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96th YEAR NO. 46

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2019

PHONE: (216) 441-2141 • EMAIL: NNEWS1923@AOL.COM

FREE

## Today is Amelia Earhart's birthday

BORN JULY 24, 1897 ~ ~ DISAPPEARED JULY 2, 1937

*What better time to start our series of articles on a group of Garfield Heights men who traveled to Saipan in the '60's in search of what really happened to the famous pilot and her navigator, Fred Noonan, and the answers they brought back!*

By Ellen Psenicka

This is the true story of four Garfield Heights men and one from Parma who 50 years ago had the adventure of a lifetime - and in the process likely solved one of the biggest mysteries of the past eight decades - what really happened to Amelia Earhart.

In light of a 2017 History Channel documentary featuring their exploits and a 1969 book by Joe Davidson, "Amelia Earhart Returns From Saipan," chronicling their story, we thought it was time to retell this fascinating story for posterity.

We're starting the series of articles today, Wednesday, July 24, on Amelia Earhart Day, birth date of the famed aviatrix and 82 years since she went missing in July, 1937 over the Pacific.

The major players in this story are these Garfield Heights men: Don Kothera, Ken Matonis, John Gacek and Marty Fiorillo, with Jack Geschke from Parma rounding out the team. Of these five, only Marty Fiorillo survives, so it is with his insights, Davidson's book, the History Channel documentary and journalist Fred Goerner that we tell their exploits.

Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean and to fly across the Atlantic solo, in addition to many more "firsts" for the female aviatrix. But she still wanted one more big adventure - to fly around the world.



**Shown are pilot Amelia Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, before their ill-fated attempt to fly around the world.**

*Photo from Wikipedia*

In March, 1937, Amelia began her around-the-world trip in California, flying into Hawaii on the first leg of the journey, intending to circumnavigate the globe from west to east. But heading out from Hawaii the plane blew a tire and crashed on take-off, necessitating a trip back to California for repairs, then heading to Florida to again begin the journey, this time going from east to west.

And so on June 1, 1937, she and her navigator, Fred Noonan, left Miami in the repaired Lockheed Electra 10 airplane, flying to South America, Africa, India, Australia and leaving New Guinea on July 1st for the 2,556-mile trip to tiny

Howland Island in the central Pacific Ocean. They never made it to Howland Island.

The United States military pulled out all the stops to find the celebrity pilot and her navigator. A U.S. Navy battleship left Hawaii in search of Earhart and Noonan, as well as four destroyers and the aircraft carrier "Lexington" with 62 planes leaving from San Diego. But to no avail.

Now a history lesson seems appropriate, compliments of Mr. Davidson's book, "Amelia Earhart Returns From Saipan."

(Continued on Page 2)

## Cleveland Fire hosts ice cream social this weekend

The Cleveland Division of Fire is hosting an ice cream social Saturday, July 27, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Fire Station 11, 7629 Broadway Ave., in Slavic Village.

Residents can meet Cleveland firefighters, tour the station and enjoy free hamburgers, hot dogs and ice cream, according to the City of Cleveland. There will also be tables featuring fire safety tips and safety forces recruitment information and representatives from Cleveland EMS, Cleveland Water, Cleveland Public Power, Red Cross and Cleveland Public Library.

The ice cream is donated by Pierre's and Honey Hut, the city said.

## Cancels rest of concerts

The remaining two free summer concerts at the Garfield Heights Civic Center on July 28 and Aug. 4 are being canceled due to lack of participation, according to Garfield Heights officials.

The first concert had 34 people in attendance, and the second had 12.

## Send us your recipes!

August is both National Peach Month and National Sandwich Month. To celebrate, we're asking you to send us your favorite peach and/or sandwich recipes.

Recipes can be sent via email to [nnews1923@aol.com](mailto:nnews1923@aol.com). Include your name, phone number and city of residence.

## Task force seeks Kemp for 2 counts of murder

The Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force is offering a reward for information that would lead to the capture of fugitive Jermaine Kemp. Kemp is wanted by the United States Marshals Service and Cleveland Division of Police for two counts of aggravated murder.

Kemp, 40, is a black male, standing approximately 5 feet 9 inches and weighing 230 pounds, according to the task force. He has been known to reside in Maple Heights and the West 25<sup>th</sup> Street and Clark Avenue area of Cleveland.

It is alleged that Kemp shot and killed a male and a female on July 6 inside of a vehicle near the area of West 47<sup>th</sup> Street and Henritze Avenue in Cleveland, police said. Another victim was shot and thrown out of the



**Jermaine Kemp**

vehicle near East 66<sup>th</sup> Street and Consul Avenue.

If you have any information in reference to Jermaine Kemp, please contact the Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force at 1-866-4WANTED or text keyword WANTED and your tip to 847411 (TIP411). Tipsters can remain anonymous, and reward money is available.

## 7 indicted in coupon scam at Giant Eagle in Bedford

On July 16, a Cuyahoga County grand jury indicted seven people in a coupon scam at the Giant Eagle, 900 Northfield Road, Bedford.

Leslie Hart, Ashleigh Estell, Rachel Donofrio, Ke'aisha Scruggs, Shawnte Davis, Mara Pryor and Roz Hayes were indicted on counts of engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity, conspiracy and grant theft in a series of incidents that took place between July and December of 2018, according to the indictment. In addition, Mara Pryor and Roz Hayes face counts of money laundering.

During the scheme, at least five people were working as store employees while at least two people posed as customers, according to the indictment.

"The fraud begins with a customer walking around the store and filling one or more grocery carts with items for sale - typically the items chosen were baby products, paper goods, personal care items, cleaners, other nonperishable goods and retail gift cards," the indictment states. "The customer member would then take these carts to an employee member's register to be checked out. The employee member would scan all items and activate all gift cards for the customer member. The employee member would then take coupons from the customer member. Most, if not all, of the coupons offered by the customer member were non-matching and otherwise ineligible.

(Continued on Page 8)



# AMELIA EARHART

(Continued from Page 1)

"The logical order of this chain of events takes us back to the invasion of Saipan during World War II. This island was a command station for the Japanese for the Marianas group. This stronghold was defended by nearly 30,000 well-armed Japanese that were dug into caves which covered the mountainsides.

"The Marines landed June 15th, 1944. Saipan fell to the United States July 9, 1944, with very few Japanese soldiers being taken captive. Cost to the United States was 4,442 dead and nearly 13,000 wounded.

"General Tojo was relieved of his duties over this loss. This was really the beginning of the end for Japan. With little effort, comparatively speaking, Tinian was taken and airstrips built that soon launched the airplanes which dropped the first atomic bombs on Japan. The second atomic bomb jolted the emperor into complete submission."

It was speculated at the time of Amelia's disappearance that she had been a spy for the U.S. Navy before the war and was photographing Japanese military installations in the Pacific.

So the stage is now set for the Garfield Heights connection to this ongoing drama.

## THE FIRST EXPEDITION

After the war had been won by the Allies, the previously held Japanese islands in the Marianas were now being occupied by American forces. In June, 1946, Don Kothera, an 18-year-old Navy recruit from Garfield Heights, was sent to Saipan from Guam along with 400 other soldiers as a skeleton occupation force to manage the island.

Kothera's job was to publish a daily newspaper for Saipan with news that came into Guam from Associated Press and United Press wire services, a night job that left him time during the day. He spent a lot of his free time searching the island for souvenirs, mainly guns, swords and knives.

One day he stumbled upon a non-military airplane that had been stripped of engines and seats in a jungle canyon. Because of the dense jungle growth around it, Kothera guessed the plane had been there for some time. He looked inside but saw no souvenirs and joined a buddy who had discovered some large coastal guns on the nearby beach.

Kothera came back to the United States in December, 1947, and was discharged from the Navy. He started a ceramic tile businesses, Crest Tile Company, and got married in 1950. Hewould often talk to his wife, Florence, about the plane he had discovered in the jungle on Saipan, wondering about the story behind it.

In 1959, various articles were appearing in the Cleveland newspapers tying Amelia to Saipan, and Kothera

began to speculate that the plane he had found while stationed there might by that of the Earhart expedition.

Kothera's wife showed him an article in The Plain Dealer which had a picture of the Lockheed airplane that Amelia had flown on her final trip. Kothera told his wife that the plane she had pointed out in the newspaper looked a lot like the one he had discovered in the jungle on Saipan.

Ken Matonis, another Garfield Heights man and a close friend of Kothera's, had heard the "plane in the jungle" story many times and told his friend they should go to the island and try to find it again. Matonis, together with Earl Herbold, owned Cuyahoga Cleaning Contractors and said the company would finance the trip to Saipan.

Carol Matonis, Ken's wife who now lives in Northfield, Ohio, recalls her husband waking her up in the middle of the night to tell her he and Kothera were going to Saipan to find Amelia Earhart's plane. "After you're done, see if you can find Glenn Miller's trombone," was her sarcastic reply.

Jack Geschke of Parma, a business associate of Matonis', was also eager to join the expedition and share expenses. As fate would have it, he became involved in negotiations to buy the International Airport Hotel in Cleveland and would not make the trip. However, Lt. John Gacek of the Garfield Heights Police Department, also a friend of the group, was keenly interested in traveling with them to Saipan. Garfield Heights Mayor Frank Petrancek gave Gacek leave and he joined the team in Jack's place.

So the three friends left Cleveland for Saipan on October 30th, 1967, with their mission clear - to find that plane!

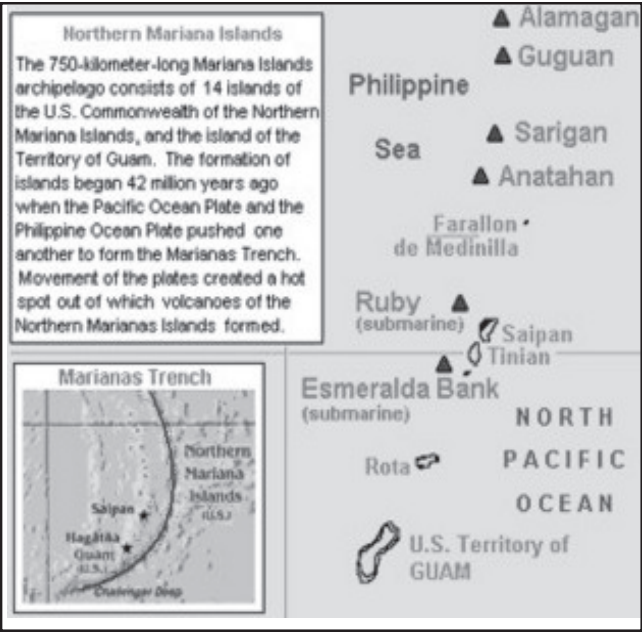


**Members of the first expedition to Saipan were, from left, Don Kothera, John Gacek and Ken Matonis, all of Garfield Heights, Ohio.** Photos courtesy of Marty Fiorillo

On the plane from Guam to Saipan, Kothera met Joe Diaz, who lived on Saipan and would figure prominently in this story. The group arrived on Saipan, rented a rather primitive house from a Vincente Camacho, who seemed to own just about everything on the island, and set about to find the plane Kothera believed could be Amelia's.

However, it was not to be easy going for the trio. A lot of time had passed since Kothera first discovered the plane in 1946, and the jungle had taken over much of the island changing the landscape dramatically. But with guidance from a native farmer who had been on Saipan for the past 50 years and knew every trail on the island, the men were able to fight their way through the dense jungle vegetation and found the spot where the plane had been. But the aircraft was no longer there. The men did find airplane parts with numbers stamped on them at the site and took them along for further study.

So the next order of business for the three, with time ticking until their 30-day visas expired, was to talk to natives who said they had actually seen two white fliers on Saipan in 1937, the same year Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan went missing, and try to piece together the whereabouts of their airplane. With help from their landlord, Vincente Camacho, Kothera, Matonis and Gacek



set out to learn first hand all they could about what really happened to the famous aviatrix and her navigator and their plane.

Anna, the sister of Joe Diaz, whom they had met on the plane from Guam to Saipan, told the Garfield Heights group that one day in 1937, as she was coming home from school, she saw two Japanese watching two white people digging a hole outside the Liyang Cemetery.

She said she couldn't get any closer to the scene for fear of being caught by the Japanese so she hid and continued watching in horror at what happened next.

"When the grave was dug, the tall man with a big nose, as she described him, was blindfolded and made to kneel by the grave. His hands were tied behind him. One of the Japanese took a samurai sword and chopped his head off. The other one kicked him into the grave," as quoted from Davidson's book.

Gacek asked Anna if she thought she could find that grave again. She said she was positive she could because she had walked past the spot every day on her way to school. Anna gave the men a map of where she said the grave could be found, but further detective work would have to be delayed as the men's visas had expired. They had already begun making plans for their return to Saipan.

After a delay of two extra days on Saipan as it was hit by Typhoon Gilda, a furious storm that was to devastate the island, the three weary Garfield Heights men returned to their respective homes and to their very patient and supportive wives.

## TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

***In next week's paper, the Garfield Heights men return home to much celebrity and make plans to return to Saipan - after checking out the plane parts they had brought back to see if they could have been from Earhart's Lockheed.***



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**12U and 14U tryouts on 7/27 & 7/28, 2-4 PM at Mercer Elementary (23325 Wimbledon, Shaker Heights); 16U & 18U tryouts on 8/3 & 8/4, 2-4 PM at Shaker Hts. High School (15911 Aldersyde Drive).**

Questions? Contact Andy Pohl at 773-398-6531 or [andy.pohl@dnasportsonline.com](mailto:andy.pohl@dnasportsonline.com)

### Washington Park Community School

4000 Washington Park Blvd., Newburgh Heights, Ohio 44105, 216-271-6055

### MONTHLY BOARD MEETING DATES

All meetings are held at the school and open to the public.  
Meetings start promptly at 5:30 p.m.



<b>August 1, 2019</b>	<b>January 9, 2020</b>
<b>September 5, 2019</b>	<b>February 6, 2020</b>
<b>October 3, 2019</b>	<b>March 5, 2020</b>
<b>November 7, 2019</b>	<b>April 2, 2020</b>
<b>December 5, 2019</b>	<b>May 7, 2020</b>
	<b>June 4, 2020</b>

N.N.: 7-24-19



## Newburgh Council accepts parks and trails master plan

By Danielle Toth

At the July 16 Village of Newburgh Heights regular council meeting, OHM Advisors representatives Arthur Schmidt, senior planner, and Jeremy Hinte, senior landscape architect, presented the Newburgh Heights Parks and Active Transportation Master Plan. The plan revamps the current park system, adding an eastern park as well as additional trails and connections to the regional park network.

Right now, the plan is at a high-level planning stage, Schmidt said. Specific design elements, such as benches and lighting, will be added later. However, plans do affect all parks and include improvements to current facilities, as well as additional upgrades.

OHM used site analysis and assessments; task force committee, stakeholder and public input; and best practices to create the plan.

"We took what we learned and came up with a preliminary design," Hinte said. "It will help us plan

the costs and go after grant money."

Council accepted the master plan; however, there are currently no definitive time lines for the projects.

"We did not identify time tables for when the projects would be designed or constructed as part of the master plan," Hinte said. "What we can say is the village did submit grant applications for the Washington Park dog park and the Washington Boulevard all-purpose trail. If the village secures the grant for these projects, implementation would be next year. The remaining projects are now in the fundraising stage, and the timetable is unknown."

Also at the meeting, Mayor Trevor Elkins read a letter from the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department commending Chief John Majoy, Lt. Mike Marniella and Officer Ed Papes for their help in the rescue of a mentally ill man from Mill Creek in June. Newburgh Heights, Cuyahoga Heights and Garfield Heights police as-

sisted in the incident.

Majoy reported on Operation Triple Play, an initiative focused on apprehending criminals who sought to engage in sexual activity with whom they believed to be minor children. Led by the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, Newburgh Heights assisted in the operation by providing a sting house and operating a command center at city hall. The operation arrested 28 individuals that could face felony charges of attempted unlawful sexual conduct with a minor, importuning, possession of criminal tools and attempting corruption with drugs.

Majoy praised the sting, calling it "highly successful."

Fire Chief Brian Higginbotham updated council on the status of the new Cuyahoga County Public Works Building at 2501 Harvard Ave. The county, which purchased the former site of the Greater Cleveland Regional Tran-

sit Authority's Harvard Garage in 2017, plans to begin moving in mid-August with final occupancy in October.

Council passed the following ordinances:

- Authorizing the mayor or his designee to discard outdated and obsolete self-contained breathing apparatus equipment

- Authorizing the village to accept an Ohio Department of Public Safety EMS 2019-2020 Training and Equipment Grant in the amount of \$2,765 and declaring an emergency

- Authorizing a letter of agreement between the village and Partners Environmental, Inc. for an alternative source demonstration at the Bert Avenue landfill. This is so the village can determine that increased ammonia levels in groundwater are not a result of a release from the containment cell.

Newburgh Heights Village Council will not have a meeting in August. The next regular meeting is Sept. 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Literacy Through The Arts Summer Academy presents...

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## Sarcoma Awareness Month brings attention to cancer

By Danielle Toth

Approximately 15,000 new sarcoma cases are diagnosed annually, and nearly 6,000 people die each year from the cancer, according to the Sarcoma Foundation of America.

July is Sarcoma Awareness Month. Sarcomas are cancers that arise from the cells that hold the body together, according to the foundation. These could be cells related to muscles, nerves, bones, fat, tendons, cartilage or other forms of connective tissues. There are hundreds of different

kinds of sarcomas because they come from all different kinds of cells. The cancer is rare cancer in adults (1% of all adult cancers) but more common in children (about 20% of all childhood cancers).

"Too often, patients with sarcoma and their loved ones are scared and feel hopeless after receiving a diagnosis of a disease that most haven't heard of and even many of the doctors they have seen aren't familiar with," said Dr. Dale Shepard, director of the Cleveland Clinic Taussig

Cancer Institute Sarcoma Program.

Those interested can honor Sarcoma Awareness Month by participating in the Race to Cure Sarcoma virtual event on July 27.

"Events like the Race to Cure Sarcoma are so important because it allows us to spread awareness and raise funds for research in hope to one day find a cure for sarcoma all while creating a bond between those who are currently battling the disease and the survivors," said Bailey Gillespie, manager of community engagement for the Sarcoma Foundation of America.

Participants can run or walk from any location they choose, i.e., on a road, trail, treadmill or track or even at another race, at their own pace and at any time.

Registration is \$35, which includes a Sarcoma Awareness Month T-shirt, Race to Cure Sarcoma bag and a sarcoma wristband. Register for the virtual race at <https://p2p.onecause.com/virtual>.

Those who are interested in donating time or money to sarcoma awareness and research or who want to learn more about the cancer can visit <https://www.curesarcoma.org/ways-to-give>.

## N.N. giving away backpacks

Visit The Neighborhood News booth at Garfield Heights' Summer Fest celebration to honor its centennial, which takes place from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Civic Center, 5407 Turney Road, on Sunday, Aug. 11. The Neighborhood News will be giving away a backpack of elementary school supplies every hour!

To help us give away even more backpacks and supplies, we invite readers to donate elementary school supplies to our offices at 8613 Garfield Blvd., Garfield Heights, OH 44125. Drop them off Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., from now until Friday, Aug. 9.

## Attention WWII veterans!

Sept. 2 is National V-J Day (Victory over Japan Day), which recognizes Allied Forces' victory over Japan during World War II. We're looking for vets to share their experiences! Contact us by phone at 216-441-2141; by email at [nnews1923@aol.com](mailto:nnews1923@aol.com); or by mail to our offices at 8613 Garfield Blvd., Garfield Heights, OH 44125.

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### INVITATION FOR BID LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed bid proposals will be received by the City Manager of the City of Bedford, Ohio at his office, 165 Center Road, Bedford, Ohio until 12:00 Noon on the **8th day of August, 2019** for:

#### WOOD CREEK BANK STABILIZATION

And will be publicly opened and read immediately thereafter. Each bid must contain the full name or names of the party or parties making the same, with an affidavit as to interested parties, and in the case of a corporation not chartered in Ohio, with a proper certificate that such corporation is authorized to do business in Ohio, and be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check on a solvent bank made payable to the order of the City of Bedford, the amount shall be equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount bid, drawn in favor of the Clerk of the City of Bedford, Ohio, or a Bid Guaranty/Bid Bond in accordance with Section 153.54 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Each bidder must insure that all employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, creed, color, sex or national origin.

The price of material and labor bid for shall be separately stated.

Copies of the Specifications, Instructions to Bidders, Forms of Proposals and other contract documents are on file at the office of the Clerk of the City of Bedford. These documents may only be obtained through the office of GPD Group by emailing Nick Fini, [nfini@gpdgroup.com](mailto:nfini@gpdgroup.com) and requesting a digital copy. Digital documents will be provided free of charge. Questions or inquiries should be directed to GPD Group at (216) 927-8658. **No questions will be answered after 1 p.m. on August 2, 2019.**

The bid check or bid bond, as the case may be, will be held as a guarantee that, if the bid proposal is accepted, a contract will be entered into between the bidder and the City of Bedford, and the performance of such contract secured by said check or bond, and in default thereof said check or bond, and the amount represented thereby, shall be forfeited to the City of Bedford as liquidated damages.

The City of Bedford reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any informalities in the bids received, and to accept any bid which it deems most favorable to the City.

Michael S. Mallis, City Manager  
City of Bedford, Ohio

N.N.: July 24, 2019  
July 31, 2019

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### CITY OF BEDFORD, OHIO

#### List of Meetings for August 2019

Monday, August 5, 2019	Council Work Session - TBD Regular Meeting - 8:00p.m.
Tuesday, August 6, 2019	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - 5:30p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00p.m.
Monday, August 19, 2019	Summer Session - No Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 20, 2019	Planning Commission (if needed) Work Session - 5:30p.m. Regular Meeting - 6:00p.m.
Tuesday, August 27, 2019	Board of Zoning Appeals (if needed) Work Session - 6:30p.m. Regular Meeting - 7:00p.m.

It should also be noted that the Board of Building Standards and Appeals, Civil Service Commission, Bedford Arts and Cultural Board, Bedford Historical Preservation Board, Assessment Equalization Board, Public Hearings, Planning Commission, Animal Appeals Board, Board of Zoning Appeals and Tree Board meet **as needed**. Notification of these meetings will be posted at the five most public places in the City per **Ordinance No. 8461-09**.

All Meetings will be held at Bedford City Hall, 165 Center Road, Bedford, Ohio 44146. For agendas please go to [www.bedfordoh.gov](http://www.bedfordoh.gov) or call the Clerk of Council, at 440-735-6510.

NN: 7-31-19

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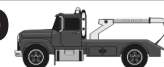
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# Community police reports

## Bedford

### Day care complaint

On July 11 at about 12:15 p.m., a woman reported that an employee of Dee's Little Darlings day care at 455 Broadway Ave. struck her 9-year-old son across the face. The complainant said on July 10 at about 4:30 p.m., her son was having a behavioral episode. During the course of the tantrum, her son spat on an employee. In return, the employee smacked her son with an open hand on his right cheek, leaving a handprint. The woman spoke with the supervisor at the daycare about the issue and notified Children and Family Services and consulted with an attorney. At the time of the complaint, the woman said she just wanted the incident to be on file. The manager of the day care said an employee attempted to speak to the child to calm him down. The boy then spit in the employee's face. In a reactionary response, the employee smacked the boy across the face. The manager said the employee did not act with malice in striking the boy. He has been suspended from work for one week, and the manager is scheduling staff training in dealing with youth who have behavioral issues.

## Cleveland

### Motor vehicle theft

On July 9 at about 5:30 a.m., officers responded to the Sunoco gas station at 7025 Fleet Ave. for a motor vehicle theft report. The victim said he stopped to get an energy drink on his way to work and left his brother's car running in front of the store. When he exited, the vehicle was gone. The victim's wallet containing his ID cards were in the vehicle. Police requested that the detective bureau follow up.

### Robbery

On July 8 at about 8:35 p.m., police responded to the Dollar General at 6815 Broadway Avenue for a robbery report. The witness said that while she was working the register, a man walked up to the side of the counter. When her register popped open a few moments later, he walked behind the register and demanded the money. She stepped away and let the man take it. He then fled, and she called 911. Camera footage shows the man taking the money and provides a clear shot of his face. The man took about \$45 from the register.

## Garfield Heights

### Disorderly conduct

On July 21 at about 12:25 a.m., officers responded to the area of Wallingford Avenue and East 113th Street for a report of a woman lighting something on fire in the roadway. Upon arrival, police noticed a woman leaning against a white sedan holding a lighter. In the roadway a couple feet away was a piece of clothing on fire. The woman said she burnt her shirt because she didn't want it anymore. She appeared to be under the influence of alcohol. The woman wouldn't obey commands and resisted arrest. The fire was extinguished. The woman was charged with intoxication and resisting arrest.

On July 17 at about 2:15 a.m., police responded to the 5000 block of Turney Road for a complaint of a naked male sitting on a resident's porch. The man then ran to Plymouth Avenue. While speaking to the caller, officers observed the man run across Turney Road. He cut down an alley and hid behind a dumpster. As police approached, the man said he didn't do anything and was running from people who were chasing him. The man is known to officers as someone who uses PCP and other illegal street drugs. He was secured wearing only shoes, a black thong and purple headband. The man showed signs of intoxication such as sweating profusely, hallucinating, rapid eye movements and bouts of anger and aggression. He was transported to city jail and charged with disorderly conduct intoxication.

### Criminal mischief

On July 16 at about 12:30 p.m., a service department employee called police because he observed juveniles start a fire behind the Garfield Heights Historical Society at 5405 Turney Road. When the fire department arrived on scene, the boys walked away. A library representative spoke to an officer saying one of the suspects was in the library. An officer spoke to the boy, who said he and some friends had "lit some papers on fire." He was detained in the police cruiser. Another officer located the two other suspects. All were brought back to the historical society to assist in cleaning up the mess. One of the boys had three Black & Mild cigars on his person. One of the suspects was found to be 18 and was issued a summons for criminal mischief. The two boys have charges pending with the youth bureau with one boy issued a citation for underage possession of tobacco charges.

On July 9 at about 1:40 p.m., officers responded to the 5100 block of East 126th Street for a criminal mischief complaint. The complainant said someone placed devil stickers on windows of her home. She was advised to contact the detective bureau.

### Trespassing

On July 9 at about 9:50 a.m., police responded to the 4600 block of East 104th Street for a trespassing report. The complainant said she parked her car in her driveway the evening of July 8. When she went to the car the next morning, she found someone had been inside the unlocked vehicle. Nothing was damaged, stolen or moved, but the suspect left a large rock on the driver's seat. She threw the rock away prior to calling police. The woman wanted to document the incident and said she will keep her vehicle in the garage from now on.

### Theft

On July 8 at about 2:05 p.m., police responded to the 13800 block of Mary Ann Drive for a theft report. The victim stated that sometime overnight on June 26 someone removed his steel wheelchair ramp from the front porch without permission. Officers checked with neighbors but did not get any information. The victim was advised to contact his insurance company.

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## Suspect in 4 S.V. murders indicted on 26 counts

Armond Johnson, the suspect in the four murders that occurred on East 63rd Street in Slavic Village on July 9, has been indicted on 26 counts by the Cuyahoga County Grand Jury, according to court records.

They include 14 counts of aggravated murder, four counts of aggravated arson, two counts of aggravated burglary, two counts of endangering children, two counts of having weapons while under disability, one count of kidnapping and one count of tampering with evidence.

The indictment contains a number of aggravating specifications, any one of which make the case capital eligible, according to Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael C. O'Malley.

The Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office's Capital Review Committee (CRC) evaluates each capital-eligible case to determine whether to include death penalty specifications. CRC members conducted an initial review of the facts and circumstances of Johnson's case and decided to include death penalty specifications in the presentment to a grand jury. There will be an opportunity to conduct an additional review as the case progresses.

The victims included David Cousin; Jr., 35, who appeared to have accidentally encountered the suspect; Johnson's ex-girlfriend, Takeyra Collins, 25; his son, Armond Johnson, Jr., 6; and Collins' daughter, Aubree Stone, 2, police said. Collins had been shot multiple times, and the children died from smoke inhalation due to a fire inside the home, the medical examiner determined.

Johnson is being held on a \$5 million bond, according to court records. Arraignment is scheduled for Thursday, July 25, at 8:30 a.m. at the Cuyahoga County Justice Center.

## Music Explorers Mondays with the Cleveland Orchestra

Come explore the Literary Lot and discover instruments of the Cleveland Orchestra at free Music Explorers Mondays. These 30-minute family-friendly performances will feature Cleveland Orchestra musicians and a host who will get children singing, clapping and moving to the music. Stick around after the performance to join the Broadway School of Music in a drum circle.

The concerts take place July 29 with Lisa Boyko on viola and Aug. 5 with Michael Miller on trumpet. Both performances are at 5 p.m. at 6600 Union Ave., Cleveland, OH 44105. There is a free, accessible parking lot.

For more information, visit [www.clevelandorchestra.com/community](http://www.clevelandorchestra.com/community) or [www.literarylots.org](http://www.literarylots.org).

## Body discovered in Harvard Avenue basement identified

The body discovered in the basement of a home in the 6000 block of Harvard Avenue July 15 has been identified as Alicia Harsh, 35, of Cleveland, according to the Cuyahoga County Medical Examiner's Office. A

City of Cleveland subcontractor found the body, which was badly decomposed.

Harsh had been missing since June 26, according to the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office.

## 7 indicted in coupon scam at Giant Eagle in Bedford

(Continued from Page 1)

When the store register would decline the coupon, the employee member would simply override it and apply the coupon anyway. The same ineligible coupon would be scanned and overridden over and over again, and then the next ineligible coupon would be treated similarly. The majority of transactions examined were

over \$400, and after the invalid coupons were applied, the customer members would typically only pay less than \$20."

The two non-employee customers set up make shift "stores" to sell much of the stolen product to others, according to the indictment. The total fraud alleged is over \$156,000.

### Send your story ideas!

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**One-Stop Sign up for Free Services (based on income) from:**

**The Rock Community Church**-spiritual care, children's church, bible studies, food pantry, counseling; **Association of Frontotemporal Degeneration (Dementia under 60 yrs)**- support, info, life grants; **Cub Scout Pack 137**- join the local cub scout pack; **Passages**-job training, father/child retreats, transportation, re-entry, youth ed, marriage counseling; **The Centers for Families & Children**-in-home early learning, job training, dental/health/behavioral care, addiction, HIV, medication management, trauma recovery, nutritional education; **United Healthcare Medicare Solutions** -Medicare benefits, health insurance; **The Cleveland Foodbank**- SNAP i.e. food stamps; **Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center**- support groups, parenting & safety classes, emergency shelter, justice system advocacy; **Murtis Taylor**- (before/after school-childcare, tutoring), diabetes intervention, home-delivered meals, senior transport, sewing & computer classes, line & tap dancing, psychiatric, residential treatment, crisis intervention, re-entry, foster care support, clothing, rental, utilities, parenting & fatherhood classes; **Cuyahoga County Treasury**- tax info, payment plans; **Garfield Human Development Corporation**- food pantry, community night food giveaway (all zip codes), job fairs, summer camp and hot lunch program, resource fair; **Neighborhood Housing Services** -foreclosure, property tax assistance, financial literacy (credit repair, budgeting /credit), Homebuyer education (home purchase, repair, hot water heaters, roof, furnaces); **Empowering & Strengthening Ohio's People**-financial wellness (workshops, matched savings, tax help), housing (foreclosure prevention, counseling, accessible loans), older adults (benefits, property tax loans, workshops, Medicare part D help; **Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging** -assisted living, caregiver support, home choice/passport, home fix, managed care, home-delivered meals, wellness, recovery; **City of Garfield Heights**- food pantry, produce to the people, senior services, home repair assistance; **Legal Aid Society**- civil legal problems: family, money, work, health, housing; **Cleveland Habitat for Humanity**- restoration services & habitat homes; **The Council for Economic Opportunities in Greater Cleveland**- movers job training (18-24yr- \$100 participation, \$175 voucher, Microsoft software & computers), family development, Head start, utilities; **Human Coalition**- pregnancy care, women's care clinics, maternity housing, financial; **Anthem Blue Cross**- Medicare benefits, health insurance; **Womankind**- prenatal care, childbirth classes, natural family planning, assistance with health care options, counseling, WIC, maternity and baby items; **Tri-C Vet Education Access Program**- Courses, assistance- (college admissions, financial aid, edu testing, GI benefits, social groups, workshops, scholarships); **Help me Grow at Bright Beginnings**- Home visits & Early Intervention services for children under 3; **Esther J. Lowe Fdn**- free diabetic shoes; **T.O.P.S** (Take off Pounds sensibly)-low cost weight loss; **VA Northeast OH Healthcare** -Veterans health/ behavioral care; **Office of Consumer Affairs**- info on scams, fraudulent business/sales/landlord practices; **Cuyahoga Valley Career Center**- adult education classes(HVAC, automotive, EMT, STNA & more); **The Village Network**- behavioral care (families/children).