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The Ottawa County OhioMeansJobs office is staffed by Employment Specialists, from left, Monica Metcalf, Connie North, Heidi Troyer, and Lily Garcia-Péna. (Photo by Sheri Trusty)

Ottawa County OhioMeansJobs makes job searching easy

BY SHERI TRUSTY

OAK HARBOR - OhioMeansJobs (OMJ) is a state-run program where employers can advertise jobs and Ohioans can search for jobs, obtain skills training, and find other career resources through offices across the state. Ottawa County is fortunate to have an OMJ office staffed by some of the most competent and compassionate employment specialists in Ohio.

At the Ottawa County OMJ office, the staff breaks down barriers to employment, making job-searching easy.

"People from other counties come here because we're so hands-on," said Ottawa County Employment Specialist/OMJ Marketing Monica Metcalf. "They feel comfortable here, and they come back. We take pride in customer service."

The Ottawa County OMJ office includes Metcalf and the other Employment Specialists, Connie North, Heidi Troyer, and Lily Garcia-Péna. In addition to job-matching services, the OMJ office offers access to its resource room, where clients can utilize computers, phones, copiers, and faxes at no cost.

The staff helps clients navigate the state's OMJ website, apply for jobs, set up emails, and help write resumes.

"That's something we do very often," Metcalf said. "It's really hard to sell yourself. It's nice to have them sit down with us so we can learn about their skills and strengths together."

In addition to helping clients find employment, Metcalf also promotes job listings for Ottawa County employers.

"I make social media posts for Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. I reach out to employers and put jobs on the OMJ website. All the jobs that come through, I put on social media at some point," Metcalf said. "I would like employers to reach out to us. Anybody in the county who is hiring can use this service. It's free. I tell people, let me do your marketing for you."

The Ottawa County OMJ office offers many services for job-seekers, including help through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), a state program which funds training, education, and support services for adults seeking in-demand jobs. A list of Ohio's in-demand jobs can be found on the OMJ website.

"We can spend up to $15,000 on an individual over a lifetime," North said. "The money can go toward education or support services like tools, work boots, and mileage. Our goal is for them to finish their education debt-free and take away those barriers."

The office offers a similar program, the Comprehensive Case Management & Employment Program (CCMEP), for youth ages 14 to 24 seeking in-demand jobs. The program helps youth overcome barriers to employment and gain self-sufficiency.

CCMEP funds can help clients finish high school, earn certifications, obtain occupational skills training, pursue higher education, and attain employment. The money can also be utilized for support assistance to help clients overcome barriers to employment, like housing and transportation needs.

"Our goal is to help them have the training, certification, and education to go directly into the workforce," Troyer said. "We also help people who want to change career fields to improve their lives."

Troyer has about 40 youth on the CCMEP program, and she provides post-employment support for up to 18 months to ensure they have the resources to retain their jobs and their independence.

Garcia-Péna, the only bilingual employee, also heads the Prevention, Retention, and Contingency program, which offers utility and housing assistance, and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, which provides up to $500 per month in cash assistance for families with a minor child in the household. The assistance is available to qualified clients for up to 36 months over the course of a lifetime.

TANF recipients must "work off" the money by spending time at the OMJ office searching for jobs and completing employment activities that increase their potential to find a job. Anyone interested in the TANF program can call the office to schedule an interview with a caseworker.

The overall goal of the OMJ office is to help Ohioans gain independence.

"We try to meet everyone's needs along the way so they can overcome those barriers to being self-sufficient," Metcalf said.

The OMJ office is located at 8043 W. SR 163 in Oak Harbor. It can be reached at 419-707-8605. For more information, visit https://ohiomeansjobs-ottawacounty.com or the mobile-friendly version at https://bycell.mobi/wap/default/iconmenuindex2.jsp?entryid=ECNDA0Ng==&redirect=1&category=null.

Michaela Stork is honored as the 190-pound Girls State Wrestling Champion at the Schottenstein Center in Columbus on March 15. (Submitted photo)

Michaela Stork becomes first wrestling state champion in Port Clinton High School history

BY SHERI TRUSTY

PORT CLINTON - On March 15, Port Clinton High School senior Michaela Stork became the 2026 State 190-pound Girls State Wrestling Champion and the first wrestling champion in the school's history. She was also the 2025 Discus State Champion, and she hopes to bring home the title again this spring.

Become a wrestling state champion was especially impressive because Stork has only wrestled for two years. So how did she become a formidable wrestler so quickly?

"I can't honestly answer that," Stork said. "I just put a lot of work into it. I love the sport. I love wrestling. I put everything into it that I had."

Wrestling Coach Kevin Scarpino said he wasn't surprised that Stork became the state champion, but he was surprised at how quickly she won, pinning her opponent in the first period.

"She's one of those girls who listens and works her butt off," Scarpino said. "She's committed to the sport. She gave it her all every day."

Stork never expected to become a champion when she was young. She didn't have an early interest in sports, and she chose to participate in track in 8th grade because she wanted to tone her body, not because she had a competitive drive. But now, she has made a name for herself in both discus and wrestling, and her edge on the wrestling mat came from her commitment to strengthening her body.

"I really like working out," she said. "Girls walk off the mat and say, 'She's so strong.' I like being strong. Lifting weights helps with a contact sport like wrestling where you're trying to overpower girls."

Scarpino said her physical strength and a drive to constantly improve made Stork a champion.

"Her strength is amazing. People don't recognize how strong she is until they tie up with her," Scarpino said. "And if she loses to you once, it will be the last time because she will learn from her mistakes and adjust accordingly."

Stork had to overcome bias as a girl in a male-dominated sport.

"I can't lie – it has been hard to deal with some of the things people have said to me based off of how I look. I look like an athlete. I'm tall with big shoulders. That also leads people to believe I'm a man, which I have had to deal with a lot of criticism because of," she said.

Stork said she has been told many times that women don't belong in sports.

"But I just proved I do belong. I am the first wrestler from Port Clinton to be a state champion. No boy has done it. I did, and I did it with pink and purple hair and makeup on," she said. "More girls should be encouraged to participate in athletics to make history as I did. I didn't join assuming I

Continued on 2A, **STORK**

Columbus State to rename Delaware Hall in honor of Dr. Harold Brown

Dr. Harold Brown's legacy will be honored when Columbus State renames Delaware Hall to Brown Hall. (Photo by Sheri Trusty)

CATAWBA ISLAND - Columbus State Community College recently announced the renaming of Delaware Hall to Brown Hall, in honor of the late Dr. Harold H. Brown, a foundational academic leader, decorated military hero, and lifelong champion of community college education. Brown lived on Catawba Island before his death in 2023.

While widely celebrated nationally as a World War II Tuskegee Airman, Brown's lasting legacy in central Ohio is deeply rooted in his 21-year tenure at the institutions that became Columbus State, where he played a pivotal role in transforming a small technical school into a leading destination for higher education in the region.

"Dr. Brown's legacy is deeply woven into the fabric of Columbus State," said David Harrison, president of the college. "From his heroism as a Tuskegee Airman to his leadership in helping to guide Columbus State's evolution into a comprehensive community college, Dr. Brown's impact endures in both the institution and the lives it continues to change. Naming one of the college's largest buildings in his honor ensures that future generations of students will be inspired by his lifelong commitment to learning, service, and accessibility."

Following a distinguished 23-year military career, Brown joined the Columbus Area Technical School (CATS) in 1965 as a physics and electronics instructor. Joining a student body of only about 150 students, he was one of the institution's first Black faculty members. His expertise led to rapid promotions, serving first as chair of the electrical

Continued on 2A, **BROWN**

From left, OCBDD's Director of Service and Support Reba Bishoff, Superintendent Jim Crist, Director of Business and Operations Michelle Merrill, and Director of Early Intervention Stephanie Cavanaugh helped organize events and activities for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March. (Photo by Sheri Trusty)

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month brings fun and advocacy to Ottawa County

BY SHERI TRUSTY

OAK HARBOR - From a congressional watch party to a community rock hunt, the Ottawa County Board of Developmental Disabilities (OCBDD) celebrated Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March with nonstop events and activities.

"We have a lot going on this month, more than we planned," said OCBDD Superintendent Jim Crist.

On March 4, hundreds of self-advocates and county board staff from across the state gathered at the Ohio Statehouse to celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness and Advocacy Day. In Ottawa County, OCBDD staff, self-advocates, providers, families, and friends gathered at the OCBDD office for a watch party, where they viewed the proceedings, which included a speech by Governor Mike DeWine.

"We watched the proclamations and the speakers,

Continued on 2A, **DISABILITIES**

Ottawa County oral history project may end without preserving all the stories

BY SHERI TRUSTY

Boyd Marshall grew up in Port Clinton and became a popular silent screen actor.

OTTAWA COUNTY - An oral history project that began in 2003 and preserved the colorful stories of Ottawa County's past may be ending. "The People of Ottawa County," a ten-volume collection published by the Ottawa County Historical Society (OCHS) and written from interviews with local residents, has "only scratched the surface" of the county's history, said longtime writer and editor Martha Dykes, but there is no one to pick up the work after Dykes retired from the volunteer work.

According to information written by the late Janet Stephenson, the Ottawa County project began when OCHS decided to participate in a statewide oral history project in 2001. They began collecting stories, and "came to realize what a really great collection we had," Stephenson wrote. As they had to choose and eliminate stories for the project, the group recognized a need to preserve the history, inspiring the idea for a book.

"We tried to collect interviews with a conscious effort to include a variety of interests, experiences, ages, careers, but especially all areas of the county," Stephenson wrote.

When Dykes later joined the project, she continued that commitment to include the entire county.

Dykes was asked to submit a story based on interviews she conducted in the 1990s with the grandchildren of John Magee, who converted 2,700 acres in Ottawa County to marshland and private hunting grounds. Those lands became the foundation for Magee Marsh Wildlife Area.

"They wanted a narrative about John Magee and then

Continued on 4A, **HISTORY**

INSIDE: RECORDS 2A • AROUND OTTAWA COUNTY 2A • CLASSIFIEDS 5A • WOMEN IN BUSINESS 1B

Commodore Perry Federal Credit Union partnership helps Habitat for Humanity of Ottawa County expand affordable homebuilding

PORT CLINTON - Humanity of Ottawa County (HFHOC) is highlighting the growing partnership with Commodore Perry Federal Credit Union (CPFCU), a Certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), whose support has played a significant role in expanding affordable home construction in Ottawa County.

The relationship began when CPFCU invited Habitat leadership to participate in a community-focused conference exploring strategic partnerships, grants, and innovative financing models. That collaborative environment quickly led to meaningful ways the two organizations could work together to strengthen affordable housing in the region.

One of the most impactful steps has been CPFCU's assistance in securing Zero Interest Fund (ZIF) financing through the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB). This special financing tool helps local nonprofits cover critical infrastructure expenses — such as roads, utilities, and site development — at a time when construction and land-development costs are rising sharply. Through this partnership, HFHOC was able to move forward with the infrastructure needed for four new homes built in Ottawa County last year.

CPFCU also developed a dedicated Habitat loan product designed specifically for Habitat partner-families. The mortgage product offers fewer barriers than a conventional loan, along with a highly competitive interest rate and flexible terms tailored to Habitat homebuyers.

Habitat homes are not given away. Partner-families purchase their homes with an affordable mortgage, contribute sweat equity, complete financial-literacy and homebuyer education, and must be employed and earn under 80% of the Area Median Income to qualify.

"This partnership with CPFCU reflects what can happen when local organizations work together for the good of the community," said Debi Heiks, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Ottawa County. "Their support with ZIF financing and a specialized Habitat loan product has directly helped us increase our capacity to serve more families with safe, decent, affordable homes."

"As a Certified CDFI, part of our mission is to expand economic opportunity within the communities we serve," said a representative from CPFCU. "Partnering with Habitat aligns perfectly with that mission. We're proud to support affordable homeownership and the long-term stability it brings to local families."

Looking ahead, Habitat plans to continue scaling construction and home-repair programs to meet the growing regional need. CPFCU's involvement is one part of a larger network of banks, credit unions, businesses, churches, and volunteers working together to improve housing in Ottawa County.

A partnership between Habitat for Humanity of Ottawa County and Commodore Perry Federal Credit Union is opening the door to home ownership for more local families. (Submitted photo)

Magruder Hospital: The extraordinary care of independent, nonprofit hospitals

BY MAGRUDER PRESIDENT & CEO NICK MARSICO

As the season changes this spring, I am reminded of the vital role a strong, independent, nonprofit community hospital plays in the health and future of our region. From caring for our neighbors to investing in new services and technologies, our objective is – and always has been – to provide exceptional, accessible care close to home. Today, I'm pleased to share several important developments that reflect that commitment.

WELCOMING OUR NEW CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, JULIE HAUK

I am proud to announce the hiring of Magruder Hospital's new Chief Financial Officer, Julie Hauk. Julie brings extensive experience in healthcare finance, strategic planning, and organizational stewardship. Her background and leadership are already proving invaluable as we navigate the increasingly complex landscape of rural healthcare. Julie's dedication aligns closely with our mission, and she will play a central role in ensuring that Magruder remains strong, sustainable, and positioned for future growth – right here in Port Clinton.

A USDA CDS GRANT FOR A NEW MRI MACHINE

We are equally excited to share that Magruder Hospital has received a USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program (CDS) grant to support the purchase of a new MRI machine. This investment will significantly enhance our diagnostic capabilities by improving image quality, adding new capabilities, decreasing testing times significantly, and reducing wait times for essential scans. This upgrade reflects our ongoing commitment to modernizing the care we provide for the community.

STRENGTHENING ACCESS THROUGH EXPANDED SERVICE LINES

In 2025, Magruder Hospital proudly introduced several new service lines aimed at expanding local access to specialty care and reducing the need to travel outside the area for treatment:

- Magruder Pharmacy at Bassett's Market – creating another option for retail pharmacy services in Ottawa County.
- Vein & Body – offering advanced treatments for vein disease, circulatory issues, and aesthetic services.
- Neurology – providing evaluation and management of neurological conditions including stroke follow-up, migraines, and movement disorders.
- Urology – expanding access to comprehensive urological care, from kidney stone management to prostate and bladder health.

These additions reflect our continuous efforts to bring more high-quality specialty care to Ottawa County, ensuring patients receive timely, convenient care close to home.

THE ROLE OF PHILANTHROPY: THE MAGRUDER HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

While technology upgrades and new services are essential to our mission, they are made possible in large part through the generosity of individuals, families, and businesses who support the Magruder Hospital Foundation. Philanthropy is more than a donation – it is an investment in the long-term health and stability of our community.

Magruder President & CEO Nick Marsico leads the hospital's mission to bring exceptional, accessible care close to home. (Submitted photo)

Over the past three years alone, the Foundation has contributed more than $500,000 in vital improvements, including funding for:

- A new oncology electronic health record (EHR) module, improving coordination and quality of cancer care.
- A new orthopedic surgical table, enhancing precision, safety, and comfort in our operating rooms.
- Remote technology upgrades and mobile technology workstations, expanding workflow efficiencies in order to improve patient care.

These projects – and many others like them – demonstrate how charitable giving directly strengthens Magruder's ability to expand services, improve care, and stay at the forefront of modern medicine. Every gift, large or small, plays a meaningful role in shaping the future of healthcare in our region.

WHY SUPPORTING A LOCAL, NONPROFIT HOSPITAL MATTERS

Local hospitals like Magruder are anchors of community wellbeing. As a nonprofit organization, every dollar we earn is reinvested into patient care, technology, infrastructure, and community health programming. We answer not to shareholders, but to our neighbors, families, and friends.

Choosing to receive care locally supports jobs, attracts physicians, funds innovations, and ensures that critical services remain available close to home. Your support – whether through utilizing local healthcare, volunteering, or giving to the Foundation – helps preserve high-quality, compassionate care for generations to come.

LOOKING AHEAD

Whether we are welcoming new leaders, securing grant funding for essential upgrades, expanding specialty services, recruiting new providers, or partnering with generous community members through the Magruder Hospital Foundation, our goal remains the same: to provide outstanding, accessible and affordable care to the people of Ottawa County and the surrounding communities.

Thank you for supporting your local, nonprofit community hospital, and joining us in our mission of Improving Lives Together.

NICK MARSICO
PRESIDENT & CEO
MAGRUDER HOSPITAL

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APRIL EVENTS
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

975 GORDON RD., OAK HARBOR, OHIO

Free Ladies Night Self Defense Program: Monday, April 6 & 20, 5:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Trustee meeting: Monday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.

First Shot Program: Thursday, April 9, 6:00 p.m. Rifle instruction for new shooters. Free and everything is included.

Club Member Hunt: Sunday, April 12, 9:00 a.m.

CMP Sanctioned Rimfire Sporter Match: Saturday, April 18. Registration and squadding begin at 7:00 a.m. Cost: $15 adult, $10 juniors (with adult); re-entry $5 with same rifle. 1st relay at 8 a.m., 2nd relay at 10 a.m., 3rd relay at 12 noon. To register: cyarletts3@gmail.com

For more information on any of the above programs please email: trudes@cros.net

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Agatha Christie's
THE MOUSETRAP

"The Mousetrap" has been enthralling audiences since it opened in London in 1952, with silent chaos, shifting suspicions, and a surprise ending. Be a part of this legendary thriller as a group of strangers, trapped in a snowbound country house, becomes the target of a killer!

MOLLIE RALSTON is the young wife running Monkswell Manor with her husband GILES RALSTON. Their guests include CHRISTOPHER WREN, an effeminate, hyperactive young man; who clashes with MRS BOYLE. a critical, older woman and COMMANDER METCALF a middle-aged military man. They are joined by MISS CASEWELL a peculiar, young woman and MR PARAVICINI, an enigmatic foreigner. And, of course, SERGEANT TROTTER, the investigating officer desperately trying to solve the murders.

BE AT THE THEATRE:
Sunday, April 12, 2:00 p.m. and Monday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.
Production dates are June 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14.
Any questions call Director Peg McConnell 419-341-0676

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HISTORY, *from Cover*

asked me to join the group," Dykes said.

She began researching, conducting interviews, writing, and editing and eventually was made chair of the project. The group met monthly to discuss ideas for the books.

"Covid brought all that to a screeching halt," Dykes said.

The group never rebounded after Covid, and in the past few years, the project has been sustained by Dykes and Ottawa County Museum Curator Peggy Debien and aided by research conducted by John Liske. But in the years that Dykes worked on the project, she created many memories as she scoured the county for not-to-be-lost stories for the project, as well as an additional book, "Along the Highways and Waterways of Ottawa County, Ohio," published in 2017.

"We had a lot of fun with that. Sandy Zenser and I had a fun day over at Middle Bass's Victorian village," Dykes said.

The women ferried over to the island hoping to connect with people who knew the history.

"A lady came out to our car because she thought we were lost. We told her what we were doing, and she told us we need to talk to her husband," Dykes said. "He had a whole photo album of pictures of when it was in its heyday, and he took us on a golf cart tour of the island."

On another day, Dykes made arrangements to interview people at the Put-in-Bay senior center. Her adventures across the county helped preserve the stories of people like Boyd Marshall of Port Clinton who grew up to become a silent screen actor. He became a favorite at the New York Hippodrome and performed at the Lyric Theater with Douglas Fairbanks.

The books also capture the story of Mae Perry, who was born near Oak Harbor in 1894. She grew up to become a Ziegfeld Girl, danced for kings and queens in Europe, and eventually developed a popular routine as a contortionist.

The books also tell the tales of local residents who made their living fishing, farming, and even bootlegging. There are stories of longtime businesses, early schools, and the area's lighthouses.

Dykes said there are many stories yet to be told, and she is afraid that vital history will be lost.

"I put hours and hours into the books and never felt like I was working. I just never wanted to lose those voices. But I was 85 when I finished the last book and thought that was a good time to stop," she said. "I don't know if anyone will continue the project. I feel like we've barely scratched the surface. I hate to have it come to an end."

The books are available at the Keeper's House annex in Marblehead and online on the Ottawa County Historical Society website at https://ottawacountyhistory.org.