

Issue-Program List: 4th Quarter 2023 WBCO filed 1/2/2024

1. Government
2. Health
3. Services Organizations
4. Miscellaneous Issues
5. Education
6. Agriculture
7. Elderly Concerns

Kim Jenney, VP
1/2/2024

Kim Jenney

General Manager

DECEMBER 29 2023 NEWS 1

Support local businesses in Downtown Marion with the Downtown Marion Dollars Community Card. This digital gift card can be used at various local shops, restaurants, and entertainment venues. It's a fun and easy way to keep local spending local. By purchasing this card, you're helping create a cash pool that local businesses can rely on. Plus, studies show local businesses recirculate a higher percentage of their revenue back into the community compared to national chains. So, if you want to help your community, consider sending a Downtown Marion Dollars Community Card. For more info, email manager@downtownmarion.com.

Chronic conditions like kidney disease and diabetes are rising in Ohio, with a 60% increase in kidney disease. Living with these diseases can lead to isolation and worsen outcomes. Ohio State University College of Public Health Professor Dr. Teresa Long emphasizes the importance of small health-forward changes and social connectivity for better health. Nationwide, over 29 million adults live with three or more chronic conditions, facing healthcare burdens. However, the supply of primary care professionals has declined by 13%.

DECEMBER 28 2023 NEWS 1

Starting Jan. 1, 2024, Ohio's minimum wage will increase to \$10.45 per hour for non-tipped employees and \$5.25 for tipped ones, up from the 2023 rates of \$10.10 and \$5.05 respectively. This is in accordance with a Constitutional Amendment passed in 2006, which ties the state minimum wage to the rate of inflation. For smaller companies and 14- and 15-year-olds, the wage will remain at \$7.25 per hour. Employers can find the 2024 Minimum Wage poster on the Ohio Department of Commerce's website. More insights are available on the Department's podcast, Protecting What Matters.

Marion County Commissioners Kerr Murray and Andy Appelfeller face challenges in the crowded March 19 primary. Murray's opponents are Kevin Davidson, Courtney Reece, and Jason Schaber, while Appelfeller is challenged by Tim Mooney. Murray and Appelfeller's next terms start in 2025. The board of elections will certify petitions by Jan. 2, and independent candidates must file by March 18. Voter registration deadline is Feb. 20.

DECEMBER 27 2023 NEWS 1

A fatal crash occurred yesterday, in Monroe Township, Ohio. The driver, Bonnie J. Bogdan, 73, veered off Pleasant Valley Road in her 2012 Honda Pilot, hitting a culvert and two ditches before stopping. She was pronounced deceased at the scene. The cause of the crash is still under investigation.

The SPARC Council's Ready for Hire program, held at the Tomorrow Center in Cardington, prepares Morrow County students in grades 9-12 with a variety of skills. The program includes resume building, mock interviews, soft skills, life skills, financial literacy, and exposure to cutting-edge technology. Students can earn credentials, such as from a drone class. The program has seen positive impacts on students' confidence, interpersonal skills, and assertiveness. Registration is open, and students can apply through their school counselors. The program is funded by grants from the Ohio Department of Education.

DECEMBER 26 2023 NEWS 1

A four-car CSX train derailed in Willard on Sunday, displacing two 1,000-gallon propane tanks. Despite initial leaks, fire officials promptly shut down the tanks, preventing any immediate danger to the public and eliminating the need for evacuations. The police and fire departments are were on the scene, working to remove the derailed cars. The cause of the derailment is under investigation.

Aqua Ohio is launching a major water line replacement project in Marion starting January 2024. Over a mile of water main on Mount Vernon Avenue will be replaced, doubling the pipe size for eastern Marion County customers. The \$3.1 million project, executed in four phases to minimize traffic impact, involves replacing old cast iron pipes with new ductile iron ones, connecting 71 customers to the main, and increasing the number of fire hydrants and valves. The project, expected to last six months, will be conducted by Underground Utilities Inc. Aqua Ohio serves about 500,000 residents in 19 counties.

DECEMBER 22 2023 NEWS 1

The 2nd annual New Year's Eve Pickle Drop will take place at Pub House 123 in Uptowne Galion, Ohio on Dec 31. The event, which was a big hit last year, features a lit-up pickle drop at midnight, live music from 8-10pm, and specialty beer cocktails. The pickle is a tribute to the local Pickle Run festival. Parking is available at city lots and behind the venue. In case of bad weather, an indoor photo event with the pickle will be held. For updates, check Pub House 123 on Facebook or call 567-393-9394.

45-year-old Christopher Johnson was sentenced to 5-7.5 years in prison by Crawford County Common Pleas Court Judge Sean Leuthold for drug trafficking 1. Johnson was charged with second-degree felony charges after the Crawford County Special Response Team, in collaboration with the Sheriff's Office and METRICH, executed a narcotics search warrant at 327 West Warren St. in Bucyrus on November 22, 2023.

DECEMBER 21 2023 NEWS 1

In a ceremony before the City Council meeting, new members and administrators of the Bucyrus City Council were sworn in by Judge Pat Murphy. Outgoing Council President Jenny Vermillion thanked them for their commitment. The new team includes Mayor Bruce Truka, Law Director Brian Gernert, Auditor Kali Lewis Morgan, and several council members. Their first meeting is on January 2nd, 2024.

The ACLU of Ohio criticized the Big Walnut Local Schools Board for a policy banning pride flags in classrooms, calling it unconstitutional and an attack on students' First Amendment rights. Ryan Wynia, co-founder of Action for Tomorrow, echoed this sentiment and urged board members to repeal the policy. The ACLU's letter, drafted by Senior Staff Attorney Amy Gilbert, argued that the policy violates the prohibition of viewpoint discrimination under the First Amendment.

DECEMBER 20 2023 NEWS 1

The Crawford County Council on Aging (COA) is accepting donations for their new initiative, the COA Commodity Closet, to help meet the urgent needs of local seniors. The closet will stock food and essentials, with a special request for pull-tab cans. Seniors attending COA activities will receive vouchers to redeem at the closet. The COA hopes to have the closet operational by February and welcomes community support.

The Ohio House of Representatives passed House Bill 93, which changes how municipalities recover unpaid water, sewer, and disposal service charges from non-owner-occupied properties. The bill, sponsored by State Reps. Mark Johnson and Riordan McClain, aims to end the practice of charging property owners for tenants' unpaid bills. Instead, the responsibility will fall on the tenants. The bill is now awaiting consideration by the Ohio Senate.

DECEMBER 19 2023 NEWS 2

Da'Vell Winters, a Marion native and 2007 alumnus of Marion Harding High School, will be the keynote speaker at the 2024 MLK Breakfast on Jan. 15, 2024. He's currently the head of player care for the Washington Spirit of the NWSL. He has a diverse background in sports, having served in various roles at universities and professional sports franchises. Tickets for the breakfast are \$20. There's also an upcoming Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ohio Oratorical/Art/Essay/Poetry Contest with a submission deadline of Dec. 22.

The Mansfield Division of Police has recognized its staff's exceptional service in 2023. Amy Johnson, a transcriber marking her 20th year with the City of Mansfield, was named Civilian of the Year for her diligent work ethic and positive attitude. Detective Larry Schacherer, who led several homicide investigations, was named Detective of the Year. Sergeant Joseph Soehnen, a Division leader for over six years, was named Supervisor of the Year for his integral role in departmental firearms training and equipment management. Officer Justin Cikity, serving in the Community Services Bureau patrol section since 2015, was nominated for Officer of the Year by his supervisors and peers for his leadership, investigative work, and commitment to improving police service quality.

NOVEMBER 19 2023 NEWS 1

The Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force is seeking information on four fugitives: Derrick Taylor (felonious assault), Earl Whipple (rape), Matthew Hively (illegal drug conveyance), and Jose Flores (rape). They have ties to various cities in Ohio, Florida, California, and Nevada. If you have information, contact 1-866-4WANTED or text WANTED and your tip to 847411. Anonymous tips are accepted and rewards are available.

Herold's Salads in Cleveland, Ohio, is recalling various deli salads due to potential Listeria contamination. No illnesses have been reported. The recall includes products like Southern Potato Salad, Original Potato Salad, and Amish Macaroni Salad, among others, with best-before dates into January 2024. The products were available at multiple locations in Ohio. Customers are advised to dispose of or return the affected product. Listeria can cause serious infections, so anyone who has eaten the recalled product and developed symptoms should seek medical treatment.

DECEMBER 18 2023 NEWS 2

Thomas Chafin, 62, of Marion, had his life sentence without parole upheld by the Court of Appeals for raping a 7-year-old girl. The court found no grounds for a new trial, validating the case's strength. Prosecutor Grogan assured that Chafin will remain imprisoned for life, protecting the community. The ruling emphasizes Marion County's commitment to justice, especially in cases involving vulnerable children.

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Crawford County Farm Bureau and Cattlemen's Association donated autographed books by rancher and author Amanda Radke to seven local schools. Radke read to students at Hannah Crawford Elementary and spoke at an agricultural advocacy event, emphasizing the importance of sharing agricultural stories and sustainability. The event, attended by 130 people, was supported by various donors and sponsors, reinforcing the community's commitment to agriculture.

DECEMBER 18 2023 NEWS 1

Despite Ohio's recent legalization of adult marijuana use, the Department of Liquor Control clarifies that marijuana use is not permitted in establishments with a liquor permit. Issue 2, effective since Dec. 7, maintains marijuana as a controlled substance. Liquor permit holders allowing marijuana use risk administrative citation, fines, or license revocation. The DOLC, in partnership with the Department of Public Safety and local law enforcement, oversees these regulations.

A serious crash occurred on Dec 16,, on State Route 309, Ohio. Aaron King, 42, lost control of his vehicle, hit a guardrail, and rolled down an embankment. He was airlifted to a hospital with serious injuries. Alcohol is suspected. The crash is under investigation.

Check out the latest edition of Crawford County Legends. This week, the featured guest is retired Wynford Basketball Coach Rob Sheldon find it under sports on Crawford County Now dot com.

DECEMBER 15 2023 NEWS 2

The Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force is offering rewards for tips leading to the capture of four fugitives: Steve Earl, Marquis Allen, Trenton Schoenman, and Mark Morgan. They are wanted for various charges, including assault, drug violations, weapons charges, and strangulation. If you have information, contact 1-866-4WANTED or text WANTED and your tip to 847411. Anonymity and reward money are ensured.

Sears Woods State Nature Preserve will be temporarily closed on December 16, 2023, for a controlled deer hunt. Only pre-selected hunters can access the park. For more details, contact the Crawford Park District at 419-683-9000.

DECEMBER 15 2023 NEWS 1

Jon Vitello, from Marion County, pleaded guilty to ten counts of pandering obscenity involving a minor. The case was based on evidence found on his devices, with 3,483 illicit images and videos downloaded over several years. Despite working as an athletic trainer in Galion City Schools, no evidence suggests Vitello engaged in illegal activity involving students. None of the children in the images/videos were from Crawford or Marion County. Vitello awaits sentencing on Jan. 4, 2024, facing up to 84 years in prison.

The Federal Railroad Administration prioritizes four Ohio routes for Amtrak expansion, including a stop in Crestline. The routes are Cleveland-Columbus-Dayton-Cincinnati, Cleveland-Toledo-Detroit, Chicago-Fort Wayne-Columbus-Pittsburgh, and the Daily Cardinal Service. Each corridor will receive \$500,000 for planning. However, Ohio's continued participation in the expansion is uncertain. Crestline's inclusion in the plans will yield results in about five years.

DECEMBER 13 2023 NEWS 2

Mayor Scott Schertzer and council members Ayers Ratliff and Aaron Rollins have called for Meginness to resign due to controversies. Despite the upcoming change in council members, Mayor-elect Bill Collins intends to continue seeking her removal. Collins has considered Meginness for the soon-to-be-vacant transit director position, following Deb Price's retirement. However, Councilman Ratliff opposes this, questioning Meginness's competence and the city's financial viability under her tenure. No action was taken against Meginness in the Dec. 11 council meeting.

The Ohio State University at Marion and Marion Technical College held a mathematics challenge for local high schools, offering \$18,000 in scholarships. The top three students in each grade received individual awards, with first place earning \$1,000. The top teams were North Union High School (1st), Pleasant High School (2nd), and Marion Harding High School (3rd). The event emphasized STEM education and college affordability.

DECEMBER 13 2023 NEWS 1

North Central State College is launching a Drone Program in 2024, in collaboration with the NC State Foundation and sponsored by Craig Smith Chevrolet and Craig Smith RV. The program combines online coursework with in-person training, preparing students for the FAA Small UAS Rule (Part 107) licensure test. It aims to assist safety forces and first responders in the community, with a focus on crime prevention and emergency response. The program is funded through donations, with funding available for the first 10 enrollees.

52-year-old Matthew Smith, from Galion, has pleaded guilty to three counts of pandering sexually oriented matter involving a minor. He was found with explicit images of minors and has been sentenced to 17 to 21 years in prison, with sentences served consecutively. Six other charges were dismissed as part of his plea. Smith will be a tier II sex offender and will receive credit for 209 days already served.

DECEMBER 12 2023 NEWS 2

D'Larius J. Evans, 24, from Marion, was arraigned on multiple charges including felonious assault and discharging a firearm near a prohibited premises. The charges stem from a shooting incident on Dec. 4, where Evans allegedly fired at a vehicle occupied by two adults and two children. He fled the scene but was later apprehended. The firearm found in his vehicle matched the shell casings at the scene. Evans, who was wanted on a nationwide warrant from Georgia, is being held at the Multi-County Correctional Center in Marion with a bond set at \$250,000. His court appearance is scheduled for Dec. 11.

Marion City Auditor Miranda Meginness (MAGINIS) is resigning effective January 5, 2024, after a tumultuous six months in office marked by disagreements with council members and fines by the IRS. Despite surviving a vote of no confidence, calls for her resignation persisted. Meginness believes many issues were holdovers from her predecessor's tenure. She will become the city's Director of Transit in the new year. Mayor-elect Bill Collins will appoint the next auditor

DECEMBER 12 2023 NEWS 1

Timothy Montgomery's appeal was denied by the Third District Court of Appeals. He had challenged his murder conviction and sentencing by the Crawford County Common Pleas Court, arguing the verdict was unsupported and evidence was incorrectly admitted. The Appellate Court affirmed the judgment, finding no prejudicial error. Montgomery is serving 15 years to life for the murder of Michael Benedict in 2021.

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The Marion County K9 Service Memorial, dedicated on Dec. 9, honors the service of K9 deputies and officers since 1973. The memorial, located at Marion City Hall, features the names of all 33 K9 deputies and officers. Marion Police Chief Jay McDonald highlighted the multifaceted role of K9s in community safety, from drug detection to community engagement. The project, supported by American Legion Post #584, cost approximately \$50,00.

DECEMBER 11 2023 NEWS 2

On Friday, Galion Police and METRICH executed a search warrant at 930 Harding Way East, Galion, as part of an investigation into alleged prescription drug sales. Shelby Compston was arrested, and Cheyenne Lenhart was detained on an unrelated warrant. Suspected drugs and paraphernalia were collected, with potential additional charges pending. Citizens are urged to report suspicious activity to Galion Police or METRICH.

A fatal crash involving Heath Mahl, 41, is under investigation by the Norwalk Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. The incident occurred on County Road 35 in Venice Township, Seneca County. Mahl's vehicle veered off the road, struck a fence and trees. Alcohol is considered a factor. Mahl, who was wearing a seatbelt, died from his injuries and was transported to Mercy Health in Tiffin.

DECEMBER 11 2023 NEWS 1

On December 7th,, the Crawford County Sheriff's Office and METRICH concluded a narcotics investigation at two residences in Bucyrus, Ohio. Matthew Carroll, David Adkins, Ann Adkins, and Jamie George-Carroll were arrested, with Ann Adkins later released. A significant quantity of prescription narcotics and drug paraphernalia was found. All are facing charges of trafficking in prescription medications, with potential additional charges pending review by the Crawford County Prosecutor's Office. The investigation is ongoing.

A bomb threat targeting Ohio schools, including Crawford County, was deemed a hoax by the FBI and local law enforcement. The threat, circulated via email, prompted a thorough search of school buildings. Superintendent Mark Robinson assured the safety of the buildings and readiness for a normal school day, with heightened security measures in place. For any new developments check out [crawford county now dot com](http://crawfordcountyohio.com).

DECEMBER 8 2023 NEWS 2

On December 7th, 2023, the Crawford County Sheriff's Office and METRICH concluded a narcotics investigation at two residences in Bucyrus, Ohio. The primary targets, Matthew Carroll and David Adkins, were arrested along with two others. A significant quantity of prescription narcotics was found. All are facing charges of trafficking in prescription medications, with potential additional charges pending review. The investigation is ongoing, and citizens are urged to report any suspicious activity.

The Community Foundation for Crawford County celebrated #Giving2sday on November 28th, raising over \$250,000 across 54 funds. The Board and local businesses contributed an additional \$35,000. The event was a local success, contrasting the national trend of flat donations. Prizes were awarded to top-earning funds in three categories, and three donors chosen in the FCBank Power Hour each directed an additional \$500 to a fund of their choice. The next #Giving2sday will be on December 3, 2024.

DECEMBER 8 2023 NEWS 1

The Marion Police Department has awarded Officer Bryce Lowry and Lieutenant Dylan Reese as Officer and Supervisor of the Year for 2023. Lowry, a former dispatcher and recent academy graduate, joined the department in 2022 and is praised for his dedication and natural ability. Reese, a North Union High School and Marion Technical College graduate, started at Marion PD in 2015, was promoted to Lieutenant in 2022, and leads the field training program and the Special Response Team. Both are commended for their exceptional service to the community.

The Community Foundation for Crawford County celebrated #Giving2sday on November 28th, raising over \$250,000 across 54 funds. The Board and local businesses contributed an additional \$35,000. The event was a local success, contrasting the national trend of flat donations. Prizes were awarded to top-earning funds in three categories, and three donors chosen in the FCBank Power Hour each directed an additional \$500 to a fund of their choice. The next #Giving2sday will be on December 3, 2024.

DECEMBER 7 2023 NEWS 2

Corrections Officer Garrett Thomas of Mansfield, received the Award of Valor after being injured while responding to a distress call on February 26, 2023. He found a fellow officer struggling with an inmate and was injured while intervening. Sheriff Scott Kent praised Thomas' bravery and quick thinking, which likely prevented further injuries. This award underscores the daily risks faced by corrections officers and their commitment to public safety.

The Bucyrus Area Chamber of Commerce and Bucyrus Kiwanis Club are hosting the Candlelight Christmas and Santa Parade tonight 5-8 p.m. in downtown Bucyrus. The event features a Santa Parade, a visit to the Santa House at Schine's Art Park, and an iceless skating rink hosted by FCBank. There will be festive music, photo opportunities, and treats like hot chocolate and cookies. Don't miss this holiday event!

DECEMBER 7 2023 NEWS 1

D'larius J. Evans, 24, was arrested in Marion County for allegedly firing shots at a vehicle during a road rage incident. The incident occurred near Davids Street and West Columbia Street. Evans, who is wanted on a nationwide warrant from Georgia, faces multiple charges including being a fugitive from justice and felonious assault. No injuries were reported from the incident. Evans is currently held at the Multi-County Correctional Center in Marion, with his case referred to the Marion County Prosecutor's Office. No court date has been set yet.

The Bucyrus Fire Department is hosting a Toy Drive on Saturday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., dedicated to Lt. John Schiefer. Donations can be dropped off at the firehouse or other city locations. On the day, firefighters will collect toys from vehicles at the firehouse and from businesses with collection boxes. The unwrapped, new toys will be given to the Salvation Army for distribution.

DECEMBER 6 2023 PM NEWS

At last night's Bucyrus City Council meeting, the decision to pay outgoing Safety Service Director Jeff Wagner in accrued sick leave was postponed until December 19th. Questions were raised about the city's obligations and policies regarding Wagner's sick time. Votes on police, dispatcher, and Chief contracts were also deferred. Newly elected city officials will be sworn in on December 19th. A repeat offender provision was added to the Property Maintenance Code.

The Ohio Division of Liquor Control urges responsible celebration this festive season. They've launched an online platform for Social Responsibility & Alcohol Abuse Prevention, providing self-assessment tools, helplines, and guidance for permit holders. DOLC Superintendent Jim Canepa emphasizes the goal of fostering a culture of social responsibility.

The DOLC reminds that serving alcohol to under-21s is illegal. Party hosts should offer alcohol-free options and ensure safe transportation.

DECEMBER 6 2023 NEWS 2

Marion Felder, age 39, of Toledo, was arrested on December 3rd, for a probation violation. Officers used Flock Safety Cameras to locate his vehicle and found it unoccupied in the city's southwest part. They determined Felder's location, surrounded the house, and he surrendered without resistance. The officers' work in apprehending Felder is commended.

Over 3,500 foster children in Ohio need homes. State agencies and faith congregations are collaborating to find families for these children through the "One Church One Child" program. Jennifer Kollar of Mahoning County Children Services emphasizes the role of the faith-based community in supporting these efforts. The state continues to face a placement crisis, with over 500 children spending at least one night in government offices in 2021-2022 due to lack of placement.

DECEMBER 6 2023 NEWS 1

At last night's Bucyrus City Council meeting, the decision to pay outgoing Safety Service Director Tim Wagner \$30,000 in accrued sick leave was postponed until December 19th. Questions were raised about the city's obligations and policies regarding Wagner's sick time. Votes on police, dispatcher, and Chief contracts were also deferred. Newly elected city officials will be sworn in on December 19th. A repeat offender provision was added to the Property Maintenance Code. The annual Santa Parade and Candlelight Christmas will be held downtown tomorrow.

The Ohio Division of Liquor Control (DOLC) urges responsible celebration this festive season. They've launched an online platform for Social Responsibility & Alcohol Abuse Prevention, providing self-assessment tools, helplines, and guidance for permit holders. DOLC Superintendent Jim Canepa emphasizes the goal of fostering a culture of social responsibility. The DOLC reminds that serving alcohol to under-21s is illegal. Party hosts should offer alcohol-free options and ensure safe transportation. Bars and restaurants should check IDs, refuse service to intoxicated patrons, and prevent drink tampering and illegal substances. Visit com.ohio.gov/SocialResponsibility for more information.

DECEMBER 5 2023 NEWS 2

Jennifer Glaeser, found guilty of felony stalking and violating a protection order, is to undergo a pre-sentence investigation. Judge Sean Leuthold ordered the evaluation and ruled that Glaeser must remain in custody until an electrically monitored house arrest device is installed. Her bond will be reinstated, and she will be under house arrest until sentencing. The sentencing hearing will be scheduled post-investigation. Updates will be provided by Crawford County Now.

The U.S. Marshals Service and local law enforcement are seeking four fugitives: LJ Harris, 43, wanted for rape and attempted rape; Steven Drummond, 27, wanted for failure to register as a sex offender; Nestor Salazar, 34, wanted for illegal conveyance of drugs; and Mark Morgan, 57, wanted for strangulation. The Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force is offering a reward for information leading to their capture. Anyone with information is urged to contact the task force.

DECEMBER 5 2023 NEWS 1

The Marion Area Harley Riders Association donated a record \$41,371.21 to the 2023 Christmas Clearinghouse program. The funds will provide Christmas gifts and necessary items to children and families in Marion County. The donation was presented during the annual Peanut Push event. The Christmas Clearinghouse is still accepting donations of non-perishable food items, blankets, hats, gloves, toys, books, and monetary contributions. Donations will be distributed on Dec. 16.

Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, Ohio, has completed a 420-foot-tall tower for its upcoming roller coaster, Top Thrill 2, making it the only park with two such towers. The ride, debuting in 2024, will launch thrill-seekers in reverse at 101 mph, ascending the new tower at a 90-degree angle. Top Thrill 2 is set to be the world's tallest and fastest triple-launch roller coaster.

DECEMBER 4 2023 NEWS 2

A Mansfield man was fatally shot by another man who claimed self-defense at 29 Minerva Ave. this morning. The shooter was arrested on a different charge. The coroner and detectives are investigating the death and asking for tips. Call Detective Clapp at (419) 755-9470 if you know anything.

Come to the Disney house at 1195 Brook Park Road in Marion on December 9th from 6-8pm for a drive-through fundraiser for Marion Area Humane Society. Meet adoptable dogs, see amazing Christmas lights, and greet Disney characters. It's a fun and festive event for the whole family. Support the Marion Area Humane Society and find your new best friend.

DECEMBER 4 2023 NEWS 1

The New Washington First Responders hosted a toy drive at the Dutchtown Hometown Christmas event on Thursday. They received over 600 toys from CSX and First Responders Children's Foundation, who have been supporting them for two years. The event also had fun activities and photo opportunities with Santa and Frozen characters. If you want to donate toys, you can still attend the upcoming events at Bloom Township and Tiro-Auburn Fire Departments. The toys will help local children in need.

Jennifer Glaeser, a Galion woman, was found guilty of four felonies by a jury on Friday. She violated a protection order three times and stalked someone. She could face up to 54 months in prison. The judge revoked her bond and sent her to jail. No sentencing date has been set.

DECEMBER 1 2023 NEWS 2

The Marion County K9 Memorial, honoring the service of local K9s, will be unveiled on December 9 at 2 p.m. The ceremony will feature active and retired K9 teams. The day will also include family-friendly activities in downtown Marion.

The Ohio Division of Liquor Control urges responsible celebration this festive season. They've launched an online platform for alcohol abuse prevention and social responsibility. It provides self-assessment tools, helplines, and guidance for permit holders. The DOLC reminds that serving alcohol to under-21s is illegal. Party hosts should offer alcohol-free options and ensure safe transportation. Bars and restaurants should check IDs, refuse service to intoxicated patrons, and prevent drink tampering and illegal substances. Visit com.ohio.gov/SocialResponsibility for more information.

Check out the deals still available at Crawford County Now deals dot com. Save money at local businesses like Scapes by Sarah, Leys Jewelry, and Anytime Fitness.

DECEMBER 1 2023 NEWS 1

On Wednesday, the MARMET Drug Task Force executed a search warrant in Marion, resulting in the seizure of significant quantities of Fentanyl and crack cocaine, an illegal firearm, and \$7,562 in cash. Two individuals, Larry Lewis (46) and Richa Markley (37), were arrested and charged with drug trafficking and weapons under disability. The case has been forwarded to the county prosecutor. The operation was praised by local law enforcement for removing major drug traffickers and making the community safer.

The 2024 Dog License Registration Program in Crawford County has begun. Dog owners can purchase a one-year license for \$18, a three-year license for \$54, or a permanent license for \$180. Licenses can be purchased by mail, in person at the County Auditor's Office, online, or at designated satellite agencies. An additional fee is charged for online purchases. Kennel licenses are only available at the Auditor's Office. The deadline for purchase is January 31, 2024.

NOVEMBER 30 2023 NEWS 2

The Community Foundation for Crawford County has awarded the Crawford County Public Health and Galion City Health Department with its Spirit of Philanthropy award for their service during the COVID-19 pandemic. The award, presented on National Public Health Thank You Day, recognizes those who give back to the community. Lisa Workman, the Foundation's president, praised the health professionals for their dedication. Andrea Barnes and Kate Siefert, health commissioners, accepted the award on behalf of their teams.

In the "Find Forgotten Funds" competition between Ohio and Michigan, Michigan had more searches for unclaimed funds , but Ohio had more claims filed . Despite fewer searches, Ohio paid out over \$3.4 million in unclaimed funds. The competition led to over 52,000 people in both states finding their missing money. Claims can still be filed and processed, and residents are encouraged to search for unclaimed funds regularly on missingmoney.com.

NOVEMBER 30 2023 NEWS 1

The 41st edition of "Christmas at the Palace" is set to take place from Dec. 1-3 at the Palace Theatre in downtown Marion. The show, themed "Christmas Spectacular," features Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, Kyle the UPS Guy, and a trio of elves. The cast includes a mix of seasoned performers and newcomers, with a special highlight on Benjamin Blankenship, who plays the elf Eddie. The show also features a large women's tap line and a cast of young performers. Tickets range from \$12 to \$29. For more information, visit the theater website or call the box office at 740-383-2101.

Trooper Robert P. Myers, who has served at the Mount Gilead Post since 2018, has been named the 2023 Trooper of the Year for both the post and the Columbus District. Myers, a Massillon native and Jackson High School graduate, has received several awards throughout his career. He and his wife, Amanda, live in Delaware County with their two children. Myers is now a contender for the State Trooper of the Year award.

NOVEMBER 29 2023 NEWS 2

64-year-old Will T. Crace of Marion was fatally struck by a train at a CSX crossing in Marion on Nov. 27, 2023. Crace was seen walking eastbound within the activated crossing gates as the train was moving northeast. No foul play is suspected. The investigation, assisted by the Marion Fire Department, the Marion County Coroner's Office, and CSX personnel, is ongoing as they await autopsy and lab analysis results.

Due to procedural errors, many Ohioans risk losing their Medicaid health coverage. Coverage protection, extended during the COVID-19 pandemic, ended this year, and eligibility reviews have resumed. Approximately 443,000 residents have lost their federal health coverage, mostly due to missing paperwork. This issue particularly affects transient individuals who may not receive their mail. Despite an increase in Medicaid enrollees during the pandemic, over 1.3 million people have had their coverage reviewed. Efforts to expedite automatic renewals include bot technology, linking Medicaid cases to SNAP benefits, and manual eligibility reviews by county caseworkers.

NOVEMBER 29 2022 NEWS 1

The Marion County Fair Board's annual holiday light display, Christmas by Candlelight, has been featured on the Ohio Holiday Lights Trail. Governor Mike DeWine and Lydia Mihalik, director of the Ohio Department of Development, praised the trail for its festive atmosphere and community spirit. The Marion display is part of the trail for the second year, with this year's trail featuring a record 70 stops. Christmas by Candlelight offers discounted tickets, wagon rides, and a Santa House, open on weekends and December 15-25. The 2023 Ohio Holiday Lights Trail map is available online.

Asian longhorned ticks, first detected in the U.S. in 2017, have spread to at least eleven counties in Ohio since 2021, causing significant infestations and even cattle deaths. These ticks, as small as a sesame seed, are now nearly impossible to eradicate. Ohio State University is seeking solutions to manage the problem. Ohioans can help with research efforts by reporting suspected tick sightings to 'ticks@osu.edu'. More information about these ticks and prevention methods is available on Ohio State's "Bite Site" website.

November 28 2023 news 2

A pedestrian was fatally struck by a train at a CSX crossing in Marion on Nov. 27, 2023. The incident occurred at 4:02 p.m. on W. Center near Curve Street. The victim's identity is not yet released. The Marion Police Department, Marion Fire Department, Marion County Coroner's Office, and CSX personnel responded to the scene. Further details will be released today.

Ohio Mutual's CFO, David Hendrix, is retiring on December 31. He will be succeeded by Andrew M. Wallen, the current Corporate Controller. Hendrix, who joined Ohio Mutual in 2005, has been instrumental in the company's success, growing its surplus from \$88 million to nearly \$310 million, and sales from \$128 million to \$350 million. Wallen, who joined Ohio Mutual in 2022, has previously worked at Nationwide Insurance and Huntington Bank. He is excited to build upon the foundation laid by Hendrix.

NOVEMBER 28 2023 NEWS 1

Connie Stoner, 53, pleaded guilty to tampering with evidence in a drive-by shooting case in Galion. Her son, Dakota Craft, is serving a 24-year sentence for the same incident. Stoner received a 36-month sentence, with eligibility for judicial release after six months. She's currently out on bond and will report to prison on January 5, 2024.

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The U.S. Marshals Service and the Richland County Sheriff's Office are seeking four fugitives:

Rafael Martinez, 39, wanted for a bond violation on charges of trafficking in fentanyl and a parole violation on a rape charge.

Trenton Schoenman, 23, wanted for a probation violation on charges including weapons under disability and possession of drugs.

David Greene, 38, wanted for failure to verify address on a sex offense. He has ties to Mansfield and Galion.

Brian Mays, 38, wanted for possession of fentanyl.

Anyone with information can contact the Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force at 419-774-3565 or 1-866-4WANTED, or send web tips at the U.S. Marshal website.

NOVEMBER 27 2023 NEWS 2

On November 22, a narcotics search warrant was executed at 327 West Warren St. in Bucyrus by the Crawford County Special Response Team, Sheriff's Office, and METRICH. The investigation led to Christopher Johnson, 44, facing drug trafficking charges, and Whitney Johnson, 32, charged with permitting drug abuse and drug possession. The Sheriff's Office urges citizens to report suspicious activity at 419-562-7906 or anonymously via the METRICH app or website.

United Way of North Central Ohio has appointed Carmon Walter as the new Development Director for Crawford and Wyandot counties. Walter will coordinate United Way's annual campaign in the region, manage workplace campaigns, coordinate fundraising events, and build relationships with donors and community impact partners. Walter, a Crawford County native, is excited to give back to her community. United Way of North Central Ohio is also seeking a Development Director for Marion County. More information can be found at unitedwaynco.org.

NOVEMBER 27 2023 NWS 1

Joshua R. Meade Jr., 19, pleaded guilty to rape and gross sexual imposition charges in Marion County. Despite maintaining his innocence, he acknowledged the prosecution's evidence would likely lead to a guilty verdict. He was sentenced to 10-15 years for rape and 48 months for gross sexual imposition, to be served concurrently. Meade, showing no remorse, accused the victim of lying. He will register as a Tier III sex offender upon release and will be subject to five years of post-release control. The incidents occurred between January 2022 and May 2023 with a 12-year-old girl.

The Crawford County Community Concert Association is hosting Michael Cavanaugh, known for his lead role in the Broadway musical *Movin' Out*, on December 14 in Bucyrus. Cavanaugh, who was handpicked by Billy Joel, has been reinterpreting the modern pop/rock songbook and will present his "Merry Rockin' Christmas Show" at the Bucyrus Elementary School Auditorium at 7:00 PM. Doors open at 6:30 PM. For tickets and more information, visit The Crawford County Community Concert Association website or call 800 965-9324. Student discounts are available.

NOIVEMBER 24 2023 NEWS 2

In our community, the 40-year-old Holiday Cheer campaign is underway, bringing joy and support to families in need. Since November 21, the campaign has been raising funds and food to provide millions of nutritious meals through Christmas Eve. Julie Chase-Morefield, CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank, emphasizes that a \$5 donation can offer 35 meals, making a meaningful impact during the holiday season. Every dollar raised goes to Second Harvest's 120 partner charities, supporting food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters.

In other news, the Ohio State Highway Patrol celebrates Trooper Sarah J. Kliesch as the 2023 Bucyrus Post Trooper of the Year. Recognized for outstanding service, leadership, and professional ethics, Trooper Kliesch, originally from Upper Sandusky, has been an asset at the Bucyrus Post since her transfer in 2018. Actively involved in community events, Trooper Kliesch brings dedication and exemplary service to both her patrol duties and community engagement.

NOVEMBER 24 2023 NEWS 1

Today is Black Friday, and tomorrow is Small Business Saturday. Ohio Department of Development encourages Ohioans to support local businesses. With over 90,000 small business retailers, Ohio recognizes their positive economic impact. Check many locally made items featured on the Made in Ohio webpage to prepare you for the shopping day. The Ohio Department of Development also supports Ohio's small business owners through business assistance centers and various loan programs.

GOAL Digital Academy, an online school, offers a dynamic work environment for its employees. As the district continues to grow, the school is actively seeking exceptional candidates to join its team. Teachers like Kyleigh Holtsberry enjoy the unique and flexible teaching experience at GOAL. More on this story on Crawford County Now Dot Com.

NOVEMBER 22 2023 NEWS 2

Trooper Matthew K. Walker of the Ohio State Highway Patrol has been named 2023 Trooper of the Year at the Marion Post for his outstanding service, leadership, and professional ethics. He joined the Highway Patrol in 2021 and has received several commendations.

In 2024, the Richland County Foundation, Mansfield-Richland County Public Library, Renaissance Theatre, and Richland Source will launch Kaleidoscope, a speaker series aimed at fostering community dialogue and understanding. The series will feature nationally known authors and tackle complex community issues. The goal is to inspire new connections, perspectives, and tools for a stronger community. The series begins on Jan. 30 with Majora Carter, author of "Reclaiming Your Community." Other speakers include Matthew Desmond, Amanda Ripley, and Andrew Ramsammy.

NOVEMBER 22 2023 NEWS 1

The Richland Area Chamber & Economic Development will honor small businesses on December 1 at the Kehoe Center. Awards will be given to businesses with 15+ and 14 or fewer employees, and large and small non-profit organizations. Finalists include Elzy Milling & Trade, Drs. Heringhaus, Local Project Pro, Hamilton Insurance Group, JPB Professional Marketing, and Sluss Realty. The non-profit winners are Downtown Mansfield, Inc., and Mansfield Playhouse. Register by November 24th online or by calling 419-522-3211.

In other news, Hord Family Farms, a fifth-generation pork producer, has acquired New Horizon Farms, a farrow-to-finish swine operation in Pipestone, Minn. The farm will now operate as Hord Farms West, maintaining current operations. The acquisition reflects Hord Farms' strategic growth and commitment to producing quality food products.

NOVEMBER 21 2023 NEWS 2

The Marion County Dog Pound is seeking dog lovers to foster a dog over the holidays. With nearly 70 dogs currently in the facility, there's a perfect match for everyone. Fostering provides valuable insights into the dogs' personalities and behaviors and can make a significant difference in a dog's life. If a particular dog catches your eye, reach out to the pound. The facility will be closed to the public on Thanksgiving, but the dogs will still receive care. Meet and greets or pickups must be scheduled by Wednesday evening.

The rivalry football game between the University of Michigan and Ohio State University is approaching. Ohio consumers are encouraged to have a gameday plan to ensure their cable service is ready to play. The game is scheduled to air on local Fox affiliate stations, at noon on Nov. 25. If an issue occurs before, during, or after this time-honored tradition, contact your cable service provider to resolve issues. The Ohio Department of Commerce Video Service Authorization Program offers consumers resources and information about the standard of cable service they should expect.

NOVEMBER 21 2023 NEWS 1

The U.S. Marshals Service, in collaboration with the Richland County Sheriff's Office, has issued a public appeal for information regarding the whereabouts of four individuals wanted for various criminal offenses.

Jose Florez – Age: 45, White, Male, 6'0", Black Hair, Brown Eyes. Wanted for Rape. Ties to the Mansfield area.

Derrick Hawkins – Age: 49, Black, Male, 5'10", 200lbs, Brown Hair, Brown Eyes. Wanted for Parole violation on the original charge of aggravated robbery. Ties to the Mansfield area.

David Greene – Age: 38, White, Male, 6'0", 140lbs, Brown Hair, Hazel Eyes. Wanted for Failure to verify address on a sex offense (F1). Ties to Mansfield and Galion area.

Katrina Coyne – Age: 33, White, Female, 5'6", Black Hair, Brown Eyes. Wanted for Possession of drugs.. Ties to Mansfield and Galion area.

Authorities are urging anyone with information about the whereabouts of these fugitives to come forward.

A Marion County man faces up to 15 years in prison after pleading guilty to the rape of a young girl. Nineteen-year-old Joshua R. Meade Jr. entered an Alford Plea, maintaining his innocence but acknowledging the evidence against him. He was sentenced to 10 to 15 years for rape and 48 months for gross sexual imposition, the sentences to be served concurrently.

During the sentencing hearing, Judge Warren T. Edwards criticized Meade for showing no remorse and accused the victim of lying. Meade has been classified as a Tier III sex offender, required to register post-release. The incidents occurred between January 2022 and May 2023, leading to Meade's arrest in May 2023.

Meade will be transported to the Correctional Reception Center at Orient in Pickaway County for processing.

NOVEMBER 20 2023 NEWS 2

Pioneer Career & Technology Center has named The Renaissance Performing Arts Theatre as the Ralph Phillips Business Partner of the Year.

This prestigious award recognizes businesses that support Pioneer's mission and excellence. Chelsie Thompson, President & CEO, and Mike Miller, former President accepted the award on behalf of the Renaissance Theatre.

The partnership with the Renaissance Theatre has been integral to the success of Pioneer's Performing Arts Program, providing students with real-world experience and internship opportunities.

Marion County Prosecuting Attorney Ray Grogan secured a substantial measure of justice with the sentencing of Cecil C. Moore. Moore was found guilty last month on all 15 felony counts and was sentenced to a lengthy prison term of 62.5 years.

Moore is designated as a Tier III sex offender, subjecting him to the most stringent monitoring requirements. Prosecutor Grogan praised the sentence, stating, "Today marks a pivotal moment in our fight against sexual violence."

NOVEMBER 20 2023 NEWS 1

The Galion-Crestline Chamber of Commerce has announced the appointment of Beth Anne Jarvis as the interim executive director. The Chamber is also considering a possible restructuring over the next year. More information will be released as it becomes available. Don't forget about the annual Holiday Open House and Auction on Thursday, December 7, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at The Hub at Village Square in Crestline. For sponsorship opportunities and table reservations, contact the Chamber at 419-468-7737.

The Renaissance Theatre has a packed December schedule. Highlights include "We Wish You a Jazzy Christmas" on December 2, a screening of "Home Alone" on December 3, and a unique retelling of "A Christmas Carol" on December 8, 9, and 10. The Richland Academy of the Arts will present "The Nutcracker Ballet" on December 9 and 10, and the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra and Chorus will perform "Holiday Pops" on December 16. The holiday lineup concludes with the Mansfield Symphony Youth Orchestra's "Holiday Prelude" on December 17.

Clayton Herold, the director of the Crestline Harvest Festival, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Ohio Festival and Events Association. This announcement was made during the OFEA's Annual Meeting at Kalahari Resorts & Conventions in Sandusky, Ohio. Herold, steering the Crestline Harvest Festival since 2012, will officially assume his new role on the board starting December 1st, 2023. The OFEA represents over 70 community festivals and events throughout Ohio, including the Bucyrus Bratwurst Festival and the Lexington Blueberry Festival.

For more information on the OFEA and its member festivals, visit their official website. And, for details about the Crestline Harvest Festival, head to their dedicated website.

The U.S. Marshals Service, in collaboration with local agencies, is seeking public assistance in locating four fugitives with various charges.

Kristopher Herron, 51, a white male, is wanted for a supervised release violation on the original charge of drug possession. Derrick Hawkins, 49, a black male, is sought for parole violation on the original charge of aggravated robbery. Katrina Coyne, 33, a white female, is wanted for drug possession, and Shkail Walker, 22, a black male, is wanted for illegal conveyance.

If you have any information on these fugitives, please contact the Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force at 419-774-3565 or the tip line at 1-866-4WANTED (1-866-492-6833). You can also submit tips on the U.S. Marshals Service website.

NOVEMBER 14 2023 NEWS 2

A new analysis by the Environmental Defense Fund reveals that Ohio oil and gas companies wasted 93 million dollars worth of natural gas in 2019. This amount could have met the yearly energy demands of the state's most populous cities. Sarah Spence with the Ohio Conservative Energy Forum suggests tighter state regulations and regular inspections to prevent methane leakage.

United Church Homes, a leading provider of senior living and services, has successfully acquired Ohio Living's Vineyard on Catawba in Port Clinton. The community has been rebranded as The Parkvue Community on Catawba Island. Rev. Dr. Kenneth Daniel, CEO of United Church Homes, expressed excitement about the acquisition and the opportunity to enhance their mission of providing vibrant, supportive living environments for older adults.

NOVEMBER 10 2023 NEWS 2

In election news, two tax issues put forth by the River Valley Local School District have slim leads following the unofficial results of the 2023 general election. The income tax is passing by a count of 2,406 votes in favor and 2,305 votes against it. The bond issue/permanent improvement tax is passing by a count of 2,392 to 2,310. However, there are still numerous outstanding provisional and absentee ballots that need to be processed before the final official results are certified.

Following yesterday's bomb threat at Bucyrus City Schools, the Wynford School Resource Officer, Deputy Jo Stahl, took immediate action to meet with students at Wynford Middle School and High School. Unfortunately, after the first-class meeting, a student wrote a bomb threat on a restroom wall. The student responsible for the threat was identified, admitted to their actions, and disciplined according to our school's code of conduct. Wynford students were never in any danger, and there was no credible threat to their safety.

NOVEMBER 10 2023 NEWS 1

In Mansfield, a suspect has been arraigned in connection with a shooting at a Halloween party hosted at an Airbnb. Cyrus J. Ellerbe, 22, is charged with murder following the incident which resulted in the deaths of two teenagers and injuries to four others. The party, attended by approximately 50 people, was held at a residence on Ferndale Avenue. Ellerbe is currently being held on a \$5 million cash bond. We will continue to monitor this developing story.

In other news, Marion Goodwill Industries is opening its first-ever Goodwill Outlet Store. Located within its corporate headquarters in Marion, the outlet store offers merchandise by the pound at significantly reduced prices. The new store is part of Goodwill's mission to help people with disabilities and other employment barriers find jobs. Last year, Marion Goodwill recycled more than 3,850,000 pounds of plastics, metals, cardboard, and textiles. The new Goodwill Outlet store is located at 340 W. Fairground Street in Marion and is open every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m

NOVEMBER 9 2023 NEWS 2

A jury was selected for the trial of Michael Goralczyk, a Michigan man charged with burglary after breaking into his ex-girlfriend's home in Crestline. The incident occurred after an argument over alcohol. Goralczyk could face up to eight years in prison if found guilty. The trial continues today.

Goodwill stores in Bucyrus and Galion are hosting a donation drive, "Share the Warmth," from November 13 to December 15. They're accepting new items for local schools. Donors get a \$5 Goodwill card for each new item donated. Needed items include gloves, socks, hats, and for K-5, underwear and sweats. Drop off donations inside the Bucyrus and Galion stores.

NOVEMBER 9 2023 NEWS 1

On October 27, 2023, a shooting at 810 Ferndale Ave. resulted in two fatalities and four serious injuries. Cyrus J. Ellerbe was arrested yesterday, on an F1 Murder Charge. The investigation is ongoing and the Mansfield Division of Police is seeking information from the public. Contact Det. Sgt. Jered Kingsborough at 419-755-9729 or Det. Korey Kaufman at 419-755-9748 with any information.

At 6:30pm AM Yesterday, the Liberty Township Fire Department responded to a combine fire on New Haven Rd. With the help of Brush 264, Engine 263, Tanker 262, volunteers, and the Life First Ambulance District, the fire was quickly contained and extinguished, minimizing damage to the machine.

NOVEMBER 8 2023 NEWS 2

Bruce Truka is the new Mayor of Bucyrus, elected unopposed. Kurt Fankhauser won the City Council President race, while Vicki Dishon, Carolyn Shireman, and Kevin Myers secured Council At Large seats unopposed. Chris Mauritz, C. Aaron Sharrock, Zyan Hickman, and James Mee won in their wards. The 5th Ward seat remains vacant. Brian Gernert and Kali Lewis also won their offices unopposed.

Republican Collins won the mayoral election against Democrat Coble with 67.6% of the votes. He thanked his supporters and outlined his plans, including combining the roles of Public Safety and Public Service Director and adding two new positions: Director of Budget and Finance, and Director of Planning, Development, and Special Projects. These changes aim to address issues in the auditor's office and rebrand Marion. Other unopposed candidates, Meginness for Auditor and Russell for Law Director, also secured their positions.

NOVEMBER 8 2023 NEWS 1

Ohioans voted for State Issue 1, affirming women's healthcare autonomy. Senator Sherrod Brown supports the decision, emphasizing that healthcare decisions should be personal. However, SBA Pro-Life America criticized the passage, attributing it to a fear campaign by abortion activists and outside Democrat donors.

Ohioans have passed State Issue 2, legalizing adult-use marijuana. Adults 21 and over can now buy and possess up to 2.5 ounces of cannabis and grow plants at home. A 10% tax will be imposed on purchases. However, the law is subject to change and opponents are concerned about the tax structure and potential rise in drug use and addiction. The Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol sees this as a victory after a yearslong fight

NOVEMBER 7 2023 NEWS 2

The Seneca County Sheriff's Office is investigating a strange case where a cat brought a severed human finger to its owner. Despite a thorough search and inquiries at local hospitals, no additional evidence or related incidents were found. The finger has been sent for forensic examination to aid the investigation. The authorities are urging anyone with information to come forward to help solve this unusual case.

Wurm's Woodworking Company in New Washington is expanding its thermoforming operations with a \$2.1 million investment. This includes 20,000 square feet of additional space and new molding machinery. The expansion will increase production efficiency and allow for the creation of thermoformed plastic or vinyl upholstery tools. The company has also acquired state-of-the-art thermoforms and 3-D printers to enhance their product offerings. All 47 employees have been retained during this expansion.

NOVEMBER 7 2023 NEWS 1

A two-day operation in Crawford County led to multiple arrests and significant drug seizures. The joint effort between local law enforcement agencies took place on Nov. 3 and 4, with around 100 traffic stops conducted in high-drug areas. Over 60 grams of various drugs were seized, along with currency and drug paraphernalia. Two individuals were arrested for outstanding warrants, two for DUI, and seven on various felony drug charges. A large amount of methamphetamine and counterfeit prescription medication was among the items seized.

The Shelby/Mansfield KOA Resort raised \$13,000 through various events and donations during the 2023 camping season. The funds were presented to the Tiro-Auburn Volunteer Fire Department on October 7th. The resort and its guests appreciate the fire department's efforts and believe the contribution will be put to good use.

OCTOBER 2 2023 NEWS 2

The Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating a minor injury plane crash that occurred on September 30, 2023, at approximately 4:13 P.M. A seaplane crashed into the Portage River near 4640 W. Harbor Rd in Ottawa County.

The pilot, 72-year-old James Raymond Lenardson, and his passenger, 67-year-old Leo Joseph Eggert Jr., sustained minor injuries. Both were transported to Magruder Hospital for evaluation.

The crash happened as the plane attempted takeoff, striking a power line. Ohio Edison crews and rescue teams responded swiftly. Alcohol and/or drug use is being investigated as a possible factor.

The Mid-Ohio Education Service Center have partnered with Akron Children's Hospital to support mental health in schools. This partnership, active from September 1, 2023, to August 31, 2024, aims to address the growing need for mental health services.

Jennifer Crum, Director of Student Services, highlights its significance and the plan to bridge community mental health services. They're also looking for a Community Outreach Education Coordinator to support trauma-informed education and training programs.

Qualified candidates can apply online or contact Jennifer Crum.

OCTOBER 2 2023 NEWS 1

Troopers from the Marion Post are investigating a fatal crash that occurred on September 30, 2023, around 3:18 PM on State Route 309.

The crash involved a 2012 Chevrolet Silverado driven by Jason A. Baker, 48, of Mansfield, Ohio. Preliminary findings suggest Mr. Baker veered off the road, hitting multiple obstacles. Sadly, he was not wearing his seatbelt and was pronounced deceased at Marion General Hospital.

Multiple agencies, including the Ohio State Highway Patrol, are assisting in the ongoing investigation.

Get ready for heart-pounding terror at Escape from Blood Prison in Mansfield This haunted attraction has just earned a spot on USA Today's "10 Best" list, solidifying its reputation as a must-visit haunt. Opening on September 29, this chilling experience takes you through the eerie corridors of the Ohio State Reformatory, promising relentless horror. With terrifying characters, Hollywood-level special effects, and gothic architecture, it's an experience that pushes the boundaries of fear. Doors open Fridays and Saturdays from 7 p.m. to 12 a.m., Sundays from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Advance tickets at BloodPrison.com.

OCTOBER 3 2023 NEWS 2

In a safety alert, Eagle Produce LLC of Scottsdale, AZ, has issued a voluntary recall of 6,456 cases of whole cantaloupe due to potential Salmonella contamination. The recall follows an FDA test conducted at a distribution center. Salmonella can cause severe illness, particularly in vulnerable populations. The affected cantaloupe was distributed between September 5th and 16th in various states including Ohio, and sold in retail supermarkets. No reported illnesses linked to the recall as of September 27th, 2023. Consumers are urged not to consume the product and can contact Eagle Produce LLC at 1-800-627-8674 for information. If concerned about illness, consult a healthcare provider.

The Adult Diploma Program now welcomes adults aged 18 and above, offering a pathway to earn a high school diploma and industry credentials for free. This program, available in Ashland, Crawford, and Richland Counties, emphasizes competency-based learning and self-pacing. It includes job training in high-demand fields and requires passing the ACT WorkKeys Career Assessments. Achieving a high school diploma opens doors to better opportunities and education. Interested individuals can access free tutoring and preparation through Mansfield Adult Education.

OCTOBER 3 2023 NEWS 1

At 8:57 a.m. Monday, School Resource Officer Carl Daniel alerted the Wyandot County Sheriff's Office to possible gunshots at Mohawk School. The school swiftly locked down, with Deputy Daniel requesting backup. Responding units cleared the school, revealing no threats. An investigation identified a bicycle tire blowout as the source of the sound. All students are safe and being reunited with parents. A press release is forthcoming. The Wyandot County Sheriff's Office extends thanks to parents for their cooperation and understanding.

The summer passport program by the Crawford County History Alliance has concluded with great success. Participants have until October 12 to submit their completed passports for a chance to win prizes. Drop-off locations include the Lowe-Volk Nature Center, Bucyrus, and Galion-Crestline Chamber of Commerce offices, or by mail to CCHA. Importantly, not all stamps are required for eligibility.

The prize draw will be held during the Spooktacular event in Bucyrus on October 21, featuring a grand prize—a Bucyrus Copper Kettle Works kettle. Other prizes are also up for grabs, and winners need not be present. Twelve county organizations collaborated in this initiative, showcasing Crawford County's rich history and culture.

OCTOBER 4 2023 PM NEWS

On Tuesday, at 5:39 a.m., the Bucyrus Fire Department responded to a residential incident at 1427 Woodlawn Ave. Smoke was reported inside the home. Firefighters arrived, finding moderate smoke emanating from the residence. Carolyn and James Cross, the occupants, had safely evacuated.

Five Bucyrus Fire Department units and one from Holmes Township arrived on the scene, ensuring a coordinated response. The Red Cross was also called in to assist the displaced occupants. Preliminary investigations suggest an electrical issue as the potential cause, with authorities still assessing the extent of the damage.

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The Marion County Sheriff's Office has identified their top three most wanted fugitives for October:

Mark January, 6'2", 200lbs, brown hair, green eyes, age 30. Wanted for Bond Violation with original charges of tampering with evidence and possession of cocaine.

Bradley Thompson II, 5'11", 140lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, age 30. Warrant on indictment for possession of a Fentanyl related compound.

Kasey Zornes, 5'3", 215lbs, brown hair, green eyes, age 37,. Wanted for possession of cocaine and a municipal warrant for possession of drug paraphernalia.

If you have any information on any of this month's Most Wanted contact the Marion County Sheriff's Office.

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If you have any information on any of this month's Most Wanted, contact the Marion County Sheriff's Office.

The merger of United Mutual Insurance Company, based in Wisconsin, into the mutual holding company structure of Ohio Mutual Insurance Group has been successfully completed, effective from October 1st. Ohio Mutual President & CEO, Mark C. Russell, expressed enthusiasm about the expansion of their geographic footprint and adding new products to the Wisconsin market. This merger, which gained approval from both boards of directors and United Mutual policyholders, adds nearly 6,000 policyholders and 40 independent agencies to Ohio Mutual Insurance Group, Inc., further strengthening their presence in North Central and Western Wisconsin. Ohio Mutual maintains an "A / Stable" rating from A.M. Best Co. for 31 consecutive years.

OCTOBER 4 2023 NEWS 1

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Five Bucyrus Fire Department units and one from Holmes Township arrived on the scene, ensuring a coordinated response. The Red Cross was also called in to assist the displaced occupants. Preliminary investigations suggest an electrical issue as the potential cause, with authorities still assessing the extent of the damage.

Get ready to step back in time and unleash your inner detective! Brownella Cottage is hosting a thrilling mystery event on Saturday, October 21st. Dress in your 1920s finest and join a live-action game of CLUE, solving the case of the murdered Caretaker during a dinner party in the dark. Tickets are just \$20, available on their website starting September 29th.

For a paranormal twist, explore Brownella Cottage's eerie history with Ghost Tours on October 27th and 31st, tickets at \$20, on sale October 6th.

Families can enjoy Trick-Or-Treating on October 29th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Cottage.

OCTOBER 5 2023 PM NEWS

In a recent incident near Galion on September 29, 2023, the Crawford County Sheriff's Office urgently seeks assistance. A hit-and-run involving a sedan occurred on Fairview Rd., injuring a bicyclist. The suspect vehicle is a light gray or silver sedan, possibly 2-door or 4-door, with front-end damage. Any information, regardless of its size, is vital to this case. Please contact the Sheriff's Office at (419) 562-7906, and reference case 01-23-001098.

Avita Health System is boosting local healthcare access in Crawford and Richland counties with the addition of 10 new physicians and advanced practice providers. This expansion aims to bring top-tier care to the community, minimizing the need for travel. These new providers cover a range of specialties, from internal medicine to surgery and cardiology. Avita's commitment to enhancing patient services means continued team growth. For appointments, reach out to the provider's office or contact Avita's provider referral line at 419-468-0961. Visit Avita's website for a full list of the newest providers and their contact information.

OCTOBER 5 2023 NEWS 2

Join the 1st Annual Day of the Dead Mariachi Festival on November 2nd, 2023, in Crestline. Hosted by Crestline CDT and the Chamber of Commerce, the festival on Seltzer Street from 5 PM to 9 PM features live Mariachi music, face painting, margaritas, a costume contest, and a 50/50 raffle benefiting the community. Enjoy in the designated outdoor refreshment area. Celebrate culture and community!

Columbia Gas of Ohio reminds customers on Energy Efficiency Day to save on winter heating costs with simple tips: Use natural light, lower the thermostat, set water heater to 120°F, seal cracks, maintain the furnace, and choose ENERGY STAR products. Small changes for significant savings and a greener future. Visit [ColumbiaGasOH.com/Energy-Efficiency](https://www.columbiagasoh.com/Energy-Efficiency) for more info.

OCTOBER 5 2023 NEWS 1

The Crawford County Sheriff's Office seeks help for a hit-and-run incident on September 29, 2023, near Galion. A bicyclist was struck by a sedan on Fairview Rd. The sedan fled; it's light gray or silver, possibly 2-door or 4-door, with front damage. Any information, no matter how small, is crucial. Contact the Sheriff's Office at (419) 562-7906, reference case 01-23-001098.

Avita Health System adds 10 new physicians and APPs in Crawford and Richland counties. This expansion aims to bring high-quality care closer to the community, reducing the need for travel. New providers cover various specialties, including internal medicine, surgery, cardiology, and more. Avita plans to continue expanding its team to enhance patient service. For appointments, call the provider's office directly or Avita's provider referral line at 419-468-0961. Visit Avita's website for a list of the newest providers and contact details.

OCTOBER 6 2023 NEWS 2

The Community is invited to watch an exciting "Shark Tank"-style competition on Oct. 12, at Marion Technical College. Local entrepreneurs will pitch their ideas to judges for a chance to win thousands of dollars. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. with a networking social and competition at 6 p.m. This event, part of the Forge Business Classes, supports local business owners and has generated numerous MarionMade! businesses since 2017. Don't miss this opportunity to witness innovation and community impact.

Join the spooky season at Brownella Cottage with immersive Ghost Tours! Discover paranormal and historical tales at this historic site.

Galion History Center Director Tenesha Pickering explains why they do a ghost hunt on Halloween night.

AUDIO

Tours on October 27 and 31 at 8:00 p.m., tickets at \$20 per person available on galionhistory.com from October 6. Ages 12 and up welcome. Wear comfortable shoes for walking and staircases. Don't miss out; these tours sell fast!

OCTOBER 6 2023 NEWS 1

In a recent announcement, the Wyandot County Community Foundation unveiled the establishment of the inaugural United Way of Wyandot County Endowment Fund during their annual Grant Announcement event on October 4th. This innovative fund will ensure enduring support for United Way's initiatives in the Wyandot community. The endowment offers financial advisors and planned growth for invested donations, fostering long-term sustainability. It represents the first nonprofit organizational endowment within the Wyandot County Community Foundation. This development fosters collaboration between the two organizations and aligns with United Way's broader goals for the region. Donations can be made to the United Way of Wyandot County Endowment Fund by mail or text.

Columbia Gas of Ohio warns of a scam involving fraudulent checks. The checks are not legitimate and aim to deceive people, seeking personal information and funds. The company is collaborating with law enforcement to address the issue. They advise caution, verifying correspondence from them, and contacting their customer service hotline at 1-800-344-4077 if contacted by a potential scammer. Stay vigilant against fraud.

OCTOBER 9 2023 NEWS 2

In a plea to the community, the Crawford County Sheriff's Office seeks assistance in an ongoing investigation into a hit-skip accident that transpired on September 29, 2023. The victim, Ed Fox, 55, was struck while riding his bicycle on Fairview Rd., near Buckeye Dr. in Polk Township. Authorities describe the suspect vehicle as a light gray or silver sedan, possibly 2-door or 4-door, with likely front-end damage. Mr. Fox, currently in stable condition, faces injuries from the incident. The Trudeau Family of rural Galion has offered a \$5,000.00 reward for information leading to the identification and conviction of the responsible party. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Sheriff's Office at (419) 562-7906, referencing case number 01-23-001098.

The Careers Made in Marion Expo is back, featuring 29 local companies, public agencies, educators, and nonprofits on October 17th, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Marion County Fairgrounds. High school seniors from seven schools will explore diverse opportunities after graduation, from manufacturing to banking, healthcare, and more. Marion's educational institutions will also provide info on training and education. This collaborative event, supported by the community, showcases the city's thriving job landscape.

OCTOBER 9 2023 NEWS 1

In a recent incident, troopers from the Marion Post are investigating a serious crash that occurred on October 6th, 2023, around 12:23 PM on State Route 4, just north of Morral Kirkpatrick Road in Marion County. The crash involved a 2008 Acura RDX driven by Lorenzo R.P. Johnson, 45 years old from Marion. Preliminary findings indicate Johnson veered off the road, colliding with a boulder and a residence. He was airlifted to The Ohio State University Hospital, and another individual in the residence was transported to Marion General Hospital. Various agencies assisted in the response.

In a heartwarming achievement, Dr. Ricky Branham, a native of Willard, Ohio, has been honored as the 2023 Alumnus of the Year by the North Central State College Foundation. The prestigious award was presented during the annual Scholarship Luncheon at the Kehoe Center in Shelby on October 5, 2023. Dr. Branham's inspiring journey from being one of eight children to becoming a registered nurse and an advocate for education is a testament to his dedication. He credits North Central State College for changing his life and continues to support the institution. Today, he's not only a senior pastor but also an accomplished author with a growing national and international presence through Ricky Branham Ministries.

OCTOBER 10 2023 NEWS 2

A distressed woman arrived at Millstream Career Center in Findlay on Monday morning, reporting she was held against her will in a nearby trailer. Police arrived, found the trailer, and arrested the suspect, Dewayne Vanatta, 60. The woman received treatment for non-life-threatening injuries. Vanatta faces kidnapping charges and is incarcerated at the Hancock County Justice Center.

Brandt Road West in Galion closes for construction from Oct. 16, between State Route 598 and Keller Drive. A left-turn lane will be added, and traffic on SR 598 can't turn west. Eastbound Brandt traffic detours to Biddle Road. Sleep Inn guests must use the north drive. Full closure until stone base installation, reopening on weekends. The project is expected to finish by late November, weather permitting.

OCTOBER 10 2023 NEWS 1

Crawford CEO, a countywide program for high school students interested in entrepreneurship, launches in fall 2024. They need more community organizations' support urgently. Initial funding came from North Central Electric Cooperative, United Way, and Crawford Partnership. They're close to their 35-investor goal but need more. The program is inspired by the Midland Institute, with Seneca County's success as a model. It offers hands-on learning, connects students with mentors, and fosters essential skills. Local leaders drive it, including Audrey Flood and David Zak. The program relies on community support and seeks \$1000/year investments from local businesses.

The Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force intensifies efforts to catch dangerous fugitives on their Most Wanted list, posing a threat to public safety. Notable fugitives include Rafael Martinez (40, Cleveland), Marquis Morris (34, Mansfield/Oxon Hill MD), and Gage Trussel (Swoape, 19, Mansfield/Ashland). Public assistance is crucial. Report information at 419-774-3565 or 1-866-4WANTED or online at US Marshals Tip Page to ensure legal consequences for these fugitives.

OCTOBER 11 2023 NEWS 2

New tech aids Ohio farmers in drought readiness. Prof. Steven Quiring from Ohio State University highlights U.S. Drought Monitor limitations and regional drought variations. Ohio's susceptibility to "flash droughts" makes early data collection vital. This technology enables cities to implement voluntary water restrictions sooner, conserving resources and avoiding mandatory limits. Farmers benefit significantly as accurate data impacts crop relief assistance and drought insurance payments, linked to drought severity.

The Linda Friend Memorial Spooktacular returns on October 21, 2023, from 3 PM to 6 PM at Bucyrus Aumiller Park with a shuttle service from Mennel Milling. Enjoy activities for all ages, including bounce houses, pumpkin decorating, and axe throwing. Rules include cash donations and no political or commercial propaganda. Companies can display banners. The event pays tribute to Linda Friend's dedication. Don't miss the bike raffle – pre-register for kids aged 5-10. Join them for a thrilling evening of community and entertainment.

OCTOBER 11 2023 NEWS 1

Ohio's November 7 general election brings two pivotal statewide issues: the right to abortion access and the potential legalization of recreational marijuana. The voter registration deadline is October 10, with early voting starting on October 11. Issue 1 seeks to establish an individual right to reproductive medical treatment, addressing abortion rights. Issue 2, spearheaded by the Coalition to Regulate Marijuana Like Alcohol, would legalize recreational marijuana for adults, making Ohio the 24th state to do so. Additionally, Polls open on Election Day from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. For voter ID requirements, various forms of photo ID are accepted. If you forget your ID on Election Day, you can still vote provisionally. More information can be found at crawfordcountyohio.gov.

The Crawford Park District presents the Haunted Headwaters Adventure on October 14 from 8 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at Sandusky Headwaters Preserve. Explore the allegedly haunted woods near the eerie river. Cost: \$5 per person, proceeds support the Junior Naturalist Club and an archery range. Not suitable for young children due to terrain. No new hikes after 11 p.m. The preserve is 3 miles north of US Route 30. Get ready for a spine-tingling experience!

OCTOBER 12 2023 NEWS 2

The Mansfield Police Major Crimes Unit is actively investigating a homicide and felonious assault that occurred on October 10, 2023, at 896 Brookfield Dr. Two gunshot victims were found, one pronounced dead at the hospital, and another receiving treatment. Witnesses saw a group of suspects fleeing, but there's no apparent threat to the community. Authorities seek the community's assistance in identifying the suspects. Please contact Det. Larry Schacherer at 419-755-9766 with any information

A lucky individual may hold a \$1 million Mega Millions ticket from North Court Beverage in Medina. While the jackpot stands at \$48 million, this ticket missed it by not matching the Mega Ball. More winners statewide. The next drawing is Friday, Oct. 13, 11 p.m., with a \$48 million jackpot. In other news, a \$5.5 million Classic Lotto winner was confirmed in Parma Heights.

OCTOBER 12 2923 NEWS 1

Matthew Wells, Crestline Fire Department Chief, faces indictment for alleged simultaneous pay from multiple jobs. Investigation revealed employment with multiple agencies and evidence of double-claiming hours or using leave from one while working at another. Estimated fraudulent gains exceed \$60,000. Charges include grand theft, theft in office, tampering with records, and public official representation.

Starting Monday, Oct. 16, Brandt Road West in Galion will close for construction from State Route 598 to Keller Drive. A left turn lane will be added, and State Route 598 traffic can't turn west onto Brandt. Eastbound traffic will detour to Biddle Road. The closure will be in effect until the stone base is installed. The road will reopen on weekends. Weather permitting, the project should be finished by late November.

OCTOBE 13 2023 NEWS 2

The Galion-Crestline Area Chamber of Commerce (GCACC) is a local hub for 'Operation Christmas Child,' a global gift-giving initiative. Through November 6, GCACC at 138 Harding Way West, Galion, offers red-and-green shoebox pickups and returns. Alternatively, you can 'Build a Shoebox Online' at samaritanspurse.org/buildonline. Spearheaded by Samaritan's Purse, this initiative brings compassion, hope, and global goodwill by supporting missionary hospitals and disaster relief. For details about 'Operation Christmas Child' and Samaritan's Purse's broader work, visit samaritanspurse.org or call (800) 353-5949. Learn more about GCACC at galion-crestlinechamber.org or by contacting them at (419) 468-7737. Join them to spread joy and love this holiday season.

Step into the surreal world of artist Trevin Wyant's solo exhibition, 'Only a Dream?' Dive into horror, fantasy, and dreamscapes with his mesmerizing art, blurring lines between reality and imagination. Featuring award-winning pieces like 'The Governess,' it's a captivating exploration of storytelling through art. Experience this unique convergence at the Snyder Art Gallery, Richland Academy of the Arts in Mansfield, OH, from October 3rd to November 4th.

OCTOBER 13 2023 NEWS 1

Timothy Carnes of Bucyrus faces a \$200,000 bond for felonious assault and strangulation charges, stemming from a brutal attack on his wife, who remains in critical condition. Carnes, who pleaded not guilty, received additional jail time for repeated outbursts in court, with a total of 150 days in jail.

Crawford County's weekend offers diverse entertainment options. Highlights include "RENT" at the Ren, "Misery" at Bucyrus Little Theatre, and for those in to UFOs or now known as UAPs, the Ohio MUFON Conference in Bellville. Additionally, satisfy your sweet tooth with homemade buckeye candy from the Holy Trinity Rosary-Altar Society, at a drive-thru event in Bucyrus on October 14th. For more details, visit the Crawford County Now events page for a thrilling

OCTOBER 16 2023 NEWS 2

Crawford Park District announces Halloween Family Fun Night on October 21 from 6-9 PM at Lowe-Volk Park. Enjoy various activities including bonfires, face painting, wagon rides, nature art, and guided night hikes through haunted woods. On October 25, Unger Park hosts the Archery Pumpkin Shoot. For more details and registration, contact 419-683-9000 or visit crawfordpd.org. Don't miss these family-friendly outdoor activities.

GOAL Digital Academy releases its Annual Report for 2022-2023, celebrating student success, academic excellence, technology integration, community engagement, and faculty achievements. The report also includes a financial overview. Superintendent Tish Jenkins emphasizes the commitment to quality digital education. The report is accessible on GOAL Digital Academy's website and also on Crawford County Now dot com, with contact information for inquiries or printed copies.

OCTOBER 16 2023 NEWS 1

In Bucyrus, a narcotics investigation led by the Crawford County Special Response Team concluded on October 13, 2023, at 921 E. Mansfield St. Jeremia Batcheller, 24, the main target, was arrested, while others were initially detained and later released. Suspected drugs and paraphernalia were seized. Batcheller faces methamphetamine trafficking charges, and the case is ongoing. Sheriff Scott Kent and Lt. Moser urge residents to report suspicious activity to the Crawford County Sheriff's Office at 419-562-7906 or via METRICH at 1-419-52-CRIME or the METRICH app.

The PUCO's 2023-24 Special Reconnect Order allows Columbia Gas of Ohio customers to reconnect or avoid disconnection for \$175 plus a \$36 fee from today to April 15, 2024. They must also establish a payment plan. Payment assistance is available, and customers can call 1-800-344-4077 for more information. Energy efficiency programs are offered to lower bills and improve home energy efficiency. Safety measures include checking detectors, not using stoves for heat, and clearing vents. Columbia Gas serves 1.4 million Ohio customers and is part of NiSource, serving 3.2 million natural gas customers across six states.

OCTOBER 17 2023 NEWS 2

The Galion Police Department is asking for help in locating a runaway juvenile. Emma Moore age 17 ran away from her residence in the city of Galion on September 23rd.. If anyone has any information regarding Emma's whereabouts, please contact the Galion Police Department at 419-468-9111. You can see her picture on Crawford County Now dot com.

Leapyear Studios Film School is launching an eight-week class for young filmmakers aged 14 to 16 at the Richland Academy of the Arts. The class, called "Film-Craft Basics," will teach the skills of film production through a round-robin style project. The theme of the project is a high school comedy inspired by "GHOSTBUSTERS." The class will be led by industry professionals Jennifer Enskat and Andy Gardner. To register, visit richlandacademy.com or call 419-522-8224.

OCTOBER 17 2023 NEWS 1

The Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force is looking for four dangerous fugitives wanted for various crimes. They are Dezden Fultz, Kristen Nickelson, Calvin Brooks, and Gage Trussell. They have ties to Mansfield and Bucyrus areas. If you have any information about them, please call 419-774-3565 or 1-866-4WANTED. You can also submit tips online at the official website. Help the authorities catch these fugitives and keep our community safe.

The Salvation Army invites you to join the Pretty Painted Pots contest and help local families in need this Christmas. You can paint a kettle with your Christmas vision and compete for awards. The event will be on November 17 at Bucyrus City Hall. The winners will be based on money and votes. To reserve your kettle, call (419) 562-0071 or email thomas.grace@use.salvationarmy.org. Show your creativity and generosity this holiday season and make a difference in your community.

OCTOBER 18 2023 NEWS 2

Eerie Galion Walks, presented by Preserving Galion, Inc., offers guided tours of Galion's most haunted and historic sites on October 21 and 27. Starting at 8 p.m. at The Gazebo in Park Square, the hour-long walks end at the Gill House, a site of paranormal investigations. Participants will hear tales of local history and reported strange events. Suitable for adults and children over 8 with tickets available online.

The Linda Friend Memorial Spooktacular returns on October 21, 2023, from 3 PM to 6 PM at Bucyrus Aumiller Park. The event promises an array of activities for all ages, including bounce houses, pumpkin decorating, axe throwing, putt-putt golf, and hayrides. Additional parking is available at Mennel Milling with a shuttle service for convenience.

OCTOBER 18 2023 NEWS 1

Galion Main Street, an initiative to rejuvenate Galion, Ohio's historic uptown, gained insights from the Ohio Main Street Conference. The conference, held at the restored Dayton Arcade, offered sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities. Galion Main Street board members learned about successful downtown transformations in other Ohio communities. They explored the concept of regional corridors that connect communities and can attract more visitors and investors. The knowledge gained will aid Galion Main Street's downtown revitalization efforts.

Timken Company is hosting a job fair on Oct. 19, 2023, at the Crawford Success Center in Bucyrus from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The event includes on-the-spot interviews and encourages online applications at timken.com/careers. The company offers a starting pay of up to \$21.63 for Manufacturing Associates with immediate benefits. Safety precautions will be in place.

OCTOBER 19 2023 NEWS 2

Bucyrus Mayor Jeff Reser praised two city employees at Tuesday night's City Council meeting, Gary Morrow and Council Clerk Miranda Wise, for their bravery during a Pit Bull attack near city hall. Morrow intervened to save a resident and her dog from the attack, while Wise prevented the dogs from entering City Hall. The resident received stitches for her wounds, and her dog is expected to recover.

The Wynford Drama Department is staging a Middle School Musical, Frozen Jr., a tale of sisterly love and self-discovery featuring Princesses Anna and Elsa. The show includes popular songs like "For The First Time In Forever" and "Let it Go". Performances are on November 10th, 11th, and 12th at the Wynford Auditorium. Tickets are \$10, available from November 1st at the high school office or at the door. The cast includes Makenah Watkins as Elsa and Paige Sheldon as Anna, among others.

OCTOBER 19 2023 NEWS 1

At the Bucyrus City Council meeting, Police Chief Neil Assenheimer stressed the importance of fair wages for the Bucyrus Police Department. The meeting focused on contract negotiations, with David Garrick from the Fraternal Order of Police urging the council to consider a wage proposal to address economic disparity and retain young officers. Comparisons were made to higher salaries in neighboring departments like Marion and Galion. Despite community support and a recess into executive session, negotiations were deferred for further discussion.

The Galion Community Theatre is staging the iconic musical, "The Rocky Horror Show," this Halloween season. Directed by Anna Matney and Todd Price, the production features a talented local cast, great costumes, fun choreography, and a live band. Performances are scheduled for October 27 and 28, November 3, 4, and 5. Tickets are \$15 with an additional \$5 for an interactive bag. The show is sponsored by Hydranamics and RavensCloak Reiki & Treasures, with contributions from the Ohio Arts Council. Tickets can be purchased at galiontheatre.org/tickets or by calling 419-468-2662.

OCTOBER 20 2023 NEWS 2

The threat of a federal government shutdown and congressional chaos have stalled Farm Bill negotiations, causing uncertainty for Ohio food banks.

The Greater Cleveland Food Bank served nearly 350,000 Northeast Ohioans in the past year, a significant increase from 2021.

Rising fuel costs and higher food prices are further straining food banks' ability to meet demand.

Over a three-month period in 2022, Ohio's pantries served more than two million people.

The 34th Ohio Valley Christmas Craft Show is on Nov 5th, at Marion County Fairgrounds from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Exhibitors from all over Ohio will sell handcrafted items and Christmas gifts.

It's the largest show since 2019 with over 1,000 items in more than 100 craft spaces. Admission is \$1.00, parking is free. More info at emshows.com or text 740-360-0762.

OCTOBER 20 2023 NEWS 1

28-year-old Dakota Craft, is on trial for multiple charges, including felonious assault and improperly discharging a firearm.

He's accused of shooting into the Perry family's home after an altercation between Bobbie Perry and Craft's then-girlfriend, Victoria Loftis.

The state's case relies on Loftis' testimony, who turned state's evidence against Craft in exchange for a plea deal.

The defense argues that there are additional facts not presented by the state, questioning the reliability of Loftis' testimony and highlighting Craft's cooperation with law enforcement.

Vivian Brownlow, an educator at F.I.R.S.T. School, has been selected for the Amazon Future Engineer Teacher Ambassador Program. This two-year fellowship aims to increase access to computer science and technology education.

Brownlow is among 50 educators chosen for the program's inaugural cohort.

As an ambassador, she will engage in community listening, pilot teaching strategies, and share insights.

Her first project involved a local listening tour to gather community experiences with STEM & CS education.

The insights gained could impact future decisions on curricula and legislation.

OCTOBER 23 2023 NEWS 2

Avita Health System has purchased a provider clinic at 24 East Whitney Avenue in Shelby, Ohio, and plans to expand its services into Shelby in early 2024. The expansion is expected to provide convenient access to healthcare services and bring new jobs to the area. The health system operates three hospitals, two walk-in clinics, two Level II Cath Labs, and 28 clinic locations throughout various locations.

Lowe-Volk Park is hosting three events. On October 28,, an event called "Face to Face with Spiders: Overcoming Arachnophobia" will allow participants to learn about and interact with spiders from 11 a.m. onwards. The same evening, starting at 7 pm, the park invites stargazers for a night of exploring celestial targets with the Crawford Park Astronomy Club. On October 31st, the park will host "Zombie Zoo: Nature's Gruesome Wonders Unveiled", an event exploring the macabre world of nature's "zombies". All events are located 3 miles north of US Route 30.

OCTOBER 23 2023 NEWS 1

Marion County Prosecutor Ray Grogan secured a conviction in a sexual assault case against Cecil C. Moore, who was found guilty on all 15 felony counts, including rape and sexual battery. The charges were related to the repeated molestation and rape of a young girl. The case had previously resulted in a mistrial, but the retrial led to a unanimous verdict. Moore could face over 55 years in prison and lifetime registration as a sex offender. The sentencing date is yet to be determined.

An 82-year-old Mansfield resident, Gearold L. Smith, died in a single-vehicle crash on Saturday evening. Smith was driving a 2016 blue Ford F-150 westbound on SR 430 when he failed to negotiate a curve and hit a tree. He was transported to Ohio Health Mansfield Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. The crash is still under investigation.

OCTOBER 24 2023 NEWS 2

The Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force is seeking the public's help in locating four Most Wanted fugitives: Nestor Salazar, wanted for illegal conveyance of drugs; Sheena Conley, wanted for possession of heroin; Mario Godfrey, wanted for a parole violation on the original charge of aggravated vehicular homicide; and Derrick Taylor, wanted for felonious assault. If you have any information, please contact the Task Force at 419-774-3565 or 1-866-4WANTED.

More information is available at [Crawford County Now Dot Com](http://CrawfordCountyNowDotCom).

The Drug Take Back Day, aimed at promoting safe disposal of unused medications, will be held on October 28th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Marion Medical Campus. This event, hosted by several local organizations, allows individuals to dispose of their unused or expired medications in an environmentally friendly manner. All containers collected will be recycled and identities protected.

OCTOBER 24 2023 NEWS 1

The Bucyrus and Galion-Crestline Chambers of Commerce are hosting Crawford-opoly, a game encouraging local shopping. Starting November 1st, collect property cards from local businesses for a chance to win gift cards and a \$1,000 shopping spree. Entry Envelopes are available at the Chamber offices and select businesses. The deadline for submissions is November 30th.

The Crawford County History Alliance's Summer Passport Program concluded successfully with bus tours to historical locations. A prize draw was held, with Holly Young of Galion winning the grand prize, a handmade copper kettle. Fourteen others also won prizes. The program, aimed at promoting the county's rich history, was well-received by participants and local historical organizations.

OCTOBER 25 2023 NEWS 2

The Crawford County Veterans Hall of Fame will induct six veterans, including George Lowmiller, Ralph David Gies, Loren Edward Pry, Richard Allen Leuthold, Mark Alan Leuthold and Trenton Cornell, in a ceremony on November 11 at Bucyrus High School. The event will feature guest speaker Deborah Ashenurst, Director of the Ohio Veterans Services, performances by local high school bands, and a rifle salute. The inductees have shown exceptional service and contributions to the nation.

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging is hosting a Medicare Part D Info Session on Oct 27 at 10 a.m. at the Hawkins Conference Center, Ontario. It will be streamed live on Facebook. Get unbiased info about Medicare and prescription drug benefits. Open Enrollment is from Oct 15 to Dec 7 for reviewing and comparing 2024 plans. Changes made during Open Enrollment will be effective from Jan 1, 2024. For more info, contact Consumer Assistance at 1-800-860-5799 or (419) 524-4144.

OCTOBER 25 2023 NEWS 1

In a trial that Crawford County Now has been covering, Dakota Craft, 28, of Galion, was found guilty of multiple charges including felonious assault and tampering with evidence after a short deliberation. He faces over 20 years in prison. Sentencing is scheduled soon, with no pre-sentence investigation due to mandatory sentencing. Both sides were asked to prepare sentencing briefs.

Marion's Mayor Scott Schertzer and two council members are calling for Auditor Miranda Meginness's resignation or removal after a \$196,972 IRS fine on the city. This follows a previous \$153,000 fine during the tenure of former auditor Robert Landon III. Meginness proposed paying the fine and legal fees for an appeal. A vote of no confidence in Meginness ended in a tie, with the council president casting the deciding vote in her favor.

OCTOBER 26 2023 NEWS 2

The Marion City Council voted in favor of a 19.5% pay increase for Marion City Police Officers and Supervisors. The increase includes a \$2.50 market adjustment on January 1, 2024, followed by increases of 4.5% on January 1, 2025, and 3% on January 1, 2026. David Garrick from the Fraternal Order of Police Ohio Labor Council handled the negotiation of this offer. Bucyrus Police Captain Tom Walker informed the council that Marion Police Chief McDonald had extended an open invitation to Bucyrus officers to join the Marion Police Department.

The Community Investors Bancorp, Inc. and First Federal Community Bank Board of Directors has named Steven R. Crall as President & CEO effective October 9, 2023. Crall served as a Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer with the First Federal Community Bank for the past four years. He succeeds Jeffery K. Urban who was interim President & CEO.

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OCTOBER 27 2023 NEWS 2

Myron Johnson was found guilty on all counts of drug trafficking and possession by a Marion County jury, concluding a year-long investigation. The case began with a search of Johnson's residence, leading to his arrest and the discovery of concealed drugs. The jury deliberated for less than an hour before returning guilty verdicts. Sentencing is pending, with significant prison time expected.

Joshua Kirk, 36, was arrested by Morrow County Deputies on charges of domestic violence, using weapons while intoxicated, and aggravated menacing. The arrest followed an alert issued via the Sheriff's Office Facebook page and app. Despite the severity of the charges, no injuries were reported. Further details about the case have not been released.

OCTOBER 27 2023 NEWS 1

Galion's annual leaf collection starts on October 30. Residents should rake leaves to the tree lawn for weekly pickup. Avoid blocking drains and utility poles, and don't mix in branches or other yard waste. For additional disposal, visit the Taylor Road Composting Facility on November 17 and 18 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

A Galion family has transformed their home into a Halloween spectacle, complete with talking skeletons, witches, and massive monsters. The display, which began on October 6, 2021, has become a local attraction. The family adds new elements daily, including a larger-than-life werewolf and over 1,000 spiders. The display is lit up at night and is a hit with trick-or-treaters. The family plans to continue the tradition, adding new spooky elements each year

OCTOBER 30 2023 NEWS 2

A fatal accident occurred on State Route 4 Crawford County on Sunday morning, at 6:36 a.m., involving a Ford Focus and a Honda Accord. The Ford lost control, veered off the road, and rolled over. One occupant of the Ford was ejected and hit by the Honda Accord. The ejected occupant was pronounced dead at the scene. The investigation is ongoing.

The Galion Service Department's annual leaf collection program starts today. Galion residents should rake leaves into the tree lawn for weekly collection. Avoid placing leaves in the road or over storm drains, and don't mix in branches or other yard waste. If a crew has visited your street, they won't return until the next week. For additional yard waste, use the Taylor Road Composting Facility on November 17 and 18, from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 30 2023 NEWS 1

On Friday night, Mansfield Police responded to a shooting at 810 Ferndale Ave. where four victims were found, two of whom were pronounced dead at the scene. A fifth victim was later reported by a hospital. Witnesses revealed a sixth individual had also been shot.

audio

The victims ranged from 14 to 19 years old. Evidence collected included guns and drugs. Witnesses saw suspects fleeing but couldn't provide clear descriptions.

Police are seeking community help in identifying the suspects.

Crawford Park District is hosting three events: Fall Bird Banding on November 4, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at Lowe-Volk Park for bird observation. Space Invaders on November 4, 8 a.m.-11 a.m. at Sandusky Headwaters Preserve to combat invasive plant species.

and

Little Explorers: Turkeys on November 7, 5 p.m. at Lowe-Volk Park for children aged 0-5 to learn about turkeys.

For more details, visit their website or Facebook page.

OCTOBER 31 2023 NEWS 2

The U.S. Marshals are seeking four fugitives:

Mario Godfrey, 44, Black male, wanted for parole violation on aggravated vehicular homicide charge. He has ties to Mansfield and Cleveland.

Marquis Morris, 34, Black male, wanted for felonious assault. He has ties to Mansfield and Oxon Hill, MD.

Jose Florez, 45, White male, wanted for rape. He has ties to Mansfield.

Steven Drummond, 26, White male, wanted for failure to register (sex offence). He has ties to Mansfield and Shelby.

Contact the Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force at 419-774-3565 or 1-866-4WANTED with any information.

The Louis Dreyfus Company plans to invest \$500 million in a new soybean processing plant in Wyandot County, creating over 100 jobs. The facility will support Ohio's \$5.3 billion soybean industry with crushing, oil refining, and lecithin production capabilities. Construction begins in 2024.

OCTOBER 31 2023 NEWS 1

On Sunday, two fires occurred in Mt. Gilead. The first, on west Union Street, tragically resulted in two fatalities and is under investigation.

The second, on W. High Street, caused no injuries; its cause is also being investigated.

The fires appear unrelated. Multiple local departments assisted.

On Sunday, a fatal crash occurred on State Route 4 in Crawford County. Daveon Brown, 19, drove a Ford Focus northbound, veered off the road, hit a culvert and overturned.

Brown was ejected and later hit by a Honda Accord driven by Todd Schifer, 52. Brown was pronounced dead at the scene. The passenger, Malaky Johnson, 19, was treated and released from Bucyrus Hospital.

The crash is still under investigation.

NOVEMBER 1 2023 NEWS 2

Columbia Gas of Ohio reports residential customers may see a 25-35% decrease in winter heating bills compared to last year. This is due to lower current market prices, increased production levels, and lower exports. Customers can choose their natural gas supplier and compare options at energychoice.ohio.gov. Payment assistance is available for those in need at Columbiagasohio.com/SaveEnergy or by calling 1-800-344-4077.

The Crestline Community Development Team and the Galion-Crestline Area Chamber of Commerce are hosting the 1st Annual Day of the Dead Mariachi Festival on November 2nd, 2023. The event features a live Mariachi Band, face painting, a costume contest, and a 50/50 raffle benefiting the Crestline Community Improvement Fund. It will be held on Seltzer Street from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Alcoholic beverages can be enjoyed within the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA).

NOVEMBER 1 2023 NEWS 1

Marion County is seeking public help to locate four individuals: Jordan C. Emmons, 32, 6'1", 250 lbs, brown eyes, brown hair; Jonathan H. Fry II, 34, 5'9", 185 lbs, brown eyes, brown hair; Mason D. Fry, 30, 5'9", 170 lbs, blue eyes, blond hair; Mark L. January, 28, 6'2", 200 lbs, green eyes, brown hair. Contact Marion County Dispatch at 740-382-8244 ext. 6 or leave anonymous tips at 740-375-TIPS.

The Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging is hosting a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on November 7, 2023, 9-10 AM at the Hawkins Conference Center, Ontario, OH. The event celebrates the renovated space for expanded older adult programs. Services include meals, tech and wellness classes. For more info, contact Susie Danuloff at 419-564-9704.

NOVEMBER 2 2023 NEWS 2

A fire destroyed a family's home at 1126 Colonial Acres in Marion on Tuesday morning, leaving them without belongings. The Kirk family is safe but separated due to a lack of shelter. They found a rental available in a week. Ashley Furniture is providing beds for the family. A GoFundMe page is set up for support. If you would like to make a Clothing donation they can be dropped off at 320 Uhler Ave. in Marion.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

United Church Homes has risen to 19th in the US for market-rate and affordable housing units in the 2023 LeadingAge Ziegler 200 rankings. Excluding affordable housing, UCH ranks 47th. United Church Homes Management, part of UCH, ranks 5th nationally. These rankings reflect UCH's commitment to high-quality senior living and healthcare services. For more info, visit [united church homes dot org](http://unitedchurchhomes.org).

NOVEMBER 2 2023 NEWS 1

A fatal plane crash occurred Tuesday in Pleasant Township near Marion Municipal Airport. A Piper Cherokee Six crashed into a bean field, resulting in the deaths of the two occupants. The identities of the victims are currently withheld. Multiple agencies, including the Ohio State Highway Patrol and Federal Aviation Administration, are investigating.

The Mid Ohio Education Service Center's Adolescent Literacy Network, in its second year, is impacting eight school districts with 50 enrolled teachers and administrators. The network focuses on leadership and instructional practices across various disciplines. Teachers have reported positive results and valuable conversations. The network aims to raise teacher leaders, build capacity in disciplinary literacy, and improve student outcomes

NOVEMBER 6 2023 NEWS 2

45-year-old Larry Fidler, accused of serious sexual crimes against minors, has had his trial delayed again due to prosecution's scheduling conflicts. His first trial in December 2022 ended in a deadlock. Previously offered an 8-year plea deal, Fidler could face life in prison if convicted. The new trial date is set for February 26, 2024, in Morrow County.

The names have been released involving the fatal plane crash that occurred on Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. in Pleasant Township A Piper Cherokee Six crashed into a bean field, killing both occupants, Hal E. Durbin, 71, and William J. David, 70. The incident is under investigation by the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the National Transportation Safety Board.

NOVEMBER 6 2023 2023

A fire destroyed Ted and Bonnie Gilliams' garage and their cherished 1966 Chevrolet Impala last Monday. The car, a retirement gift from Bonnie to Ted, was a labor of love for the couple. The Bucyrus Fire Department is investigating the cause. Despite the loss, the community has rallied around the Gilliams, who are now faced with rebuilding their garage and possibly replacing their beloved car.

Crawford County Public Health and Avita Health System have installed harm reduction vending machines at Bucyrus and Galion Hospitals. These 24/7 accessible machines offer free naloxone, fentanyl test strips, COVID-19 test kits, and condoms. In the first week, they distributed 900 free products. Funded by the Drug Overdose Prevention Grant and maintained by Project DAWN, these machines are part of a broader strategy to address the opioid crisis and infectious diseases.