

GIRLS SOCCER

DiEgidio sisters star as Buckeye downs North Olmsted, B1

Today's weather
HIGH: 69
LOW: 52
Sunrise: 6:50
Sunset: 8:06

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MEDINA COUNTY CAREER CENTER

Foundation pledges \$3M for building

Sara Crawford
The Gazette

MEDINA — The Ken Cleveland Foundation pledged \$3 million to the Medina County Career Center on Tuesday, which will substantially support the construction of a second construction trades building on campus.

During the Medina County Career Center Board of Education's meeting on Tuesday, the board unanimously approved the acceptance of the Ken Cleveland Foundation's charitable gift agreement.

Robert Bux of the Ken Cleveland Foundation spoke at the meeting,

Ken Cleveland, a Medina County philanthropist who died in 1919, was a housing developer, founder of the Ken Cleveland Builders Co., and founder of the Ken Cleveland Foundation.

talking about the importance of trades to the foundation and its desire to support the trades and build back the trades within the community.

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Bux also talked about the collabo-

ration between the foundation and the career center, noting the recent achievements made toward construction trades.

In August 2024, the career center cut the ribbon on the Construction Trades program's new building, which allowed the program to grow in size. The project was partially funded by the Ken Cleveland Foundation, which gave the Medina County Career Cen-

ter \$2.5 million for the building.

Just a few months ago, career center Superintendent Steve Chrisman returned to the Ken Cleveland Foundation board and later suggested the idea for a second construction trades building, placed next to the 2024 construction trades building.

Chrisman said the second building would be dedicated to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning pro-

gram, as well as the construction electricity program.

According to the agreement, the career center will recognize the contribution by prominently displaying "Ken Cleveland" on the outside of the building. Additionally, a sign will be placed near the entrance of both construction trades buildings, naming the area the "Ken Cleveland Academy."

By having the construction trades programs all in one place, Chrisman said it would allow the students to collaborate.

"They don't collaborate as much as they possibly could," he said.

See FOUNDATION, A2

Surveying nature's beauty



MADISYN WOODRING / GAZETTE

A viceroy butterfly was among those found Wednesday during a hike with the Medina County Park District at Killbuck Lakes.

Group observes different species of butterflies

Madisyn Woodring
The Gazette

HARRISVILLE TWP. — A group learned more about species of butterflies in the area by catching and releasing them as part of a hike around Killbuck Lakes on Wednesday with the Medina County Park District.

The group observed species like the pearl crescent, wild indigo duskywing, clouded sulphur, eastern tailed blue and viceroy butterfly during their hike. Naturalist Mark Ludwig said the species encountered on Wednesday are commonly found at Killbuck Lakes.

The Medina County Park District also conducts butterfly surveys that are separate from Wednesday's program, he said.

At the park district, 30 volunteers help with the butterfly surveys, Ludwig said.

Teams go out once a month to count and record the number of butterflies as they hike along certain trails from the beginning of April until the end of October.

The park district only surveys Oenslager Nature Center, Letha House Park and Killbuck Lakes, he said. Surveys are part of a long-term monitoring of Ohio butterflies program put on by the Ohio Lepidopterists.

The following are the number of recorded butterflies across the three parks:

- Nearly 25,000 butterflies across 38 species at Oenslager Nature Center from 2004 to 2024.
- About 15,000 butterflies across 35 species at Letha House Park from 2013 to 2024.
- About 15,000 butterflies across 37 spe-

cies at Killbuck Lakes from 2017 to 2024.

"Like a lot of things, butterflies are an indicator species of the overall health of our environment," Ludwig said.

A different butterfly program will be hosted by the park district from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 7 at Oenslager Nature Center.

The program will allow attendees to help tag monarch butterflies. Tagging is done as part of Monarch Watch's research efforts to collect data on the migration patterns of monarch butterflies.

Staff will provide instructions, nets and information about butterflies. All ages are welcome to the free event, and no registration is necessary.

Contact reporter Madisyn Woodring at (330) 721-4049 or mwoodring@medina-gazette.com.

MAIN STREET WADSWORTH

Nonprofit gives presentation of how programs have aided city

Patrick Rhonemus
The Gazette

WADSWORTH — Main Street Wadsworth and its programs and events have brought an increased number of people to the city to support community events and businesses.

During Wednesday's Wadsworth Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon, Main Street Wadsworth Executive Director Megan Harvey gave a presentation on the state of the organization.

Main Street Wadsworth is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, with the goal of preserving the downtown area, bringing people to the community and partnering with the city to make Wadsworth a place to visit. Harvey has served as the executive director for one and a half years.

Recently, the organization assisted in getting the downtown area placed on the National Register of Historic Places, an official list of the United States' historic places worthy of preservation authorized in 1966 by the National Historic Preservation Act.

"There are 49 buildings downtown that now have significant historic representation," Harvey said. "We could not have done this project without Roger Havens and the late Caesar Carrino. They did so much research to write stories on each of these buildings."

She said Emily Little, a local architect and preservationist,

worked with Havens and Carrino to help the city get the designation. The city will receive a plaque later this year to mark the area represented.

Harvey discussed the many murals located throughout the city, including historical murals and the "Wadsworth Wings" murals, while mentioning plans for two upcoming murals within the city. She also said the organization is developing a coloring book that will showcase areas and artwork of the city.

"Once it is created, we will have all of those pieces published into a professionally printed book and distributed to our businesses at no charge to hand out to the community," Harvey said.

Also discussed in the presentation were the Downtown Improvement Grants.

"This has been in partnership with the city of Wadsworth, as well as grants from Heritage Ohio," Harvey said. "We have transformed buildings. We want to preserve our buildings and have them look how they used to in their prime. A lot of buildings, over time, get face lifts that aren't really face lifts. We've taken them back to the most beautiful look and made it an appealing town for people to come to."

Recently, the organization has begun using Placer.ai to gauge how many people come through the city for events and programs, Harvey said.

See NONPROFIT, A2

Medina amends bow hunting ordinance regarding stand location fee

Sara Crawford
The Gazette

MEDINA — Medina City Council recently amended the city's bow hunting ordinance, repealing the section that references the stand location fee.

During the Medina Finance Committee meeting on Monday, Medina Parks and Recreation Director Jansen Wehrley presented the amendment, stating it would remove the \$75 fee for a new stand location and the \$50 fee for the same stand location for each applicant participating in the deer management program.

"I think we can all agree that there is a lot of costs involved with the deer management program," Wehrley said. "We have a lot of staff time already invested in our parks department, collecting all kinds of data from our service department (that is) picking up carcasses on a pretty regular frequency. We feel like this is an unnecessary barrier as part of the program when we're getting qualified applicants in. These individuals are helping us with our program."

The city's deer management program is the result of an ordinance that

allows bow hunting with a special permit.

The ordinance, which went into effect in November 2023, followed more than a yearlong process of discussions at City Council meetings and a certified petition that put an amendment on the ballot.

That year, the bow-hunting program was held during the latter half of 2023's hunting season.

The 2024 hunting season was Medina's first full implementation of its bow-hunting program, resulting in 18 deer harvested with 13 registered

hunters.

In comparison, the city's streets department and parks department picked up a total of 141 deer in 2024.

As of Monday, there have been 91 deer picked up by the city's departments, which Medina Service Director Nino Piccoli said is more deer than this time in 2024.

Medina City Council President John Coyne said the program comprises more vehicles now than registered hunters.

"That's a safety issue, I would imagine, because we're killing more deer by cars than by a program that would hopefully

be safer," Coyne said.

In late February, Medina Mayor Dennis Hanwell introduced several ideas for the deer hunting program, which included identifying areas of the city's public parks that would be a safe place to put archery hunters. At that time, he said it would be an attempt to increase the harvest numbers by making it easier for hunters.

During Monday's meeting, Hanwell said the city is evaluating the publicly owned property to see if it'd be fitting for the registered hunters.

See FEE, A2

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