

ON THE RUN

Not flashy, not cocky;
PH's Buenger just the best

Sports | B1



BIG WIN

Rallies help DHS dispose
of Wauseon at sectionals

Sports | B1



The Crescent-News

50 cents

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Defiance, Ohio

WHO SPILLED THE BEANS?



Mike Vernot/C-N Photo

A semi collided with a grain wagon this morning on U.S. 6, west of Ridgeville Corners. No serious injuries were reported, but the crash restricted traffic on U.S. 6. Further details were not available before press time.

Library to reinstate some hours

Board makes decision following forums in Sherwood, Hicksville

The Defiance Public Library System's board of trustees on Tuesday night voted to reinstate some hours of operation planned at the system's branch libraries in Sherwood and Hicksville. The board, which oversees the Defiance Public Library, Johnson Memorial Library in Hicksville and the Sherwood Branch Library, discussed community input from meetings held in Sherwood and Hicksville on Monday and Tuesday. The board approved an additional 10 hours for the Sherwood Branch Library, resulting in a total of 20 public hours

LIBRARY, Page A10



What do you have to say?

What do you think of the library board's decision to reinstate some hours in Sherwood and Hicksville? Post your comments at the end of this story at www.crescent-news.com

Election09

Supporters of Issue 3 swing by NW Ohio

By TODD HELBERG
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Promoters of state Issue 3 believe they have a good bet on Nov. 3 if they can tap into Ohioans' enthusiasm for gaming and its economic benefits.

Jeffrey Cohen of Rock Ventures, which would help bring casinos to Cleveland and Cincinnati if voters say OK, stopped at The Crescent-News Tuesday afternoon amid a swing through northwest Ohio.



Cohen

If approved, Issue 3 would amend the state constitution to allow casino gambling in four cities — Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus and Toledo.

To do so, casino builders would be mandated to spend a minimum of \$250 million at each site. Cohen said Rock Ventures would nearly double that by spending \$400 million in Cincinnati and \$500 million in Cleveland. (Penn National Gaming, a partner with Rock Ventures in the ballot issue and owner of Toledo's Raceway Park, would invest the requisite funds for casinos near downtown Toledo and downtown Columbus.)

If the issue passes, Cohen said planning and construction would begin immediately with the Cleveland and Cincinnati casinos up and running in 2012.

Those facilities and the two in Toledo and Columbus, promoters state, would create 34,000 jobs in Ohio, including 19,000 in the construction industry. Although some opponents have disputed this number, saying Ohioans won't be taking the casino jobs, Cohen said otherwise.

He said his group has made commitments to the mayors of Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus and Toledo that 90 percent of the jobs will go to local residents. But

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Lisa Nicely/C-N Photo

Ohio Supreme Court Justice Judith Ann Lanzinger talks with Paulding County Carnegie Library Father G. Allan Fillman during a reception for the justices at the Paulding County Carnegie Library on Tuesday.

Supreme Court justices visiting Paulding County

By LISA NICELY
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PAULDING — Residents as well as village and county officials turned out to welcome the Ohio Supreme Court justices to Paulding County on Tuesday.

The Ohio Supreme Court is in Paulding as part of its off-site court program. The justices will hear four cases today in the county courthouse, with students from Antwerp, Paulding and Wayne Trace schools invited to sit in on the cases.

The seven justices received a warm welcome at a reception at the Paulding County Carnegie Library on Tuesday. Many area residents, businessmen and officials were on hand to welcome them.

"It's nice to see all the people come out," said Justice Terrence O'Donnell. "We've got mayors, commissioners, council members and others. We don't often see all that when we come out (to places). It's our pleasure to be here."

Justice Judith Ann Lanzinger said the reception was fabulous.

"This is such a welcoming community, with such warmth," she said.

Justice Evelyn Lundberg Stratton said she read up on Paulding County's history thanks to information sent to her by Kim Sutton of the Paulding County Court probation department. She said learning the county's history makes it that much more interesting to see. Lundberg Stratton added that the people of the county were very friendly as well.

"People have been so wonderful, warm and gracious," she said. "It's fun coming to smaller counties. Everyone is so friendly."

Area officials were happy that the justices were holding their off-site program in Paulding County.

"We are so honored to have the Ohio Supreme Court here at the library," said Susan Pieper, Paulding County Carnegie Library director.

PAULDING, Page A7



Georgia Kohart/C-N Photo

At a meeting Tuesday evening in Hicksville, residents listen intently to explanations for operating cuts at all Defiance, Sherwood and Hicksville libraries. At left is Dr. Allen Hilbert, president of the Johnson Memorial Library board. Seated at right is Steph Karacson-Mazur.

Library board listens to concerns in Hicksville

By GEORGIA KOHART
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HICKSVILLE — The Defiance Public Library System board of trustees reconvened Tuesday evening, meeting with about 25 people in a Community Memorial Hospital meeting room to discuss concerns about impending budget cuts.

A 22 percent cut in state funding this year and another 30 percent reduction projected for 2010 has hit Ohio libraries hard. Locally, it means \$314,000 less in operating funds this year and \$423,000 less available in

2010 for the Defiance Public Library and its Hicksville and Sherwood branches. In an effort to balance the budget, among other steps taken, the board voted to decrease operating hours at all three libraries in the system. Johnson Memorial Library in Hicksville was to have its operating hours cut from 44 hours per week to 25.

Sue Mack, secretary of the Johnson Memorial Library Foundation board, introduced several main concerns the Hicksville Friends of the Library board has.

These issues included

HICKSVILLE, Page A10

West Fort Street will reopen ... at least for now

By TODD HELBERG
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Defiance's West Fort Street won't be permanently closed after all, at least not for now.

During its meeting Tuesday, the city's traffic commission decided to reopen the street that closed temporarily in September.

Generally regarded as a shortcut, the street intersects Clinton Street just south of the Maumee River and runs west for a short distance. It then connects to a parking area that runs north-south behind several Clinton Street businesses and joins with First Street, often serving as a shortcut for motorists trying to avoid the traffic light at Clinton

and First. Despite that, the commission agreed in September to close West Fort temporarily ahead of Defiance County's boat docks construction project. Last month, city administrator Jeff Leonard told the commission the street should close if the docks were built to enhance safety, although he wanted a

trial period first. He raised another issue Tuesday — the safety of right turns from Clinton onto West Fort. The comment refers to the impact on pedestrian traffic moving through the crosswalk off the Clinton Street bridge.

However, city engineer Lee Rausch suggested that the street

OPEN, Page A7

INSIDE TODAY

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Deaths	A5	TV	A9
Lifestyle	A8	Weather	A10
Nation	A2	World	A2

HOW SMART?

Are today's sugar cereals "Smart Choices?" The FDA says it's not so sure. | A2



TOMORROW

The results are in. Finalists in the 2009 Readers Recipe Challenge had their dishes evaluated in a taste-off this week to determine the winners.

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