



Contestants for the Miss Northwestern Ohio Scholarship Pageant attended a forum recently, preparing for the Nov. 14 pageant. Shown at the forum were, front row from left: Haley Piper, Bryan; Alyssa Phillips, Cygnet; Alyssa Waldman, Defiance; Emily Pheils, Rossford; Courtney Monk, Defiance; and

Heather Lindsey, the reigning Miss Northwestern Ohio 2009. In back were, from left: Kelsey Buettner, Delphos; Lluvia Martinez and Macy Weatherhead, Hicksville; Samantha Hartings, Coldwater; Jessica Nelson, Toledo; and Katie Ulrich, Elida.

Forum held for Miss Northwestern Ohio pageant

Scholarship program to be Nov. 14

An informational forum for Miss Northwestern Ohio Scholarship Pageant contestants was held recently at the Defiance Community Auditorium.

The forum allowed contestants to practice their

talent and receive helpful hints from pageant coordinators.

The pageant will be held Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Defiance Community Auditorium. This is the pageant's 34th year as a

preliminary to the Miss Ohio and Miss America pageants.

Tickets to the pageant are \$10 and may be purchased from any contestant or at the door.

Contestants for the pageant this year are Alyssa Waldman and Courtney Monk of Defiance;

Lluvia Martinez, Macy Weatherhead and Halie Gonwick of Hicksville;

Haley Piper, Bryan; Christina Drake, Oakwood; Kelsey Buettner, Delphos; Samantha Hartings, Coldwater; Jessica Nelson, Toledo; Katie Ulrich, Elida; Alyssa Phillips, Cygnet; and Emily Pheils, Rossford.

AREA DEATHS

Mark Hazelton

CONTINENTAL — Mark A. Hazelton, 52, of Continental, died Sunday, October 18, 2009, at his residence.

He was born December 18, 1956, in Lima, to Marvin D. and Marjorie (Kesler) Hazelton. His mother survives in Continental and his father is deceased. He was formerly married to Patty Closson of Columbus Grove.

Survivors also include a son, Damien (Sara) Hazelton of Ottawa; a daughter, Brooke (Jimmy) Sharrits of Columbus Grove; two grandchildren, Desiree and Alex Sharrits; and a brother, Greg Hazelton of Bowling Green.

Mr. Hazelton retired from General Motors, Defiance, after 25 years and was a farmer. He was a former member of Christ United Methodist Church, Continental, and member of IHRA. He was an avid drag racer.

Services will begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday, October 23, 2009, at Heitmeier Funeral Home, Continental, with Pastor Chuck Eagle officiating. Burial will be at a later date. Visitation will be from 2-7:30 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of the donor's choice. Condolences may be expressed at www.heitmeierfuneralhome.com.

Minota Bidlack

FORT WAYNE — Minota Jane Bidlack, 82, passed away Saturday, October 17, 2009, at University Park Nursing Center in Fort Wayne.

Born in Paulding Co., Ohio, she was the owner and stylist at Isle of Styles Salon for 55 years.

She is survived by her nieces, Pam (Keith) Myers of Oakwood, Ohio, and Marsha Smith of Paulding, Ohio; nephews, Rick (Karen) Elston of Oakwood, Ohio, and Steven (Connie) Elston of Oakwood, Ohio; and sister-in-law, Jane Elston of Paulding, Ohio.

Minota was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 55 years, Richard R. Bidlack; parents, Jesse and Myrtle Elston; brother, Harold Elston; and her precious dogs, Mindy and Blackie.

The service is at 10 a.m. Saturday at D.O. McComb and Sons Lakeside Park Funeral Home, 1140 Lake Avenue, Fort Wayne, with calling one hour prior, officiated by Earl Chapman. Visitation from 6-8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Graveside service is at 1 p.m. Saturday at St. Paul's Cemetery, Paulding, Ohio.

Memorials to Heartland Hospice, Cancer services of Northeast Indiana or University Park Nursing Home. To sign the online guest book, go to www.mccombandsons.com.

June Fast

HAVILAND — June I. Fast, 84, Haviland, died at 9:25 p.m. Monday, October 19, 2009, at her residence.

She is survived by her husband, Charles, Haviland; a son, Robert (Jan) Fast, Sanford, Florida; a daughter, Barbara (Seth) Shelton, Shelby, North Carolina; her caregiver, Cheryl (Ray) Pratt, Oakwood, Ohio; two grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Friday, October 23, 2009, at the Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding. Burial will be in Blue Creek Cemetery, Haviland. Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Thursday, October 22, 2009, at the Den Herder Funeral Home. Also, there will be calling one hour prior to services on Friday at the funeral home.

The family suggests that memorial contributions be made to Gideon's International or to the Paulding Church of the Nazarene building fund. Online condolences may be sent to www.denherderfh.com.

Alta Fraley

PAYNE — Alta Fraley, 85, Payne, died Tuesday, October 20, 2009, at her residence.

She was born June 7, 1924, in Greenup, Kentucky, the daughter of George and Nellie Hall. In 1944, she married Richard R. Fraley, who preceded her in death on January 6, 1989.

She is survived by five sons, Richard (Jean) Fraley of Antwerp, Arnold (Sue Ann) Fraley of Fort Wayne, David Fraley and Charles Fraley, both of Payne, and Dan (Veronica) Fraley, Paulding; four daughters, Gertrude (Donald) Elston, Diana Butler and LuVern Dullhaghan, all of Payne, and Edie (Timothy) Schlosser of Temperance,

Michigan; and 32 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband; a son, Calvin Fraley; a daughter, Ruby Fay Fraley; and a granddaughter, Susan Elston.

Funeral services will be conducted at 11 a.m. Thursday, October 22, at Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding, with Rev. Burnell Hammons officiating. Burial will be in St. Paul Cemetery, Paulding. Visitation will be 4-8 p.m. Wednesday, October 21, at Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding, and one hour prior to services on Thursday.

Donations may be made to Blind Center of Toledo, Ohio; Breast Cancer Society; or Paulding County Home Health Care & Hospice. Online condolences may be sent to www.denherderfh.com.

Sarah Disheaux

Services for Sarah "Sue" Disheaux, Defiance, will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 22, at Mast-Mock-Hoffman-Hanenkrath-Clevenger-Schaffer Funeral Home, Defiance. Visitation is from 2-8 p.m. today. Burial will be in Riverview Memory Gardens.

Lawrence Wilhelm

CUSTAR — Lawrence "Pud" Wilhelm, 82, Custar, died Tuesday, October 20, 2009, at his home. Handling arrangements is Rodenberger Funeral Home, Deshler.

Richard Leverton

DELTA — Richard "Rick" Allen Leverton, 37, Delta, died Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2009, in Heartland of Wauseon. Handling arrangements is Grisier Funeral Home, Delta.

Carmen Lassen

NAPOLEON — Carmen E. Lassen, 84, Napoleon, died Tuesday evening, Oct. 20, 2009, at Lake East Hospital in Painesville, Ohio. Arrangements are pending at the Walker Mortuary, Napoleon.

Hazel Weber

PETTISVILLE — Hazel M. Weber, 97, Pettisville, died Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 20, 2009, in Fairlawn Haven, Archbold. Handling arrangements is Short Funeral Home, Archbold.

Condolences can be posted on the Comments section, located at the bottom of each online obituary listing at www.crescent-news.com

Paulding board eyes student drug testing

PAULDING — The Paulding Exempted Village Board of Education on Tuesday discussed possible random drug testing for students in extracurricular activities.

"This was discussed at length after a request from one of our district parents," superintendent Pat Ross said this morning. "The board decided to table the issue until such time as we have an intervention program in place. You really need to have an intervention program for those students who test positive. The board plans to revisit this issue in the future."

Turning to action items, the board approved an updated five-year forecast as presented by treasurer Maria Rellinger. The district projects general fund cash balances of \$2.3 million on June 30, 2010, and \$1.9 million on June 30, 2011.

"We were one of the first districts to make cuts several years ago and we will continue to watch our spending," said Ross. "It's difficult to predict what will happen with future state funding."

The board also accepted the retirement resignation of Marcia Wiebe, Paulding

second-grade teacher, effective at the end of the current contract year.

"Marcia has taught her entire 35-year professional career in our district," said Ross. "She began as a first-grade teacher at Oakwood Elementary and spent the rest of her time as first- and second-grade teacher at Paulding Elementary."

"She has impacted many young lives in a positive manner and we will certainly miss her," added Ross.

In other business, the board:

- accepted the bid for the school farm from Thad Sinn at a rate of \$127.50 per acre for 33.2 tillable acres, totaling \$4,233 annually for two years.

- approved the district's participation in an enterprise zone agreement with Baughman Tile Co., which involves expansion of the company's current operations.

- approved the purchase of a 37-passenger handicap bus from Cardinal Bus Sales at a cost of \$72,944.

- approved the history trip involving about 50 students to Washington, D.C., on April 5-8. The cost is to be paid by the students.

First Defiance releases its third-quarter earnings

First Defiance Financial Corp., the parent company of First Federal Bank of the Midwest and First Insurance and Investments, has released its third-quarter earnings results that show a net income of \$329,000.

Earnings represent income of 2 cents per common share, down from earnings of 4 cents per common share in the third quarter of 2008.

For the nine-month period that ended Sept. 30, First Defiance earned \$6.6 million, or 63 cents per common share, compared to \$6.5 million, or 83 cents per common share in the nine-month period that ended Sept. 30, 2008.

"The impact of the economic environment continues to be reflected in our results for the third quarter," said First Defiance CEO Bill Small. "Most core operating metrics were again very solid. ... Through all of this, net income remained flat with the third quarter of 2008 due primarily to better net interest margin and a larger loan base."

Third quarter results include a provision of loan losses of \$8.1 million, compared with \$4.9 million in the same period of 2008 and \$4 million in the second quarter of this year.

"In light of the continued environment of high unemployment, as well as the continued uncertainty of the commercial real estate market, we believe it is prudent to build general reserves," Small said. "This decision drove the provision expense increase in the third quarter."

First Defiance's non-performing loans totaled \$40.1 million at the end of the third quarter, down slightly from \$40.4 million on June 30.

"Asset quality continues to be a drag on earnings in this economy," Small said. "However, our delinquency numbers improved in the third quarter over the second-quarter results and we hope this indicates a positive trend."

Total assets for First Defiance on Sept. 30 was \$2.02 billion, compared with \$1.96 billion on Dec. 31, 2008.

WHAT DOES HEARING LOSS SOUND LIKE?

(WHAT DOES HEARING LOSS SOUND LIKE?)

It's difficult. When you have hearing loss, your ears may process only parts and pieces of words (toothbrush can become OO-BRU, for example)-so speech sounds garbled and strange. Having people speak louder can help, but it doesn't solve the problem.



Call us today at 419-782-0836 or 1-800-345-6801. Ask to schedule your FREE PrescriptFit™ hearing and lifestyle assessment.

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NO LIMIT TEXAS HOLD-EM POKER TOURNAMENT

OCTOBER 23 & 24, 2009

To Support Defiance County Hospice Auxiliary
501-C3 Organization

DEFIANCE ELKS LODGE
(SR 66 SOUTH, DEFIANCE)

- FRIDAY, October 23, 2009 • Registration: 6:30 P.M.
- Start Time: 7:00 P.M. • Entry Fee: \$35.00
- RE-BUY: \$35.00 (Unlimited Re-Buys for the first hour.)

\$35 gets you \$3,000 in chips. Players must have \$3,000 or less to Re-Buy

- ADD-ON: \$35.00 (After 1 hour, all players are allowed one Add-On)
- \$35 gets you \$3,000 in chips

Payouts: \$500, \$275, \$150 & \$75
Plus 50% of all RE-Buys and Add-ons Dividends (One in every 10 players will be paid) (This payout is based on 40 players registering)

- SATURDAY, October 24, 2009 • Registration: 10:30 A.M.
- Start Time: 11:00 A.M. • Entry Fee: \$60.00
- Chips: \$8,000 –NO RE-BUYS
- Payouts: \$840, \$462, \$252, \$126 (One in every 10 players will be paid) (This payout is based on 40 players registering)

For Information, call Dwight Chatham 419-782-9577