



Cruelty case

Man jailed, banned from owning pets

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WHITMER STUDENTS HIT WITH GAME OF LIFE AT EVENT



THE BLADE/JEREMY WADSWORTH

Sophomore Blake Altaffer drops a disk to see how many children he will have while playing a live action game of LIFE during the Rocket Blast Off Financial Literacy event at Whitmer High School.

Financial literacy emphasized

UT partners with high school to host Rocket Blast Off

By ERIC TAUNTON
BLADE STAFF WRITER

Parker Robedeau, 16, was at a table in the gym at Whitmer High School deciding how he was going to pay for a minivan for his four children on top of his other expenses.

"I need my kids to have space," Parker said. "If I'm going to have four kids, I better be able to provide for them."

The Whitmer sophomore gained a better appreciation for financial responsibility during the Rocket Blast Off Financial Literacy event, which was hosted by the school in partnership with the University of Toledo.

More than 100 Whitmer High School students were forced to grapple with financial unpredictability



THE BLADE/JEREMY WADSWORTH

Sophomore Alexa Gonzalez plays a live action game of LIFE during the Rocket Blast Off Financial Literacy event.

during a slice of life game at the school Tuesday.

Students were tasked

with managing a budget, which was given to them along with their occupa-

tion, the number of children they have, how much they owe in student loans, and how much credit card debt they have, said Carolyn Eaton, financial wellness counselor at the University of Toledo.

They then made their way to the housing and utilities, insurance, grocery, side hustle, subscription, and clothing stations before doing final calculations to determine how much money they had left over.

"The first station is pretty fun because they learn how many kids they're going to have," Ms. Eaton said. "It's fun because they don't realize how expensive children are. ... We have some

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TPS board OKs plan to help deficit

8 schools set to shutter in effort to trim budget

By MELISSA BURDEN
BLADE STAFF WRITER

In a unanimous vote the Toledo Public Schools Board of Education passed the district's Transformation 2.0 Plan during Tuesday's meeting.

About 80 people attended the meeting as the board approved the plan that will close eight schools at the end of the school year as part of a larger plan to make up for the district's nearly \$70 million budget deficit.

Board member Sheena Barnes choked back tears after the vote.

"This is a very hurtful thing doing this," Ms. Barnes said. "My family was raised in this district. I would show up for your family if you called. I do not want to fight with any of you anymore. This sucks."

Nobody wants to do this. We have to work together."

Schools closing at the end of the school year include Harvard Elementary, Martin Luther King, Jr. Academy for Boys, Navarre Elementary, Pickett Elementary, Spring Elementary, Walbridge Elementary, Westfield Achievement Academy, and the Heatherdowns Building.

The plan is expected to save the district \$26.8 million.

Schools Superintendent Romules Durant said the district saved approximately \$41 million with the cuts that were made in January.

Chris Varwig, the school board president, said the decisions by the board were "extraordinarily difficult."

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OIL CARTEL SHAKEUP

UAE set to depart OPEC on Friday

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The United Arab Emirates said Tuesday it will leave OPEC effective Friday, stripping the oil cartel of its third-largest producer and further weakening its leverage over global oil supplies and prices.

The UAE's decision had been rumored as a possibility for some time, as it pushed back in recent years against OPEC production quotas it felt had been too low — meaning it wasn't able to sell as much oil to the world as it had wanted.

"Having invested heavily in expanding energy production capacity in recent years, the bigger picture is that the UAE has been itching to pump more oil," Capital Economics wrote in an analysis. "The ties binding

OPEC members together have loosened," it said, particularly after Qatar withdrew from the cartel in 2019.

Regional politics are also likely at play. The UAE has had increasingly frosty relations with Saudi Arabia, OPEC's largest producer, over political and economic matters in the Mideast, even after both came under attack by fellow OPEC member Iran during the war.

The UAE's withdrawal from OPEC won't necessarily have any immediate effects in markets. That's because world oil supplies are sharply constrained by the war in Iran, which has closed off the Strait of Hormuz, a waterway through

See OPEC, Page A2

Judge reaffirms blockage of S.B. 56

By DANNY ELDRIDGE
BLADE COLUMBUS BUREAU CHIEF

COLUMBUS — The Ohio law prohibiting the retail sale of most hemp-derived products remains unenforceable in Fremont — at least for now.

A.G. Yost defends hemp law

Sandusky County Judge Jeremiah Ray held a hearing on a hemp beverage company's lawsuit challenging Senate Bill 56 on

Tuesday, but he did not immediately make a decision on whether to grant the preliminary injunction sought by Seattle-based Cy-

cling Frog.

Judge Ray's temporary restraining order blocking local enforcement of the law will remain in effect until his preliminary

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INSIDE

Payments roll in

The city has collected about \$15.8 million in delinquent water bills while preparing a plan to help customers pay.

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Winning ways

As four Northern Lakes League softball teams land in the state poll, two NLL coaches mark milestones.

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Weather

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Check on the way

GM says it will receive a \$500 million refund after the Supreme Court tariff ruling.

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The O deal

Oprah Winfrey and Amazon's Wondry OK a podcast deal and other things Oprah.

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Comey indicted over online post

Ex-director's picture taken as a threat

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Former FBI Director James Comey was indicted Tuesday, this time over a social media photo of seashells arranged on a beach that officials said constituted a threat against President Trump.

The criminal case is the second in months against Mr. Comey and is part of the Trump Administration Justice Department's relentless effort to prosecute political opponents of the President. The seashells



ASSOCIATED PRESS

photo was posted nearly a year ago, but the indictment was secured at a time when acting Attorney General Todd Blanche, a Trump loyalist who previ-

ously served as his personal lawyer, aims to prove to the President that he is the right person to hold the job permanently.

The fact that the Justice

Department pursued a new case months after a separate and unrelated indictment was dismissed

See COMEY, Page A3

Former FBI Director James Comey is under indictment after he posted a photo of seashells the Justice Department thinks was a threatening message against the President.

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