



DONATION
LOCAL 3A



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football's
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SPORTS 5A

BREAKING NEWS ONLINE

MarionStar.com

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 10, 2014

The Marion Star

A GANNETT COMPANY

County facility Center of the Year

Marion home to
'finest veterans job
center' in Ohio

By Nick Bechtel
The Marion Star

MARION — Strong support of military veterans has separated the local career center from

others across the state.

The Marion County Center was recently chosen as the Center of the Year for 2014 by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

Roxane Somerlot, director of Marion County Job and Family Services, said the center picked up the recognition as the staff continues to be "very focused and in-tune to veterans ser-

vices." She credited administrator Ron Meade, who served more than two decades in the Army, for keeping that focus for the staff.

A large part of why the Marion center won, according to Somerlot, includes the work "outside the normal range of services." In particular, center employees have volunteered to have veterans-specific job fairs

to increase the quality of life of those in need.

"Veterans have given much for us and for our communities, so we think it's important to take extraordinary steps in response to their extraordinary service," she said.

Kelly Bates, center manager, agreed her staff goes "above and beyond" to serve veterans. She said veterans also are iden-

tified at regular job fairs so potential employers are aware of a person's military background.

"We have a lot of great relationships in the Marion area with businesses that are always willing to give veterans priority in hiring," she said.

Outside of job fairs, the center works one-on-one with

See VETERANS, Page 4A

'Thousands' of historic items given to society



JAMES MILLER/THE MARION STAR

Richard Carey holds a portrait of Carrie Fulton Phillips, the mistress of Warren G. Harding, dated 1896, at the Marion County Historical Society. Carey, a longtime collector and former president of the historical society, donated much of his collection of letters, photographs and other Marion memorabilia to the Marion Historical Society's permanent collection housed at Heritage Hall, 169 E. Church St.

Gift shines light on Marion County history group's need for more space

By John Jarvis
The Marion Star

MARION — Regular visits to Richard Carey's house over a period of several months were, a local historian said, a "labor of love."

"It was kind of like Christmas every time I went out there," Randy Winland said, as he recalled organizing the thousands of papers and other items of historic significance that Carey has collected for more than 40 years.

On Tuesday, Winland unloaded Carey's early Christmas present to the Marion County Historical Society at its Heritage Hall auditorium where it was displayed briefly before being added to the group's growing collection of local memorabilia.

Finding space not only to accommodate but to display such historic items has become a top priority for the group and its approximately 450 members, Gale Martin, the society's director, said. The historical society is preparing to start a fundraising campaign to acquire another building.

"We're exploring possibilities," Martin said.

"(It) really, especially when a wonderful collection like this comes in, brings home how much we need space. The sad fact is the historical so-



JAMES MILLER/THE MARION STAR

Gale Martin holds a rare child's beanie printed with the name "Harding" from the 1920 Harding presidential campaign. The hat is part of the collection of Richard Carey at the Marion County Historical Society.

ciety has outgrown the building."

One attractive possibility is the former YMCA building next door, which has about 53,000 square feet of space, she said.

"What we're hoping we can do is create a history center for Marion

County," she said, adding the facility wouldn't be solely for the use of the historical society.

"We would love to have a space where local collectors like Richard

See HISTORIC, Page 4A

New biz network partners with Habitat

Community
Business
Connections
members help each
other, charity

By John Jarvis
The Marion Star

MARION — A group of 15 small business owners have formed a new networking group to help each other while helping charitable organizations along the way, said Pat Case, one of the group's members.

"It started with keep-the-money-local (business efforts)," Case, owner of Great Impressions, said. "Several of us were part of another networking group. The dues were high and sometimes not doable for a small business."

She said the new group, Community Business Connections, charges \$100 a year, and has committed 80 percent of that to a local charity. This year the group is partnering with Habitat for Humanity of Marion County.

"We're going to help the current family they're doing a build with now," she said. "We want to help them pay their escrow costs." She said the group's members also plan to donate a basket of goods to the family.

Lynn Zucker, executive director of the local Habitat and a member of Community Business Connections, welcomed the formation of the group.

"I think it's a great thing that the group is looking at doing to have a nonprofit every year," Zucker said. "We're their inaugural nonprofit. I think it's a great group. You meet other people in business and network with them."

Case said the group will select a group each year to which it will donate.

Community Business Connections began meeting at 7:30 a.m. every other Wednesday at Baking People Happy.

"And we hope to do some other promotions as such where we can do something to help Habitat, whether we go out and do a day of painting or a day of work

See PARTNERS, Page 4A

WEATHER

Today: A chance of freezing drizzle before noon. Mostly cloudy, high 33.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 23.

COMPLETE 7-DAY
FORECAST | PAGE 4A

INDEX

Nation/World 2A
Obituaries 2A
Local 3A
Weather 4A
Sports 5A
Comics 7A

OBITUARIES

» Virginia M. Duffey
» Jean Louise (Davis Rissler) Flahive
» Marjorie Doloris Simpkins

PLANAHEAD

Dec. 21 — Delaware Community Chorus Christmas Concert: Under the direction of Daniel Hursey, chorus will present its Christmas concert, "The Very Best Time of Year." 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 45 W. Winter St., Delaware. \$10. 614-873-5475.
www.delawarechorus.org.

MORE PLAN AHEAD ITEMS | PAGE 3A

CORRECTIONS

POLICY

The Marion Star strives for accuracy in its reporting. If you believe information needs to be corrected or clarified, please call Managing Editor Anthony Conchel at 740-375-5107.




\$1 RETAIL


For home delivery pricing, see page 3A.

PAGE 2A


LOCAL FORECAST




TODAY
33|23



THURSDAY
36|27



FRIDAY
37|30



SATURDAY
41|32

Today: A chance of freezing drizzle before noon. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 33. North wind 13 to 16 mph. Tonight, mostly cloudy, with a low around 23. Northwest wind 10 to 13 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 36. Northwest wind 11 to 14 mph. Thursday night, partly cloudy, with a low around 27. West wind 7 to 10 mph.

Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 37. Friday night, mostly cloudy, with a low around 30.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 41. Saturday night, mostly cloudy, with a low around 32.

Sunday: Partly sunny, with a high near 45. Sunday night, mostly cloudy, with a low around 34.

Monday: Partly sunny, with a high near 46. Monday night, a chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 36. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Tuesday: A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 43. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

ALMANAC

MARION	
Yesterday's high (as of 5 p.m.)	43
Yesterday's low	38
Normal high today	42
Normal low today	29
Record high today	66 in 1952
Record low today	-8 in 1917

YESTERDAY'S PRECIPITATION (as of 5 p.m.)	
Total for month	1.65

AROUND THE STATE		
City	High	Low
Akron	42	36
Bucyrus	40	36
Cincinnati	43	37
Cleveland	40	36
Columbus	43	38
Dayton	41	37
Mansfield	40	36
Toledo	38	36
Youngstown	45	35

LOOKING SKYWARD			
Sunrise: 7:42 a.m.			
Sunset: 5:06 p.m.			
Lunar Phases:			
Full Jan. 5	Last Dec. 14	New Dec. 22	First Dec. 28

Readings are for a 24-hour period ending at 5 p.m. yesterday for the Marion area. Data is from the National Weather Service, Associated Press and local agencies that collect temperature statistics.

LOTTERY NIGHT DRAWINGS

Pick 3: 1-8-3
Pick 4: 5-1-3-6
Pick 5: 6-9-3-9-7
Rolling Cash 5
3-20-22-29-32

DAY DRAWINGS

Pick 3: 7-6-3
Pick 4: 8-5-5-8
Pick 5: 5-0-0-2-1

Veterans

Continued from Page 1A

veterans about their specific situation and develops unique plans for each person who walks through their door, according to Somerlot and Bates.

John K. McClure, veterans program manager with ODJFS, was at the Board of Marion County Commissioner's regular meeting Tuesday to recognize the employees for having "the finest veterans job center in the state of Ohio."

"The dedicated team of Marion County is committed to provide comprehensive employment and training service to veter-

Board removes mandate on art and more

By Julie Carr Smyth
Associated Press

COLUMBUS — An education policy change that opponents said would let school districts eliminate art, gym and other classes cleared its first hurdle Tuesday at the state school board over some continuing objections.

At issue was a rule governing districts' minimum staffing requirements for elementary art, music and physical education teachers, counselors, librarians, nurses, social workers and visiting teachers.

The board voted 14-5 to approve language eliminating the mandate that schools must have five of eight of those positions per 1,000 students, after it changed an earlier proposal to retain certain

protections for specialized teachers in place.

Opponents had feared the wording change would allow elementary schools to do away with those classes and support staff, and one board member tried and failed to get the guarantees reinserted.

Board member Ann Jacobs said she had received "hundreds and hundreds" of emails on the subject and was representing her constituents in fighting for the so-called "5 of 8" rule to remain a mandate. Other backers of the rule said setting such requirements in law ensure that even poor urban districts hire music, art and gym teachers — not just rich suburban districts.

But panel member Cathye Flory said opposition was based largely on false or incomplete information. She said the new language wouldn't prevent anyone from giving the best to Ohio children.

Board member C. Todd Jones, an at-large member from New Albany, said time has shown that giving local districts more autonomy is better than the alternative: proscribing staffing levels.

"Part of the reason that we don't do that is that it is recognized that this would not be an effective means to achieve education," he said. "It's focusing on the adults and the inputs, not the children and the outputs."

The board also rejected an effort by board member Mary Rose Oa-

kar, of Cleveland, to beef up the language to bring a higher profile in hiring decisions to certain positions, including arts and music teachers and school nurses.

Most board members agreed the wording changes undercut work they'd been doing on a compromise over the past year.

The Ohio Education Association, the state's largest teachers' union, said the new wording beat what was originally proposed but expressed disappointment that the "5 of 8" ratios were removed from state operating standards.

OEA President Becky Higgins said in a statement that an added provision calling for developing a new method of re-

porting the number of school nurses, librarians, social workers and other positions on local report cards is welcome.

"We hope local districts will get the message that licensed professionals in all of these areas are essential to support the needs of the whole child and that the state Legislature will follow suit by ensuring all districts have the resources necessary to meet those needs," she said.

The changes were part of an across-the-board overhaul of Ohio's education operating standards. That heads next to a rigorous rule review, which also includes public participation, before returning to the state board around March for a final vote.

Historical

Continued from Page 1A

can display their collections."

Carey, a former two-term director for the Marion County Historical Society, supports the idea and plans to make a cash donation toward the project.

"They're looking at the YMCA and hopefully we can come up with a fund drive and get the necessary funds where we could acquire that and develop that," he said. "It would be a godsend of us."

A retired 82-year-old owner of Carey Poultry Farm, a business near Green Camp founded by his father, Carey began collecting guns in 1952, and after joining the historical society in the early 1970s "got into local history. And so I decided to start collecting, and I worked at it diligently ever since."

"I spent thousands of hours going to flea markets, antique shows, auctions, you name it," he said. "I put out a little pamphlet advertising. Different people contacted me. I spent many thousands of dollars."

After his wife, Betty, died three years ago, he pondered the "attic full" of historic items, and decided to act on his desire to give the memorabilia to the historical society.

"I for years have said I wanted this material to go to the historical society because some of it is of significant historical interest and value, and I didn't want to see it go to auction and be scattered to the four winds again after I had put this together," he said.

Enter Winland, who agreed to organize post-



Richard Carey's collection of memorabilia includes a collection of antique pennants. Carey, a longtime collector and former president of the historical society, donated much of his collection of letters, photographs and other Marion memorabilia to the Marion Historical Society.

cards Carey had gathered in exchange for being able to use the postcards for a book he was publishing. Winland continued on after sorting the postcards to organize the rest of the items Carey wished to donate.

"Randy has been an enormous help, a godsend to me," Carey said. "I would have never got it done, but given it up because of the enormity of it. Randy has a big interest. He came forth and offered to do so, and we worked for, golly, two years on getting this done."

The results received the praise of historical society members who gathered for the formal donation.

Fred Malone, the group's president, expressed awe at Carey's effort.

"This is fantastic," Malone said. "It's just amazing. We're so fortunate to have all this ma-

terial come back to the Marion County Historical Society."

Local attorney and group member Scott Hoffman helped appraise the stamps in Carey's donation.

"It is an amazing collection of not only letters that were sent in the early

1840s, but also collectibles from the (President Warren G.) Harding era," Hoffman said.

Malone said acquiring additional space is something of an obligation to collectors of historical items.

"We have 35,000 pieces of Marion's history, and

that's before this," he said, referring to Carey's donation. "It's not just for storage. We need more display space so we can share the history of Marion County with the people of Marion County."

Martin estimated if her group is able to purchase the former YMCA building, it would take approximately \$1 million to upgrade the facility for storage and exhibition. She'd like the historical society to have acquired the additional space it needs within two years, anticipating the group could begin storing and displaying additional memorabilia as its upgrade of the building would progress. Maintenance of the building also would be costly.

"I think we've proven our value to the community," she said. "I think the community has been supportive. I think they could be more supportive."

Carey said he was happy to give his collection to the group with the hope the general public can enjoy it for years to come.

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We invite you to share a personal message wishing a Merry Christmas to your families and friends. All greetings will appear on our special page on Thursday, December 25th in the Marion Star.

Greeting & Photo \$8.00

Submission Deadline:
Fri., Dec. 19 - 2pm

Call
740-387-0400
or visit us at

Marion Star

163 E. Center St., Ste. 100
(use State St. entrance)
Marion, Ohio 43302

Mon.-Fri. 10am-3pm

Marion Star
A GANNETT COMPANY
Media



Merry Christmas
to our family &
friends!



The
Johnsons

business, but they also have a desire to pay back and help out. We're helping one another grow our businesses, but at the same time we wanted to help somebody in need."

Anyone interested in learning more about Community Business Connections can call 740-337-1649 or email pcase@grt impressions.com.

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Other business

Also at the commissioner's meeting, the board passed a resolution that will allow the board president to act alone in disciplining a board employee for up to a two-day suspension.

Russell said an instance involving an employee and disciplinary action is under review and declined to provide further comment.

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Partners

Continued from Page 1A

and in exchange we get publicity for the group and the businesses that are participating."

She said the group decided to partner with a charitable organization "because I think everybody in the group, they have a desire to support the community and local

ans and their spouses," he said.

"They truly care about Ohio's underemployed veterans and their families."

Lisa Eichelberger, disabled veteran outreach program specialist at the Marion center, also was honored as the top veterans service coordinator in 2013.

Board president Dan Russell thanked the county staff for their work.

"Out of 88 counties, that says a lot," he said. "You should be very proud and I assure you the commissioners are very proud of the work you do up there."

The OhioMeansJobs Marion County Center served 186 veterans from Marion and surrounding