TODAY
Breezy at times
47°/38°

SUN
Rain
48°/36°

MON
Breezy in the a.m.
42°/27°

DUNKIN'S DIAMONDS
CORNER OF CABLE & ELIDA RD

The Lima News
Weekend edition
Saturday • Sunday • Monday • Tuesday

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Breaking news at limaohio.com

Saturday, November 28, 2026 • $3



Announcing the Dream Team
SPORTS • 1C



Celebrating the holiday together
REGION • 1B



Holding on to memories
REAL WHEELS • 7A

Family struggles to recover from condemned home

By Peter Bonasso
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LIMA — In life's onslaught of storms, both literal and figurative, Tania and her family are waiting on a rainbow.

The trouble started between July and August, when a stretch of severe weather decimated the Section 8 home of Tania and her husband, Timothy, not their real names, on Chicago's south side. Despite dealing with a fallen tree on the roof, a month-long power outage, a flooded basement and worsening sewage backup, the family didn't receive any assistance from the home's rental company or in Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster funding.

Out of financial desperation, the parents decided to move to Lima in October, taking with them their children Emily, 15, Matt, 12, Madison, 9, and Tom, 7. They left behind many belongings, along with a house that was later condemned.

Tania came across the rental on Facebook Marketplace after she "couldn't find anything" while seeking somewhere affordable, adding, "if you need shelter, you do what you can." Unfortunately, she said, it "might have been the worst decision."

"Anytime the kids are playing upstairs, rubble falls from the ceiling, so I'm not sure how safe this place is," Tania said. "... The heaters on the wall, they do not have a thermostat. I have to go to the breaker box to turn them on and off every day. The basement is basically full of mold. So yeah, it's pretty bad here."

Tania, who applied for the Salvation Army's Adopt a Stocking program for her family, added that she's seen large holes in the closets, water spewing onto the floor from a bathroom faucet and a black cat that the landlord said "came with the house." Each family member also wears slippers to guard against splinters, of which Tania said she's gotten six from the hardwood floor.

A common concern of the kids, though, is a rat hiding in the house.

"I'm the only one that hasn't seen it," Matt said, "but I know it's here, because it keeps getting the stuff in the trap without setting it off."

Adding to the hardship for Tania is multiple sclerosis, which she's had since 2016 and was hospitalized for in August after increased stress from the storms. Even now, she says she has "problems with mobility" along with "a lot of pain daily," and that she'll occasionally wake up and "can't get out of bed."

Nonetheless, she is pained even more for Tom, who has been diagnosed with ADHD, disruptive mood dysregulation disorder and potentially autism as well, so she homeschools him. The mother said he still carries fear from what happened to their first home.

"If he hears water running, he's coming straight in there and says, 'Are you going to turn that off? Is it going to turn off?' Just because of (the storms)," Tania said. "... If it starts raining, he'll say, 'Is there going to be a tornado? Is it going to come take us away?' He thinks anything will happen at any time."

Whether singing karaoke during a power outage, playing Stumble Guys together or another activity, Tania is always thinking of diversions to keep her kids from "getting wet from the storms." As far as the holidays, she longs for her family to be able to celebrate "somewhere that we don't have to worry about things happening."

See FAMILY | 6A

Shoppers unite for Black Friday



Peter Bonasso | The Lima News
A customer checks out her clothes Friday at Once Upon a Child, one of many local and big box stores in Lima featuring Black Friday deals.

Holiday season begins in region

By Peter Bonasso
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LIMA — Leslie Pruden, of Van Wert, only had need for one socket set when she and her friend Amy Long, of Rockford, embarked on their yearly Black Friday shopping spree.

Naturally, they were waiting outside of Kohl's ahead of its 5 a.m. opening.

"We were just trying to hit Kohl's before they ran out of the free Kohl's Cash at the door," Pruden said. "They gave it out to the first 200 people, and the person behind us got the last one."

The sales holiday already figured to be busier than usual following a Nov. 19 report from the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, which projected the Lima region would spend $6 million more during the holiday season compared to last year. Whether for big box stores or local businesses, shoppers of all interests and backgrounds united to prove the premonition correct.

The friends of "20-some years" since their "early 20s" worked their way to Kohl's, Menards and Dunham's Sports before finishing their journey at Target, Long said. They left the latter store with Christmas "stocking stuffers" and games, although Pruden said their greatest savings were in clothes from Kohl's for their respective grandkids.

With several years of her and her friend's Black Friday tradition for reference, Pruden said she could see the retail improvements.

"I think everything's gone smoother the last several years; most places got their checkouts running a lot smoother," Pruden said. "Menards used to be a miserable mess checking out, but they got a system down now."

On the other end of the scale, Once Upon a Child featured Black Friday sales of 40% off clothes and shoes from 10 a.m. to noon, 30% off noon to 3 p.m. and 20% off 3 to 8 p.m. The store resells donated products at discounted rates, including Nike, Under Armour, Jordan and other brands that Brock Parsons, senior weekend manager, anticipated would bring people out early.

Even still, the store's rush of business at 10 a.m. took Parsons by surprise.

"We had a full parking lot when we opened up;

See SHOPPERS | 6A

Woman gets 22 years in child porn case

By Sophia Fields
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Miller

TOLEDO — A Lima woman received a 22-years federal prison sentence for her role in producing and distributing child pornography.

Kayla Miller, 42, of Lima, received a prison term of 264 months, or 22 years, by U.S. District Judge James R. Knepp after pleading guilty to sexual exploitation of a minor by means of child pornography and receipt and distribution of child pornography.

She will also have to serve 10 years of supervised release and pay $5,000 toward the Justice for Victims Trafficking Act, created in 2015.

Her co-defendant, Kris Shoemaker, 65, of Bluffton, previously received a 27 1/2-year sentence in federal prison for distribution, receipt and possession of child sexual abuse material. He will also serve 10 years of supervised release.

According to court documents, Shoemaker was identified in two cyber tips of having distributed child sexual abuse materials to both Miller and another individual. Upon further investigation, agents learned that Miller produced explicit images and videos of a minor and sent them to Shoemaker.

This case was investigated by the FBI Lima Resident Agency and the Allen County Sheriff's Office.

OHIO LOTTERY
MEGA MILLIONS (Tuesday)
38-42-44-45-62
Mega Ball: 16
Jackpot: $673 million

POWERBALL (Wednesday)
23-43-57-58-68
Powerball: 12 Power Play: 3
Jackpot: $48 million

CLASSIC (Wednesday)
16-23-33-35-37-39
KICKER: 627746
Jackpot: $1 million

A NEWS
Opinion: 4A
Business: 5A
Driver's Seat: 7A

B REGION & OHIO
Obituaries: 2B
Weather: 6B
Real Estate: 6B

C SPORTS
BuckEyes: 3C
Classified: 6C

D LIFESTYLE
TV Listings: 2D
Puzzles: 4D
Comics: 6D

Z COMICS

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32 pages
5 sections

6 31592 77777 5