

TODAY



A little a.m. rain

46°/30°

TUE



Mostly cloudy

47°/29°

WED



Breezy in the p.m.

54°/26°



Van Wert Co. arrests man after arson try

NEWS • 6A



San Diego State Miami join Final Four

SPORTS • 1B

The Lima News

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Breaking news at limaohio.com

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TDG Technicon Design Group

The proposed interior for the Putnam County Event Center can be seen in this design. The structure will stand at the current site of the merchant and 4-H buildings.

Designs revealed for Putnam County Event Center

By Jacob Espinosa
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OTTAWA — A new event center is on its way at the Putnam County Fairgrounds.

Putnam County Commissioner John Schlumbohm said the Putnam County Event Center, which will hold 700 to 750 people, will be funded partially from general fund money and capital improvement fund money, but most of the money will come from the American Rescue Plan.

“It’s going to be a very nice venue,” Schlumbohm said. “Technology-wise, it will be state of the art, and it will have plenty of amenities for a variety of purposes.”

The venue, which will

be estimated to cost \$4 million, will sit where the merchant and 4-H buildings at the Putnam County Fairgrounds currently exist. It is scheduled to open in June 2024 after construction is ultimately completed May 1 of that year, in time for the 2024 Putnam County Fair.

The county commissioners contracted with Ottawa-based Technicon Design Group to work on the plans after years of wanting to build a facility that could be used for 12 months of the year and knowing that the American Rescue Plan money funding 75 to 80 percent of the cost had to be used.

“The merchant and 4-H buildings were starting to deteriorate pretty badly, and this conversa-



TDG Technicon Design Group

The exterior of the planned Putnam County Event Center can be seen. The \$4 million project will be funded with American Rescue Plan dollars.

tion that we needed to do something about them started about three years ago,” Schlumbohm said. “And when the ARP money came through, we decided that a good use for it might be this building to benefit the

whole county and the fairgrounds. So we went down this journey of removing the buildings and having one that could be divided for both events during the fair.

Gillian Stechshulte, a Technicon architect

working on the multi-use indoor facility, said that a priority in the design was to make it as versatile as possible.

“We tried to design it to be as flexible as we

See DESIGNS | 4A

States press voter photo ID rules

By Julie Carr Smyth
Associated Press

COLUMBUS — As Ohio’s primary approach, a strict new photo ID requirement is stirring concerns for military veterans and out-of-state college students, in Amish communities and among older voters.

Other Republican-led states are moving in the same direction as they respond to conservative voters unsettled by unfounded claims of widespread fraud and persistent conspiracy theories over the accuracy of U.S. elections. Critics characterize such requirements as an overreaction that could end up disenfranchising eligible voters.

Ruth Kohake is among those caught up in the confusion over Ohio’s law, which is going into effect this year. The retired nurse from Cincinnati gave up her

See ID RULES | 2A

Senate OKs rail safety rules, budget

By Samantha Hendrickson
Associated Press/Report For America

COLUMBUS — Ohio senators reacting to the East Palestine train derailment proposed state oversight of wayside detectors that can spot railway defects, among other safety provisions, in a nearly \$13.5 billion transportation budget that passed Thursday with bipartisan support.

The proposal will now go to a joint House and Senate conference committee to work out differences, with just one week to go before lawmakers must send the spending plan to the governor.

The proposal would fund pavement, bridges and other highway projects over two years. The Senate made some significant changes to the House version of the budget, including nixing a \$1 billion fund aimed specifically at improving rural highways, and getting rid of lower registration fees for plug-in hybrid owners.

But the Senate kept the House’s railway safety measures, added to the budget after a Norfolk

See RAIL SAFETY | 2A

Spar gives back to Ada community

As part of his Eagle Scout project, Aaron Spar used a process called tuckpointing to help recondition the marker at Ada War Memorial Park.



Don Spar, Ada | Submitted photo

By Brenda Keller
For The Lima News

ADA — Approximately 2% of Boy Scouts throughout history have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

For a Scout with Down’s syndrome, the percentages are considerably lower. Aaron Spar’s father, Don says that, while his son loves music, “math is Aaron’s stumbling block.”

Maybe that stumbling block became a stepping stone that kept Aaron Spar from considering the statistics and enabling him to move forward to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout at age 27.

Aaron’s Eagle Scout project, his community service and his positive attitude were listed among the

many reasons for his nomination for the 2023 Jefferson Awards for Public Service. Aaron is described as “an asset to his community.”

What began as a desire to replace the flagpole at Ada War Memorial Park for his Eagle Scout project proved to be too costly until he received a grant that included a provision for a new flagpole. Once the flagpole was installed at the football field, Aaron arranged for solar lights to be installed to enable the flag to be illuminated while on display.

During the remainder of the Eagle Scout project, Aaron and his team of 6 Scouts and four adults reconditioned the marker at the park with flagstone and concrete,

See SPAR | 4A

OHIO LOTTERY

DAILY (Sunday):
Pick 3: 0-1-8 day; 7-9-1 night
Pick 4: 2-5-5-0 day;
3-6-5-9 night
Pick 5: 2-1-1-3 day;
0-1-9-7-7 night

Rolling Cash 5: 14-16-18-23-38

CLASSIC (Saturday):
32-35-40-42-45-49
KICKER: 248301
Jackpot: \$70 million

POWERBALL (Saturday):
15-17-18-47-57

Powerball: 19
Power Play: 2
Jackpot: \$112 million
MEGA MILLIONS (Friday):
14-17-33-42-66
Mega Ball: 15; Megaplier: 3
Jackpot: \$322 million

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Obituaries: 2A
Comics: 5A
Weather: 6A

B SPORTS
Sports: 1B
Classified: 4B
Puzzles: 6B

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