

Autism Awareness

Harrison East Elementary fundraiser included taping assistant principal to wall. See Page B1



Purple Riders Victory

The Martins Ferry baseball team defeats Union Local; record improves to 12-9. See Page C1



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Publicists hired to tout tourism

● Commission learns of new logo, website

By **ROBERT A. DEFRANK**
Times Leader Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Belmont County officials are working with a Pittsburgh firm to attract more tourists to the local area. Eugene "Doc" Householder, executive director of the Belmont County Tourism Council, delivered his quarterly tourism report to county

commissioners on Wednesday. He said the council employed Bits and Pieces publicists of Pittsburgh about four months ago and is meeting with its representatives twice per month. The efforts have led to a new logo with the words "Strong roots, bright futures." Upgrades to the tourism council's website are also expected to be finished in about a month. "That's really reaching out to a lot of towns and people," Householder said. The tourism council is working to promote the National Road Yard Sale, set for June 2-4, and the National Road Wagon Train, which See, **TOURISM**, Page A2



KAREN BICKMEIR of Richland Township discusses her concerns about vacating a road leading to her property. Listening, from left, are Belmont County Commissioners Mark Thomas, Ginny Favada and Matt Coffland.

T-L Photo/ ROBERT A. DEFRANK

ST. CLAIRSVILLE High School seniors, from left, Madison Pitcher, Kaylie Kindler and Dallas DeLong investigate high-tech drones owned by Orbital Engineering Inc. while volunteering at the Ohio Valley Oil and Gas Association Expo on Wednesday.



T-L Photo/ KATHRYN CLAYTON

Tower for 911 Center finished

● Harrison County facility expected to open mid-May

By **KATHRYN CLAYTON**
Times Leader Staff Writer

CADIZ — The communications tower for the Harrison County 911 Center is complete and came in \$11,600 under budget, according to Sheriff Ronald Myers. The tower replacement project started last October. Myers told county commissioners during their regular meeting Wednesday that final grass seed was put down last week. "I'm pleased with the job that was done," he said. Myers said he anticipates the new 911 center will be operational by mid-May. "I'm pleased with the progress we're making," he said. Myers noted the department has been working through a few technological glitches and hopes to start training new dispatchers in early May. Commissioner Dale Norris noted, "You've put a lot of hard work in to this."

See, **TOWER**, Page A2

Oil and Gas Expo highlights education, job opportunities

By **KATHRYN CLAYTON**
Times Leader Staff Writer

ST. CLAIRSVILLE — Representatives from the education and job training sector were on hand during Wednesday's Oil and Gas Expo in St. Clairsville to talk to potential students and families about preparing for the employment opportunities of the future. Educational programs at both the high school and college level were on display as representatives from the Ohio Valley Energy Technology Academy, which serves high school students, talked with visitors about their program at Buckeye Local High School. Kevin McCain, an

instructor with OVETA, said the program has five students graduating this year and a current enrollment of 53. He described the curriculum as "blended learning" and said students can complete their high school curriculum either full-time at school or part-time working from home. OVETA defines blended learning as a combination of classroom time, online education and field experience. McCain said students are obligated to meet state requirements in general subjects such as English, math and social studies and can participate in extracurricular activities in their home school district while enrolled. He noted they are interested in students

from Monroe, Belmont and Harrison counties. McCain said students complete the program with Occupational Safety and Health Administration training and Safeland training, which is similar to OSHA but specific to the oil and gas industry. Also in attendance was the Utica Shale Academy, which also focuses on high school students and provides a customizable digital curriculum. Graduates receive both a high school diploma as well as certificates and have options to earn college credit. Belmont College and California University of Pennsylvania were present to talk about higher

learning opportunities. Ed Mower, energy institute manager for Belmont College, said the school offers both short-term and long-term educational and training opportunities related to the industry. Short-term options include CDL licensing as well as OSHA and Safeland training. Mower said Belmont College has tailored some of its long-term programs that have been in place for many years for applicability in oil and gas. Programs such as industrial electronics and civil engineering have seen curriculum adjustments for relevance to the industry. Mower said it is the See, **EXPO**, Page A2

Council will set fees, water rates

By **MARK LAW**
For The Times Leader

MINGO JUNCTION — Village Council on Tuesday heard the first reading of an ordinance to charge all residents a \$30-per-month debt charge for the water plant and also set water rates throughout the village. Council in February and March discussed a water rate increase that would have doubled the bills for residents using minimal amounts of water. Council at its March 8 meeting voted to increase the debt charge from \$17 a month to \$30 a month. The water rates will remain the same with residents being charged \$30 a month for 2,000 gallons of water and \$9 for each additional 1,000 gallons. There also will be a \$2-per-month fee for capital improvements at the water plant. Councilman Jack Brettell proposed the \$30-per-month debt charge to residents. He also recommended units of multi-dwelling buildings with only one See, **RATES**, Page A2

Cruz picks Fiorina as vice president

By **JULIE PACE**
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — An astonishing Republican presidential primary season has taken another unusual turn, with Texas Sen. Ted Cruz announcing Carly Fiorina as his running mate — even though he's mathematically unable to become the GOP nominee through the regular voting process. It was the move of a candidate desperate to block Donald Trump, a front-runner who is only growing stronger as the primary contest presses deeper into the spring. Trump now has 80 percent of the delegates he needs for the Republican nomination, though he could still fall short and have to battle Cruz for the nomination at a contested convention. Trump must win 48 percent of the remaining delegates to avoid that scenario. Cruz's White House hopes now rest largely on Tuesday's primary in Indiana. That's where he announced that he was tapping Fiorina as his vice presidential pick, bringing aboard a prominent Republican woman who has been eager to take on both Trump and Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton.



REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL candidate Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, joined by former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina, waves during a rally in Indianapolis, on Wednesday, when Cruz announced he has chosen Fiorina to serve as his running mate. AP Photo

See, **CRUZ**, Page A2

INSIDE TODAY

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• Tourism

Continued from Page A1

will pass through the county on June 4-5. "We have been traveling and working hard to promote the attractions and events in our county. Our office has received very high praises from the communities for supporting them," he noted. "Belmont County's growing, and we felt that we in our office ought to grow along with it, and that's what we're doing." He also noted that the Belmont County Sheriff's Residence Museum, located on Main Street in St. Clairsville, will re-open for the season on Sunday. Commissioners also heard a debate about the proposed vacation of Summit Street in Richland Township.

Richland Township resident Karen Bickmeir was in favor of the road being vacated and voiced concerns that her driveway might be affected by any potential plans to cut another route into the area. William Eddy, on staff at the county engineer's office, noted the steepness of the road. "Summit Street is pretty much sitting on a hillside," he said.

J.R. Nolan, representing AON LLC, spoke against vacating the road, noting that the company was interested in the potential of future economic development in the area. He said that while there are no specific plans for what might be done with the 6 acres of land the company owns, the business has a lease to an incoming pipeline and Nolan said the business does not wish to limit its options. He added that placing an access route in that area would be more convenient.

The county engineer's office will view the area and make recommendations. The board will then decide whether to vacate the road. The commissioners adopted a resolution vacating Hall Alley in Richland Township. In other matters, Cindi Henry was appointed to the Belmont County Law Library Resources Board to fill the unexpired term of Barb Blake, effective immediately through Dec. 31, 2018.

• Expo

Continued from Page A1

school's philosophy to offer broad degrees, so that students are prepared to work in a variety of capacities within the industry. The goal is to produce students who are good employees all-around, he said. Mowrer also noted the

college offers a course, Introduction to Oil and Gas, that is both general and part of broader programs. He said students ages 16-65 participate in the course, and some have taken it just to understand what's happening around the region.

• Cruz

Continued from Page A1

In fiery remarks, Fiorina panned Trump and Clinton as a pair of liberals who would do little to shake up Washington.

"They're not going to challenge the system — they are the system," Fiorina said.

Trump, in turn, mocked Cruz at a rally in Indianapolis. "Cruz can't win. What's he doing picking vice presidents?" Trump asked. "He is the first presidential candidate in the history of this country who's mathematically eliminated from becoming president who chose a vice presidential candidate."

• Tower

Continued from Page A1

In other news, the commission voted to raise Emergency Medical Service rates for various types of response scenarios. Doug Crabtree, with the Harrison County EMS Association, said the county has not had an increase of any kind since 2012 and noted that the cost of supplies and other ele-

ments involved have gone up.

"We're just trying to keep things in line with the surrounding agencies," said Crabtree.

It helps pay for fuel, insurance, and training, he added regarding the increase.

The commissioners also approved a contract with the Ohio University Exten-

sion Office not to exceed \$950 for the summer youth program for "soft skills training." Scott Blackburn, director of the county Department of Job and Family Services, explained the training includes lessons such as time-management skills, proper dress and generalities that make participants more employ-

able, as well as skills such as making a budget.

Blackburn also said the county is in need of foster parents. Anyone interested in becoming a foster parent should call 740-942-2171.

Crabtree, who also works with the county engineer's office, also noted that there is some paving being completed on Kennedy Ridge.

• Rates

Continued from Page A1

meter also be charged the \$30-per-month debt charge.

That increase would impact the Indian Village Apartments, which has 60 units.

Bruce Calabrese, representing the owner of the Indian Village Apartments, said the tenants of the building pay a certain percentage of their income for rent, based on federal Housing and Urban Development guidelines. He said the apartment building last year paid \$16,500 in water bills. He said the charge of \$30 a month would amount to an additional \$22,000 a year. Calabrese and his attor-

ney, Frank Bruzzese, met with council's water and sewer committee on Monday to discuss the issue.

Village Solicitor Ernest Wilson said he has to do further research on the issue, saying there may be different interpretations of court cases on the matter. Wilson suggested the ordinance with the \$30 debt charge for the apartment buildings with only one meter be given three separate readings so the research can be completed before council acts on the matter.

Council was given an update by James Zorbini, water superintendent, on two water breaks in the past cou-

ple days. He said a line broke on Parr Street, which caused a loss of about 80,000 gallons of water before it could be replaced. A second leak on Benita Drive West resulted on a loss of 300,000 gallons of water.

As a result of water loss in the Hillsboro tank, Zorbini said planned hydrant flushing for this week has been postponed until next week. He said he will announce the days and times.

Rubbish collection, which was scheduled for Tuesday, also was delayed until Wednesday and Thursday because of village crews working on the breaks.

Zorbini said the consumer confidence report for the quality of village water has been released and there were no violations. The report is available on the village's website and at the village water office in the Municipal Building.

Council authorized village crews clean out oxidation ditches at the sewer treatment plant. Two private companies submitted proposals of upwards of \$17,000 to do the work. The village crews will use the village's vacuum truck to clean out the ditches and be paid overtime.

Council also heard a second presentation from a representative of Utility Technologies about a water meter replacement program. The company is proposing water meters with the ability to remotely update water usage for each customer every hour. The cost with installation and financing for five years would be \$703,673.

Council has discussed replacing the aging meters in the village because meters become inaccurate over time.

Mayor Ed Fithen also announced he proclaimed May as Motorcycle Awareness Month in the village.

Council was informed the security cameras at Aracoma Park now are working and being monitored and recorded at the police station.

Council will meet at 6 p.m. on May 9 to discuss planning activities at the park throughout the summer months.

Council also approved pool and shelter rates at the park. A resident family pass for the pool will be \$150 and \$50 for adults, senior citizens or students ages 6-17. A nonresident family pass for the pool will be \$225, \$100 for adults and \$75 for senior citizens or students. The daily rate for the pool will be \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 12-17 and \$2 for children ages 3-11. Children under 3 will be admitted free. The daily rates are the same for residents and nonresidents.

The shelter house rentals for residents will be \$100 for the large shelter and \$75 for the small and bocce shelters. Nonresidents will pay \$200 for the large shelter, \$175 for the small shelter and \$125 for the bocce shelter. Residents renting the recreation hall in the Municipal Building will pay \$100; \$125 for nonresidents. Persons wishing to rent the pool for a children's party or adult evening party will be charged \$150.

MARKET REPORT

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Arcelor Mittal	5.53	-.06
BB&T Corp	36.15	-.01
Big Lots	47.10	-.58
Bob Evans Farms	46.31	-.58
Bon Ton Store	2.35	-.02
Cabelas Inc	52.19	-.20
Cardinal Health	86.54	-.04
Colgate-Palmolive	69.31	+.35
Consol Energy	15.69	+1.53
Dow Chemical	53.60	-.07
DuPont	67.47	-.08
FirstEnergy Corp	36.05	+1.66
Gen Electric	30.93	+.03
Hungtgn Bancshs	10.27	+.01
JPMorgan Chase & Co	64.11	+.18
Johnson & Johnson	112.77	-.14
Kroger Co	36.31	-.09
LRAD Corp	1.89	-.01
Legg Mason	35.20	+.60
Lowes Cos	76.94	+.62
Manitowoc Co	5.78	+.10
Marriott Intl A	68.68	+1.68
McDonalds Corp	128.30	+.59
PPG Inds	112.99	-.56
Penney JC Co Inc	9.63	+.14
Rite Aid Corp	8.08	+.02
Sears Holdings Corp	18.15	+.34
Tractor Supply	95.98	+.87
Utd Bncp OH	9.57	+.07
Utd Bsch OH	18.00	+.35
Verizon Comm	51.69	+1.25
WalMart Strs	69.42	+.12
Wendys Co	11.11	+.07
Wesbanco	32.24	-.13
Wstrn Digital	46.08	+1.54

Growth slowing?

Economists project that the U.S. economy's rate of growth slowed in the first quarter. After expanding at a 1.4 percent annual clip in the last three months of 2015, economists expect economic growth as measured by the gross domestic product slowed to only 0.7 percent in the January-March quarter. The Commerce Department issues its latest estimate of U.S. economic growth today.

GDP seasonally adjusted annualized percent change

Source: FactSet

On cruise control

Financial analysts predict that Ford Motor's latest earnings didn't skip a beat after a strong 2015. The automaker benefited last year from higher sales in most of the world, including record sales in the U.S., which helped lift the company's earnings for the year. Wall Street anticipates that Ford's fortunes carried over into the first three months of this year. Ford reports its first-quarter results today.

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SmCpVallnv	7.89	+0.4	-2.2	Fairholme d	10.19 +0.4 +5	CapOpAdml
ValueInv	8.11	+0.7	+1.5	Fidelity	38.00 +2.2 +5	DWGr
American Funds				Contra	Prudential Investmen	GibEq
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AmBalA m	24.58	+0.7	+2.7	LowPrStik d	Schwab	ITGradeAd
CapInvcBuA m	59.25	+2.4	-2.1	LIAm d	S&P500Sel d	InstIdx
CapInvcBuA m	44.34	+1.2	-5.9	Fidelity Spartan	T Rowe Price	InstSTIP
FrlInV m	52.19	+1.5	+1.8	500IlyAdv	BCHpGr	MidCpAdml
GthAmA m	41.31	+0.6	-1.2	Forester	CapAggrec	MultAdml
IncAmerA m	20.99	+0.8	-1	Value b	EqInx d	PrmcpAdml
IntlGrInA m	28.94	+0.9	-12.2	FrankTemp-Franklin	GrowStk	STGradeAd
InvCoAmA m	35.41	+1.8	+1.2	IncomeA m	IntlGrIn d	SmCpldAdm
MutualA m	35.75	+1.7	+1.0	SmMdCpGrA m	MidCpGr	TgtRe2020
NewPerspA m	35.81	+0.5	-3.8	FrankTemp-Templeton	NewHoriz	TgtRe2025
WAMutInV m	39.88	+1.6	+2.1	GilBondAdv	NewIncome	TgtRe2030
BlackRock				Harbor	R2015	TgtRe2035
EqDiv	21.74	+0.8	+3.6	CapApInst	R2025	Welln
LatinAmA m	38.43	+6.8	-15.0	IntlInsl	R2035	WellnAdm
StrIncIn	9.70	...	-1.8	James Advantage	Ret2020R b	WellnAdm
Equity				GoldRainA b	RetBalR b	WellsIAm
Boston Partners				Janus	TRi2010R b	WellsIAm
CGM	20.06	+0.6	+3.4	GibSelT	TRi2030R b	WellsIAm
Focus	36.85	+1.0	-8.6	PerkinsMCTV	TRi240R b	WndsIAm
Mutual	28.45	+1.4	-7.1	Mathews Asian	Value	WesMark
Realty	27.35	+0.9	-9.6	China	U.S. Global Investor	Balanced
Dodge & Cox				India	AllAmEq m	Growth
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