

North Union cagers advance in tourney

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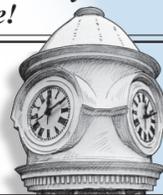
Marysville

Journal-Tribune

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Members of the Union County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team executed a search warrant this morning at 31578 Osborne Road, near Richwood. (Photo submitted)

UCSO executes search warrant at U.C. farm



From J-T Staff Reports

One man has been arrested and investigators remain on the scene at a home on Osborne Road.

At 8:46 a.m. this morning, members of the Union County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team executed a search warrant at 31578 Osborne Road, Richwood.

Union County Sheriff Jamie Patton said the search warrant was part of a "three-to-four month drug investigation."

He said the investigation "specifically surrounded methamphetamine."

He explained that when deputies arrived, they used the Marysville Police Department's Ballistic Armored Tactical Transport (BATT) vehicle to approach the home. Patton said one man came out of the home and

was taken into custody, but not charged.

He said the resident, Kevin T. Green, came out of the home "a short time later."

He said Green was asleep in the home at the time. He was taken into custody "without incident," Patton said.

Green, 31, of 31578 Osborne Road, was taken into custody and charged with two counts of felony drug trafficking, one a first-degree felony and the other a second-degree felony.

Patton said details about the search and the investigation are limited at this point because both are ongoing.

"At this point, they (investigators) are at the scene," Patton said this morning. "It has been secured and they are getting ready to execute their plan on the search."

Green will be arraigned in Marysville Municipal Court.

If convicted on both counts, Green could face as many as 18 years in prison.



YMCA installs new signs

Workers are shown above installing one of two new lighted signs at the Union County YMCA, 1150 Charles Lane, Tuesday. The sign above was placed above a north-facing window of the swimming pool, while the other was placed on a west-facing wall on the other side of the building.

(Journal-Tribune photo by Chad Williamson)

Support in place as NU deals with death of student



By MAC CORDELL  
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Pastors and counselors were available Tuesday at North Union schools to help students deal with the death of a classmate.

"It is with great sorrow that I inform you that an 8th grade student at North Union Middle School passed away unexpectedly last evening, March 1, 2021," North Union School District Superintendent Rich Baird wrote in a Tuesday letter to the community.

Lance Emberling, an investigator with the Union County Coroner's Office, said the 15-year-old Magnetic Springs boy was found by a family member about 9:45 p.m. at his home, where he was declared dead.

Baird said counseling from local professionals and clergy, will be available to support our students and staff for as long as we need them."

He said the district has "a strong support team within our schools as well."

The boy was attending the North Union Digital Academy.

"The North Union community will remain strong in support of these families," Baird wrote in his statement. "Positive support is important to all families and only accurate information should be shared."

Baird said the district's first focus is "on the family and doing everything we can to support them."

He asked parents or the public with questions to call him at (740) 943-2509.

A fund has been established at Richwood Bank to help the family with expenses. Those wishing to contribute may do so at any Richwood Bank location and donate to the "North Union Family."

Baird said he appreciates the relationship the district has with Mental Health and Recovery Board of Union County, which has helped with resources as well as connecting officials with counselors for the students.

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Please see NU on page 2

Jerome residents decry removal of trees

Neighbors call development "The Massacre at Indian Run"



By KAYLEEN PETROVIA  
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Though the topic was not on the agenda, more than a dozen Jerome Township residents were at Tuesday's trustees meeting to show their opposition toward a proposed McKittrick Road development.

Residents voiced concerns regarding The Farm at Indian Run - what neighboring property owner Bob Chapman coined "The Massacre at Indian Run."

Lynda Chapman said nearby residents recently "witnessed the disturbing destruction of numerous acres of woods and wildlife

habitat as the developers cut a clear and obvious path for an unapproved development."

In August, a 2-1 decision by the trustees approved the rezoning of 24.74 acres on McKittrick Road, east of Mitchell-Dewitt Road, from Rural Residential District to Planned Development District.

Conservation of existing trees was a point of contention frequently raised by residents during public hearings.

The rezoning would allow for the development of 40 single-family homes.

In response, residents circulated a petition for referendum which has since been filed with the Union County Board of Elections.

Residents will vote on the issue in November, pending board approval, according to Board of Elections Deputy Director Tina LaRoche.

Zoning Inspector Eric Snowden explained that

the referendum petition essentially pauses the trustees' decision to rezone the area. Until the issue is voted on, parameters of the previous zoning - Rural Residential District - are still in effect.

A number of residents argued that no progress should be made until the results of the referendum are clear.

Resident Kelly Transue spoke on behalf of Barry Adler, who was not present for health reasons.

She read from a statement asserting the developers "put on display their disrespect for our residents and zoning process."

Adler's statement, which Transue emphasized her agreement with, also questioned whether township officials prioritized the perspectives of community members or developers.

"Please remember, you work for the township residents, not outside developers," she read.

Other residents wondered whether the trustees have held developers accountable to zoning requirements.

"Recent developers have had an attitude that they are above challenge and cannot be stopped," Bob Chapman said.

He added there has recently been "what seems to be universal approval" of planned developments.

Resident Kevin Barney reasoned that it could be due to a "conflict of interest" surrounding personnel.

He noted that Gary Smith of G2 Planning and Design "seems to be involved with... a vast majority of development that's going on here."

Smith helped develop Jerome Township's comprehensive plan and previously served as the township's zoning inspector. He resigned in August 2016.

Smith founded G2 Planning and Design, where he continues to work, prior to

his employment by the township.

"It just does not sit right with me," Barney said. "It's troubling and slightly unethical to me."

Lynda Chapman also raised concerns regarding Smith's involvement with The Farm at Indian Run development.

While officials did not respond to comments about their history with Smith, Sloat said the trustees strive to consider residents' opinions when making zoning decisions.

"I do value your voices," she said.

Snowden said it is ultimately a matter of "the limits of the township zoning department under the laws of the State of Ohio."

After the zoning department received several complaints of the developer clearing trees, Snowden said he consulted with the

Two Journal-Tribune staffers are finalists for state AP awards



From J-T Staff Reports

A pair of Marysville Journal-Tribune staff members are finalists for awards in the 2020 Ohio Associated Press Newspaper Contest.

Reporter Mac Cordell is up for a pair of awards while managing editor Chad Williamson is a finalist in another category. The Journal-Tri-

bune competes against newspapers of a similar size from across the state in Division I of the contest.

Cordell is a finalist for Best News Writer, based on an entry comprised of various articles written throughout the year.

He is also a finalist in the Best Public Service category for his series of stories detailing the attempts to bring home the remains of a pair of hometown heroes from WWII. An amateur adventurer convinced local

residents and other that he could bring home the remains Marysville natives John "Blackie" Porter and Harold Neibler, a pair of airmen shot down in the Himalayas, claiming to have found their crash site during a previous expedition.

After a community fundraising drive provided the individual with thousands of dollars, he left for India minus a pair of Ohio State researchers, and later returned with six, one-gal-

lon plastic bags that he claimed contained remains of the airmen. He also failed to follow proper protocols in removing the suspected remains from India.

The adventurer was met at the Los Angeles International Airport by federal agents where he was detained and the bags confiscated. Examination of the contents of the bags found they contained no human remains and Cordell's stories raised the question of whether the community had been the victim of a

scam.

"Mac's series about Blackie Porter was also among his entries in the Best News Writer category, so in actuality his fact gathering and reporting on that series was strong enough to propel him to the top in two categories," Williamson said. "A couple of people close to the recovery effort tried to discredit the articles, but I think the events that unfolded, and now these awards, show the reporting was stronger than the rhetoric."

This is the second consecutive year Cordell has been nominated in the Best Public Service category. Last year, the paper took home top honors in the category for its continued coverage of the suicide crisis in the community.

Williamson is a finalist in the full page design category for his layout of an April package titled "Dream of Fields" about the struggles of a local athlete during his senior football and baseball seasons.

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