

The Auditor's Ledger

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Count on us to be here when you need us.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- View and appraise property
- Determine eligibility for tax reduction programs
- Issue licenses-dogs, vendors and more
- Distribute tax revenues to governmental units.
- Present annual tax budgets to Budget Commission
- Custodian of funds received each year by the county
- Paymaster for nearly 1,400 county employees
- Certify accuracy of all measuring devices

Kristen Hoffert-Leja Newsletter Editor

April 2020

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A newsletter by Medina County Auditor, Mike Kovack

Auditor Kovack Announces Seals Design Award Winners

Mike Kovack, Medina County Auditor, announced the winners of the Annual Weights and Measures Seal Design Contest today at an awards ceremony held at the Medina County Career Center Café.



Samantha Turner of Wadsworth High School and Jason Johnson of the Medina County Career Center (Medina High School) took home first place awards in the "Inspected and Sealed" and "Price Verification" categories, besting over 200 other entries. Both students' designs will be featured on gas pumps and cash registers throughout the county and their names will appear on every seal. They each received a \$75 prize. Other finalists for the "Inspected and Sealed" award were Kaitlyn Clifford of Black River High School, Vinny Oliveria of (Medina High School) MCCC, Sarah Strzalka of the MCCC, Justin Guzman of (Brunswick High School) MCCC and Ethan James Hines (Medina High School) of MCCC.

Back Row (left to right): Bryan Lanning (Medina County Auditor's Office), Connor Pautz (2nd place Price Verification, Wadsworth HS), Austin Berghaus (3rd place Price Verification, Medina County Career Center, homeschool Buckeye), Carter Greenlees (4th place price verification, Wadsworth HS), Jason Johnson (1st place Price Verification, MCCC, homeschool Medina), Vinny Oliveira (3rd place Inspected & Sealed, MCCC, homeschool Medina), Auditor Kovack

Front Row (left to right): Justin Guzman (5th place Inspected & Sealed, MCCC, homeschool Brunswick), Sarah Strzalka (4th place Inspected & Sealed, MCCC), Kaitlyn Clifford (2nd place Inspected & Sealed, Black River), Samantha Turner (1st place Inspected & Sealed, Wadsworth HS), Ryder Evans (5th place Price Verification, Wadsworth HS), Ethan James Hines (6th place Inspected & Sealed, MCCC, homeschool Medina), Andrew Weyand (6th place Price Verification, Wadsworth HS)

Finalists for the "Price Verification" category were Connor Pautz of Wadsworth High School, Austin Berghaus of (Buckeye High School) MCCC, Carter Greenlees of Wadsworth High School, Ryder Evans of Wadsworth High School and Andrew Weyand of Wadsworth High School. The designs of all the finalists will also be featured on measuring devices throughout the county. "Medina County is tremendously fortunate to have extremely talented students in our school systems," said Kovack. "We are delighted that they are able to assist us every year with this very prominent function of the auditor's office."

The Weights and Measures program, overseen by Kovack, is a state-mandated program to ensure that all devices are working properly in the county and to ensure consumers buy with confidence. Bryan Lanning is the Chief Weights and Measures Inspector for the county. Any measuring device missing the sticker should be reported to Kovack's office at 330-725-9764.



Residents of Medina County are encouraged to register to receive alerts of emergency situations by mass notification (Wireless Emergency Notification System-WENS). This is a free service provided by Medina County Emergency Management Agency. In the event of a local emergency, an alert will be sent via phone call, text message, and/or email. The messages will inform residents of weather or other situations. The service will be used only for emergency notification when rapid and accurate information is essential for your immediate safety.

Visit https://entry.inspironlogistics.com/medina_oh/wens.cfm to sign up.





As the coronavirus continues to impact our communities, we need your help in ensuring we maintain a strong blood supply to support hospital patient care in Ohio. Without groups continuing to host blood drives and blood donors continuing to give blood, we could see a severe blood shortage which could impact hospital patient care. Many organizations are heeding the advice from leadership to cancel public events, and this has led to a staggering number of scheduled Red Cross blood drives being canceled as well. To date, more than 1500 blood drives representing 46,000 blood donations have been canceled in the U.S. due to coronavirus concerns. In Northern Ohio alone, we have canceled 135 blood drives resulting in over 4000 fewer blood donations. In the face of coronavirus fears, we need your help to communicate two vital messages to the public:

Groups that have an upcoming scheduled blood drive should keep their blood drive on their schedule and not cancel it, which will allow donors to give blood.

More healthy donors are needed to give now to prevent a blood shortage. Donating blood is a safe process and people should not be concerned about giving or receiving blood during this challenging time.

As an emergency preparedness organization, the Red Cross has also taken additional steps to ensure the safety of staff and donors at each Red Cross blood drive.

The Red Cross only collects blood from individuals who are healthy and feeling well at the time of donation - and who meet other eligibility

requirements, available at RedCrossBlood.org.

We are now pre-screening all individuals by checking their temperature before they enter any Red Cross blood drive or donation center, including our own staff and volunteers.

At each blood drive and donation center, Red Cross employees follow thorough safety protocols including wearing gloves, routinely wiping down donor-touched areas, using sterile collection sets for every donation, and preparing the arm for donation with an aseptic scrub. Additional spacing has been implemented within each blood drive set up to incorporate social distancing measures between donation beds and stations within the blood drive.

These mitigation measures will help ensure blood recipient safety, as well as staff and donor safety in reducing contact with those who may potentially have this respiratory infection. Those who are not feeling well should wait for 28 days before attempting to give blood. Additional donor eligibility travel restrictions have been implemented as well. We're asking the American people to help keep the blood supply stable during this challenging time, and we are asking you as Mayor to help communicate this critical need. Those who are healthy, feeling well and eligible to give blood or platelets, are urged to make an appointment to donate as soon as possible by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).



Helpful Phone Numbers

Alcohol, Drug Additociton and Mental Health Board (ADAMH)
330-723-9642

Columbia Gas of Ohio
1-800-344-4077

Emergency Management Agency
330-722-9240

First Energy - Ohio Edison
1-800-633-4766

Medina County Auditor
330-725-9755

Medina County Board of Elections
330-722-9278

Medina County Commissioners
330-722-9208

Medina County District Library
330-725-0588

Medina County Health Department
330-723-9688

Medina County Home
330-723-9553

Medina County Job & Family Services
330-722-9300

Medina County Office of Older Adults
1-844-722-3800

Medina County Public Transit
330-723-9670

Medina County Recorder's Office
330-725-9782

Medina County Sanitary Engineer
330-723-9585

Medina County Sheriff's Office
330-725-9147

Medina County Title Bureau
330-722-9253

Medina County Treasurer's Office
330-725-9748

Medina County Veterans Services Office
330-722-9368

Tax Map Office
330-725-9777

For a full list of Medina County Public Officials visit <https://www.medinaco.org>

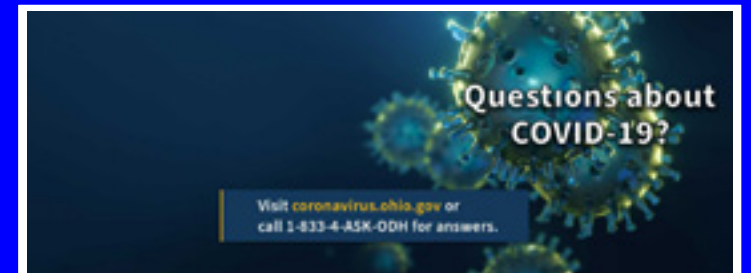
A Message from your Medina County Auditor

Your auditor's office is here for you.

At this time we'd like to encourage any community members who may be in need of anything to feel free to reach out to us and we will try to connect you with assistance in the community. Please feel free to call 330-764-8051 or 330-725-9754 or email us at mkovack@medinaco.org

I know this is very disorienting for everyone, but we will get through this and we are the kind of community where we all will help everyone get through this. Please fee free to reach out if you are in any kind of need.

Mike Kovack
Medina County Auditor



The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) has opened a call center to answer questions regarding coronavirus (COVID-19).

The call center will be open 7 days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and can be reached at 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634).

Call center staff includes licensed nurses and infectious disease experts. They will be available to answer questions and provide accurate information about COVID-19, the risk to the public, and the state's response.

Get help for your stress.

National Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990
or text "TalkWithUs" to 66746
Or text "4hope" to 741741

coronavirus.ohio.gov
mha.ohio.gov/coronavirus

DAY TO REMEMBER FOR LOCAL GYMNASTS AT STATE MEET

The top two gymnasts in Ohio reside in neighboring Medina County school districts.

Highland freshman Paige Yu finished second in the all-around Saturday at the state meet with a score of 37.8, joining champion Jordyn Thomas of Brunswick in earning medals in the maximum five events.

Yu also was the runner-up to Thomas on the balance beam (9.525), finished fourth on the uneven parallel bars (9.275) and floor exercise (9.475) and was fifth on the vault (9.525). She is the first member of the Hornets to reach the podium in every event.

"As a freshman, this is a dream come true," she said. "I've put so much work into this sport, for it to pay off at state means everything in the world. It really was amazing."



Brunswick's Jordyn Thomas placed first and Highlands's Paige Yu took second.

Hornets senior Mackenzie Yu — Paige's older sister — joined her and Thomas on the podium for the bars with a 9.05, finishing sixth. She also was 11th on the beam (9.2) and placed 24th in her state all-around debut (35.2).

Mackenzie Yu previously medaled when she was sixth on the beam in 2018 before suffering a torn left anterior

cruciate ligament last season.

"It was kind of weird, but in a good way, being back here in three events after only making it on beam two years ago," she said. "I'm sad that my career is over now, but it was a great year being part of this team."



Brunswick's Jordyn Thomas placed first and Highlands's Paige Yu took second.

The Yu sisters became the first local siblings to earn All-Ohio honors since Emilie and Nicki Rymer completed the feat in 2017. Both were overjoyed to have participated in all four rotations together at Hilliard Bradley.

"It was awesome to spend the last few meets together," said Paige Yu, who became emotional after her

sister completed the day on the floor. "Just knowing we would both be here was amazing, and today was beyond what we imagined."

Mackenzie Yu reveled in the opportunity to finish on the floor with all of the Medina and Highland qualifiers standing alongside the mat. The teams essentially practice together at Medina Gymnastics Academy and their athletes are extremely close.

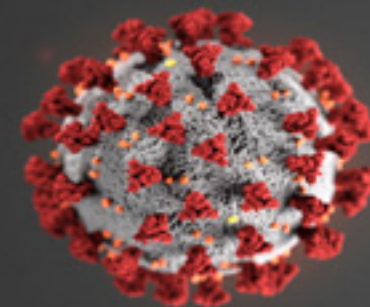
Bees coach Darcy Ranallo and Hornets co-coaches Jocelyne Textoris and Jennifer Lewis clapped along with her routine, causing Yu to smile even broader as she reached their corner.

"Last week, I told (Lewis) it was my last floor routine because I didn't expect to make it here in the all-around," Yu said.

"This week, it really was my last floor routine and it was a super good way to end the meet.

"The vibe on the floor with Paige right there and the teams cheering for me was really cool. I'll never forget that."

Article courtesy of Brian Dulik at the Medina Gazette.



What you need to know about Novel Coronavirus COVID 19

What should you do if you're feeling sick and you're not sure if it's the cold, influenza or coronavirus?

Health care officials are urging people to refrain from going to the emergency room, unless it's truly an emergency and they can't breathe or are having other non-coronavirus-type emergencies, like a heart attack.

So what should you do?

Virtual visits

Call your primary care physician first or use one of the many virtual health lines that area health systems are offering to help screen your illness. Cleveland Clinic is offering the broadest virtual visits for free. It is waiving fees for its on-demand and scheduled virtual visits for the public, regardless of health coverage.

The online portal is at www.clevelandclinic.org/eco. The around-the-clock system can help screen patients for concerns about COVID-19 and other illnesses.

Summa Health is offering free virtual visits for COVID-19 screenings and e-visits for flu, sinus infections, hay fever and allergies. Those services are normally \$29, but are being offered for free.

All other conditions, including more than 30 diagnoses, are \$29 for an e-visit. Audio/video visits also are still available for \$49. This service is available in all 50 states.

Patients can visit www.summahealth.org/virtualvisit and choose the e-visit service. Akron Children's Hospital is offering free COVID-19 screening through its virtual care portal for patients of its pediatric locations. There is a fee of \$49 for other services or diagnoses.

The service at www.akronchildrens.org/pages/Quick-Care-Online-Virtual-Visits.html is available daily from 6 a.m. to midnight.

Testing

Currently no Akron-area hospital has the ability to do on-site testing or drive-up testing, but officials said they are working on it. Health officials have said with the lack of testing kits available, they are testing the most vulnerable or serious patients who exhibit symptoms. The Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals are offering drive-thru testing in Cleveland, but a patient must have a doctor's order.

Symptoms

Key signs for COVID-19 are a fever above 100 degrees and a dry cough or difficulty breathing, which is something they've never had before and not typical allergy symptoms, said Nemer. He emphasized that patients who are having a very difficult time breathing should go immediately to the emergency room since it could be many other emergencies,

in addition to COVID-19.

Other flu-like symptoms of COVID-19 include chills, body aches, sore throat, headache, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting and runny nose. Head and chest congestion seem to be symptoms of an upper-respiratory illness, or a cold. The Ohio Department of Health says "emergency warning signs" for COVID-19 in adults include



difficulty breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, confusion or an inability to wake up or bluish lips or face.



Things to know....

- All public, private, and chartered schools closed for three weeks into early April; the Governor is considering extending the shutdown through the rest of the school year, but hopes to continue learning in that time
- Most BMVs are closed
- Salons, spas, barbershops and tattoo parlors are closed
- Students are still eligible for free school meals during three-week shutdown due to waiver.
- All Ohio bars and restaurants closed until further notice to in-house customers; to-go and carryout options still available
- Unemployment law revised through executive order to better assist workers impacted by restaurant closures
- Visitations to state-run psychiatric hospitals discontinued
- Visitations to community jails and correctional facilities restricted
- Outside visitors prohibited at Ohio nursing homes; end-of-life care exceptions will be made
- Mass gatherings of more than 50 people in a single space banned
- All Ohio casinos, fitness centers, gyms, bowling alleys, public recreation centers movie theaters, indoor water parks, and trampoline parks closed
- All Ohio restaurants and bars are closed indefinitely for dine in service. Carryout and takeout orders are still permitted
- Telehealth services expanded, providing access to behavioral health care via phone to all Ohioans
- People should not travel. Anyone returning home to Ohio should avoid contact with those outside their household

Things You Can Do to Help Someone Who Is Isolated or Quarantined due to COVID-19

2 Drop off food or drinks at their door since they may not have had a chance to prepare, and might be running low on important items. Reach out to see what they need or want and try to drop it off at their door.

HOW SHOULD I SELF MONITOR AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING?

1. Take your temperature with a thermometer two times a day and monitor for fever. Also watch for cough or trouble breathing.
2. Stay home and avoid contact with others. Do not go to work or school for this 14-day period.
3. Do not take public transportation, taxis, or ride-shares.
4. Avoid crowded places (such as shopping centers and movie theaters) and limit your activities in public.
5. Keep your distance from others (about 6 feet or 2 meters).



Ohio voters will have until May 26 to request an absentee ballot. The extension was announced on the Ohio Secretary of State's website following an order to cancel the Tuesday, March 17, primary.

Gov. Mike DeWine initially recommended the primary be canceled, and said his administration would not oppose lawsuits filed to make it happen. When a Franklin County Judge rejected the lawsuit, Ohio Health Department Director Dr. Amy Acton closed the polls by declaring a public health emergency.

In-person voting will take place on June 2.

Voters who registered by the Feb. 18 deadline can request an absentee ballot up until May 26. Returned ballots must be postmarked no later than June 1. All votes already submitted by mail or in person will count.

Local Food Pantries & Support Services in Medina County

Brunswick Food Pantry, 1255 N. Carpenter Road, Brunswick. Every Tuesday from 6:00 to 7:00 pm and second Tuesday 1:00 to 3:00 pm For more information, call (330)220-8299. Must be Brunswick, Brunswick Hills Township, Valley City 8or Hinckley residents.

Buckeye Christian Assembly, 3159 Columbia Road, Medina. Second Saturday of each month there is a food pantry and hot meals from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm For more information, call (330)764-4099.

Helping Hands at Northside Christian Church, 7615 Ridge Road, Wadsworth. Third Thursday 5:00 to 7:00 pm. For more information, call (330)336-4622.

Lafayette United Methodist Church, 6201 Lafayette Road, Lafayette Township. Fourth Saturday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm or by appointment. For more information, call (330)725-6176.
Living Hope Church, 6288 Wooster Pike, Medina. Third Saturday from 9:30 to 11:00 am. For more information, (330) 725-7730.

Lodi Family Center, 301 Mill St., Lodi. Monday and Wednesday from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, Tuesday from 4:00 to 6:00 pm and other times by appointment. Serving Lodi, Chatham, Spencer, Homerville, Westfield, Seville, Chippewa, Lafayette, Polk, Sullivan areas. For more information, call (330) 302-4182.

Our Lady Help of Christians, 9608 Norwalk Road, Litchfield. Monday from 6:30 to 8:30 pm and Wednesday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Both by appointment only. A photo ID and proof of residence is required. For more information, call the church office at (330) 722-1180.

Salvation Army, 425 W. Liberty St., Medina. Meals are served every Wednesday and last week of the month on Monday, Wednesday and Friday the pantry is open from 4:00 to 6:00 pm the pantry is open. Doors open at 2:00 pm. Serving Medina, Litchfield, Chippewa Lake, Spencer and York areas only. A photo ID and proof of residence is required. For more information, call (330) 722-6488.

Cups Café, 126 N. Court St; Medina, is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and Saturday 11:00 am to 1:00 pm for adults to eat. Guests are asked to be mindful of teens and youth as Cups is primarily a place for them. Special dinners are held the second Monday each month from 5:00 to 6:00 pm, second Thursday of each month from 5:00 to 6:00

pm and three Tuesdays a month from 5:00 to 6:00 pm except the last full week of the month due to Munch week at the Salvation Army. For more information, call (330) 241-5990.

Feeding Medina County, 650 W. Smith Road, Suite C-8, Medina. Walk-ins Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm Please call before coming at (330) 421-4816.

Thursday, March 19th, starting at 7:30 am at the Medina County Fairgrounds there will be a free food distribution for Medina County residents. Please bring your picture ID, PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR. We will come to you to get your information and provide you with food. We are avoiding the usual crowd in the community building to be in compliance with Governor DeWine's directives. We are working on trying to get other distributions but have not been able to finalize anything more at this time.

Friday the 20th and Monday the 23rd FMC will pack food for 400 seniors who live in 12 facilities across the county. Presently FMC is in need of drivers with big SUV's or trucks who can pick up food here at our 650W Smith location and then deliver to the appropriate facility. If you have an interest in helping please contact Dan Meagher on Tuesday, March 17th @ 330- 421-3051. He will have more information on facilities that need help with the food delivery at that time.

Medina County Veterans Service Office will have adjusted office hours. In order to ensure the safety and well-being of our staff and the general public we have implemented the following practices and adjusted hours: Monday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday: 9:30 am to 2:30 pm; Tuesday: 10:00 am to 2:30 pm (Closed 12:00 to 1:00 pm for Lunch). Best times to call in for an appointment or TeleCall about your claim: Monday through Friday: 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm. Medina: 330-722-9368 | Toll Free: 844-722-3800 | Fax: 330-722-9378 All services will be rendered by appointment only at this time.

Medina County Jobs and Family Services (JFS) is providing assistance for those whose job(s) have been impacted by COVID 19. Visit <http://jfs.ohio.gov> for new information and visit unemployment.ohio.gov to apply for benefits.