### Parkway girls beats Celina, 56-19. Page 12

THE DAILY STANDARD

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# Celina council continues exploring DO

#### By WILLIAM KINCAID wkincaid@dailystandard.com

CELINA — City council members are taking another look at pursuing a designated outdoor refreshment area where people could legally walk around outside with alcoholic beverages.

Some councilors believe

such a designation might help on Monday night. accelerate interest in city boutiques, restaurants and other businesses and boost Celina's appeal as a destination city. DORAs are already set up in Greenville, Wapakoneta, Van Wert and St. Marys, said city safety service director Tom Hitchcock at city council's commitee of a whole meeting

If everything goes right, it's possible a DORA could be in place by summer, Hitchcock said.

Councilors seemed largely also was backed by a handful of business owners.

Unlike previous discussions that focused mostly on as 150 acres, Hazel said.

the downtown, city officials are now contemplating establishing a DORA that would encompass all 26 applicable alcohol permit holders in the city. "We looked at everybody

supportive of the proposal that that had an applicable license as opposed to just downtown," mayor Jeff Hazel said.

A DORA can cover as much

"It's got to be contiguous. We cannot do islands throughout Celina. It has to connect," Hazel stressed.

City administrators handed out draft maps showing a DORA that stretches as far south as the former Breakaway Rec Plex on U.S. Route

See DORA, page 9



Paige Sutter photos/The Daily Standard





### Council cries fowl on village chickens

By LESLIE GARTRELL lgartrell@dailystandard.com

FORT RECOVERY - Council members heard first reading of an ordinance amending the village zoning code, including a clarification that owning poultry in the village is not allowed.

Village administrator Randy Diller said poultry are not allowed in town, but the rule has not been enforced.

"We had some discussion about poultry being allowed in town, specifically hens, that's all that was allowed — but do we want to continue that?' Diller said.

"And the consensus was no. we don't want to get into that. It's not like they're grandfathered in. It was never allowed, we just didn't enforce it," he said.

Diller said he knows of three properties in town with hen houses.

The amendments also clarify that shipping containers are illegal in town aside from the industrial park; made changes to setback requirements in some zoning districts; and made changes to and added some conditional uses to some districts. The village has seven zoning districts. Diller said for example, the C1 district is zoned for single-family residences and doesn't allow two- or threefamily residences, but apartments are located above many storefronts in town. The zoning change also would allow medical offices and business offices in the industrial park as a conditional use. If passed on third reading, the zoning amendments wouldtake effect on Jan. 1. In other business, council members approved under rule suspension appropriations for 2022Diller said the village will have a budget of \$3.5 million for 2022, down from a \$3.9 million budget this year. The village has plans to purchase a lot of equipment next year, Diller said, including some trucks and equipment for the

Above, Celina Insurance Group's annual Christmas lights display shimmers and twinkles on Walnut Street. The 15-minute show choreographed to music starts at 5 p.m. and plays every half hour until the last show at 10:30 p.m. The show will continue until Jan. 1.

Left, Along with festive lights, large nutcracker figures greet the public at the entrance.

See CHICKENS, page 9

### Pentagon issues rules to curb rising extremism in ranks

WASHINGTON (AP) Warning that extremism in the ranks is increasing, Pentagon officials are issuing detailed new rules prohibiting service members from actively engaging in extremist activities. The new guidelines come nearly a year after some current and former service members participated in the riot at the U.S. Capitol, triggering a broad department review.

Senior defense officials tell The Associated Press that fewer than 100 military members are known to have been involved in substantiated cases of extremist activity in the past year, but they warn that the number may grow given recent spikes in domestic to fundraising or rallying on



Austin

more of an effort to make sure troops are clear on what they can and can't do, while still protecting their First Amendment free speech rights. And for the first time, it is far more specific about social media.

The new policy lays out in detail the banned activities, which range from advocating terrorism or supporting the overthrow of the government

violent extrem- behalf of an extremist group or "liking" or reposting extremist views on social media. The rules also specify that commanders must determine two things in order for someone to be held accountable: that the action was an extremist activity, as defined in the rules, and that the service member "actively participated" in that prohibited activity.

Previous policies banned extremist activities but didn't go into such great detail, and also did not specify the twostep process to determine someone accountable.

What was wrong yesterday is still wrong today, said one

See PENTAGON, page 9

Pentagon officials announces a crackdown on extremism among active military.

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## Trump sues official to halt probe into business

NEW YORK (AP) ald Trump sued New York Attorney General Letitia James on Monday, resorting to a familiar but seldom successful strategy as he seeks to end a yearslong civil investigation into his business practices that he alleges is purely political.

In the lawsuit, filed in federal court two weeks after James requested that Trump sit for a Jan. 7 deposition, Trump contends the probe into matters including his company's valuation of assets has violated his constitutional rights in a "thinlyveiled effort to publicly malign Trump and his associates."

The lawsuit describes James, a Democrat, as having "personal disdain" for the Republican ex-president and points to her numerous statements she's made about him, including her boast that her office sued his administration 76 times and tweets during her 2018 campaign that she had her "eyes on Trump Tower" and that Trump was "running out of time."

solely by political animus

Former President Don- intimidate, and retaliate the Radical Left Demoagainst a private citizen crats for years," Trump who she views as a political opponent," the former president's lawyers a run for New York govwrote in the lawsuit, filed on behalf of Trump and earlier this month, she his company, the Trump Organization.

In a statement, James said: "The Trump Organization has continually sought to delay our investigation into its business dealings and now Donald Trump and his namesake New York Times. The company have filed a lawsuit as an attempted collateral attack on that investigation."

"To be clear, neither Mr. Trump nor the Trump Organization get to dictate if and where they will answer for their actions. Our investigation will continue undeterred because no one is above the law, not even someone with the name Trump."

Trump responded that his lawsuit "is not about delay, this is about our Constitution!"

"Despite many years of investigation that nobody a parallel criminal probe else could have survived even if they did things just slightly wrong, yours is Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. "Her mission is guided just a continuation of the Although the civil investipolitical Witch Hunt that gation is separate, James'

said in a statement.

James had announced ernor in late October, but suspended that campaign and cited ongoing investigations in her decision to instead seek reelection as state attorney general.

News of the lawsuit. filed in upstate New York, was first reported by The case is assigned to Judge Brenda Sannes in Syracuse, who was appointed in 2014 by former President Barack Obama, a Democrat, but preliminary proceedings will be handled by a magistrate judge in Albany, which isn't unusual for federal court.

Trump seeks a permanent injunction barring James from investigating him and preventing her from being involved in any "civil or criminal" investigations against him and his company, such as she's a part of that's being led by Manhattan District

in both.

Trump also wants a judge to declare that favorable loan terms or James violated his free speech and due process rights.

Gillers said that while it's clear James "gave Trump ammunition to argue that she has a vendetta against him," the lawsuit remains a longshot for Trump, who has lost multiple lawsuits aimed at foiling investigators, including a multiyear U.S. Supreme Court fight that ended in February with Vance obtaining his tax records.

"During her campaign for attorney general, James foolishly stressed her intent to target Trump and his businesses if elected," Gillers said. "Nonetheless, I think a federal court will want stronger proof of James' partiality than Trump can muster. It's very hard to get a federal court to stop a state investigation when state courts are available to review any misconduct."

James has spent more than two years investigat-Organization

- inflating them to gain minimizing them to reap tax savings.

Last year, James' inves-New York University tigators interviewed one crat who is leaving office law professor Stephen of Trump's sons, Trump Organization executive Eric Trump. Her office went to court to enforce a subpoena on the younger Trump, and a judge forced him to testify after his lawyers abruptly canceled a previously scheduled deposition.

Trump's lawsuit didn't explicitly mention James' request for his testimony, aside from a brief reference. But it's clear he won't be showing up Jan. 7, James' requested date, to answer questions voluntarily. As with Eric Trump, James' office will now likely have to issue a subpoena and go to a judge to order the former president to cooperate.

It's rare for law enforcement agencies to subpoenas to local govissue a civil subpoena for testimony from a person who is also the subject of a related criminal probe, in part because that person could simply invoke ing whether the Trump the Fifth Amendment ing land into a conservamisled right to remain silent, tion trust.

and a desire to harass, has gone on against me by office has been involved banks or tax officials. It's unlikely Trump's lawabout the value of assets yers would allow him to be deposed unless they were sure his testimony couldn't be used against him in a criminal case.

Vance, a Demoat the end of the year, recently convened a new grand jury to hear evidence as he weighs whether to seek more indictments in the investigation, which resulted in tax fraud charges in July against the Trump Organization and its longtime CFO Allen Weisselberg. They've pleaded not guilty to charges alleging they evaded taxes on lucrative fringe benefits paid to executives.

Both investigations are at least partly related to allegations by Trump's former personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, that Trump had a history of misrepresenting the value of assets.

James' office issued ernments for records pertaining to Trump's estate north of Manhattan, known as Seven Springs, and a tax benefit Trump received for plac-

## 1/6 panel seeks interview, records from congressman

The House panel investigating the Jan. U.S. Capitol insurrection ahead of the attack and requested an interview and documents from they could block the Republican Rep. Scott Perry of Pennsylvania on Monday, marking the first time the committee publicly sought to sit down with a sitting member of Congress.

The latest request launches a new phase for the lawmakers on the committee, who have so far resisted reaching out to one of their own as they investigate the insurrection by President Donald Trump's supporters and his efforts to overturn the

### Chickens (From front page)

wastewater plant. There

WASHINGTON (AP) — election. Perry and other congressional Repub-6 licans met with Trump strategized about how results at the Jan. 6 electoral count.

In a letter to Perry, Mississippi Rep. Bennie Thompson, the Democratic chairman of the panel, said the panel had received evidence from multiple witnesses, including then-acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen and then-acting **Deputy Attorney General** Richard Donoghue, that Perry had "an important role" in efforts to install Justice Department official Jeffrey Clark as act-

ing attorney general. The letter requests an interview with Perry, who pushed the Justice Department to overturn the election and met with Trump anead of the violent attack, according to investigators. The panel also asked for any documents and correspondence between Perry and Trump, his legal team or anyone involved in the planning of Jan. 6 events.

A request for comment left with Perry's office was not immediately returned.

The lawmaker representing Pennsylvania's 10th District was cited more than 50 times in

a Senate Judiciary report released in October outlining how Trump's effort to overturn his 2020 election defeat brought the Justice Department to the brink of chaos and prompted top officials there and at the White House to threaten to resign.

### Pentagon (From front page)

senior defense official. But several officials said that as a study group spoke with service members this year they found that many wanted clearer definitions of what was not allowed. The officials spoke about the new rules on condition of anonymity because they have not yet been made public. The military has long been aware of small numbers of white supremacists and other extremists among the troops. But **Defense Secretary Lloyd** Austin and other leaders launched a broader campaign to root out extremism in the force after it became clear that military veterans and some current service members were present at the Jan. 6 insurrection. In a message to the force on Monday, Austin said the department believes only a few service members violate their oath and participate in extremist activities. But, he added, "even the actions of a few can have an outsized impact on unit cohesion, morale and readiness - and the physical harm some of these activities can engender can undermine the safety of our people." The risk of extremism in the military can be

Perry, who has continuously disputed the validity of President Joe Biden's victory in Pennsylvania, has said he obliged Trump's request for an introduction to Clark, then an assistant attorney general whom Perry knew from unrelated legislative matters. The three men went on to discuss their shared concerns about the elec-The Justice Depart-

ment found no evidence of widespread fraud in

more dangerous because many service members have access to classified information about sensitive military operations or other national information security that could help adversaries. And extremist groups routinely recruit tute active participation. former and current ser-

Pennsylvania or any other state, and senior Justice officials dismissed Perry's claims

The recent Senate report outlined a call Perry made to Donoghue last December to say the department wasn't doing its job with respect to the elections. Perry encouraged Donoghue to elicit Clark's help because he's "the kind of guy who could really get in there and do something about this," the report said. Perry has previously

— such as the payment of dues or other actions that could be considered 'active participation."

The regulations lay out six broad groups of extremist activities, and then provide 14 different definitions that consti-

Soon after taking

said his "official communications" with Justice Department officials were consistent with the law.

The letter sent Monday night is the first time the panel has publicly released a request to a fellow member of Congress as it investigates Trump's communications with his Republican allies. But the panel notably did not subpoena Perry, as it has other witnesses close to Trump whom lawmakers believe have relevant information.

expanding its screening for recruits to include a deeper look at potential extremist activities. Some activities may not totally prevent someone from joining the military, but require a closer look at the applicant.

The department also

tion, Perry has said.

are also plans for some street overlay and stormwater projects, Diller said.

Council members also met in executive session to discuss personnel for 30 minutes. No action was taken after the session.

#### DORA (From front page)

127 and extends north to Plaza Bowling Lanes on 114 E. Forest St. It also would include West Bank Road, Havemann Road, Irmscher Boulevard and other areas where alcohol permit holders are located.

If enacted, a DORA would permit people to walk within the boundaries with one, DORA-designated cup purchased from one of the authorized alcohol permit-holders listed in the city ordinance, city administrators said. The cups would be single-use only, they said.

would Councilors have to determine what days and hours a DORA would be active. They could designate special events or certain days of the week. City officials also would have the ability to shut down the DORA anytime they see fit.

Among the business owners on Monday night vocally supporting the DORA proposal were Cody Muhlenkamp, coowner of The Anchor restaurant; Phil Moeller and Michael Hoying, who plan to open a food service business at 202 South Main Street and Julie Fleck, owner of Bella's Italian Grille on West Bank Road.

Some of the supporters believe a DORA would increase foot traffic not just for restaurants and/or bars, but

<mark>€</mark>M

for retail shops located within the DORA.

Fleck said a DORA could go a long way in aiding the ongoing downtown revitalization and development on West Bank Road. Bruns Construction Enterprises is busy on its Key Westinspired vacation rental community called Boardwalk Village, a combination of cottages, townhouse units, a swimming pool and lounge area, anchored by the Boardwalk Grill restaurant.

like "Something DORA ... it's really going to create people moving around the community a lot more and when you give them more places to stay, which we need, it's also going to create an opportunity for the businesses to step up a little bit also," Fleck said.

Jared Ebbing, Mercer County's community development director. said a DORA would help foster a social environment that's not necessarily based on drinking.

"I don't think it's about drinking, I really don't,' he argued. "I think it's more of just creating an environment where it's people wanting to come to Celina and enjoy the lake and enjoy the restaurants and the shops and everything else."

Hazel made a similar comment, saying "it's about creating a buzz, creating that excitement."

City administrators said they could continue working on the DORA proposal.

### Partly cloudy

Today and tonight will be partly cloudy with a high temperature of 41 degrees, local weatherman Dennis Howick said. Tonight's low will be 25. Wednesday will be partly cloudy with a high of 35.

#### **HOWICK'S REPORT**

Monday's low25	l
Monday's high39	l
Monday at 5 p.m35	

Extended forecast: Thursday, partly cloudy, 23-41; Friday, mostly cloudy with showers, 35-51; Saturday, partly cloudy, 35-45; Sunday and Monday, partly cloudy with isolated showers, 28-42, 32-42.

vice members because of their familiarity with weapons and combat tactics.

Officials said that while the substantiated cases may be small compared to the size of the military, which includes more than 2 million active duty and reserve troops. The number appears to be an increase over previous vears where the totals were in the low two-digits. But they also noted data has not been consistent so it is difficult to identify trends.

The new rules do not provide a list of extremist organizations. Instead, it is up to commanders to determine if a service member is actively conducting extremist activities based on the definitions, rather than on a list of groups that may be constantly changing, officials said.

Asked whether troops can simply be members of an extremist organization, officials said the rules effectively prohibit membership in any meaningful way

office, Austin ordered military leaders to schedule a so-called 'stand-down" day and spend time talking to their troops about extremism in the ranks.

The new rules apply to all of the military services, including the Coast Guard, which in peacetime is part of the Department of Homeland Security. Thev were developed through recommendations from the Countering Extremist Activities Working Group. And they make the distinction, for example, that troops may possess extremist materials but they can't attempt to distribute them, and while they can observe an extremist rally, they can't participate, fund or support one.

The rules, said the officials, focus on behavior not ideology. So service members have whatever political, religious or other beliefs that they want, but their actions and behavior are governed.

In addition to the new rules, the Pentagon is is expanding education and training for current military members, and more specifically for those leaving the service who may be suddenly subject to recruitment by extremist organizations.

More than 650 people have been charged in the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol, including dozens of veterans and about a half dozen active duty service members. Among them — an Army reservist who wore a Hitler mustache to his job at a Navy base.

Some of the rioters facing the most serious charges, including members of far-right extremist groups, have military backgrounds. In several of the prosecution cases already, the Justice Department has cited a rioter's military service as a factor weighing in favor of a jail sentence or house arrest. Prosecutors have repeatedly maintained that veterans' service, while commendable, made their actions on Jan. 6 more egregious.

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