

THE BARGAIN HUNTER

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INSIDE NEWS

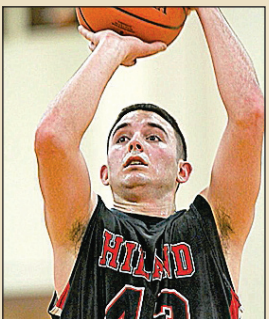


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EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE

Career Center honorees

◆ Adult Student of the Month for May and June named at Ashland County-West Holmes Career Center.

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FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS

LEGACY GOES ON

Red Cross auction soldiers on despite missing founder Larry Lang

By Dave Mast

The annual American Red Cross Holmes County Chapter Auction came and went Saturday, June 28.

The Red Cross bloodmobile was there taking blood donations. Plenty of people swarmed throughout the arena area at the Mt. Hope Auction Barn, as per the norm.

There was chicken to eat, popcorn over the fire, homemade ice cream and a large number of items for the auction, donated by caring local businesses and families.

It all seemed so commonplace, all of the old familiar faces present. All save for one.

The 21st annual auction was without its primary founder, Larry Lang, who passed away this February after a lengthy bout with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

For those who knew Lang, his easygoing nature and constant smile hid just how fiercely loyal he was to serving the Red Cross, his family and his community.

For those who knew him best, like his wife Patricia, or local Red Cross chapter board members Darla Miller and Gale Hershberger, the large footprints Larry left in this auction and with the organization will not soon disappear.

Thanks to its huge community support, the auction again served



File
Larry Lang, who was honored nationally by the American Red Cross before passing away in February, brought an easy, pleasant warmth to wherever he was. Lang touched the lives of many people through his volunteer work with the Red Cross.

as the fundraising linchpin for the Red Cross Holmes County chapter, but there were many heavy hearts at the same time.

"If it wasn't for the community, my days would be a lot worse," said Patricia Lang. "I can think about all the cards I've received, all of the kind words and encouragement, and things they have sent that all help me get through. Some of my days are not the best of days, but

I know they will get better. This is one of those rough days."

Patricia said that she knows that Larry would have that ever-present smile on display if he were at the auction, seeing the solid support the community continues to give to the organization.

Lang said that she made a promise to Larry to continue on his legacy and that of the auction he

See AUCTION Page A2

Bridge replacements may cost \$1 million



Nick Sabo

Trees swept down from the stream bank and piled against the central support pier are not the most serious threat to this bridge on Township Road 332. The support itself may have been undermined, with soil and gravel washed out and replaced with silt that is too weak to support the bridge.

By Nick Sabo

Damage to two bridges from a severe storm June 24 could end up costing the county as much as \$1 million.

The Holmes County Engineer's office has closed bridges on County Road 207 and Township Road 332 after heavy rains scoured out gravel and soil beneath central support piers and replaced it with a soft, "silty sand" mixture, Engineer Chris Young said. The silt is too soft to support the central pier.

"If that center pier is damaged, you could be looking at a collapse under heavy truck loads," Young said. "If you go digging around the center pier, it could just collapse in on itself."

Young said both bridges may need to be replaced. If so, it could cost anywhere from \$750,000 to \$1 million, Young said.

Another bridge, on Township Road 265, which was also damaged in the storm, is being repaired.

Cleanup after the storm has kept county crews busy. Several culverts have been blocked and are being cleaned out. A few small landslides have occurred as well, spilling soil and stone onto roadways. The storm has postponed road work scheduled for this summer at least a few weeks; if the bridges need to be replaced, Young said, it could push work schedules back even farther.

See DAMAGE Page A2

Yoder Lumber goes with the grain in exploring WVU timber study



Joe Pheil

West Virginia University research professor Curt Hassler studies a portion of the lumber being used at the Yoder Lumber plant. The university provides valuable information that helps lumber yards properly price their timber and calculate grades.

By Dave Mast

When it comes to lumber yards, the wood rolls in, the wood rolls out and millions of board feet are produced on a regular basis.

Here in the heart of Amish Country, with countless wood builders grinding out everything from handcrafted furniture to flooring and molding and all kinds of wood-related products, the timber process is a necessity.

But how do timber yards evaluate their timber, provide a price and figure out their yields and the timber grade that is fair to both the customer and themselves?

That is the big question, and recently, a forestry grading staff from West Virginia University visited Yoder Lumber to help them better understand the timber grading process.

On Wednesday, June 25, the WVU staff met with Yoder Lumber officials and witnessed the timber harvesting process, evaluating the grade of the lumber, the techniques being used and

See YODER Page A3

Family Farm & Field Day to cultivate the joy of farming



Randy McKee

If farm livin's the life for you, you won't want to miss this upcoming gem. The 10th annual Family Farm & Field Day July 18 and 19 will feature dozens of vendors and a huge array of knowledgeable speakers leading some innovative discussion on farming techniques and a whole lot more.

By Dave Mast

What are the benefits of grass farming?

How do you call coyotes or bring purple martins to your home?

What is the best technique to farm on 10 acres or less?

Questions like these and many others will be readily available too

during the 10th annual Family Farm & Field Day Friday and Saturday, July 18-19.

Held on the Reuben J. Yoder Farm, the goal of Family Farm & Field Day is to provide an educational format for grass-based agriculture that supports low energy and non-industrial ways of farming.

For the past decade,

families have gleaned some terrific ideas from the wide array of topics presented during this wildly popular event. "The hope is that the weekend activities promote family lifestyles of cohesive, economical and healthy rural living skills," said event promoter Lloyd Miller. "We have families

See DAY Page A10

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CSB announces second-quarter dividend

CSB Bancorp Inc. has announced that the company's Board of Directors has declared a second-quarter cash dividend of 18 cents per share on its common stock, payable July 22 to shareholders of record as of July 8.

CSB Bancorp Inc. is a \$595 million financial holding company headquartered in Millersburg. CSB provides a complete range of banking and other financial services to consumers and businesses through its wholly owned subsidiary, the Commercial and Savings Bank, with 16 banking centers in Holmes, Stark, Tuscarawas and Wayne counties and trust offices located in Millersburg and Wooster.

Pooch parade helps celebrate all of the arts at Berlin festival June 28

By Dave Mast

Saturday, June 28 in Berlin, the weather wasn't the only thing that was hot.

A large number of talented artisans gathered together under a host of tents near the Berlin Elementary School for the Berlin Arts Festival and Pooch Parade.

The event, which took place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., was sponsored by the Berlin Lions Club and Main Street Merchants.

It featured local artisans, a chicken barbecue, the Humane Society, a craft and art show, live music, activities for kids and a pooch parade, which provided prizes for a number of categories.

Whether it was painting on gourds, making impressive statues out of scrap metal, photography, oil paintings or any number of art mediums, patrons to the event were provided with a glimpse of the local artistic talent in and around Holmes County.

Photographer Kenny Coblentz of Sugarcreek said that with so many artistic minds gathered in one place, it was a great opportunity for art lovers to taste plenty



Art isn't simply wielding a brush. Artisans used a variety of unique ways to showcase their talents, including the manufacturing of flint arrowheads.

of variety.

"We all like to use our creative minds, and this gives us a place to showcase what we can do," said Coblentz.

A much-talked-about piece was the large fire-breathing dragon near Main Street, which beckoned visitors as they passed by

Letter to the editor: vaccinations

[To the editor:]

Did you know vaccines are pharmaceutical products, which carry risks that can be greater for some than others? NVIC, the National Vaccine Information Center, is a national, charitable nonprofit organization founded in 1982. NVIC is dedicated to the prevention of vaccine injuries and deaths through public education and to defending the informed consent ethic in medicine.

NVIC encourages people to ask eight questions if you vaccinate.

1. Is my child or I sick right now?
2. Has my child or I had a bad reaction to a vaccination before?
3. Does my child or I have a personal or family history of vaccine reactions, neurological disorders, severe allergies or immune system problems?
4. Do I know the disease and vaccine risks for my child and myself?
5. Do I have full information about the vaccine's side effects?
6. Do I know how to identify and report a vaccine reaction?
7. Do I know I need to keep a written record, including the vaccine manufacturer's name and lot number, for all vaccinations?
8. Do I know I have the right to make an informed choice?

Learn more about these questions at www.NVIC.org and www.vaccinesuncensored.org.

I am not writing this to keep anyone from getting the measles vaccination or any other vaccine. However, I hope everyone realizes that each person or family has the right to choose and make informed choices. If you already have the shots, don't get all worked up about what you didn't know. If you have the measles, stay home.

One more thing, I don't vaccinate because I am informed; I've done the research. It's not because of any religious reasons. God bless our great community,

Owen M. Yoder

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YODER

from Page A1

the efficiency of the company's sawmill, to provide invaluable information that will aid Yoder Lumber in its ongoing efforts to improve and evolve.

As the logs rolled through the sawing process, the WVU staff watched as the Yoder Lumber crew worked diligently sawing up 100 preselected logs.

According to Trent Yoder, Yoder Lumber location manager at the Lake Buckhorn yard, their location manager in West Virginia, Gene Walters, who is a WVU graduate, knew of the grading program and highly urged Yoder Lumber to take advantage of it.

"We are basically taking a log, breaking it down and finding out what we get out of it," said Yoder, as they watched log after log being sawn into boards as the WVU staff prepared notes and took statistics.

"We can then come back and make sure we are cutting the logs we need to cut, and how to better grade them. That can help forecast our sales, and that better helps us meet the needs of our clients."

WVU has been providing this valuable research to companies for close to 12 years, and is one of very few universities in the nation to do so.

However, according to Curt Hassler, research professor at WVU, who along with research associate Larry Osborn was operating the research effort at Yoder Lumber, the university has really dug in and taken the program much more seriously since 2005.

WVU now does numerous studies throughout West Virginia, Ohio, North Carolina, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

The two men took detailed notes during the entire process, and will compile a collection of data, which should be quite valuable for Yoder Lumber.

"Our biggest goal is simply to provide company's with a better feel for their lumber grade yields, and their overrun and under run with their logs," said Hassler. "It provides them better information to price logs, which eventually is

better for the retailers who purchase from them."

The study began one week prior to their grading June 25. The WVU staff works up all of the log data beforehand, selecting 100 logs of varying grades and quality.

Each log was carefully marked, observing diameter, length, condition of the timber and other crucial data.

Each log was marked on the end with a specific number, and then on the 25th, the logs were taken to Yoder Lumber, where the staff there did their thing, sawing each log into boards.

Each board is also marked, providing the WVU staff with volume and grade information. In addition, they time the process, which further helps them determine the cost efficiency of the lumber yard.

The information gathered by the university is processed, and within a week or two, is presented to the lumber yard.

Hassler said that through the multiple studies they have done, lumber yards use the information in a variety of ways.

"We have done this for a number of companies, and they have actually changed the way they have done business," said Hassler. "Many of the lumber mills we work with really don't know exactly what their lumber grade yield is. Sometimes this can be a real eye-opener."

Mel Yoder, Yoder Lumber CEO, said that regardless of the efficiency at which his company operates, finding ways to become even more efficient and cost-wise is an important part of creating better business.

"This is important because it shows us exactly what value we have in our logs we bring in," said Yoder. "It should help strengthen us economically. We have done some tests before, but never this thoroughly. We hope to improve on that, and by

improving our efficiency and quality here in the plant, we can make sure we are profitable while passing along that savings and quality to our customers."

Bob Mapes, Yoder Lumber president, said that they felt fortunate to have the WVU staff provide such crucial insight into their operation.

"I think there are only two schools out there, WVU and Virginia Tech, who do this," said Mapes. "We were very lucky to have them come up and do this for us. It is about creating more efficiency in our operations."

From locating a series of lumber on location, to harvesting, getting it into the mill and processed to finished product is not easy or cheap. But in gleaning the information provided, Yoder Lumber has taken important steps in streamlining their role in helping to create molding, flooring, furniture and the wide array of products requiring wood commodities.

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