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# The Lima News

Weekend edition

Saturday • Sunday • Monday • Tuesday

Issue 101, Volume 141

Breaking news at [limaohio.com](http://limaohio.com)

Saturday, December 13, 2025 • \$3



**20 years for Elf on the Shelf**  
LIFESTYLE • 1D



**Freshmen make impressive debuts**  
SPORTS • 1C



**100 and still going to YMCA**  
REGION • 1B

## A watchful eye

Lima Police Department Lt. Ben Thompson, right, demonstrates how a drone can use thermal imaging to identify where Lt. Matt Douglass was on Dec. 5. The department credits drone flights with helping solve some recent crimes and helping keep officers safe at crime scenes.



Photos by David Trinko | The Lima News

### Cameras, drones and AI help local law enforcement amidst privacy concerns

By David Trinko  
[dtrinko@limanews.com](mailto:dtrinko@limanews.com)

LIMA — James Lee probably thought he'd made a clean escape from Allen Oakwood Correctional Institution back in May 2023. Little did he know he essentially turned himself in as he drove away in a stolen vehicle.

"When he went by one of the Flock (Safety) cameras, he had his arm hanging out the window, and we identified a tattoo on his arm," Allen County Sheriff Matt Treglia said. "That's how we knew, although they were in a stolen car, that we could identify where they were and find them." That's one of the many

cases — in addition to using cameras and drones to find missing residents with dementia, alert about possible criminals at crime scenes or even keep rowdy guests from coming back into the Allen County Fair — that make area law enforcement see the

See WATCHFUL EYE | 7A



Ottawa Police Department Lt. Shane Vance shows his Axon body camera next to the charging station on Dec. 4. Ottawa recently signed a 10-year deal with Axon to enhance its services, including artificial intelligence to help write reports based on body-camera footage.

See LAWSUIT | 6A

### Ottawa proposes annexing

By David Trinko  
[dtrinko@limanews.com](mailto:dtrinko@limanews.com)

OTTAWA — The Putnam County commissioners want to get out of the business of being a sewer-service middleman for residents outside of Ottawa.

The village of Ottawa is happy to take over the work, so long as many of those residents' properties annex into the village.

And apparently no one can find the existing contract to modify, as a "gentleman's agreement" has been in effect since 1978. At the same time, the possibility of the U.S. EPA requiring an operator

See ANNEXING | 6A

## Fluke crash leaves family in financial bind

By J Swygart  
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LIMA — In the blink of an eye Steve's life took a turn for the worse when a medical oddity resulted in a serious traffic accident. Eighteen months later he and his family are still struggling to get out from under the weight of crippling medical bills and lost wages.

It was June of 2024. Steve, his

wife Angie and their two young children were returning to their Lima home from Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus following a medical procedure for one of their daughters. After turning off U.S. 33 onto state Route 117 Steve, who was behind the wheel, inexplicably started to choke.

"I wasn't eating or drinking any-

thing at the time," he recalled. "I just started choking for no reason. And I don't recall what happened after that."

Angie recalls all too well. The family car went off the roadway and struck a tree head-on at approximately 60 miles per hour. Steve was partially pinned in the vehicle for a short

time. "Fortunately two other

motorists stopped and they were both nurses. They provided aid before the first responders arrived," she said.

Steve suffered broken ribs in the crash and in the months that followed underwent a hip replacement and is awaiting reconstructive shoulder surgery. "I have to have my left knee repaired in January and after that surgery is

See BIND | 6A

**OHIO LOTTERY**  
**MEGA MILLIONS (Tuesday)**  
19-32-41-49-66  
Mega Ball: 6  
Jackpot: \$70 million

**POWERBALL (Wednesday)**  
10-16-29-33-69  
Powerball: 22 Power Play: 3  
Jackpot: \$1 billion

**CLASSIC (Wednesday)**  
16-17-20-25-37-40  
KICKER: 642443  
Jackpot: \$1.2 million

**A NEWS**  
Opinion: 4A  
Business: 5A  
Driver's Seat: 9A

**B REGION & OHIO**  
Obituaries: 2B  
Real Estate: 7B  
Weather: 8A

**C SPORTS**  
Classified: 8C

**D LIFESTYLE**  
Puzzles: 5D  
Comics: 7D  
Books: 8D

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