

LOCAL & STATE

BRIEFS

Albany Council to meet June 2

The next Albany Regular Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. This meeting will be conducted virtually. The public is invited to join the meeting by using the following information:

- Go to www.zoom.us
- Click "Join A Meeting" in the upper right hand corner.
- Enter meeting ID: 816 0998 4548
- Enter password: 647744

Memorial Day activities in Athens

Flags will be placed on Veterans' graves by the American Legion and AMVETS in Athens on Saturday morning starting at 9 a.m. at the West Union Street Cemetery. Volunteers should meet at the West Union Street Cemetery.

On Monday, May 31, the Athens American Legion Post 21 will host a free community breakfast from 7-9 a.m. at the Legion home at 520 West Union Street. All are invited.

This year, a short ceremony commemorating Memorial Day will be conducted at the West Union Street Cemetery at 11 a.m. The Athens High School Band will provide musical support. This year's guest speaker is Lieutenant Colonel Mark Enriques, Commander of Detachment 650, Ohio University Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps.

There will not be a parade this year.

Tri-County Career Center Board of Education

Notice is hereby given that there will be a special public meeting of the Tri-County Career Center Board of Education of Athens County, OH, on Friday, May 28, 2021, at 8 a.m., in the school Board Room/Virtual at Tri-County Career Center, St. Rt. 691, Nelsonville, OH 45764.

The purpose of the special meeting is to conduct an executive session for the purposes of considering employment and discipline of personnel, and to take official public action regarding same. The public is encouraged to attend. Please note that public access to this special meeting will be provided virtually through contacting Rodney Schilling at rschilling@tricountyhightech.com.

Teenage participants needed for Ohio University study

Researchers at Ohio University are studying exercise preferences and performance among teenage boys and girls whose weight is higher than it should be.

Researchers are looking for children who are 14 to 18 years old at enrollment, meet weight criteria (at or above the 95th BMI percentile for height/age), can exercise safely, are not currently participating in organized sport, and are not pregnant. The study will last about 6 weeks, including assessments at the beginning and end and 4 weeks of supervised exercise (3 times weekly). Participants will be compensated for their time and effort.

If your child is interested in participating in this study or would like more information, please contact HCOMPlay@ohio.edu to schedule an appointment to meet with the research team.

Rep. Bill Johnson no longer seeking Senate seat, cites lack of funding

BY COLE BEHRENS
Messenger Assistant Editor



U.S. Rep. Bill Johnson.

U.S. Rep. Bill Johnson, who represents portions of Athens County, told The Youngstown Vindicator he was no longer seeking election for outgoing Sen. Rob Portman's seat.

The Youngstown Vindicator reported Monday that Johnson, R-Marietta, was not seeking election for the soon-to-be vacant U.S. Senate seat due to fundraising issues.

"This (Republican) Senate primary is atypical in Ohio," Johnson said to the Youngstown Vindicator. "There are many candidates declared. Many of them have significant money in the bank or can self-fund. I'm not going to deny that coming from a base in Appalachia, where fundraising is a challenge under the best of circumstances, it can be exceptionally slow in a contested primary. That's a disadvantage.

"From a candidacy perspective, I think I'm the guy that can

win and hold that seat, but the realities of fundraising make it a real challenge."

The Cincinnati Enquirer reported Johnson raised far less than other Senate race contenders after Portman announced he was not seeking reelection.

Johnson represents 18 counties in Congress, including portions of Athens County.

The current GOP field includes former Ohio Treasurer Josh Mandel, former Ohio Republican Party leader Jane Timken, Cleveland businessman Mike Gibbons, Cleveland luxury car dealer Bernie Moreno, Army veteran and EMS pilot Michael Leipold, The Cincinnati Enquirer reported.

ATHENS COUNTY LAND TRANSFERS

Listed prices do not necessarily reflect actual property values.

– Larry Kent, dwelling, 12 Barhour St., Glouster, to Lori and Jonathan Shaw, \$40,000.

– David Tolliver and Carolyn T. Tolliver, dwelling, 8 Ellis Ave., Chauncey, to Ralph Williams, Jr., Linda Williams, Ronnie Ervin and Sharon Ervin, \$30,000.

– Crystal Marie Hyland and Kenneth Dale Hyland, 11951 Black Road, Athens, to Katherine Hampel and James Kelly, \$113,150.

– Virginia Kirkendall FKA Virginia Barnhart, manufactured home, 9025 Five Points, to Harvey and Vicki O'Dell, \$21,5000.

– Chauncey Holdings Ltd., dwelling, 25 Smith St. Chauncey, to Martina Vonbargen and Christopher Vonbargen, \$82,000.

– The Snider Family Limited Partnership, building, 0 Marshfield Road, Athens, to Larry Corrigan, \$43,750.

– Jim D. Allman and Diana J. Allman, dwelling, 4380 Grandview Dr., Albany, to Danny Koska, \$168,500.

– Southeast Buckeye Properties, LLC, manufactured home, 1535 Old State Road, Coolville, to Derek C. Davis, \$156,000.

– Joseph Bishop and Erin Bishop, dwelling, 7424 SR 685, Glouster, to Stephen Bishop, \$10,000.

– Janice S. Chubb AKA Janice Sue Chubb, dwelling, 5226 Fisher Road, Athens, to Rockey A. Parsons, \$70,800.

– Estate of Norma J. Wagner, aka Norma Jean Wagner, deceased, dwelling, to 392 Fort Street, Nelsonville, to Marcie R. Wagner, \$41,582.73.

– Lindsey and Travis Rgsy, dwelling, 145 Pine Grove Dr., Nelsonville, to Jonathan and Chelsie McCulloch, \$27,000.

– Tusco Forestry, LLC, dwelling, 25526 Cemetery Road, Coolville, to Ryan Balsley and Jessica Balsley, \$176,000.

KELLY

Continued from page A1

Additionally, Kelly was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$2,936.60 relating to the charges that he sold county scrap and failed to deposit the money with the county.

As previously reported by The Messenger, Kelly has filed multiple appeals for the charges, claiming insuffi-

cient evidence for some of the convictions, including perjury and engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity.

Kelly was first elected as Athens County Sheriff in 2008, and re-elected in 2012 before being suspended from office in April of 2014 following his indictment. Rodney Smith was named acting Sheriff and then assumed the permanent role.

THROWBACK THURSDAY



Harley Warrick: Mail Pouch Barn painter

If someone asked Harley Warrick the process of painting a "Chew Mail Pouch Tobacco" sign, he'd say, "I start with 'e' in chew". He didn't use a stencil or a pattern, he simply started the "e", and worked his way down.

Harley must have known what he was doing. He had been painting these iconic signs since 1946.

"Chew Mail Pouch Tobacco, Treat yourself to the best", reads the message, painted usually in black and yellow, on thousands of barns throughout the U.S. These barns are cherished and admired by many. Not to say that they are excited about this wonderful tobacco product, but that they are witnessing an iconic American image from days gone by.

The advertising gimmick started in 1891 and the last barn was painted in 1992. At its peak, there were around 20,000 painted barns on country roads throughout the country, but mostly in the Mid-West.

The Highway Beautification Act of

1965 declared these barns and others like them, an eyesore and wanted them painted over. The anti-tobacco groups declared them, hazardous to your health. But the little black and yellow barns have survived, because they are now protected as historical landmarks.

Harley Warrick started his barn-painting career in 1946, when he thought it better than milking cows on the family farm for a living. At this time the Mail Pouch people hired four crews of two men each to travel around the country to paint barns. They roamed far from home with paint, scaffolding equipment, and all the Mail Pouch Tobacco they could chew. The painters were always welcomed by the barn owners, because they received a small yearly fee for the use of their barn used for advertising. But most importantly, they wanted their barn painted for free.

Later there were two crews and then the painting staff dwindled down to only Har-

ley. When I met Harley in 1989 at the Bernice Koehler farm near Guysville on Route 50, he was quite a celebrity. When I arrived, he thought that I was the guy from USA Today that was suppose to meet him there at this time. The big shot reporter was late or lost. So we talked, while he was finishing up this repaint job. He was taking his time while puffing on his pipe. He painted in the yellow rather haphazardly. Then cut in with black paint to make a perfect sharp letter. The man was a sure-handed craftsman with more than 4,000 painted barns to his credit.

Some barn owners repaint their Mail Pouch barns, but most painted barns are slowly fading away. Keep a sharp lookout for these national landmarks while they are still around.

If anyone has any memories or comments about Harley Warrick or Mail Pouch barns, please drop me a note. I will add it to my files. John Halley jhalley@athensmessenger.com

MASKS

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The amendment to the mandate also removes the physical distancing requirement from those who are fully vaccinated unless physical distance is required for work or by federal or state regulations.

The ordinance was extended by City Council to sunset Dec. 31, 2021, but it can be rescinded by the body before then.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine announced this month he would be rescinding all health guidelines, including a statewide mask mandate, beginning on June 2.

In mid-May, the CDC also removed their guidance encouraging mask use for vaccinated individuals and said they no longer need to physically distance.

"The CDC did not give us a month before changing their guidelines," Grace said during the meeting. "But we'd like to respond and reflect their guideline changes as quickly as possible."

As the city, state, and the nation drop mask mandates and distancing require-

ments, cases continue to fade in Athens County.

Last week, Athens went several days without reporting any cases of COVID-19 and there were 34 active cases of the virus as of Monday, according to the Athens City-County Health Department.

Athens Mayor Steve Patterson said during the meeting that another surge of the virus is still a threat, as countries like India grapple with a new wave of infections.

"We're not out of the woods for the COVID-19 pandemic," he said dur-

ing the meeting.

Those who flout the ordinance could suffer a \$100 civil fine for refusing to put on a face covering. The fine would be noncriminal, meaning it would not appear on a person's criminal record.

Before the amendment was passed to exempt people who are fully vaccinated in the city, exceptions were also made for individuals who have medical conditions, mental health conditions or developmental disabilities. Children under 10 years old are also exempt.

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