

Daily Advocate



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Online

Watch the Green Wave host Fort Recovery live Saturday at advocate360.org

Local bed bug cases on the rise

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DARKE COUNTY - Local experts are seeing a drastic rise in the number of Darke County bed bug cases.

According to Joe White, co-owner

of Aggressive Pest Control in Greenville, he handled roughly 20 cases of bed bug infestations in 2011 alone. That is double the amount from the previous year. Prior to 2010 Aggressive had minimal to no calls about the pests, but now it seems the problem locally is definitely on the rise.

Greg Gilbert of Gilbert Termite &

Pest Control in Greenville told The Daily Advocate that he foresees a rise in the number of cases in Darke County. His company also saw more than double the cases in 2011.

"The problem will continue to grow when people try to get rid of the problem on their own. The bug

Bed Bug pg. 2

Grievance filed against school board member

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GREENVILLE - During a special meeting of the Greenville City Schools Board of Education on Thursday night, a grievance hearing was held. Tracy Tryon, a Greenville high school teacher, filed a grievance with the board against former BOE president and current board member, Ben Studabaker.

It was claimed that Studabaker made two violations. First, there should be harmony promoted between board members and the teachers. Second, when a complaint was made it was not made through the proper channels, said Wil Raby, Greenville Education Association (GEA) representative, of the GEA master agreement.

Both Tryon and Studabaker had the chance to present their side of the story to the board. Each told of two incidences, one at the National Honor Society (NHS) induction in November and another at a girls basketball game in January, in which Studabaker supposedly tried to greet and shake hands on one incident and greet and pat Tryon's back on the other incident, when Tryon did not want the physical contact

Grievance pg. 2

School board approves termination of bus driver

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GREENVILLE - The Greenville City Schools Board of Education voted to approve the termination of bus driver Shirley Cline's contract.

Cline was recently granted intervention in lieu of conviction in the Darke County Court of Common Pleas on a trafficking in drugs charge.

"Due to the charges filed it disqualified her from continuing to hold a valid bus transportation driver's license. ...The charges alone are a disqualifier. That was a ruling from the Ohio Department of Education. They could no longer issue her that license to drive," said Supt. Susie Riegler after the meeting.

Commissioners considering tax for 9-1-1 upgrades

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DARKE COUNTY - Upgrades are needed to 9-1-1, emergency services and the county jail, said Darke County Commissioner Michael Stegall at Wednesday's Kiwanis meeting.

While upgrades may be needed, funding for 9-1-1 services is currently uncertain. The 28 cent monthly charges on cell phones, which helps fund 9-1-1, expires on Dec. 31 this year. The charge generates approximately \$115,000 a year for the county, Stegall said.

"The loss of 9-1-1 funding is neither assured, nor is it guaranteed to continue. Therefore, it is imperative that we take steps and prepare for the worst case scenario by ourselves. The county can no longer count on Columbus for financial assistance," read a handout from Stegall.

Stegall said the possible elimination of the funding is partly politics, but was also a response to abuse by larger counties in the state due to more funding being collected



ELISABETH WIRRIG/Advocate Photo
Darke County Commissioner Michael Stegall discussed upgrades and funding for 9-1-1 services at Wednesday's Kiwanis meeting.

then is actually needed to run their 9-1-1 services. He stated that he foresees the state legislators possibly extending the sunset date of the 28 cent charge until a solution

is finalized. Stegall said the commissioners want to be proactive in fixing the problem.

Commissioners pg. 2

Pillar, Lester Ward

Cattleman is 'a winner' in life

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ANSONIA - Lester Ward has been recognized twice this past year by the Cattlemen's Association; once at the local level and again at the national level.

The Darke County Cattlemen's Association named Ward its first honorary member and his name will be placed on a plaque that will also bear all of the names of his successors once they're selected.

He said he received his second honorary award at the National Chianina Show in Louisville in 2011.

The Chianina, he said, is the oldest breed of cattle in the world, but has only been in the United States since 1972.

"I have had them ever since I started breeding cattle," he said.

It was an honor for Ward to

receive the award. "Usually, local boys don't get it," he said. "I made it on the cover of their catalog."

Ward grew up around Milton, Ind., moved to Centerville, Ind., and then to Hollansburg in Darke County, having graduated from high school there in 1940.

He had his own machine shop when he decided to enlist in the U.S. Air Force.

"I had a deferment, but I didn't take it," he said. "Everybody else was going."

His machine shop, he said, made 20mm shells for the Navy.

"A machine company sent me to school and I just worked on the machines," he said.

He served in the military from 1941-45, and, for nine months, was a Prisoner of War in Germany.

"It was a little rough," he recalled. "It was quite an ordeal. When spring came, the Russians put on a big push. We walked almost 500 miles to a



Lester Ward



camp and they moved us on to walk again. As long as you could stay up with the group, it wasn't so bad."

Pillar pg. 2

Sports

Tammy Berger



'She's a very smart runner.'

— Versailles cross country coach Mark Pleiman

Tammy Berger verbally commits to Ohio State

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Today in the Paper



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FFA Alumni plants trees in memory page 9



Paul Ackley's weekly editorial cartoon



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Snow Possible 30% Chance of Precipitation	Mostly Sunny 5% Chance of Precipitation	Partly Cloudy 10% Chance of Precipitation

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