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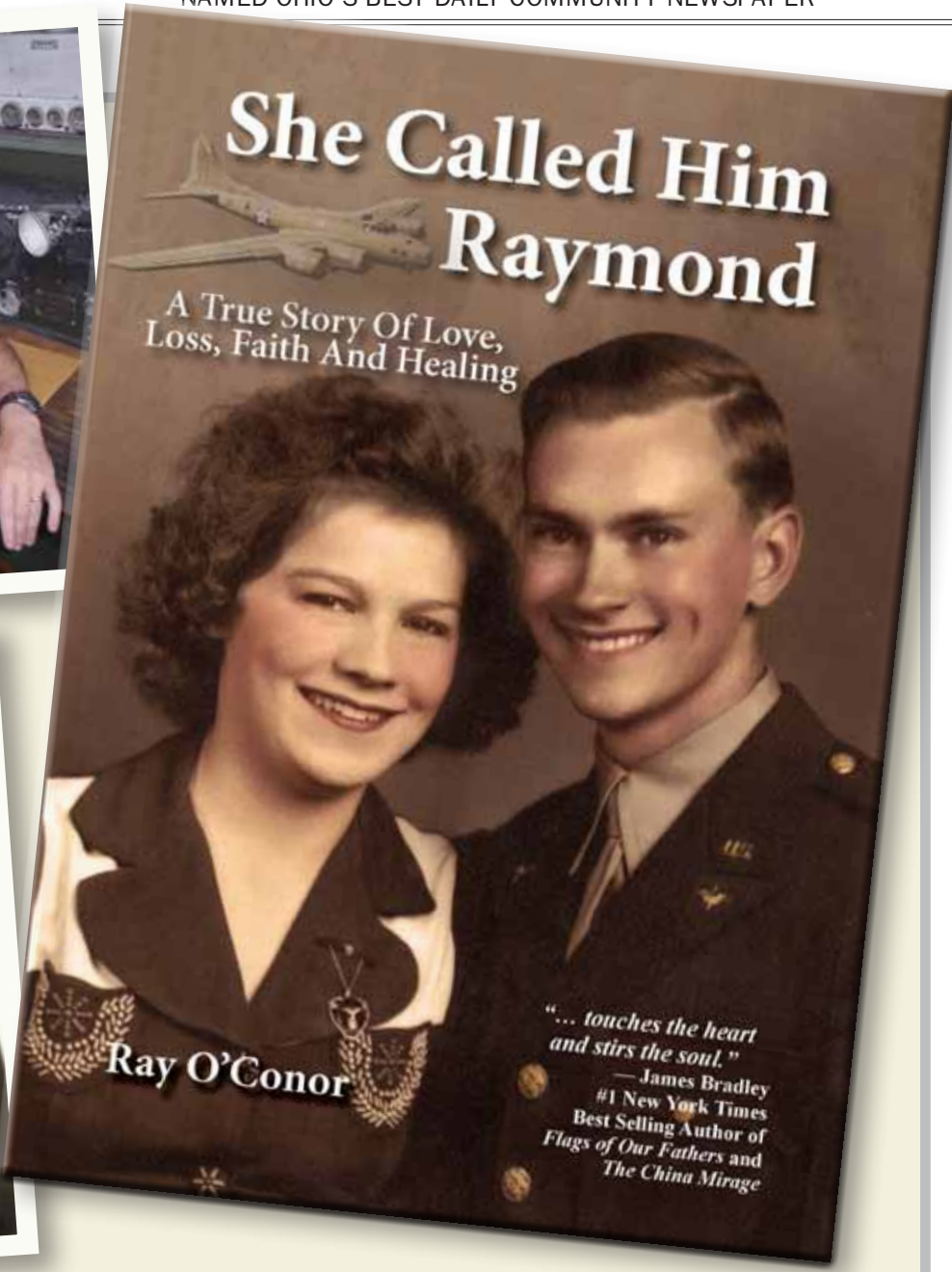
INSIDE TODAY



NO. 195 | PROCTORVILLE, OHIO

NAMED OHIO'S BEST DAILY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2015



GRAND JURY

Alleged drug traffickers indicted

By Michelle Goodman

Six people arrested by the Lawrence Drug and Major Crimes Task Force last week were indicted by a Lawrence County grand jury.

DuJuan Williams, AKA Wires, 26, of 16012 McGuire St., Detroit, Michigan, was indicted on three third-degree counts of aggravated trafficking in drugs.

Andy Baise, 38, of 308 Township Road 109, South Point, was indicted on one third- and two fourth-degree counts of aggravated trafficking in drugs.

Nichole McDerment, 35, of 69 Township Road 1026, Apt. 9, South Point, was indicted on two third-degree counts of trafficking in drugs and a fourth-degree count of trafficking in drugs.

PLEASE SEE "TRAFFICKERS," PAGE 3

COURT NEWS

Suspect in bank break-in arraigned

By Michelle Goodman

A man accused of breaking into the WesBanco branch in Ironton answered charges Wednesday in Lawrence County Common Pleas Court.

Austin Sexton, 20, with an address at Fout's Personal Care Facility in Ironton, pleaded not guilty to a bill of information of fifth-degree breaking and entering.

Judge D. Scott Bowling set bond at \$25,000 cash or surety plus own-recognizance. A pretrial was set for Sept. 9.

Sexton was arrested on Aug. 12 by the Ironton Police Department following a break-in at the WesBanco on South Fifth and Vernon streets in Ironton.

PLEASE SEE "BREAK-IN," PAGE 3

Book chronicles life, legacy of Ironton native

By Elizabeth Jackson

What's in a name? A lot if you're Ray O'Connor. Until a few years ago, O'Connor, a former bank president and CEO, thought his first name was given in honor of an uncle on his father's side of the family. It turns out O'Connor was mistaken.

On his mother's 80th birthday, O'Connor learned the story of Clarence "Raymond" Stephenson, his namesake and his mother's first husband, an Ironton native who died serving his country in World War II.

When Helen, O'Connor's mother, asked him to read a love letter to her by her first husband, O'Connor connected to the past.

"It was sent to my mother on her 19th birthday," said O'Connor. "It's just the sweetest letter you ever read."

The letter, sent to Helen on the occasion of her first anniversary to Raymond, would be the last letter she

would receive from her husband. Raymond died on their first anniversary when his Army Air Corps' B17 went down.

"Every year on her birthday since Raymond died, she pulled out that letter," said O'Connor.

The letter was a reminder of the man Helen met and fell in love with in New York City's Central Park in 1942.

"The more I learned the better the story got," said O'Connor.

Helen and Raymond's story sparked the idea for a book, and after receiving permission from his mother to write about her life and her first hus-



band, O'Connor left his banking career and began writing Helen and Raymond's story.

On Saturday, Sept. 19 O'Connor will come back to the city Raymond loved to talk about at a 2-4 p.m. book

PLEASE SEE "LEGACY," PAGE 3

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DEATHS

- ▶ Dorothy Mae Watson, Scottown
- ▶ Debora Stephens, Ashland, Ky.
- ▶ Charles Huffer, Darbyville

More information, page 5

GOOD DAY



Jackson

Good day from Anna Jackson, of Chesapeake. Anna attends Burlington schools and loves to dance and tumble.

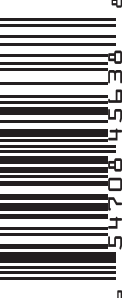
WEATHER FORECAST

80 HIGH
56 LOW
Mostly sunny, high 80, low 56.
Mostly sunny Friday, high 86, low 62.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Do not seek to follow in the footsteps of the wise. Seek what they sought."

— Matsuo Basho



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LOCAL NEWS

Legacy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Marshall researcher awarded grant to study obesity, aging

HUNTINGTON, W. Va. (AP) — The National Institute on Aging has awarded a grant to a Marshall University researcher to study obesity and aging. Marshall says school of medicine researcher Nalini Santanam received the \$356,946 grant to continue her work on obesity and aging with regard to heart disease. Santanam says in a university news release that her study will shed light on mechanisms that lead to age-related diseases and identify targets to treat them.

Docent open house set for Sept. 8

HUNTINGTON, W. Va. — The Huntington Museum of Art invites anyone interested in volunteering to be a docent to Docent Open House on Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2015, at 6 p.m. Admission is free. Refreshments will be served.

A docent is someone who volunteers time to lead schoolchildren and museum visitors on guided tours. No prior experience or background in art is required.

Those who appreciate art and enjoy sharing their knowledge with others may want to learn more about the program. Docents work with HMA's Education Department and spend 90 minutes a week learning about HMA exhibits and art in general. The group meets at HMA on Monday mornings, but also takes occasional field trips to other museums.

HMA is also seeking volunteers to serve as nature docents to give tours on HMA's nature trail system. Nature docents will meet once a month during HMA's trail tour season.

"Our docents are a great group of people and many have built special friendships with one another. We have fun while we learn about art and nature," said Cindy Dearborn, HMA's Museum & Schools Coordinator.

Those interested in attending the informational Docent Open House and learning more about the HMA docent program should call Dearborn in HMA's Education Department at 304-529-2701; or send an e-mail to cdearborn@hmoa.org.

For more information on events at HMA, visit www.hmoa.org. HMA is fully accessible.

Proctorville grad completes cadet leader course

Jevon D. Hayes, an Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) cadet at Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia, has graduated from the Cadet Leader Course (CLC) at Fort Knox, Ky. CLC is a 30-day summer training event focused on training cadets to solve complex leadership issues and problems at the company level.

Cadets arrive at CLC with a baseline of military skill sets; the cadets also have developed critical thinking and problem solving abilities during the academic years. CLC builds upon the work accomplished on campus and develops the cadet's small unit leadership ability in a tactical environment.

Hayes is the son of Tara D. Hayes of Proctorville.

He is a 2009 graduate of Fairland High School.

signing at the Briggs Lawrence County Library in Ironton.

"It will be another emotional visit for me," said O'Connor.

O'Connor will sign copies of "She Called Him Raymond," which was recently nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for non-fiction.

"I would hope folks come out to hear a very good story," said O'Connor. "I'm not here to sell books. I'm here to tell a story."

Writing the book required O'Connor to reach out to people who knew Raymond. Keith Clinton, the single surviving crew member of the crash that killed Raymond, was one of O'Connor's first stops.

"He told me a lot of great stories," said O'Connor. "(He) had original handwritten flight records of



Boy Scout Troop 5 in Ironton. Raymond is second from right in the front row. His father, the Scout Master, is in the center standing.

the mission."

Traveling to Akron, to visit Raymond's sister, Ruth, O'Connor gained a deeper connection to his namesake and got to see the world through his

eyes after she gave him Raymond's diary.

"No one knew he kept a diary," said O'Connor. "He recounted the day he met and fell in love with my mother."

In his diary, Raymond wrote, "I met a lovely girl (Helen) in Central Park...I think this will change my future life."

When the couple met, Helen, raised in a family

of Irish Immigrants living in the squalor of Hell's Kitchen, New York, was not yet 17. Her mother was against her marrying so young. Raymond promised that he would come back to claim his bride and on her 18th birthday, he did.

Writing the book taught O'Connor things about his mother that he didn't know.

"I'm amazed at how little I knew about the woman who raised me," said O'Connor.

After Raymond's body was returned to O'Connor's mother, she chose to have him buried in Woodland Cemetery in Ironton.

"She knew how much Raymond loved Ironton," said O'Connor.

"The best stories are about people who lived extraordinary lives. Helen and Raymond's story is one of those stories."

Traffickers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Claudette Gibson, 41, of 49 Township Road 1013, South Point, was indicted on two third-degree counts of aggravated trafficking in drugs.

Larry L. Curry, 51, of 791 County Road 31 Apt. A, Chesapeake, was indicted on a third-degree count of aggravated trafficking in drugs.

Phillip McMullen, 34, of 49 Township Road 1013, South Point, was indicted on a third-degree count of aggravated trafficking in drugs.

According to a release from the Lawrence County Prosecutor's Office, an investigation began about two months ago with controlled buys of oxy-

codone from a person known at the time as Wires.

A search warrant was executed on Aug. 17 and Wires was identified as Dajuan Williams. Oxycodone tablets were taken as evidence.

The following individuals were also indicted, according to the office of Lawrence County Prosecuting Attorney Brigham Anderson:

- Joseph Merrill Jr., 41, of 26 Private Drive 8202 County Road 1, South Point, felonious assault, resisting arrest and domestic violence;
- Ryan Fuller, 19, of 14460 State Route 7, Proctorville, felonious assault and failure to comply with the order or signal of a police officer;

- Matthew Harmon, 25, of 1118 S. Fifth St., Ironton, possession of heroin;

- Frances M. Owen, 36, of 11350 County Road 1 Apt. A, Chesapeake, burglary;

- James M. Imes, 27, of 1513 County Road 1, South Point, felonious assault;

- Shawn D. Runnels, 39, of 803 N. Kenova Road, South Point, grand theft;

- Willis Childers Jr., 47, of 149 Township Road 1063, South Point, domestic violence;

- Brandi N. McMaster, 32, of 167 Township Road 1007, Chesapeake, possession of heroin and possession of drugs;

- Tyler C. Denny, 28, of 621 S. Eighth St. Apt. D, Ironton, possession of heroin;

- Amanda Castle, 32, of 2201 N. Fourth St., Ironton, trafficking in drugs;

- Dorothy McGill, 34, of 2201 N. Fourth St., Ironton, trafficking in drugs;

- Marlene T. Paschall, 40, of 23034 Battelle Ave., Hazel Park, Michigan, aggravated trafficking in drugs, possession of drugs;

- John Christopher Kinney, 26, of 603 Buckhorn St., Ironton, aggravated vehicular assault, DUI, driving under suspension;

- Herbert P. Delawder, 37, of 109 Lane St., Coal Grove, aggravated trafficking in drugs.

An indictment is a formal allegation that an individual has committed a crime. The accused are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Break-in

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Investigators don't believe any money was taken from the bank, but the branch was ransacked. Also arrested was Richard Fooce, 22, of the same address.

In an unrelated case, two men arrested for selling prescription pills pleaded guilty.

Brandon L. Thibodaux, 29, of 826 S. Tenth St. Apt. D, Ironton, pleaded guilty to one second- and one third-degree count of trafficking in drugs.

Judge Charles Cooper sentenced the man to seven years in prison, a \$5,000 fine and a one-year driver's license suspension. He was also ordered to forfeit his interest in \$5,255 that was confiscated during his arrest.

Terry Lee Corbin, 59, of the same address, pleaded guilty to two fourth-degree and one second-degree count of trafficking in drugs and one second-degree count of aggravated trafficking

in drugs.

Cooper set sentencing for Sept. 16.

In other cases:

- Shane Jenkins, 25, of 306 Township Road 111, Ironton, admitted community control sanctions violations and was sentenced to 18 months in prison.

- Mark Bensinger, 56, of 1808 S. Eighth St., Ironton, pleaded guilty to a fifth-degree and a misdemeanor count of theft. Cooper set sentencing for Sept. 9.

- Raymond Parker, 54, of 65 Stowers Road, Griffithsville, West Virginia, pleaded guilty to a third-degree count of grand theft. Cooper sentenced the man to 30 months in prison.

- Jason Collier, 30, of 48 Private Drive 2600, Chesapeake, pleaded guilty to a fourth-degree count of theft of drugs. Cooper set sentencing for Sept. 9.

- Richard Rice, 22, of 3325 County Road 59, Chesapeake, pleaded guilty to a second-degree count of burglary and

was sentenced to four years in prison.

- Sean James, 23, of 412 Mill St., Ironton, pleaded guilty to fifth-degree counts of breaking and entering and possession of criminal tools. Sentencing was set for Sept. 2.

- Vanson Morisak, 50, of 421 Second St. E. Apt 1, Huntington, was sentenced to four years in prison for a second-degree count of burglary, to which he previously pleaded guilty.

- Amber McCleese, 32, of 50 Bigcat Lane, Argillite, Kentucky, pleaded guilty to a fifth-degree count of possession of drugs. Bowling sentenced the woman to four years CCS under intensive supervised probation, treatment at Mended Reeds, a \$1,250 fine, 200 hours community service and a six-month driver's license suspension.

- Dustin Fulks, 21, of 109 Garden Court, South Point, was sentenced to three years in prison, a \$1,250 fine and a six-

month driver's license suspension. He previously pleaded guilty to three fifth-degree counts of trafficking in heroin.

- Randy Delong, 34, of 800 Fletcher Pike, South Charleston, Ohio, pleaded guilty to counts of third-degree DUI and misdemeanor driv-

ing under suspension. Bowling set sentencing for Sept. 9.

- Jesse Emery, 23, of 697 County Road 411, Proctorville, admitted CCS violations and was sentenced to the STAR relapse program and 200 hours community service.

COMMUNITY HOG ROAST

Thursday, September 3rd
6-8 p.m.



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