



The Pike County News Watchman



TODAY'S FORECAST



T-storms

HIGH 83 LOW 62

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Community meeting to discuss Zahn's Corner contamination sampling results

Also will give update on upcoming third-party sampling

STAFF REPORT

A community meeting hosted by the Scioto Valley Local School District (SVLSD) will be held on Saturday, Aug. 10 in the Piketon High School cafeteria with the purpose of presenting results from sampling for radiological contamination completed at Zahn's Corner Middle School over the Memorial Day weekend.

Doors will open for the meeting at 10 a.m., and the presentation will begin promptly at 11 a.m., according to Jennifer Chandler of the Scioto Valley-Piketon Area Council of Governments.

The community meeting will also include an update on the comprehensive sampling effort, which is scheduled to begin in September.

"At the request of the SVLSD Board of Education and the Pike County General Health District (PCGHD), DOE provided funding to hire a qualified independent environmental contractor to collect samples inside and outside our middle school building, including in classroom areas and on the playground," according to information provided by Chandler. "The school will be tested for radioactive byproducts released into the air by DOE's Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant during past

uranium enrichment operations, as well as from the current construction activities of the onsite waste disposal cell and the open-air demolition of plant buildings and structures.

"The Zahns Corner Middle School building will remain closed for the 2019-2020 school year and will not be reopened until we can be absolutely certain that the building and grounds provide a safe and healthy environment for our students, staff, parents and visitors."

Samples taken during the Memorial Day weekend were taken to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH); the county (which sent their samples to scientists who tested the results at Northern Arizona University); and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), for separate analysis.

This meeting will feature presenters who tested the results on behalf of the county, Michael E. Ketterer, Ph.D., professor emeritus, chemistry and biochemistry of Northern Arizona University, and Scott C. Szechenyi, M.S., independent consultant.

A story on the differing Memorial day sampling results between the researchers at Northern Arizona University, ODH, and DOE ran in the Sunday, July 4 edition of the News Watchman. There will be further updates on these issues in future editions.

Interim sheriff sworn in



BY MATT LUCAS/MANAGING EDITOR

James Nelson took the oath of office on Monday in the Pike County Court of Common Pleas to become the interim sheriff of Pike County. The oath was administered by Pike County Court of Common Pleas Judge Randy Deering. Nelson was appointed interim sheriff by the Pike County Democratic Central Committee.

Pike County Suicide Prevention Coalition to host Color 5K Run/Walk

STAFF REPORT

The Pike County Suicide Prevention Coalition (PCSPC) will host "Never Give Up," its first annual Color 5K Run/Walk, on Saturday, Aug. 10 at Waverly High School. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m., followed by the run/walk at 10 a.m.

Registration for the race is still open and will remain open until the start of the 5K run/walk. Registration is \$25. A few t-shirts are available in limited sizes.

Those wishing to participate in the 5K run/walk can register by going to TriStateRacer.com and searching for "Never Give Up 5K," or by using the direct link on the PCSPC Facebook page, according

to Susan Fish, president of PCSPC.

Donations may be made to the Pike County Suicide Prevention Coalition c/o ADAMH at 394 Chestnut Street, Chillicothe 45601, according to the PCSPC Facebook page.

"Earmark your donation for the Pike County Color 5K," the PCSPC Facebook page says. "Donations will also be accepted on race day if you just want to come and be a part of the event."

Anyone interested in volunteering at the event is welcome to do so, according to Fish.

"You can never have too many volunteers," she said.

Volunteers may register by using the direct link provided on the organization's Facebook page.

The race is the Pike County Suicide Prevention Coalition's major fundraiser for the year.

Formed by the Paint Valley Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board (ADAMH), PCSPC held its first meeting in July 2018. The ADAMH board and the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation provides assistance to PCSPC.

Parents, members of community agencies, clergy, students, community members and friends and family of those who have died as a result of suicide are members of the group.

"We have more than 20 active members (primarily from Pike County) but would love to invite anyone who is interested to come to our meetings," Fish said.

Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month at 3:30 p.m. at the Pike County Senior Center.

The organization's mission is "to decrease suicide deaths and attempts in the county through advocacy, education, training and evaluation," according to Fish.

"The coalition applied for and received a LOSS (Local Outreach of Suicide Survivors) grant from the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation to provide resources and comfort care packages to families who have lost someone to suicide, and trained three PCSPC members how to provide support to these families," she said.

SEE SUICIDE ON PAGE A2

Sheriff's office warns of possible text message scam

STAFF REPORT

Pike County Interim Sheriff James Nelson has warned that a text message on your cell phone supposedly sent from your bank could possibly be a scam.

The attached photo shows a screen shot from a phone of what the texts may look like. On the Pike County

Sheriff's Office Facebook page, Nelson said that the sheriff's office highly recommends that if you have any concerns or questions about your bank account you should call your financial institution.

If you are a victim of fraud, you are asked to call the sheriff's office at 740-947-2111.

Text Message Today 12:36 PM

FRM:Call Support
833.781.6812 NOW
SUBJ:Notification from US.BANK.
MSG:Security.Department ID: 654

Eagle Families Unite program recently completed

STAFF REPORT

Families in the Eastern Local School District recently completed the first series of the seven-week Eagle Families Unite Strengthening Families Program. Families from the school district were invited to participate in the program in order to develop skills, strategies and tools to build stronger families, according to Tammy Jones, Family and Consumer Sciences educator for OSU Extension Pike County.

Grant funds were secured by OSU Extension staff for purchasing curriculum and training facilitators. Tammy Jones, Heather Jones, Misty Richmond and Kristen Campbell facilitated each session of the program.

For the series, facilitators used the curriculum "Strengthening Families Program 10-14." The program has been named the best prevention program "out of 6,000 for long-term effects on

substance use and misuse by Dr. David Foxcroft of Oxford Brookes University."

"Each session started with a family meal, followed by a one-hour session where youth and parents/caregivers met separately with facilitators, and a second hour where youth and parents/caregivers met as a family," said Jones. "Topics covered were peer pressure resistance, reducing stress, finding our family values, better communication skills, problem solving, goal setting, and understanding each other better."

"For every dollar spent on the program, \$9.60 comes back to the community as benefits in the form of less jail time, less time off work and less time in treatment," Jones said. "Therefore, community sponsors were needed in order to make this program possible."

The following provided local support in the form of childcare, incentives and meals: Atomic Credit Union, 4-H Forever, Beaver Civic Club, Bapst Berry Patch,

Beast & Bottle, Chix-n-Chaps 4-H Club, CareSource, Cox-Burkitt Funeral Home, Jones Concessions, Fluor-BWXT, Long's Retreat, Givens Chapel, Rural King, Pike County Junior Fair Board, Pike County Farm Bureau, Pike County Juvenile Court, and Town & Country 4-H Club.

Jones will deliver the next part of the program, a 15-week life skills course, to 7th graders at Eastern during the 2019-2020 school year.

"I really like how the program helps the kids recognize peer pressure, how to avoid it, and use preventative peer pressure tactics to make good choices for themselves," said program facilitator, mother and Fluor-BWXT (FBP) employee Heather Jones.

"A big thanks to Eastern Local Schools for their partnership and support, Heather Jones and Misty Richmond for their willingness and time to facilitate, and to all families who participated in the program!" Jones said.

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DEATHS

Franklin Roosevelt Mickey, 76, formerly of Chillicothe
Viola M. Smith, 95, of Latham

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