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96th YEAR NO. 48

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2019

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FREE

Amelia Earhart series continues

The third in a series of articles continues here about a group of Garfield Heights men who traveled to Saipan in the '60's in search of what really happened to Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, and the answers they brought back!

(Having completed the first expedition to Saipan and returned home, the Garfield Heights men have determined a second trip is needed to excavate a grave a Saipanese woman who had been a school girl in 1937 told them about. She said she had seen two white people digging a hole outside a cemetery under guard by the Japanese and had witnessed the beheading of one of them, who was then kicked into the hole. She said she could lead them to the grave. Marty Fiorillo of Garfield Heights has been enlisted to make movies and take pictures on the second trip, and Parma man Jack Geschke also joins Don Kothera, John Gacek and Ken Matonis on this second expedition in 1968.)

The second trip didn't start out well as they arrived on Saipan but their luggage did not. Actually, Matonis did get his bags but the others, including Marty's \$5000 worth of camera equipment, ended up in Saigon, Vietnam. But after a few days Marty did get his photography gear so the group decided to do as much filming as possible of everything from flowers to cave dwellings and war fortifications. This turned out to be a good move because in three short weeks the 200-mile-per-hour winds of Typhoon Jean would devastate the island and sweep away the breathtaking scenery.

From their \$4.00 per person, per day accommodations at the Saipan Hotel, a converted barracks, the men planned their next project - the taping of eyewitness

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John Gacek interviews Matilde San Nicolas, a Saipanese woman who told him that in 1937 she lived in Garapan in Saipan behind the Kobayashi Royokan Hotel, which was known to house political prisoners. She identified a picture Gacek showed her of Amelia Earhart, whom she said she saw many times a day making a trip to the outhouse behind the hotel, apparently a victim of dysentery.

G.H. woman won't go to jail for feeding cats

The 79-year-old Havana Road woman who was previously sentenced to 10 days in Cuyahoga County Jail for feeding stray cats will not be heading to jail.

Judge Jennifer Weiler reviewed the case and suspended the sentence. However, Nancy Segula remains on active reporting probation. She must also remove the loose sewer pipes in her yard that provide shelter for stray cats or other animals, execute a release for the probation officer to have contact with the defendant's mental health care provider at MetroHealth, obtain treatment for depression and provide written evidence of it to the court and immediately stop feeding outdoor cats or other animals, according to the court order.

Segula's first court appearance was in 2015 for feeding a loose pet, according to Garfield Heights Municipal Court records. She was fined \$75.

In May 2017, Segula was charged with numerous cats, rabies vaccine required, curbing required and nuisance/animal, according to court records. The latter three charges were dismissed, and Segula was fined \$250. She was also given a court order saying she was not allowed to have more than three cats in her home or on her property and could not provide food, toys or shelter to feral cats, as well as probation for one year.

In August 2017, Segula was charged with animal debris, feeding cats and nuisance/animal. The latter two charges were dismissed. Segula was fined \$100 and given a similar court order banning her from providing amenities to feral cats. She was also required to remove loose sewer pipes from her yard and obtain a counselor or psychologist to address depression and issues related to the case. Segula was given probation for two years.

Because Segula continued to feed cats in violation of the court order and her probation, she was fined \$500 in May 2019, according to court records. She was also required to appear in court July 24, when she received the jail sentence.

Garfield, Maple Hts. to host Summer Fest events this weekend

Garfield Heights

The City of Garfield Heights will celebrate its 100th anniversary with two special events this weekend. The first is a Birthday Bash Splash pool party on Saturday, Aug. 10, from 1 to 7 p.m. at the Dan Kostel Recreation Center, 5411 Turney Road. Admission is \$5.

The second is Summer Fest on Sunday, Aug. 11, from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Garfield Heights Civic Center, 5407 Turney Road. The celebration includes music, children's games, an ice cream social, petting zoo, safety fair, Euclid Beach rocket car rides, 50-50 raffle and more. Raffle tickets will be sold Wednesday, Aug. 7, and Thursday, Aug. 8, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the civic center. They will also be sold during the birthday splash and at Summer Fest. Tickets are \$1 each, and the prize is \$500.

Meet former First Lady Lucretia Garfield, portrayed by Debbie Weinkamer, lead volunteer at the James A. Garfield National Historic Site in Mentor, from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday during Summer Fest. Mrs. Garfield will be at the Garfield Heights Historical Museum, 5405 Turney Road.

For more information, call Pat Salemi at 216-475-1100, ext. 2425.

Maple Heights

Maple Heights will host its Summer Fest at Stafford Park, 5400 Mayville Road, on Saturday, Aug. 10, from 3 to 7 p.m. Schedule of events to come.

Interested residents can participate in the Rib Burn Off Contest (\$20 to register) or Baking Contest (\$10 to register).

For registration information, contact the Department of Human Services at 216-587-5481 or visit <http://www.citymapleheights.com/>

Men face death penalty in Bedford slayings

Demarcus Sheeley, Ronald Newberry and Kodii Gibson received a 15-count indictment in the October 2018 slayings of Paul Bradley and his daughter, Paris, on July 31. Prosecutors said they will seek the death penalty.

"It is difficult to understand how human beings can treat other human beings in this matter," Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael O'Malley said in a statement. "The barbaric actions of these defendants are truly shocking."

A fourth suspect, Quentin Palmer, faces separate charges that do not carry the death penalty according to court records. He has a trial scheduled for Oct. 7 at 8:30 a.m.

Sheeley, Newberry and Gibson are charged with four counts of aggravated murder, two counts of kidnapping, one count of aggravated burglary, two counts of aggravated arson, two counts of murder, two counts of felonious assault and two counts of having weapons under disabil-

ity, according to the indictment.

The Bradleys were taken from their Bedford home, tortured and killed before they were found in a car that was set on fire in an East Cleveland field, according to The Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force.

Fresh Start program extended

The Garfield Heights Municipal Court is extending its Fresh Start program another three months to help people clear their outstanding court cases and get back their driver's licenses. This is for people who have not appeared in court and warrants were issued for their arrest and their licenses were suspended.

Garfield Heights Municipal Court Judge Deborah
(Continued on Page 8)

AMELIA EARHART

(Continued from Page 1)

accounts of Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan on Saipan. They decided Gacek would conduct the interviews because of his years of experience with interrogations as a Garfield Heights cop.

Their first interview was with Antonio Diaz, father of Joe Diaz and grandfather of Anna, who had witnessed the beheading of a white man on the island so many years before. Antonio told the men that he was called into the Japanese seaplane base, Tanapag Harbor, and given the job of helping to build a road into the jungle to bring out Amelia's plane. Her plane had supposedly gone down on the outskirts of the jungle when it ran out of gas and was said to have been very little damaged. He said he saw one man and one woman wearing a jacket and pants on a veranda being guarded by two Japanese. The Japanese foreman said they were Americans.

Diaz took the men to the spot at Tanapag Harbor where the plane had gone down on the beach and slid into the jungle with practically no damage to the plane or its occupants. He said it took about two weeks to build the road and get the plane out, which was loaded onto a ship. Diaz said he was told the ship with the plane on it was taken to Japan. He said he had no knowledge of what had ultimately happened to the aviatrix and her navigator.

Our local heroes happened to be on Saipan when a Japanese detail was on the island to collect remains of war dead from caves and various other places around the island, and the Kothera group was given permission to help in the search.

The Kothera group worked with the Japanese for two days recovering bones from the war dead on the island. It was estimated that 15,000 bodies were recovered. The remains were then placed into large piles and a blessing ceremony held. Then the bones were set on fire and burned until nothing but ashes remained. The ashes were then gathered into boxes for shipment back to Japan.

But it wasn't long before Typhoon Jean hit and the guys were forced to retreat to their hotel/barracks to weather the storm. Jean was to devastate the island, blowing away 98 percent of everything.

When Typhoon Jean had blown itself out, the Kothera party resumed interviews. They talked to a man who, when shown Amelia's picture, said he had seen her get out of a car with a Japanese admiral at the Tanapag Harbor Seaplane Base. He was positive it was her.

They also interviewed Matilde San Nicholas, who told them she had lived behind the Kobiyashi Royakan Hotel, where Amelia was purportedly held prisoner. From a



Gacek and Geschke are shown finding bones of Japanese war dead in the caves throughout the jungles of Saipan.

All photos by Marty Fiorillo

picture of Amelia shown to Matilde by Gacek, she positively identified her as the woman she had seen many times using the outhouse behind the hotel.

Time was running out on the guys' visas and they needed to find Anna Diaz, who as a school girl had seen the white couple digging a grave outside Liyang Cemetery and the white man beheaded and pushed into the grave, and get her to guide them to the grave site.

Although eight months pregnant with her 11th child, she readily agreed to do her best to locate the now overgrown and disused cemetery, which had been near a Japanese crematorium, a distinctive breadfruit tree and two coconut trees.

The Kothera group and Anna crammed into the guys' little Datsun rental and set off. After hours of hacking their way through the jungle the cemetery had become, and under Anna's direction, the crematorium, then the breadfruit and coconut tree indicators were spotted, and Anna was satisfied they had found the grave site.

The guys clearly marked the spot so they could come back the next day and begin digging. And that's exactly what they did.

Bright and early the next day the search for digging tools began. The guys ferreted out a coal shovel from around the hotel and planned to buy picks and shovels later when the Joe Ten store opened.

After getting to the grave site and trying to dig with the

coal shovel they were convinced they needed better digging tools immediately as the roots, vines and vegetation that had grown there over the decades had made the excavation extremely difficult and time consuming. The men ended up borrowing some picks and shovels from a local priest they had befriended, and a couple hours later they had unearthed a firebrick leading Kothera to comment, "Anna was right."

Marty, having excavated before, told the men they had to find a screen to filter the dirt because after all these years teeth might be the only thing they would recover. Gacek volunteered to go in search of a screen, found a piece of expanded metal on the back of a refrigerator at the Saipan Hotel and a carpenter to nail it to the bottom of a dresser drawer. Marty was impressed.

Digging several inches down into the six foot wide hole they had now made, the men began coming up with the ammunition, coconut cloth and other things that would not have been there in 1937, prompting Marty to say the site had been excavated before.

But as they dug about a foot further down, the earth became much softer and the men began to find pieces of bone which they carefully put into bags and envelopes per Marty's instruction. As

(Continued on Page 5)



Matonis holds the gold dental bridge the Kothera group found digging at a grave site on Saipan in 1968.



The Kothera group is shown here at the grave site they excavated outside the Liyang Cemetery on Saipan, where they found dozens of bone fragments and a three-tooth, gold dental bridge.


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Death Notices

Dorothy Jaworski

Surrounded by her loving family, Dorothy Jaworski (nee Veres) passed away peacefully on August 1, 2019. Dorothy is the beloved matriarch of the Jaworski family and of Jaworski Meats, where for nearly 60 years she worked alongside her husband, Fred, and son, Mark, to create one of Cleveland's oldest and most renowned meat markets.



Born on March 12, 1926, to Frank and Ella Veres of Cleveland's Buckeye neighborhood, Dorothy grew up immersed in Cleveland's Hungarian community. She was an avid equestrian and pursued clerical work in her early career. Upon marrying Fred in 1950, Dorothy assumed the role of mother and business partner. Well into her nineties, Dorothy could still be found at the sausage maker, cranking out 1,000 pounds of kielbasa a day. Loyal customers loved Dorothy's spunk and affectionately referred to her as "Ma."

Dorothy's greatest legacy, though, is her family. Survived by children Sandy Shortt (Tim), Cheryl Kelly (Mike), Rick, David and Mark (Jan). Mother-in-law of Jaye. Grandmother of Suzy, Michael, Nicolette, Eric, Adam, Mark II, Jayson, Steven, Matt and Amanda. Great-grandmother of Hallie, Vincenzo, Eric, Kayla, Mallory and Colin. Dorothy is predeceased by her husband, Fred, and brother Frank Veres. Visitation was held Tuesday, August 6, at Fortuna Funeral Home in Independence. Mass of Christian Burial was held Wednesday, August 7, at 9:30 a.m. at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Parma; interment in Holy Cross Cemetery.

Judy M. Landolph

Judy M. Landolph (nee Baldwin), age 66. Beloved wife of Thomas N. Landolph. Loving mother of Dwayne Robertson (Karen). Dearest grandmother and great-grandmother. Sis-

ter of Kathy Lilly (deceased). Aunt of Dawn and Chelsea. Daughter of Richard and Connie Baldwin (both deceased).

Family and friends are welcome at the Bican Bros. Funeral Home, 5215 Fleet Ave., for memorial visitation on Saturday, August 10, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., with a memorial service to begin at 2:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers the family suggests that donations may be made in Judy's memory to St. Joseph's Indian School, 1301 N. Main St., Chamberlain, SD 57325.

Immaculate Heart of Mary hosts summer social Aug. 18

Relax and enjoy the food and festive atmosphere at Immaculate Heart of Mary parish's Summer Social on Sunday, Aug. 18, from 2 to 8 p.m. The yearly event is again being held at Klima Gardens, 4646 E. 71st St., Cuyahoga Heights.

There will be live polka music with the Anthony Culker Band on the bandstand from 2 to 7 p.m. Food includes cabbage and noodles, pierogies, sausage sandwiches, hot dogs, hamburgers and bakery. There will also be games of chance, raffles and a Chinese auction.

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Southeast branch library news

The following special programs are among those being offered this month at the Southeast branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, 79 Columbus Road. Registration is required. Call 440-439-4997.

Canning 101 for adults. Learn the basics of canning with an emphasis on hot water bath canning, the method used for jams, jellies, salsas and other high-acid foods on Saturday, Aug. 10, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Submit your best article ideas!

Do you have an idea for a story you'd like to see in an upcoming issue of The Neighborhood News? Send us your pitch at NNews1923@aol.com or call us at 216-441-2141.

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AMELIA EARHART

(Continued from Page 2)

evening came, the crew, weary but excited at their findings, knocked off for the day vowing to get an early start tomorrow.

The next day the group set out and the digging again began, with Matonis doing the sifting this time. Then work stopped as the men gathered around Matonis, who had discovered what appeared to be a gold nugget on the sifting screen, about two inches long. As he scraped the dirt away, the men saw what turned out to be a three-tooth, gold dental bridge. Their wonder and excitement was

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palpable. It was put in a matchbox for safe keeping.

Kothera and Marty continued the dig the next day down to what Marty said was the bottom of the gravesite where the earth had become very hard. In all the excavators had found 188 pieces of bones and the gold dental bridge.

The men, now armed with an impressive array of evidence, returned home to Cleveland, where the real work of proving they had found the remains of Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan would begin.

(Continued next week)

Safety tips for summer grilling

Grilling is a favorite summer pastime. But it is important to practice grill safety when firing up the barbecue.

You can prevent grill fires and injuries by following these tips from Rich Kobin of fire prevention at the Garfield Heights Fire Department, and Lt. Mike Norman of the Cleveland Fire Department:

- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Always grill away from your house, deck, garage, porch, overhang or branches. • Never grill indoors.
- Make sure your grills are kept at least 3 feet from your house.
- Maintain a 3-foot "kid-free/pet-free" zone around your grill. • Avoid loose clothing while cooking on your grill.
- Open the lid of your gas grill before lighting.
- Remove grease and fat build up from your grills.
- Check for cracks, holes or leaks from your grill hoses.
- Never add lighter fluid to your charcoal grill.
- Make sure to shut off the gas bottle when you are done with your gas grill.

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Community police reports

Garfield Heights

Fleeing

On July 31 at about 8:15 a.m., an officer observed a dark-colored SUV heading northbound on East 85th Street. The vehicle failed to stop at the stop sign at Grand Division Avenue.

The officer pulled the vehicle over on Grand Division near East 86th Street and discovered the driver had an active felony warrant with the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department. The driver restarted the vehicle, and the officer drew his service weapon and pointed it at the suspect. He advised the driver to turn off the engine and place his hands on the roof of the car. The driver began to yell for help saying, "Help, this officer is trying to shoot me."

As another officer approached for backup, the driver sped off. Officers followed the suspect as he disregarded stop signs and continued at a high rate of speed. He struck a vehicle, drove over a lawn and headed north on Broadway Avenue.

Police were ordered by a superior to end the pursuit as they entered Cleveland but observed the vehicle wedged between two other vehicles, damaging them as it tried to back up. The driver then struck a utility pole,

causing the light to fall and break. He then fled northbound on Broadway across Miles Avenue. Cleveland police were notified.

The vehicle was entered stolen out of Adams County.

Weapon offense

On July 31 at about 2:35 a.m., police responded to the 10900 block of Granger Road for a loud music complaint coming from a motor vehicle.

As the officer approached the residence, he noticed the lights on and the front door open. There was also a man asleep behind the wheel of a vehicle backed into the driveway of the home. The car was on and the music was playing.

The officer gently tapped on the window and the driver woke up, grabbed a handgun from his waistband and pointed it at the officer. The officer retreated to the rear of the vehicle and drew his firearm, pointing it at the driver's side window. He shouted to the man to drop his weapon while moving to the passenger's side of the vehicle. The man dropped the gun in his lap, and another officer on scene instructed the man to keep his hands up and not make any sudden movements. The doors were locked and windows rolled up.

When another officer arrived on scene, the officers broke a window to safely retrieve the firearm. The man was removed from the vehicle and detained. He did not have a carry concealed weapons permit and had prior weapons violations and convictions.

Police made contact with the resident, who said the man was her brother and that he does not have a place to live so he parks in her driveway to sleep sometimes.

The man was charged with having weapons under disability and improper handling of a firearm in a motor vehicle.

Assault

On July 30 at about 5:45 p.m., the owner of Showcase Bar at 5015 Turney Road spoke to a detective about an incident that occurred June 13. He said a man came into the bar and demanded to see the "bouncers who assaulted his brother" several days earlier or the owner himself who "did nothing to stop the assault."

When customers in the bar attempted to de-escalate the situation, the man assaulted a customer and employee. Video surveillance shows him punch the customer twice and pick up and shove the employee. He was escorted from the bar by an unknown friend.

The customer said he did not want to pursue charges but did want to counsel the man about his behavior. The case was closed due to lack of cooperation from the victims.

OVI

On July 23 at about 3:45 p.m., police responded to the intersection of Transportation Boulevard and Granger Road for a motor vehicle accident report. Officers believed the driver at fault, who had rear-ended the other vehicle, was intoxicated. The driver refused portable breath tests and field sobriety tests. He also was under a court suspension for a previous OVI arrest with limited privileges. The driver was cited for OVI, refusal with prior OVI refusal within 20 years, assured clear distance ahead and driving under suspension.

Suspect in four Slavic Village murders pleads not guilty to 26-count indictment

Armond Johnson, the suspect in the four murders that occurred on East 63rd Street in Slavic Village on July 9, pleaded not guilty July 25 to a 26-count indictment, according to court records.

The indictment includes 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 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 without bond, according to court records. His pretrial is set for Sept. 4 at noon at the Cuyahoga County Justice Center. Prosecutors have said they will seek the death penalty.

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Fresh Start program extended

(Continued from Page 1)

Deborah Nicastro said many people have already taken advantage of the Fresh Start program that began in February.

"More than 200 people have cleared up warrants. They've set up a payment plan and got their driver's licenses back," she added.

The process begins with the person paying \$200 to the clerk of courts. The person gets an immediate release for their driver's license and a court date is scheduled to set up a payment plan for any balance due.

"If the offender has multiple cases, the release is issued for all cases with the payment of \$200 being applied to the oldest case first," Judge Nicastro said.

As long as the person sticks to the payment plan, they will be considered in compliance and their driver's license will remain valid. There are no additional court proceedings.

Because of its success, the program is being expanded to all cases where the person did not appear for sentencing. The person can pay the \$200 which will be held as a bond and the person will be given a sentencing date. But they will receive an immediate release of their driver's licenses.

The extended Fresh Start program runs until Oct. 31, 2019. It pertains to both outstanding criminal and traffic cases in the eight communities served by the Garfield Heights Municipal Court. These include Garfield Heights, Maple Heights, Brecksville, Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, Newburgh Heights, Valley View and Walton Hills.

Garfield Heights Shell constructing new gas station, store

The True North Shell gas station on the corner of Rockside and Turney roads has been torn down to create a bigger space for the business, said Noreen Kuban, economic development director for the City of Garfield Heights.

The new convenience store will have approximately 4,200 sq. ft., according to Mark Moro, building commissioner for the city. It will not have a car wash like the old Shell station.

The project should take about four months to complete, he said.



Elect Jason X. Blake
Garfield Heights
City Council Ward 5

Email:
jasonblakeward5@gmail.com

Phone:
216-338-7883

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Jason Blake, Paula Peck, Treasurer, 5585 Briarcliff Drive, Garfield Heights, Ohio 44125

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BIRTHDAY BASH SPLASH
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10th
1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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Special event includes reduced admission, concession stand specials, swimming, prize raffles and a DJ!
\$5.00 Admission.
Children 12 & under MUST be accompanied by an adult.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 11th
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Summer FEST

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3:30 - 7:30 PM
Stafford Park
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Maple Heights, Ohio 44137

Schedule of Events

- 3:30 PM - Maple Heights High School Band
- 3:30 - 7:30 PM - Cleveland Metroparks Nature Tracks
- 3:30 - 7:30 PM - RTA Bus Tours
- 3:30 - 5:30 PM - Euclid Beach Rocket Car
- 3:30 - 5:30 PM - Home Depot/Jump Start Sports Childrens Pavilion (#3)
- 4:00 - 5:00 PM - Robert Johnson - The Line Dance King
- 5:30 - 7:30 PM - Music by Old Skool Players Band

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