



Wiggly pin-up pooches

See who won this year's Dogs of Wiggly Field calendar contest.

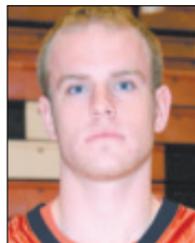
LIFE, C1

A place for moms online



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College gridiron

Lakota West graduate Robby Schloemer improves game at Georgetown.

SPORTS, D1

WEST CHESTER & LAKOTA EDITION

The Pulse~Journal

pulsejournal.com

NOVEMBER 15-21, 2007

CLOSER TO HOME

ONE DOLLAR

IN THIS EDITION



Get to know the band

The Pulse-Journal special section chronicles the Lakota West band's Road to the Rose Parade.

NEWS, A8, 9

Lakota West band fundraiser

Smokey Bones at 9484 Civic Center Blvd. is sponsoring a Lakota West bands day Tuesday. The restaurant will donate all profit for the day to the Rose Bowl general fund. Band directors will be on hand to serve customers.

Jewish population study

The Jewish Federation is surveying Butler County households.

NEWS, A4



Sweet art of mine

New gallery places local artists next to masters.

BUSINESS, A13

ON THE WEB

pulsejournal.com

Singing contest

Learn more about our holiday singing contest that starts tonight.

PULSEJOURNAL.COM

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PREP BASKETBALL PREVIEW

East, West tip-off Wednesday

Staff Report

As the weather grows colder and the leaves begin to fall from the trees it can only mean one thing in Ohio.

It is time to tip-off the high school basketball season.

The Pulse-Journal begins its coverage with the 2007-08 high school basketball preview.

Inside you'll find all you need to know about

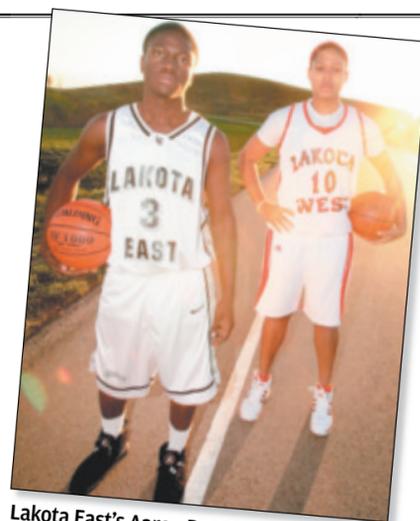
Lakota East and Lakota West as they prepare for the start of hoops season.

The East girls team begins play on Wednesday at Milford, and the boys open the following week on Nov. 30 versus Colerain. The West girls team starts on Wednesday against Mount Notre Dame and the boys get under way Nov. 27 against Hughes.

Follow the Thunderhawks and the Firebirds every week in the Pulse-Journal and every day online at pulsejournal.com.

»»West, MND showdown kicks off season SPORTS, D1

»»Visit the Lakota West and Lakota East team pages pulse-journal.com



Lakota East's Aaron Pashi and Lakota West's Amber Gray. Staff photo by Nick Daggy

IMMIGRANT'S PLIGHT



Konitha Von Nida (top, center) sits with her family in their Liberty Twp. home. Von Nida is a survivor of the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. She came to the United States in 1985 as a refugee through a sponsorship developed by Jim and Thelma Stephenson. Pictured with Konitha is her husband, Christian, and her four children, (from left) Danny, Alexis, Lilly and Narady. Contributed photo by Jessica Uttinger

A struggle to breathe free

Editor's note: This story begins a four-part series that will examine local immigration trends in Butler County.

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door." — Inscription on the Statue of Liberty

By Lindsey Hilty
Staff Writer

Studio Nails owner Konitha Von Nida of Liberty Twp. said she and her family spent years surviving in Khmer Rouge concentration camps. Giving up was not an option.

"My father says, 'We're going to die anyway. At least if we die, we are searching for free-

dom,'" she said.

Naked and close to starving, Von Nida said she was too tired to care as she stepped on bodies covering the road to the Thailand border. She was too hungry to care that her father Heng Sary was forced to scavenge bread from underneath a dead woman or that she was sleeping in a hole left by a land mine.

"I don't even know how I felt," Von Nida said.

It was just one more horror to add to her childhood memories of escaping genocide in Cambodia where between 1 million and 2 million people were massacred or worked to death through forced labor in the 1970s, according to the CIA.

»»9,147 foreign-born persons live in Butler County Article on A6

Police charge three teens in man's murder

By Matt Cunningham and Lauren Pack
Staff Writer

The Butler County Coroner reported Tuesday that Sabyasachi Debnath, a 31-year-old man found dead at Tri-County Inn early Monday morning, was bound with heavy tape and stabbed more than eight times.

Activity on Debnath's cell phones and credit cards led authorities to a room at the Hamilton Inn, 1767 Dixie Highway in Hamilton, where they arrested Michael Douglass, 18, of Middletown; Roger Whitten, 18, of Hamilton; and Whitten's 16-year-old sister, of Parksville, Va.

All were charged with murder, said West Chester Twp. police Lt. David Tivin.

Douglass and Whitten were arraigned Tuesday. They remain housed in the Butler County Jail Wednesday in lieu of \$1 million bond each. The girl was arraigned Tuesday and remanded to the Butler County Juvenile Detention Center. Butler County Prosecutor Robin Piper said he expects she will be tried as an adult.

»»Teens have local police records Article on A3

Basketball hoops threaten plowing, township says

By Eric Schwartzberg
Staff Writer

Liberty Twp. is facing a growing trend of residents installing curb-side basketball poles.

That trend, which often puts structures in the public right of way, has slowed plow time during snow removal and damaged township vehicles, said Rick Plummer, the township's services director.

Plummer said in the past the hoops have torn off the rain caps for plows' exhaust stacks.

"It could result in a windshield being knocked out, a parked car being hit, (a car's) paint job being scraped up," Plummer. "Frankly, I'm seeing more and more of it."

A count performed several weeks ago shows 122 permanent or temporary hoop structures in the township right of way, which in a subdivision is generally defined as 30 feet on either side from the center of the road.

Residents do not have the right to put structures in the right of way, said Plummer, except for "common sense" things such as mailboxes.

Regardless of the season, the township's fire department is forced to navigate around the structures, said Fire Chief Paul Stumpf.

"For the ambulances and the fire trucks, in a cul-de-sac, we have to run pretty close to the edge," Stumpf said.

The township plans to send a letter to residents asking them to address the issue, said Administrator Dina Minneci.

Trustee Patrick Hiltman suggested not plowing neighborhoods with the structures until they were removed.

Ann Brinkmann, a 15-year-resident of Liberty Twp., put a permanent basketball pole a month ago just outside her Brady Court home.

Brinkmann said plowing is not much of a concern. "They haven't actually ever plowed our circles," Brinkmann said.