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,100 | 22,600 |
| 2004 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,100 | 21,900 |
| 2003 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,700 | 21,100 |
| 2002 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,700 | 21,600 |
| 2001 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 7,200 | 21,100 |
| 2000 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,700 | 21,000 |
| 1999 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,900 | 21,500 |
| 1998 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,900 | 23,200 |
| 1997 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,700 | 22,500 |
| 1996 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,500 | 23,200 |
| 1995 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,200 | 22,400 |
| 1994 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,000 | 19,300 |
| 1993 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 5,900 | 18,200 |
| 1992 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 4,900 | 18,700 |
| 1991 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 5,100 | 17,700 |
| 1990 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 5,600 | 18,100 |

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------|------|----------|-------|--------|
| 1989 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 5,500 | 19,700 |
| 1988 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 5,700 | 22,000 |
| 1987 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 5,300 | 21,000 |
| 1986 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 5,800 | 26,000 |
| 1985 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 5,200 | 27,000 |
| 1984 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,200 | 27,000 |
| 1983 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 6,500 | 27,000 |
| 1982 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 5,700 | 26,600 |
| 1981 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 5,200 | 24,000 |
| 1980 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 5,000 | 25,900 |
| 1979 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 5,000 | 25,400 |
| 1978 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 4,900 | 24,500 |
| 1977 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 4,500 | 26,000 |
| 1976 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 4,200 | 24,600 |
| 1975 | FIRST OF JAN | OHIO | RICHLAND | 4,800 | 26,000 |



County Estimates

May 15, 2017

Ohio Cattle County Estimates 2017

| County and District | All Cattle and Calves Number | Milk Cows Number |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 10 NORTHWEST | | |
| ALLEN | 6,400 | 200 |
| DEFIANCE | 11,100 | 4,300 |
| FULTON | 35,000 | 2,700 |
| HANCOCK | 2,900 | 1,100 |
| HENRY | 6,200 | 1,300 |
| LUCAS | (D) | (D) |
| PAULDING | 9,500 | 8,600 |
| PUTNAM | 14,000 | 4,300 |
| VAN WERT | 8,000 | 2,600 |
| WILLIAMS | 18,500 | (D) |
| WOOD | 6,100 | (D) |
| 20 NORTH CENTRAL | | |
| ASHLAND | 24,000 | 6,500 |
| CRAWFORD | 8,900 | 1,500 |
| ERIE | 2,300 | 300 |
| HURON | 9,200 | 4,000 |
| LORAIN | 11,500 | 4,000 |
| OTTAWA | 1,100 | (D) |
| RICHLAND | 24,500 | 6,500 |
| SANDUSKY | 5,100 | 700 |
| SENECA | 9,600 | 500 |
| WYANDOT | 3,400 | 1,000 |
| 30 NORTHEAST | | |
| ASHTABULA | 17,200 | 5,800 |
| COLUMBIANA | 30,000 | 9,200 |
| CUYAHOGA | (D) | (D) |
| GEAUGA | 9,500 | 3,300 |
| LAKE | 500 | (D) |
| MAHONING | 15,300 | 5,700 |
| MEDINA | 9,000 | 2,800 |
| PORTAGE | 8,000 | 1,400 |
| STARK | 27,000 | 8,500 |
| SUMMIT | 1,100 | (D) |
| TRUMBULL | 11,500 | 2,900 |
| WAYNE | 100,000 | 33,500 |
| 40 WEST CENTRAL | | |
| AUGLAIZE | 22,000 | 4,700 |
| CHAMPAIGN | 9,000 | 1,500 |
| CLARK | 19,000 | (D) |
| DARKE | 39,000 | 7,700 |
| HARDIN | 14,000 | 6,400 |
| LOGAN | 10,200 | 2,600 |
| MERCER | 78,000 | 18,500 |
| MIAMI | 10,500 | 1,000 |
| SHELBY | 27,500 | 7,000 |

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms. County inventories for unpublished counties are included in 'other counties' total

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12 Best Fishing Lakes in Ohio

Written by Anietra Hamper Jan 26, 2017

Anglers who fish in [Ohio](#) have more than 50,000 lakes and small ponds to choose from, and species that vary from crappie, catfish, and northern pike to the prized walleye and perch of **Lake Erie**. Some lakes stand out for their large populations of fish, while others are ideal for their natural conditions, which contribute to a high success rate on the water.

There is no shortage of places to fish, with more than 124,000 acres of inland water and 7,000 miles of streams in the state. In order to narrow your options, it is helpful to know where to fish, what lakes are stocked, and to use interactive maps to monitor water conditions and locate active species. Pre-planning will save you time and aggravation and get you to the best fishing lakes in Ohio.

The [Ohio Department of Natural Resources](#) (ODNR) provides fishing forecasts and maps for every lake in the state that are updated regularly. You can also buy a fishing license online and search for fishing tips for specific species before you even cast your line.

1 Lake Erie

Walleye fishing on Lake Erie [John Beagle](#) / photo modified

Some of the best fishing you can do in Ohio is on lake Erie, which is best known for its **walleye and perch** fishing. You can access fishing points from many towns across northern Ohio. Lake Erie is also popular for bass and steelhead fishing. Fishing Lake Erie requires different knowledge and pre-planning than fishing on other lakes in the state. It is part of the Great Lakes system, so weather and water conditions can change quickly and catch unprepared anglers off guard. While Lake Erie can provide anglers with one of the best experiences in the state, it is wise to hire a guide or a charter service that has expertise on the water. ODNR has links to reputable guides and associations on their website to help you with quality recommendations. One of the highlights of fishing this lake is finding a local restaurant near your lodging that will cook up your catch for dinner. Your guide can advise you of the best restaurants that offer this in the area where you are fishing.



2 Ohio River

Ohio River [dailyinvention](#) / photo modified

The Ohio River is one of the best places to fish in the state, since "tailwaters" provide for year-round fishing. These spots are where many fish congregate, giving you opportunities to catch a variety of species. The most popular species to fish for in the Ohio River are sauger and walleye; hybrid striped bass; smallmouth bass; largemouth bass; and channel, flathead, and blue catfish.



Many anglers fish the Ohio River by boat, but for shoreline access, head to the locks and dams. Most of these areas have developed fishing platforms and abutment access. The combination of excellent shore fishing in many areas and concentrated prey fish make this waterway ideal for catching sportfish along the river.

3 Alum Creek

Musky | [Photo Copyright: Anietra Hamper](#)

Alum Creek Lake in central Ohio is a popular fishing location in the state due to its size, the species available, and easy access points for both boats and shoreline anglers. High shale bluffs and many deep coves provide excellent habitats for a wide range of fish species.



The lake has healthy populations of saugeye, musky, crappie, catfish, largemouth bass, and smallmouth bass. The southern basin is the best place to target smallmouth bass as there are many rocky points from which to fish. The north end of the lake is productive for channel catfish, the dominant catfish in the system, especially in the early spring. This is **the only musky lake in central Ohio**. Alum Creek Lake is stocked annually with saugeye and muskies by ODNR.

4 Seneca Lake

Seneca Lake:

In eastern Ohio, Seneca Lake is one of the largest public fishing lakes in the state. There are more than 45 miles of shoreline and a variety of species, which makes it an all-around easy lake to fish. The most common species to target are saugeye, crappie, largemouth bass, and channel catfish. ODNR now stocks blue catfish in Seneca Lake, which is one of the only places to fish for this species in Ohio. Boat access ramps are at the main marina and just north of the dam.



5 Clear Fork Reservoir

Anietra holding a bass on the Clear Fork Reservoir | [Photo Copyright: Anietra Hamper](#)

Anglers who are looking for both size and numbers of largemouth bass should plan a visit to Clear Fork Reservoir in Northwest Ohio, near **Mansfield**. This is **one of the top bass fishing lakes in the state**. It is also one of the top lakes for musky. The lake slopes at its western end, which is where you will find the best bass fishing because of the shallow water and abundance of fallen trees and stumps. Other species common in Clear Fork Reservoir include crappie, bluegill, and channel catfish. Boat fishing is most popular on this lake. Shoreline fishing is only allowed along the south and western banks, where you can find three public access points to the water.



Article continues.....

<http://www.planetware.com/ohio/best-fishing-lakes-in-ohio-us-oh-110.htm>

Commissioners hear first good financial news in weeks

Al Lawrence, Correspondent, Published Updated 9:07 a.m. ET Nov. 10, 2017

After talking for weeks about the loss of state and local revenue, and the need for spending cuts during budget reviews with department heads and elected officials, Richland County commissioners received some good financial news on two fronts during their regular meeting Thursday.

Commissioners learned that the county recently got a significant refund from the state on Workers Compensation Fund premiums and that interest income on inactive fund investments is higher for the first three quarters of this year than it was at the same time last year.

County risk management director Lu Blankenship told commissioners that the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation recently refunded 66 percent of the county's premium for the 2015 policy year because the agency determined it had excess funds and did well on its investments. The refund totaled \$252,988, which currently is in a county escrow account.

The BWC has strongly encouraged counties to use their refunds for workplace safety and health programs. Blankenship gave commissioners a list of items she said the sheriff's office needs that could be purchased with the money to save on general fund expenses. The list includes tourniquets and cold packs for emergencies, breathing apparatus for jail fires, ballistic shields, bullet proof vests and replacement tasers.

Commissioner Tony Vero asked about the possibility of sharing some of the BWC refund with non-general-fund departments. "They pay premiums and I'll go as far as to say they almost have a right to receive some of this money back," he said.

Blankenship said that in the past, the county has divided up any refund and returned it to departments according to how they paid their premiums. However, because of the continuing general fund budget crunch, she thought it would be a good idea to "beef up" some areas that the sheriff might not be able to cover.

Human resources director Kelly Christiansen said she is looking into using some of the refund to pay the salary of Blankenship's replacement while that person is training. Blankenship has notified commissioners she is retiring at the end of 2018.

Officials discussed the possibility of spending some of the money to replace automatic electronic defibrillators (AEDs) in county operations as another way to share the refund before commissioners asked Blankenship to review all recommendations and come up with a spending plan. Forty-eight percent of the county's workers' compensation premium comes out of general fund budgets and the rest from non-general fund offices.

Commissioners also learned Thursday that county investment income was \$152,505 higher on Sept. 30 than it was at the end of the first nine months of 2016. County Treasurer Bart Hamilton gave the good news during the quarterly



meeting of the county investment advisory board, which is made up of Hamilton, Vero and Commissioner Darrell Banks.

“As the (stock) markets continue to go up, interest rates are going up too,” Hamilton explained. “The longer the period of our investment, the better the rate is, although we don’t want to be locked in for too long.”

The treasurer also reported during his budget review that his office will receive about \$100,000 more for operations because of a change in state law covering the treasurer’s fee on local real estate tax collections.

Hamilton also presented letters from a group of ministers suggesting the county investments include Israeli bonds. Hamilton recommended designating a minimal amount of money because the investment is unsecured and involves a foreign entity, which would prevent the county from filing a lawsuit if any problems develop.

Commissioners also asked Hamilton to recommend funding options for several equipment purchases in 2018. The county is looking at a new communications system for all county offices, an emergency generator for the courthouse and possibly buying new voting machines.

The budget discussion with Hamilton completed the commissioners' review of 2018 spending requests with elected county officials and general fund department heads. John said the board is still shooting to approve a final 2018 budget by the second or third week of December.

<http://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/story/news/local/2017/11/10/commissioners-hear-first-good-financial-news-weeks/851446001/>

Mansfield News Journal

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Richland County dodges worst of snow storm

Staff Report Published 8:50 a.m. ET March 14, 2017 | Updated 4:14 p.m. ET March 14, 2017



MANSFIELD - While the late-winter storm dropped less snow than predicted on Richland County Monday night and Tuesday morning, it still caused accidents throughout the day.

According to the National Weather Service, 2.3 inches of snow fell through 2 p.m. Tuesday at Mansfield Lahm Airport. The winter weather advisory that originally stretched into Wednesday has been canceled.

Most area schools in Richland County were on closed Tuesday, including Mansfield City Schools.

Even with the sun making an appearance and the main roads clear, minor accidents continued to occur throughout Tuesday afternoon. Some side roads in the county drifted, while others had icy spots.

A one-vehicle rollover crash in the 4200 block of Plymouth-Springmill Road resulted in minor injuries to the three people in the car, according to the Mansfield post of the State Highway Patrol.

Buy Photo

Three people suffered minor injuries Monday afternoon in a one-vehicle rollover crash on Plymouth-Springmill Road. (Photo: Lou Whitmire/News Journal)

Highway crews were out Monday night and Tuesday gearing up for the snow.



"We were really prepared," said Adam Hill-Warren, city street department operations supervisor. He said salt prices are low so the department has been buying it.

Hill-Warren said the snow fortunately didn't hit as hard here as expected. Crews early Tuesday morning cleared the runways at Mansfield Lahm Airport, where it was business as usual, an employee said.



<https://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/story/news/2017/03/14/snow-slippery-roads-and-crashes/99155452/>

Winter Storm Stella Dumps Nearly 5 Feet of Snow In Some Areas, Leads to At Least 16 Deaths

By Pam Wright and Ada Carr March 16 2017 11:00 AM EDT

Story Highlights

Nearly 5 feet of snow fell in some areas, including 58 inches in Vermont.

Officials have confirmed at least 16 deaths from the storm.

Winter Storm Stella has moved out of the Northeast after dumping 3 to nearly 5 feet of snow in some areas, paralyzing several major cities, knocking out power out to half a million and crippling air travel for thousands.

A new top snow total was reported Thursday morning: The Bolton Valley Ski Area in the Green Mountains of northern Vermont east of Burlington reported a storm total of 58 inches of snow.

The powerful storm killed at least 16 people, grounded more than 6,000 flights and shut down several major cities, including New York City and Boston.

Airlines were working to return to normal operations Thursday.

Sixteen deaths have been attributed to the storm:

- [A 10-year-old boy died in Pendleton, New York](#), Wednesday after he became trapped in a pile of snow against a building, WIVB reports. The child was reportedly digging a tunnel into the pile when it collapsed on him.
- [Three people died in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania](#), Wednesday, County Coroner Dr. David J. Moylan III told the Republican Herald. The deaths include two men in Ringtown and an 83-year-old woman in Wayne Township. All three died of apparent heart attacks while shoveling snow.
- A 23-year-old man was killed Wednesday in a crash on the ice- and snow-covered Interstate 78 in Upper Bern Township, Pennsylvania, according to the Associated Press.
- A 47-year-old man [died of a heart attack Tuesday](#) while shoveling snow at his parents' home on Staten Island, reports WABC.
- A man died of heart attack Tuesday after removing snow at his home in the Town of Newburgh, NY, police confirmed.
- A 16-year-old was killed in New Hampshire Tuesday morning after crashing on a snowy roadway. According to AP, she was the daughter of a police department dispatcher.
- In Longmeadow, Massachusetts, a Department of Public Works employee died Tuesday after the truck he was driving was struck by a plow train.
- In East Hartford, Connecticut, an elderly man died after being struck by a snowplow Tuesday afternoon, police said.
- In Canada, a driver of a tractor-trailer died Tuesday from injuries sustained in a multi-vehicle pileup Tuesday in southern Ontario.
- The Milwaukee County Medical Examiner told CBS 58 that [a 68-year-old man collapsed and died while shoveling snow in South Milwaukee](#) on Monday.
- A 76-year-old man on Milwaukee's north side collapsed and died Monday while removing snow.
- A 78-year-old man died on the North side of Milwaukee, also after shoveling.
- A 64-year-old man collapsed on Park Avenue in South Milwaukee and died.
- Another Southside Milwaukee man died after snow blowing. He was 76.

New York

Top Snow Total: 42 inches, West Winfield

The storm prompted Gov. Andrew Cuomo to declare a state of emergency Tuesday for all of New York's 62 counties, including New York City. He also directed non-essential state employees to stay home from work, reports the AP.

Wednesday he announced that he is sending 100 large plows and 100 members of the National Guard to assist in snow removal in the state's southern tier region.

The storm grounded more than 3,000 in the New York City area alone, stranding hundreds of passengers, and nearly all New York City mass transit systems had delays, suspensions and cancellations. Most returned to normal by Wednesday morning, although the Metro-North Railroad continues to operate on a modified schedule into and out of New York's Grand Central Terminal Wednesday as it recovers from the snowstorm, the AP reports.



Two homes under construction near the beach in the Far Rockaway section of Queens collapsed during the storm. No injuries were reported, the fire department told the AP.

New Jersey

Top Snow Total: 20.3 inches, Vernon

Gov. Chris [Christie declared a state of emergency](#) Monday ahead of the storm. With plunging temperatures threatening to freeze roadways on Wednesday, Christie said he wanted the state to be prepared for the worst.

"I want the storm to be completely out of here before we lift the state of emergency," Christie said.

Roughly 1,000 homes and businesses remained without power Wednesday night, according to AP.

Parts of Atlantic City and other towns in southern New Jersey experienced significant tidal flooding. The tide reached 7.8 feet in Atlantic City Tuesday morning, just shy of the 8-foot threshold that can lead to major flooding. Route 322 in West Atlantic City was shut down, as were some smaller streets around the area, AP also reports.

A couple of wind gusts were clocked at 62 mph on the Jersey Shore, according to weather.com meteorologist Chris Dolce.

Pennsylvania

Top Snow Total: 34.5 inches, Oakland

Icy conditions Wednesday caused a vehicle to slip off Route 1 near Creek Road and slam into a snow bank in Chads Ford Wednesday. Two people were injured, reports the AP.

On Tuesday, a 23-month-old child in need of a heart transplant was escorted on an 80-mile trip from East Stroudsburg to Danville by state snowplows and troopers through the storm, the governor said.

Several avalanches were reported, including [one that shut down Route 92](#) in Wyoming County, according to emergency management.

<https://weather.com/storms/winter/news/snow-winter-storm-stella-news-updates>



STANDING WITH ISRAEL



More Than 100 Pastors Boldly Stand With Israel, See Tangible Blessings Afterward

6:00AM EST 3/2/2018 RICHLAND COMMUNITY PRAYER

In January 2017, clergy from over 100 congregations in North Central Ohio sent an apology letter to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for the position the Obama Administration took in not blocking an United Nations Resolution. 2334. This anti-Semitic resolution called Israel's sovereignty of the Promised Land "an international crime."

Ten days after the Ohio clergymen sent their apology letter, a massive natural gas pipeline was approved for construction thru north central Ohio after the project was held up by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The Rover Pipeline Project is more than twice the size of the controversial Keystone Pipeline. With its approval, the 713-mile pipeline brought hundreds of thousands of dollars to the stagnated local economy at a time when energy projects often go contested.



According to Benjamin Mutti, Coordinator of the Richland Community Prayer Network, he believes in the weeks following the biblical stand, tangible effects from the clergy collaboration could be seen upon the land.

"According to Department of Agriculture numbers, the spring turkey harvest in Richland County saw a dramatic 24 percent increase from last year, whitetail deer harvested was the best in four years and the cow herd in Richland County, which is estimated in late winter, is now at its largest number in over 30 years, which is utterly amazing!"

Mutti points out that there is no such thing in Hebrew as the word "coincidence." The blessings the area experienced from the apology letter aftermath provoked 42 area clergymen to also request the county treasurer to invest taxpayer dollars in Israeli bonds.

"The day the county treasurer announced that the county government would invest in Israeli bonds, was the same meeting that half a million dollars in unexpected revenue was reportedly discovered to alleviate a budget shortfall! This clergy apology letter had a snowball effect and sends shivers down your spine to think that the Blessing of Abraham still impacts our generation ... even today."

<https://www.charismanews.com/opinion/standing-with-israel/69850-more-than-100-pastors-boldly-stand-with-israel-see-tangible-blessings-afterward>



OHIO CLERGY MEMBERS BAND TOGETHER AND STAND FOR ISRAEL; TEN DAYS LATER THEY BEGIN RECEIVING HUGE BLESSINGS IN RETURN

News Staff : Mar 5, 2018 : [Richland Community Prayer Network](#)



[Benjamin Mutti, Coordinator of the Richland Community Prayer Network] points out that there is no such thing in Hebrew as the word "coincidence" ... "This clergy apology letter had a snowball effect and sends shivers down your spine to think that the Blessing of Abraham still impacts our generation ... even today."

In January 2017, clergy from over one-hundred congregations in North-Central Ohio sent an [apology letter](#) to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for the position the Obama Administration took in not blocking a United Nations Resolution. 2334. This anti-Semitic resolution called Israel's sovereignty of the Promised Land

"an international crime." (Photo: Pastors supporting Israel/via Richland Community Prayer Network)

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According to Benjamin Mutti, Coordinator of the [Richland Community Prayer Network](#), he believes weeks following the Biblical stand, tangible effects from the clergy collaboration could be seen upon the land.

"According to Department of Agriculture numbers, the spring turkey harvest in Richland County saw a dramatic twenty-four percent increase from last year, whitetail deer harvested was the best in four years, and the cow herd in Richland County, which is estimated in late winter, is now at its largest number in over thirty years, which is utterly amazing!"

Mutti points out that there is no such thing in Hebrew as the word "coincidence." The blessings the area experienced from the apology letter aftermath provoked forty-two area clergymen to also request the County Treasurer to invest taxpayer dollars in Israeli bonds.

"The day the County Treasurer announced that the county government would invest in Israeli bonds, was the same meeting that half a million dollars in unexpected revenue was reportedly discovered to alleviate a budget shortfall! This clergy apology letter had a snowball effect and sends shivers down your spine to think that the Blessing of Abraham still impacts our generation ... even today."

http://www.breakingchristiannews.com/articles/display_art.html?ID=23856

BREAKING ISRAEL NEWS

Latest News Biblical Perspective

Ohio Clergymen Bless Israel and See Astounding Blessings in Return

By [Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz](#) March 7, 2018 , 3:47 pm

“I will bless those who bless you And curse him that curses you; And all the families of the earth Shall bless themselves by you.” [Genesis 12:3 \(The Israel Bible™\)](#)

A group of over 100 clergymen from North-Central Ohio who came together in a powerful expression of solidarity with Israel, received blessings in the manner described in the Bible promising that those who bless the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will be blessed in return.

The clergy, led by Benjamin Mutti and Reverend El Akuchie who are both coordinators of the Richland Community Prayer Network, stood with Israel when they sent a [letter](#) of solidarity to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in January 2017.

In the letter, the clergyman apologized for the some of the actions of former President [Barack Obama](#), particularly when he ordered his UN ambassador, Samantha Power to abstain instead of veto Security Council [Resolution 2334](#). The resolution, which passed unanimously, declared Israel’s presence in “east Jerusalem,” Judea, and Samaria to be illegal.

“These actions of the Obama Administration do not represent the will of the governed,” the letter stated. “Furthermore, this Administration has now been deposed. Most assuredly, we believe that the GOD of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob gave all the land of Canaan to Israel as an everlasting covenant with Jerusalem as its eternal undivided capital.”

“Please be reminded Prime [Minister Netanyahu](#), even though nations conspire against Israel, these people plot in vain. Even though the kings of the earth band together against you and your country, the One enthroned in the heavens laughs.”

Perhaps the most significant part of the letter was its conclusion in which the Ohio pastors bonded their fate with that of Israel, despite the geographic distance from the Jewish state.

“Since our destinies are intertwined together, you will always have friends in Ohio,” the letter said. “What affects your country affects our country. Beyond a shadow of a doubt, your GOD and His people are fighting and praying for you.”

The letter, signed by 103 Christian clergies from North-Central Ohio, was also sent to Rabbi Yehudah Glick, a long-time Temple Mount activist and Member of Knesset (MK) from Netanyahu’s Likud party. The clergymen were yearning to make up for the “crime” of the UN Security Council resolution.

“We believe the Jews should be a light unto the nations,” Benjamin Mutti told *Breaking Israel News*. “The UN resolution was a national crime. We wanted to bring reconciliation between our people and the Jews and also between us and the God of Israel.”

According to Mutti, that act of reconciliation starting bearing fruit right away.



“After sending the letter, we immediately began seeing signs of God’s favor. The economy rebounded and the ecology also responded almost immediately after we sent the letter.”

One of the ways the economy bounced back was the approval of a hotly contested the Rover Pipeline, a 713-mile natural \$4 billion gas pipeline. Although the project would bring jobs and money to the region as well as facilitate the distribution of natural gas throughout the US and Canada, the pipeline was mired in several lawsuits. Its approval came ten days after the clergy sent the letter to Netanyahu. At the time, North-Central Ohio had a stagnant regional economy that was reported as the fifth worst in the country, and Mutti said that the project brought an enormous boost to the region.



“The pipeline company pays the landowners,” Mutti explained. “The employees who put in the pipeline also brought income to the region, and several local companies participated in the project.”

For many people in Ohio who live in rural communities, the land plays a powerful role in their lives. “We follow the land,” Mutti said. “We watch nature for answers.” And the answers immediately came.

“According to Department of Agriculture numbers, the spring turkey harvest in Richland County saw a dramatic twenty-four percent increase from last year, whitetail deer harvested was the best in four years, and the cow herd in Richland County, which is estimated in late winter, is now at its largest number in over thirty years, which is amazing!” Mutti said.

Even with all that, the divine gratitude was not complete. In mid-March of 2017, winter storm Stella was poised to hit their region hard. At the last moment, however, the storm changed direction and dumped 30 inches of snow 70 miles away. The region that had participated in the pro-Israel initiative received just two inches.

The clergymen decided to take their blessing of Israel even further. In response to the Boycott Divestment Sanctions (BDS) movement that calls for a boycott on Israeli products, 42 Christian clergies petitioned the Richland County treasurer, Bart Hamilton, in May 2017 and requested that he invest community funds in Israel bonds. The standing county policy did not permit such international investments, but at the urging of the clergy, the treasurer looked into the possibility of doing so. They cited the strong performance of these bonds as an economic incentive.

After consulting with the treasurer, the county’s prosecutor rewrote the investment guidelines for the county, which had stood for 25 years. The treasurer then announced at a public county commissioner board meeting his intention to invest between \$100,000 to \$200,000 in Israel bonds. That very day, the county appeared to reap a Divinely-sponsored return on the investment.

“The day the County Treasurer announced that the county government would invest in Israeli bonds, was the same meeting that half a million dollars in unexpected revenue were reportedly discovered to alleviate a budget shortfall!” Mutti shared.

It is clear, at least to Mutti and the clergy of North Central Ohio, that blessing the Children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob has its advantages.

“There is something about Ohio, but we here feel a close brotherhood to Israel,” Mutti said. “Maybe it is our closeness to nature that allows us to see God’s presence clearly.”

<https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/103853/ohio-clergy-bless-israel-see-astounding-blessings-return/#4vFTOIhFZQrU8liZ.99>

OHIO PASTORS: WE BLESSED ISRAEL, NOW GOD BLESSING US

Many see divine help after slamming Obama's treatment of Jewish state

Published: March 7, 2018



BOB UNRUH

There undoubtedly are other opinions, but one online source, Bible Gateway, concludes there are 5,467 promises in the Bible. However many there are, one of them is the assurance that those who bless Israel will be blessed.

In the New International Version Genesis 12:3 states, "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples of the earth will be blessed through you."

A new report from [Breaking Israel News](#) explains not only is it true, there's a modern-day example that can be found in north central Ohio.

The report from Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz says the situation started developing a year ago when 100 clergy from that part of the United States "came together in a powerful expression of solidarity with Israel." The members of the Richland Community Prayer Network, in fact, sent a letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. They took it upon themselves to apologize for the Obama administration's abandonment of America's best and longest ally in the Middle East.



That was when the Obama administration refused to stop a move in the far-left and anti-Israel halls of the United Nations to call Israel's presence in east Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria "illegal." The U.S. could have vetoed the move on Security Council Resolution 2334, but Obama ordered U.N. Ambassador Samantha Power to abstain from using America's veto power. Obama was a rogue, they explained.

"As clergy representing over one hundred congregations in north-central Ohio, we officially oppose U.N. Resolution 2334. We want to formally apologize to you, Prime Minister Netanyahu, and the citizens of Israel for the shameful actions of the Obama administration and his State Department that have jeopardized the security of Israel and betrayed its trust."

They also noted the "inexcusable" words from Obama's secretary of state, John Kerry, "suggesting that your nation of Israel cannot be both a Jewish state and a democratic state." Further, "it is no small matter that the Obama administration gave its approval to Iran, which calls for the extermination of Israel, to build nuclear reactors..."

"These actions of the Obama administration do not represent the will of the governed; furthermore, this administration has now been deposed. Most assuredly, we believe that the GOD of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob gave all the land of Canaan to Israel as an everlasting covenant just a 1 Chronicles 16:15-18 states; with Jerusalem as its eternal undivided capital."

It was signed by two coordinators, Benjamin Mutti and El Akuchie, for the Richland Community Prayer Network as well as 103 clergy.

"Please be reminded Prime Minister Netanyahu, even though nations conspire against Israel, these people plot in vain. Even though the kings of the earth band together against you and your country, the One enthroned in the heavens laughs," they closed.

Mutti told BIN, "We believe the Jews should be a light unto the nations. The U.N. resolution was a national crime. We wanted to bring reconciliation between our people and the Jews and also between us and the God of Israel." He told Berkowitz that things started happening.

"The economy rebounded and the ecology also responded almost immediately after we sent the letter," he said.

Berkowitz explained, "One of the ways the economy bounced back was the approval of a hotly contested the Rover Pipeline, a 713-mile natural \$4 billion gas pipeline. Although the project would bring jobs and money to the region as well as facilitate the distribution of natural gas throughout the U.S. and Canada, the pipeline was mired in several lawsuits. Its approval came ten days after the clergy sent the letter to Netanyahu. At the time, North-Central Ohio had a stagnant regional economy that was reported as the fifth worst in the country, and Mutti said that the project brought an enormous boost to the region."

Helped were landowners, who were being paid by the pipeline company, the employees working on the pipeline, and other companies who participated in the project.

Then, he said, "According to Department of Agriculture numbers, the spring turkey harvest in Richland County saw a dramatic 24 percent increase from last year, whitetail deer harvested was the best in four years, and the cow herd in Richland County, which is estimated in late winter, is now at its largest number in over 30 years, which is amazing!" Mutti told BIN.

A March 2017 winter storm that was poised to hit the region, "at the last moment," changed direction and dumped 30 inches of snow 70 miles away. The Richland area got two inches.

Berkowitz continued, "The clergymen decided to take their blessing of Israel even further. In response to the Boycott Divestment Sanctions (BDS) movement that calls for a boycott on Israeli products, 42 Christian clergies petitioned the Richland County treasurer, Bart Hamilton, in May 2017 and requested that he invest community funds in Israel bonds.

The standing county policy did not permit such international investments, but at the urging of the clergy, the treasurer looked into the possibility of doing so. They cited the strong performance of these bonds as an economic incentive.

"After consulting with the treasurer, the county's prosecutor rewrote the investment guidelines for the county, which had stood for 25 years. The treasurer then announced at a public county commissioner board meeting his intention to invest between \$100,000 to \$200,000 in Israel bonds."

The results took, well, no time.

"The day the county treasurer announced that the county government would invest in Israeli bonds, was the same meeting that half a million dollars in unexpected revenue were reportedly discovered to alleviate a budget shortfall!" Mutti said.

<http://mobile.wnd.com/2018/03/ohio-pastors-we-blessed-israel-now-god-blessing-us/#DWohyzf9fKrluXhp.99>



STANDING WITH ISRAEL



Ohio May Become First State in US to Recognize Jerusalem as Israel's True Capital

6:00AM EDT 10/17/2018 **BENJAMIN MUTTI**



Benjamin Mutti, Hilik Bar and El Akuchie

This past weekend Sar Shalom Center hosted a "Stand with Israel" assembly sponsored by the Richland Community Prayer Network and the Israeli Leadership Institute (ILI). The gathering celebrated the 70th anniversary of the rebirth of Israel and raised funds to support the ILI based in Sderot, Israel.

Israeli Leadership Institute Founder & President Mr. Eeki Elner told the two hundred attendees: "I travel extensively throughout the States, and I have never seen anyone like Ohio, more specifically, north central Ohio, who loves Israel more."

Recent examples of the strong friendship between the area and the Jewish state include a clergy letter sent by leading clergymen from over one hundred local congregations to Prime Minister Netanyahu supporting Israel's sovereignty and the acquisition of Israeli bonds by Richland County initiated by the clergy.

Additionally, area religious leaders publicly showed strong support of the United States moving its embassy to Jerusalem. Recent local efforts have also led to consideration by the Ohio Legislature to make Ohio the first state to recognize Jerusalem as capital of Israel.

Guest speaker for the event was the Deputy Speaker of the Israeli Knesset, Mr. Hilik Bar.

According to the deputy speaker, "Ohio is truly the greatest friend to Israel in the United States, no doubt about it. Ohio is an emerging force in support of Israel's future."

Bar credits the Bible for giving the nation of Israel the spark of hope it needed to pursue its rebirth after two thousand years of being in exile. When Israel announced the establishment of the new Jewish state in 1948, it was attacked by seven neighboring Arab nations but defeated the coalition despite a small military where only half of the troops had guns.

As second in charge of the 120-member Israeli parliament, Bar meets with many diplomats across the Middle East and says he asks Israel's enemies one question: "Do you want to live in the Middle East next to us or instead of us? Because if you want to live in the Middle East next to us, the nation of Israel has an obligation to find a route to have peace with you. But if you want to live in the Middle East instead of us, Israel will take every measure to protect its people."

The day before arriving in Ohio, the deputy speaker was in Guatemala, speaking to 500 clergy.

Nine clergy, along with County Commissioners Darrell Banks and Marilyn John, Judge Ron Spon, Magistrate Andrea Clark, School Board Member Martin Gottschling, retired Judge James DeWeese and retired State Senator Dick Schafrath attended the commemoration.

"On behalf of the Knesset, I want to thank you for having this celebration to support Israel and thank you for demonstrating your love and your commitment to the nation of Israel," said Bar. "I am honored to call you my friends."

<https://www.charismanews.com/opinion/standing-with-israel/73637-israeli-deputy-speaker-ohio-is-truly-the-greatest-friend-to-israel-in-the-us>

BREAKING ISRAEL NEWS

Latest News Biblical Perspective

Does Rural Ohio Lead the World in Love of Israel?

By Adam Eliyahu Berkowitz October 18, 2018 , 1:49 pm

“Pray for the well-being of Yerushalayim; “May those who love you be at peace.” Psalms 122:6 (The Israel Bible™)



From left: Ben Mutti, Knesset Deputy Speaker Yehiel “Hilik” Bar and Reverend El Akuchie. (Credit: Courtesy)

The phenomenon of Christians loving Israel is powerfully evident in rural north-central Ohio, where blessing Abraham has brought bounty to the region and resulted in a recent visit by a prominent Israeli politician. These blessings may increase ten-fold next month if the state passes legislation that could make it the first state to recognize Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Israel.

North-central Ohio lies just outside of the Bible Belt but when it comes to belief in blessing Abraham, the region is a crown jewel. On Saturday evening, Knesset Deputy Speaker Yehiel “Hilik” Bar spoke at Sar Shalom Center in Ontario, Ohio for a “Stand With Israel” event. Bar is the highest-ranking Israeli official ever to come to the area, though his connection to the region goes back to 2015 when he became the fourth person ever to be given the “Keys to the State of Ohio” by the Ohio Speaker of the House.

Israeli Leadership Institute Founder & President Mr. Eeki Elner told the 200 attendees, “I travel extensively throughout the States, and I have never seen anyone like Ohio, more specifically, north-central Ohio, who loves Israel more.”

Though it may seem exaggerated to claim that rural north-central Ohio has more love for Israel than any other place in the U.S., there are many reasons to believe this is entirely accurate.

“There is something about Ohio, but we here feel a close brotherhood to Israel,” Benjamin Mutti, one of the organizers of the Richland Community Prayer Network (RCPN), told *Breaking Israel News*. “Maybe it is our closeness to nature that allows us to see God’s presence clearly.”

After elections in November, the Ohio legislature will be taking a vote on a resolution recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Mutti co-authored the resolution.

“We expect the resolution to pass since we have a conservative legislature,” Mutti said.

HCR 26 was co-sponsored by Republican Representatives Candace Keller and Keith Faber. It will be presented for a vote next month. The resolution recognizes that Ohio is Israel’s 28th largest trading partner. It also notes that archaeological evidence proves Israel’s historical connection to the city as well as Israel’s sovereignty since 1967. The resolution cites the Jerusalem Embassy Act adopted by the Senate in 1995 as well as President Trump’s recognition of Jerusalem in December 2017.

RCPN may seem political but its basis is purely Biblical.

“We organized RCPN because we believed that Biblical values should be in our culture,” Mutti explained. “This includes Israel but also involves issues like rejecting judicial tyranny. There are all denominations but what we have in common is simple: the Bible.”

RCPN believes strongly in blessing Israel and has seen these blessings returned. In January 2017, RCPN, led by Mutti and Reverend El Akuchie, sent a letter of solidarity to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in January 2017. Signed by 103 north-central Ohio clergy from many denominations, the letter apologized for the lack of support of former President Barack Obama; in particular, his ordering UN ambassador, Samantha Power to abstain instead of veto Security Council Resolution 2334. The resolution – which passed unanimously – declared Israel’s presence in “east Jerusalem,” Judea, and Samaria to be illegal.

Upon sending the letter, the region began to witness the results of blessing Israel. The Rover Pipeline, a 713-mile natural \$4 billion gas pipeline, that had been mired in lawsuits was approved ten days after the letter was sent. The project brought an influx of money and jobs to a region that had been economically stagnant and was ranked the fifth worst in the country.

Mutti also attributed significant increases in the spring turkey harvest and the whitetail deer harvest to this letter. The dairy industry, essential to the region, registered the largest cattle herd in thirty years.

The Ohio Christians continued to connect to Israel. In May 2017, 42 Christian clergies petitioned the Richland County Treasurer, requesting that he invest community funds in Israel bonds. Purchasing the bonds was seen as an expression of solidarity with Israel as well as a way of combating the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Mutti also reported blessings that came out of this move. “The day the county treasurer announced that the county government would invest in Israeli bonds, was the same meeting that half a million dollars in unexpected revenue were reportedly discovered to alleviate a budget shortfall!” Mutti shared.

Ohio now holds more than \$200 million in Israel Bonds, making the state the largest holder of Israeli bonds in the world.

<https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/115405/rural-ohio-lead-world-love-israel/>



Cause of loud 'boom' in Mansfield remains a mystery

Columbia Gas of Ohio communications manager Bill Loomer said the company received several calls after the incident, but nothing was found.

Author: WKYC Staff Published: 11:38 AM EST February 13, 2017 Updated: 11:38 AM EST February 13, 2017

MANSFIELD, Ohio -- Residents across Richland County reported hearing a large boom Saturday night, but county officials remain unsure of a possible cause.

Richland County Sheriff's Office Maj. Joe Masi said he thinks Columbia Gas is investigating the incident, but he did not know the source of the sound.

Columbia Gas of Ohio communications manager Bill Loomer said the company received several calls after the incident. A technician was sent to the Pavonia substation to investigate Saturday night, but nothing was found, Loomer said.

Madison Township Fire Capt. Wes Green said Saturday night's crew at the department also reported hearing the sound.

Green said the Sheriff's Office asked the fire department to remain on call, but the crew was never sent out to respond to anything related to the sound.

Mike Bailey, director of the Richland County Emergency Management Agency, also said he didn't know the cause of the sound.



<https://www.wkyc.com/article/news/local/ohio/cause-of-loud-boom-in-mansfield-remains-a-mystery/407879024>

Cause of loud 'boom' Saturday night remains unknown

Staff report Published 4:24 p.m. ET Feb. 12, 2017 | Updated 9:19 a.m. ET Feb. 13, 2017

MANSFIELD - Residents across Richland County reported hearing a large boom Saturday night, but county officials remain unsure of a possible cause. Richland County Sheriff's Office Maj. Joe Masi said he thinks Columbia Gas is investigating the incident, but he did not know the source of the sound.

Columbia Gas of Ohio communications manager Bill Loomer said the company received several calls after the incident. A technician was sent to the Pavonia substation to investigate Saturday night, but nothing was found, Loomer said.

Madison Township Fire Capt. Wes Green said Saturday night's crew at the department also reported hearing the sound.

Green said the Sheriff's Office asked the fire department to remain on call, but the crew was never sent out to respond to anything related to the sound.

Mike Bailey, director of the Richland County Emergency Management Agency, also said he didn't know the cause of the sound.

Editor's note: This article has been updated to clarify Maj. Joe Masi and Mike Bailey said they did not know the source of the sound.

<http://www.mansfieldnewsjournal.com/story/news/local/2017/02/12/cause-loud-boom-saturday-night-remains-unknown/97826120/>



Special Note:

Following article was run the same day that the boom was heard: Saturday, February 11, 2017. This newspaper article was the first media publication of the Israeli apology letter story.....

Spiritual therapy studied as treatment for PTSD

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUGUSTA, Ga. - Doctors in Augusta are exploring the idea of using spiritual therapy to treat veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Such veterans are often treated with medication and psychotherapy. But a research survey at Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center in Augusta aims to find out whether spiritual therapy might be of interest as well.

Dr. Nagy Youssef, an associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior at Augusta University who often treats PTSD, is conducting the survey through the VA.

Patients are often treated with medi-

cation, which can help reduce nightmares and flashbacks, and with psychotherapy to address the trauma, the Augusta newspaper reported.

But about a third of those patients don't respond to either approach, Youssef said. And those approaches do not address spirituality, he said.

"None of this addresses moral injury and inner conflict," Youssef said. "Somebody goes to combat, seeing friends being killed and killing others. Spirituality can be affected. It might go against their moral beliefs. That's hard to reconcile when they come back."

The research is being done in conjunction with the Durham, North Carolina VA and Duke University.

Youssef was part of a large group that helped to put together manuals on every major religion that might be incorporated into therapy.

The survey will not only ask about PTSD symptoms but about what role if any spirituality plays in the life of that veteran and gauge the interest in having that therapy available, he said.

Youssef is hoping to get about 125 veterans to take the survey by March and has already recruited about 40 or so. The hope in the future would be for a randomized control trial to compare current psychotherapy approaches with one that incorporates the spiritual element, he said.

"For a Christian, for instance, it

would be including verses from the Bible about forgiveness and that will help to relieve inner tension," Youssef said.

There may also be things that spiritual therapy can offer them that other treatment methods cannot, he said.

"Some patients have feelings that God will never forgive me, that I am going to Hell no matter what I do," Youssef said. "That cannot be addressed by therapy or medication. That means bringing them evidence, from the Bible or the Torah, whatever their religion is, that there is forgiveness. There is always a second chance."

FAITH BRIEFS

Concert planned at Cornerstone Baptist

MANSFIELD - The band 11th Hour will perform at 11 a.m. Feb. 19 at Cornerstone Free Will Baptist Church, 1602 Walker Lake Road. For details, call 419-747-4134 or visit 11thHourGG.com.

Fellowship program planned at Shiloh Baptist

MANSFIELD - Shiloh Baptist Church will sponsor a fellowship program at 5

p.m. Sunday at the church, 130 E. Second St. The guest speaker is Pastor Aaron Williams Jr. and the guest church is Maddox Memorial temple COGIC. For details, call 419-525-2923.

Photographer to speak at All Souls

BELLVILLE - David FitzSimmons will be the featured speaker at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Bellville.

FitzSimmons is an award-winning free-lance photographer and writer as well as a university professor. A former high school English teacher, he has been

teaching for 20 years. He is a professor at Ashland University and has a Ph.D. in English from Ohio State University. For details, visit www.allsoulsuohio.org

Pastor Wiseman sharing testimony Sunday

MANSFIELD - Pastor Rick Wiseman will share his testimony on "If you don't know where you are going, any road will take you there" at 10:45 a.m. Sunday at Promise Land Fellowship, 506 Park Avenue East. Sunday school will take place at 9:30 a.m., with coffee and pastries available.

Saint Timothy offers 3 weekend worships

MANSFIELD - Saint Timothy Church, a Lutheran faith Community, will offer a worship service at 6 p.m. Saturdays at 1262 Ashland Road. Sunday morning worships continue at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m..

During the month of February, Pastor Bonnie Peltomaa will preach on The Sermon on the Mount: Let Your Light Shine. For details, call 419-589-5252, email secretary@sttimmansfield.org or visit www.sttimmansfield.org.

103 clergy send apology letter to Israeli prime minister

STAFF REPORT

MANSFIELD - More than 100 clergy from Richland and surrounding counties have sent a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu apologizing for the Obama administration's refusal to veto a United Nations' resolution concerning Israel's claims to the West Bank lands.

On Dec. 23, the United States did not use its veto power during a UN Security Council vote on United Nations Resolution 2334, which states that Israel's claims to West Bank territory including East Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and the Golan Heights, have no legal validity. The security council vote was 14-0 with the U.S. abstaining.

"This letter was written to draw a line in the sand. While this anti-Semitic dictate opposes Israel's right to the Promised Land, we stand unapologetically with Israel; we give up no ground on this issue, said Benjamin Mutti, one of the letter's authors and coordinator of the Richland Community Prayer Network. "For Zion's sake, we will not remain silent, for Jerusalem's sake we will not remain quiet. May the prime minister always know that his country will always have friends in North Central Ohio."

Mutti said 103 pastors and rabbis representing over 100 congregations endorsed the letter.

"We want to formally apologize to you, Prime Minister Netanyahu, and the citizens of Israel for the shameful actions of the Obama Administration



From left, Benjamin Mutti, Rev El Akuchie along with pastors Randy Raynes, Clinton Hearn, and Jerry Laudermilk are among those who signed the letter of support for Israel.

and his State Department that have jeopardized the security of Israel and betrayed its trust," the letter read.

Area pastors believe this letter can "help facilitate the reconciliation process between not only the nations of Israel and America, but also between the God of Israel and America." They hope the Trump Administration will take a stronger stand supporting Israel, Mutti said.

He said this week the group has not had any response from the Israeli government to the letter, which was dated Jan. 21.

Tips can make driving safer with the dog



HINTS FROM HELOISE HELOISE II

Dear Readers: Traveling in the car with the dog — lots of us love to do it, but there are some factors to consider.

Planning is key, and safety always is the priority.

Here are some hints to help:

- » Keep a copy of the animal's medical history and veterinarian contact information with you.
- » Never allow the dog to ride with its head out the window. The dangers? Flying debris and inhaling smog.
- » Pets need to be restrained: Smaller dogs should be in a carrier on the floor in the backseat, and larger animals in a harness and seat belt. Train the dog from the beginning to use the harness and seat belt, and it will become second nature!
- » Don't leave the dog in the car unattended. Temperatures can get extreme inside the vehicle.
- » If the dog is especially anxious, you may consider boarding him.

— Heloise

Dear Heloise: I make a care package for each of our children when they move to their own apartment. I take a cardboard box with an attached lid and buy an array of first-aid and medical remedies, analgesics, bandages, ointment, etc.

On paper, I write when and how to

use each item. The kids get a convenient and organized initial supply of things it's good to have on hand; I get peace of mind.

— C.M.M., Albany, N.Y.

Dear Heloise: When paying a compliment to someone, be sincere and genuine. There's nothing wrong with saying, "Wow, you look beautiful today!"

But here's the scoop: Asking someone "Have you lost weight?" can be problematic. Chronic illness, stress and the flu, among other maladies, can cause weight loss; it's not just dieting.

— Becca in Arizona

Dear Heloise: I broke a bone in my foot and had to wear a boot for six weeks. I found that tying a small pillowcase over the boot made moving my leg in bed much easier. No sticking to the sheets with the hook-and-loop closures on the boot. A bad situation made easier!

— Patti W., Thousand Oaks, Calif.

Hello, Heloise: I look forward to reading your advice and interesting articles.

After driving on snowy streets and parking in the garage, there's lots of dirt and snow dripping onto the garage floor.

I decided to keep the garage floor clean by utilizing the snow. I spread the snow and use a broom/brush to clean the floor. I don't need water this way.

— Lee, via email

TV'S BEST BETS

TONIGHT'S MUST-SEE: "Saturday Night Live," 11:29 p.m., NBC.

AMC. At 9 p.m. Sunday, "Dead" will return for the second half of this sev-

