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Marietta BOE talks new building

By Janelle Patterson
Staff Reporter

In a special session Tuesday, the Marietta City Schools Board of Education approved further visioning of a tentative athletics/music complex in the land between the high school's Davis Avenue gym and auditorium and the academic building above Academy Drive.

Board members discussed via telephone with the district's Athletic Director Cody Venderlic the idea of a stadium and fieldhouse to not only centralize junior and high school sports above the Marietta's two rivers' floodplain, but also take advantage of a third round of federal stimulus funds post-pandemic.

MCS Superintendent Will Hampton reminded those present that the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) federal funding has come to the school district in rounds, with ESSER I used to provide lump-sum payments to current staff during the school year, ESSER II used to bring back staff whose positions were eliminated within consolidation and assign them to specific recovery-learning roles for a limited contract, and expand both preschool and mental health offerings for students within the district.

Now, with ESSER III, Hampton explained, the district is looking to what capital costs can be offset from the limited permanent improvement fund, if federally eligible.

What to do with \$8.6 million in ESSER III funding?

Some may be earmarked for remote readiness, another portion for curriculum enhancement.



Photo by Janelle Patterson
Marietta City Schools Superintendent Will Hampton reviews past expenditures of ESSER funding before introducing possible permanent improvement offsets of the third federal funding round Tuesday.

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DIG THIS!



The Castle holds Archaeological Discovery Camp



Photos by Jenna Pierson

Campers spend several hours from Monday through Thursday helping The Castle Museum discover new artifacts.

Annual event to continue with teens, adults July 26-29

By Jenna Pierson
Staff Reporter

Small fragments of artifacts are scattered throughout the grounds of The Castle Museum on Fourth Street in Marietta, and middle school campers have a valuable opportunity to excavate this week through their eighth annual archaeological dig camp.

"They are divided up into groups and they dig down the different layers, they are gonna find different soil types and also uncover different artifacts from the Nathaniel Clark period," said Kyle Yoho, education director at The Castle.

The Nathaniel Clark period refers to the nearly 40 years before The Castle was built in 1855 that the property was home to the Clark family, who were known for their vocation as potters and rich contributors to the local economy of Marietta at that time.

"They started in 1808 as one of the earliest potteries in the state of Ohio, and they were here until about 1849," said Staff Archaeologist Wesley Clarke, who has worked for The Castle for 10 years and was previously an archaeologist for the Ohio Department of Transportation. "Then they



Zane Roberts, 11, digs into the topsoil of the site.

went down to Parkersburg and opened a new pottery."

From Monday through Thursday, campers were able to partake in the unique experience of being able to work on an authentic archaeological site. For the past eight years, the camp has excavated different areas of the property, ranging from 3-foot digs at the front of the property to the 1-foot digs toward the back of the property performed this week.

"They generated a lot of material, when you are making pottery the way they did back then, it generates a lot of debris and discards that don't come out," Clarke said. "So the ground here is saturated here with material."

According to Clarke, there are two primary types of pottery that are found during excavations of the site: redware, which was less durable and more affordable in the 19th century and stoneware, which was more expensive and durable.

True to the practice and the importance of methodology, campers sifted through material and added potential fragments to labelled bags, which track the location and layer where they were found on the property.

"They are helping us generate information about an important piece of history," Clarke said.

Upcoming Dig Opportunity

Summer Archaeology Field School, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. July 26-29, high schoolers and adults eligible. Space is limited and pre-registration is required by July 16. Please call 740-373-4180.

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Kiwanis readies celebration of 100 years

By Janelle Patterson
Staff Reporter

A dedication of service in the hundreds has one local club already planning for projects to celebrate its upcoming milestone, its 100th birthday next year as a local installment of Kiwanis International.

"Our 100th anniversary is next March," explained Marietta Kiwanis Club President Joan Zoller.

To lead into that year of service, and heading out of a pandemic that canceled this year's Pancake Days for the first time in 66 years, more members are needed.

"I've been a member since I got back in 1993," said Common Pleas Judge John Halliday as he stepped in line for pulled pork Tuesday before sitting next to Tuesday's guest speaker, Peoples Bank Theatre's Executive Director Hunt Brawley.

Other members of note include:

- Grimm Scientific Owner Joe Grimm.
- Magistrate Shoshanna Brooker.
- Marietta Assistant Law Director Amy Bean.
- Marietta Board of Education member Mark Duckworth.
- Philanthropist Nancy Broughton.
- Schultheis Insurance's Allie Schultheis.
- Retired educator and head of High Schools That Rock Mark Doebrich.
- Retired banker Ron Surella.
- WMOA's Tom Hush-ion.

And of course, more.

"We see about 21-22 people at our lunches, but (overall) we have about 50 people, some it's not feasible, like if they work at the hospital to join us for lunch and get back in an hour," explained Zoller.

But the opportunities to serve including bell ringing, packing survival bags for Marietta City Schools, St. Mary's Catholic and Veritas Classical Academy staff and benefitting literacy and food security for children abound outside of the two lunches per month.

"Of course our big fundraiser is Pancake Days each year but this one," she shared. "But outside of fundraising what we do is put you to work."

Work including pavilions and park maintenance to fostering service mindsets through clubs within the schools from "Terrific Kids" programming headed into Washington Elementary from Harmar all the way up the grades to Builder's Club and Key Club.

"Before 1981 this was a men's club, but Nancy Hollister (former governor, lieutenant governor, state representative, state board of education member and Marietta mayor) was our first female member," shared Zoller of the club's more recent history. "I think service clubs used to be a way of passing business back and forth to folks."

Now, she said, the focus is more project based.

The club installs new officers including Bean as president in September of this year and then looks to 2022 with "hundreds in service" mindset.

"We're looking at 100 each month," said past-president Marcia Stewart.

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Photo by Janelle Patterson
Peoples Bank Theatre's Executive Director Hunt Brawley speaks to the Marietta Kiwanis Club in the fellowship Hall of Gilman United Methodist Church Tuesday about nonprofit recovery efforts following the pandemic.