



## Ewing Memorial award

LOCAL • 3



## Money for Meals

LOCAL • 13



# The Times-Gazette

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## Plastic replaces steel for Greenfield gas

By Angela Shepherd  
ashepherd@civitasmedia.com

Vectren has some upcoming projects planned in Greenfield, according to city manager Ron Coffey, who provided the information during a meeting of the Greenfield Village Council on Wednesday.

Coffey said he and other village officials met with Vectren and Miller Pipeline last month to talk about plans for natural gas pipeline replacement “for 2016 and beyond.”

Coffey said it is all “part of an ongoing effort to replace steel pipelines with plastic for the safety and convenience of our citizens.”

He said work in preparation of the pipe replacements has been done, and when digging is about to begin in the target areas packets of information will be placed on residents’ doorknobs.

He said Vectren and Miller Pipeline anticipate the work for this year to be completed by midsummer.

On a related matter, Coffey said Vectren has contracted with Health Consultants to do a leak survey, which is something that is required by the Department of Transportation, he said.

Inspections will take place on underground natural gas piping, and inside piping if the meter is inside the residence. Coffey said technicians with Health Consultants “will have a visible ID and provide a Vectren contact phone number that the customer can call to provide verification.” Coffey noted that technicians will be driving their own vehicles, not Vectren vehicles, when the calls are made. He said inspections inside the home should only take about five minutes.

In other business, the

**City Manager Ron Coffey said it is all “part of an ongoing effort to replace steel pipelines with plastic for the safety and convenience of our citizens.”**

city manager said that work on Greenfield’s railroad improvement project is more than 90 percent complete.

He said all 542 ties have been installed on the bridge over Paint Creek on the east side of Greenfield.

“Some additional work needs done on the bridge and elsewhere,” Coffey said, “but we are getting closer to wrapping up the project.”

The multi-million dollar project was years in the making, and then suffered one delay after another after becoming funded in 2012. Work finally began in June 2015.

The village’s railroad supports industry along its 29 miles with Greenfield’s Johnson Controls, New Vienna’s Huhtamaki, and Leesburg’s Candle-lite.

On financial matters, tax administrator Margaret Mobley reported that the village collected \$121,575 in city income tax in the month of January. According to her report, nearly \$18,000 more was collected than in January 2015.

Finance director Carolyn Snodgrass reported Greenfield’s preliminary funds for January as: month-to-date expense, \$696,615; month-to-date revenue, \$302,337; and a general fund balance of \$368,831 as of January 31, 2016.

Coffey reported that the next meeting of the neighborhood watch

See PLASTIC | 5

## Chase suspect to prison



Gary Abernathy | The Times-Gazette  
Brooke Lynn Bailey, right, appears in court Thursday with her attorney, Sue Zurface. Bailey, who allegedly led law enforcement agencies on a chase Saturday morning, saw her previous judicial release revoked.

Bailey’s release revoked; Williams gets 8 months

By Gary Abernathy  
gabernathy@civitasmedia.com

The woman who allegedly led law enforcement agencies on a chase from Clinton County to Highland County early Saturday saw her judicial release revoked Thursday.

Highland County Common Pleas Judge Rocky Coss revoked the judicial release he had granted

in September of 2014 for Brooke Lynn Bailey, 25.

Bailey, of Hillsboro had been sentenced in 2013 on a second degree felony burglary charge. Originally sentenced to three years, Coss granted judicial release after Bailey had served about a year in prison, with the condition that she completed the STAR rehabilitation program.

In December of last year, the court learned that Bailey had allegedly violated a condition of her

See PRISON | 5

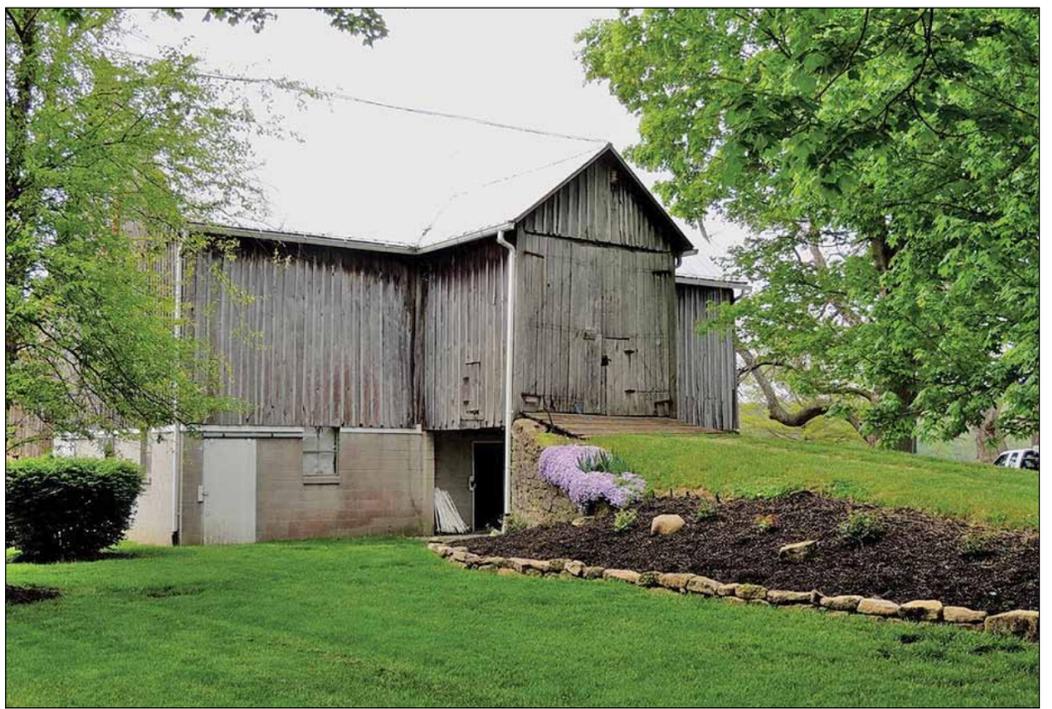


Photo courtesy of Robert Kroeger  
An oil painting of this barn on Grabill Road, co-owned by Tim and Sandy Shoemaker and Howard Grabill, will be sold at an annual Highland County Extension Support Committee event on April 2.

## Preserving rural history

Barn paintings to benefit Extension Support Committee

By Jeff Gilliland  
jgilliland@civitasmedia.com

Driving down the road one day on an anniversary trip, Robert Kroeger passed an old, gray barn that called to him. Since that time less than four years ago the retired dentist has painted dozens of barns across Ohio, and Highland County 4-H will soon benefit from his efforts.

Eleven of Kroeger’s paintings are of Highland County barns, and when the Highland County Extension Support Committee holds its annual dinner fundraiser on April 2, five of them will be auctioned off, with the proceeds going to the committee.

Kroeger was born and raised in the suburbs of Youngstown and until last year had little knowledge of 4-H or what goes on at a county fair. But after starting his Ohio Barn Project last year he met with Hillsboro area residents Tim and Sandy Shoemaker over the summer and they invited him to come back for the fair.

He was watching a goat show when he suddenly knew what to do with his paintings.

“The kids reminded

me of my youth in the 1950s. They were clean cut, respectful and competitive,” Kroeger said.

“There was one girl I thought did a very good job and when she didn’t win, I could see the expression of disappointment on her face, and I thought to myself, ‘This is it.’”

A graduate of The Ohio State University, Kroeger spent four years in the U.S. Navy before maintaining a private dental practice in Cincinnati for 30 years. Since that time he has run marathons and lost 50 pounds, organized marathons, took up the painting skills he first picked up from his commercial

artist father, has become a published author, and is a certified personal trainer who started a LifeNuts vitality program.

But it was in 2012 that his anniversary trip set him on a course to help Highland County 4-H.

“My wife and I turned down the road to our bed and breakfast [and] we passed this gentle, gray giant. Its roof sagging, its side boards warped and tilted

– a few missing here and there, the barn grabbed me. Disheveled, it begged for attention. I don’t know how or why, but the idea sprang into my head that I had to find out more,” Kroeger wrote on his website.

The next day he met with the owner in a small 1830 farmhouse and learned the barn’s story. Kroeger told the man that one day he’d start his barn project, and in late 2015 he gave the man a small study paint-

ing of the barn.

When he gets to 50 paintings he said he hopes to publish a book of his barn art along with essays and photographs of each one. He also plans to funnel funds from the paintings to 4-H and FFA, “towards the young men and women who work on Ohio farms, providing food, and who will become the next generation of Ohio farmers.”

Part of the reason he likes barns is because he respects early Ohio pioneers. “Their barns are disappearing fast and I’d like to preserve some of that history for the next generation,” he said Thursday. “If it wasn’t for them 200 years ago we wouldn’t be here.”

The Highland County Extension Support Committee fundraiser begins at 6 p.m. April 2 in the Poultry and Rabbit Barn on the Highland County Fairgrounds. There will be a dinner, live and silent auctions, a deejay with karaoke, and more. Tickets are \$10 for anyone 11 and older, \$7 for kids ages 4-10, and \$3 for kids age 3 and under. They can be purchased at the Extension Office or

See BARN | 13

### INDEX

Obituaries: 2  
Editorial: 4  
Weather: 5  
Comics: 6  
Puzzles: 7  
Sports: 8  
Classifieds: 10

### WEATHER



Sunny with a few clouds  
High 43, Low 27

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