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Blue Dons outlast Crusaders.

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Major piece of Ohio River bridge in place

By **WARREN SCOTT**
Staff writer

WELLSBURG — A major piece of the new Ohio River bridge — the 830-foot-long main span — is now in place following many hours of planning and work by many.

And the task of moving and lifting the 4,100-ton structure, which was expected to occur over two days, was completed in less than 12 hours.

The day's operations were a major step in building the bridge, which will extend from state Route 2 about a mile south of Wellsburg to the intersection of Third and Clever streets in Brilliant.

Adam Mathews, senior operations manager for the Flatiron Corp. of Broomfield, Colo., the contractor for the \$131 million project, said Monday's operations went "very, very smoothly indeed. Everything went exactly to plan."

First, six sets of red, interlocking hydraulic jacks were inserted under the span at the Wellsburg assembly yard behind the Smith Oil gas station where it was built.

The jacks had been transported from Louisiana by four tandem barges, which also were used to carry the span about a mile south on the Ohio River.

About two and a half hours later, the span reached an area just south of its future location.

"The tugboats did an absolutely excellent job turning the span," Mathews said of the watercraft used to position the structure in the river for its next big move.

Mathews noted that each jack on the barge was capable of lifting 5,000 tons.

Together they were used to elevate the span about 80 feet, at a rate of about 6 feet per hour, and onto the bridge's innermost piers.

That operation was completed in several hours.

Mathews said it was the largest tied arch span to be conveyed in such a way by Flatiron but not the heaviest structure to be lifted by the company using the jacks.



Scott McCloskey

ON THE MOVE — Four tandem barges carried the 830-foot-long main span of the new Ohio River bridge downstream on Monday to its future location about a mile south of Wellsburg.

The heaviest was a 5,000-ton section of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay bridge built by Flatiron in 2013.

He said Monday's good weather prompted the decision to proceed with both phases in one day. Inclement weather had led to them being postponed three times.

Mathews said cool temperatures weren't a major concern for those planning the big move, but high winds and choppy water were.

"The whole operation is very weather- and river-dependent," said Mathews, who added, "We're certainly not going to do anything if it's not safe."

He added Flatiron and the West Virginia Department of Transportation had been in contact with the U.S. Coast Guard for some time so arrangements could be made for that area of the river to be closed to other traffic.

Mathews said aid also was provided by the Army Engineer Corps, while the Brooke County Sheriff's Department deployed its boat to deter curious boaters and other law enforcement agencies aided with traffic control and security along the adjacent highways.

"Our huge thanks go out to everyone involved," he said,

adding that includes engineers who planned the move and the various laborers who built the span and its piers.

Mathews noted there's still more work to be done. The jacks were slated to be lowered and shipped back Monday night or early today.

And crews will continue to work on other aspects of the bridge, including pouring concrete for the 60-foot-wide deck, which is supported by a framework of epoxy-coated rebar; extending the existing span about 200 feet over state Route 7 to Brilliant; and a half-mile long retaining wall along Route 2.

The wall allows the highway to be expanded toward the river, eliminating the need to excavate the adjacent hillside and lowering the project's costs.

Though the span isn't expected to be completed until October or November 2022, its progress on Monday drew interest and excitement from many spectators on both sides of the river.

Many gathered near Wellsburg's Sixth Street Wharf, the lot of the city's nearby water plant, along Third Street in Brilliant and other sites to watch the move.

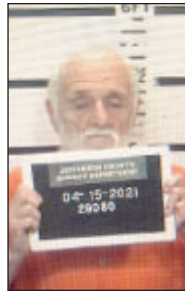
See **BRIDGE** Page 5A ↔

Bloomington man charged with retaliation waives preliminary hearing

By **LINDA HARRIS**
Staff writer

WINTERSVILLE — A Bloomington man charged with retaliation after he allegedly threatened the life of a common pleas court judge waived his right to a preliminary hearing Monday, sending his case directly to the May term of the Jefferson County grand jury.

Wintersville County Court Judge Michael Bednar ordered John Molnar Sr. released on his own recognizance, but warned him he'll be back behind bars if he goes near the Jefferson County Courthouse, Common Pleas Judge Joseph Bruzzeze



Molnar

Jr., Sportsman's Trading Post or its employees. He's also confined to his home and will have to wear an electronic monitor.

Molnar, 74, was taken into custody April 15 after he allegedly tried to buy a cartridge for a 9 mm handgun he claimed a neighbor had given him for protection, but he didn't have the gun with him or know the model number. The clerk who waited on him told authorities Molnar "started talking about his son being in trouble with the law for discharging a firearm in the city of Steubenville with an illegal silencer."

See **HEARING** Page 5A ↔



Joe Lovell

Contest winner

Erin Heilman of Wintersville, left, was the winner with the most votes for Random Acts of Kindness-Essential Workers Contest sponsored by Chambers and James Funeral Homes from Wellsburg and Follansbee and the Herald Star and The Weirton Daily Times. Also on hand for the presentation were Eric Fithyan, owner of Chambers and James, and the Rev. Ashley Steele, executive director of Urban Mission Ministries, recipient of a cash donation for the charity that was chosen.

COVID-19 SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death for confirmed COVID-19 coronavirus cases. The following symptoms may appear two to 14 days after exposure:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, call your health care provider for medical advice.

CONFIRMED CASES

- **Jefferson County:** 5,414 (150 deaths)
- **Harrison County:** 1,076 (24 deaths)
- **Hancock County:** 2,733 (98 deaths)
- **Brooke County:** 2,140 (62 deaths)
- **Ohio:** 895,504 (19,122 deaths)
- **West Virginia:** 151,671 (2,821 deaths)

INSIDE TODAY



Ryan eyes Ohio Senate run
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SOUND OFF

Today's question is:
Did you watch the Wellsburg Bridge float down the Ohio River?
Monday's question:
Do you plan to attend any summer concerts?

Yes 41%
No 59%
Log onto heraldstaronline.com before 9 p.m. today to cast your vote.

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Serving Steubenville and the Tri-State Area since 1806





Scott McCloskey

MOVING ON UP — Six sets of hydraulic jacks were used to lift the main span about 80 feet up and onto its innermost piers near state Route 7 and Brilliant.

Bridge

Continued from Page 1A

Some said it's a development they thought they would never see — and one they didn't want to miss.

Debbie Ulrich of Wellsburg recalled hearing talk of a Wellsburg-Brilliant bridge 60 years ago when her father, the late Hugh Newell, was working as a steelworker in Mingo Junction.

"I wish my dad would have been here to see it," she said.

Retired news reporter Matz Malone acknowledged the idea of a bridge between the two communities dates back many years before the Veterans Memorial Bridge, the most recent link between Steubenville and Weirton, was completed in 1990.

"Everybody said, we need a bridge, we need a bridge, but it was one of those things where the timing wasn't right," he said.

Malone noted strong proponents for the bridge have included the late Anthony Cipriani Sr., Wellsburg's mayor from 1981 to 1989; and Sue Simonetti, who died on March 30, in her 12th and final year as the city's mayor.

"Sue kept the fire going. It's a shame she can't be here to see this," he said.

Linda Edwards of Wellsburg came to the Sixth Street Wharf with her husband, retired dentist Dave Edwards, to view



Scott McCloskey

OUTLINING PLANS — Adam Mathews, senior operations manager for the Flatiron Corp., early Monday discussed plans for the main span's move at its assembly yard behind the Smith Oil gas station in Wellsburg.

the move.

Asked her opinion of the bridge, she said, "I think it's fantastic and I think it's going to be such an economic leader for this area."

Edwards said she hopes the span will help to attract new industries to the city.

"My dad was mayor here and they were talking about a bridge 60 years ago," said Jim Bailey, a retired law enforcement officer, as he watched from Brilliant.

"I think it will be a good thing," he said, adding he envisions making trips to Wellsburg for

groceries when the bridge is completed.

Wells Township Trustee Allison Yanssens said the bridge has spurred interest in developing properties near the bridge while many residents welcome another route for their daily commutes to work.

Dennis Boggs of Martins Ferry, who was watching from Third Street, said, "When I was working, I would've loved it. It would have saved me a lot of time."

But the spectacle of the span's move also drew visitors who anticipated no personal gain from the

bridge.

Penny Smith of Tappan Lake said she has followed the bridge's development with interest.

"I just couldn't wait to see how they were going to do it," she said, adding, "This is just so amazing."

Mark Dunkleman of Cincinnati said he heard about the bridge while doing business in Pittsburgh and had to see it personally.

"It's a pretty amazing feat of engineering they're doing," he said.

(Scott can be contacted at wscott@heraldstaronline.com.)

Continued from Page 1A

room at the Super 8 for a month and then using a Franciscan University of Steubenville sign across the road for target practice.

Bruzeze sentenced him April 20 to a year in prison and ordered him to make \$3,000 restitution to FUS.

The clerk told deputies

Molnar Sr. was upset because Bruzeze "would not let his son plea out the case" and was going to send him to prison. She said he also bemoaned the fact that the judge had survived an August 2017 assassination attempt that left the shooter, 51-year-old Nathaniel Richmond, dead.

The lawsuit describes peaceful demonstrators and bystanders being beaten, fired on with wooden and rubber bullets, and unlawfully arrested during protests in late May and June.

Yet at times the city's response worked, Monday's report concluded, with protesters feeling they could express their First Amendment rights. Police also showed "great restraint" over long days and as they were targeted with projectiles like bricks and bottles and were subject to "vicious insults," particularly aimed at Black officers, according to the report.

A federal lawsuit filed in July on behalf of more than two dozen protesters seeks monetary damages for injuries sustained in clashes with police.

Hearing

Molnar's 38-year-old son, also named John, entered a guilty plea the following day to charges of discharging a firearm on a public road, unlawful possession of dangerous ordinance, vandalism and improperly transporting a firearm in a motor vehicle, all felonies.

He admitted renting a

Report: Ohio capital unprepared for protests' size, energy

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Ohio's capital was unprepared for the size and energy of protests last year over racial injustice and police brutality, according to a report released Monday that also found most police officers felt abandoned by city leadership during that time.

Columbus — Ohio's largest city — has no advance plan for handling such protests, and suffered from a lack of coordination and even regular communication among city leaders once the protests began, the report said.

"In fact, some community members who

participated in this study reported thinking that city leaders were actively at odds over how to respond to the protests," according to the report.

The \$250,000 review was commissioned by the Columbus City Council and conducted by former U.S. Attorney Carter Stewart and Ohio State University's John Glenn College of Public Affairs.

At issue was the city's response to protests that began in late May after the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, who last week was convicted of second-degree unintentional murder, third-degree

DAILY HAPPENINGS

(To place your advertisement in the Daily Happenings column, contact the classified advertising department at (740) 283-4711. To include your birthday or a meeting notice, send the information to Daily Happenings, 401 Herald Square, Steubenville, Ohio 43952 or use the "Submit News" link on our website. Birthdays should be received by the Thursday preceding the week of the birthday.)

Today's birthdays

Kelli Barker, Wintersville.
Michael Capito, Weirton.
Tanya Kelly, Weirton.
Karl Wiseman, Steubenville.

Police reports

Jefferson County sheriff

Booked: William Edward "Billy" Hoover, 48, 323 Railroad St., Brilliant, was charged with domestic violence, Saturday. Callers reported a disturbance at a Mingo Junction residence, and when deputies arrived on scene, they said they found Hoover, who allegedly was intoxicated, trying to get in a family member's house for a welfare check. After ensuring the family member was OK, deputies said they offered to take Hoover home so he wouldn't end up in jail. Minutes after leaving, deputies were dispatched to Hoover's residence for a reported disturbance. Witnesses allege they Hoover punching a juvenile through a screen door.

Steubenville police

Strike out: Callers reported a Euclid Avenue resident and his landlord arguing and said one of them was armed with baseball bat, Sunday. Police said they had to separate the men, but when they arrived neither of them was holding a bat. The resident said they'd been arguing and the landlord grabbed a bat from his truck, so he retrieved one from his house, but neither of them took a swing at the other. They said the argument never turned physical.

Blocking traffic: Motorists in the 1500 block of Pennsylvania Avenue said individuals were standing in the street and wouldn't let cars pass through the area, Sunday. Callers reported the group surrounded one car and threw bottles it as it drove past them. Police located the individuals involved and advised them to stay out of the street and to let vehicles pass without impeding or throwing objects at them. An hour later an officer on patrol cited Elijah D. Rose, 18, 14 Paul Ave., Wintersville, for failure to use a sidewalk after he allegedly was spotted in the middle of the 1400 block of Pennsylvania Avenue, dancing.

Sold: The former owner of a house on St. Charles Drive that was sold at auction in November 2020 walked into it uninvited while

the buyer was inside cleaning and started arguing with her, Sunday. The man told police he wanted to remove some personal property still inside the residence, but the new owner said there was nothing inside that belonged to him.

Pilfered: A man who laid his wallet on the counter in the liquor store at Kroger's while he assisted the clerk in retrieving a bottle said it was gone when he went back to pay, Sunday. He said there was one other individual in the liquor shop while he was there. He lost about \$60 in cash plus a number of credit cards, as well as his license and Social Security card.

Car trouble: A man told police his wife was trying to take his mother's vehicle without permission, Monday. His mother said the vehicle was registered to her and she did not give anyone permission to take it. The man's wife claimed it was her car because she'd paid for it, but police confirmed it was registered to her mother-in-law.

Hearing things: A caller in the 900 block of Buena Vista reported hearing 12 shots fired from the area around Kingston Avenue, Sunday. Police checked the area but found nothing amiss.

Callers reported hearing a female screaming in the 700 block of Dock Street, Sunday. Police said it was a juvenile problem.

Booked: Cory Stevens, 31, 107 Stroud Ave., Weirton, was charged with suspicion of operating a vehicle under the influence following a two-vehicle accident Sunday on Washington Street at Third Street, Sunday. Stevens allegedly rear-ended a vehicle stopped at the red light. He also was cited for OVI and an assured clear distance ahead violation.

Fisticuffs: Police broke up a fight between juveniles in the 700 block of Pine Street, Sunday.

Overdose: Residents in the 800 block of North Eighth Street said a female who was visiting them became unresponsive after returning from the bathroom, Monday. Police said Steubenville firefighters used Narcan to resuscitate her, and afterwards the woman admitted taking a pill but said she didn't know what it was. Police said there was no evidence of illegal drugs, drug abuse instruments or paraphernalia near the woman or in the bathroom. She has until May 26 to provide written documentation that she's enrolled in a drug treatment program.

Issued: Paul D. Porter, 21, 310 Third St., Stratton, was cited assured clear distance ahead following a two-car accident at Sunset Boulevard and Starkdale Road, Sunday. No injuries were reported, police said.

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BRIEFS

Cross Creek sets public hearing

WINTERSVILLE — The Cross Creek Township Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed zoning plan and resolution, as required by Section 519.06 of the Ohio Revised Code, at 7 p.m. Oct. 20 at the Cross Creek Township garage located at 1267 Cadiz Road.

The proposed zoning plan and resolution, including text and maps, can be examined between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. beginning May 27 at the township garage. Contact Mitchell Morelli at (740)-535-6135 to schedule a time. This is a second public hearing after some edits to the document and map.

Regular meeting date changed

WINTERSVILLE — Cross Creek Township's regular meeting scheduled for May 3 has been changed to May 10 at 6 p.m. at the board office located at 1267 Cadiz Road to open bids for the repair of township Road 166. The regular business meeting will follow.