



The Examiner Sports Department takes a look at area spring sports teams and their outlook for the season.

Also Inside: Missing Ohio woman found dead



Tomorrow 46° 34°



Precipitation: 0.13"; Month 4.62"; Year 12.01"

BELLEFONTAINE EXAMINER



EXAMINER PHOTO | JOEL E. MAST

Alan Galvez will celebrate 40 years in the insurance business with an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday at his 134 W. Columbus Ave. office.

Galvez to celebrate 40-year career

By JOEL E. MAST Examiner Staff Writer jmast@examiner.org

A little more than a year's stint as a construction electrician came to an end for Alan Galvez in January 1971, leaving him out of work.

"It was the only time in my life where I was unemployed," he said and it happened during an economic downturn.

Looking for work, he ran into Dick Bird, who was the Mutual Trust and Life Insurance representative in Bellefontaine. Mr. Bird suggested Mr. Galvez consider the insurance trade.

The 24-year-old former Marine, who served a tour in Vietnam, took him up on the offer and headed off to school. He passed his test in March and started working for Mr. Bird on April 1.

"It wasn't by design. That's just how it happened," Mr. Galvez said of his start.

Turns out, it was no fool's errand.

Mr. Galvez has forged a 40-year career in the business and now employs his wife, Maria; daughter

Carrie Reynolds; Jana Harrigan; and Melinda Sheeley at his 134 W. Columbus Ave. business.

Friday, the office will host a milestone-marking celebration from 2 to 4 p.m.

After starting with Mr. Bird, Mr. Galvez worked for Gene Zimmer and Dick Sloan before starting his own agency in 1987.

He tributes his success and longevity to hard work and desire to help people under the complexities of insurance.

He proudly displays his Dick Rupp Integrity in Business Award from the Logan County Area Chamber of Commerce on his office wall.

Considering the biggest change in his profession, Mr. Galvez pointed to his computer.

"It (his work) is completely different than it was just 10 years ago let alone 40 years ago," he said.

There is more information to access and setting up policies is much quicker with online applications, he said.

His best business move was relocating from the 100 block of west Sandusky Avenue to downtown, he said.

Bargaining limits prevail; unions vow fight

By JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

COLUMBUS — Ohio lawmakers have had their chance to vote on a bill limiting collective bargaining rights for 350,000 public workers across the state. Next will be the public's turn.

Even before the contentious Senate Bill 5 — in some ways tougher than Wisconsin's — had cleared the Legislature late Wednesday, unions and Democrats in this once-proud labor stronghold vowed to put it on November's ballot as a referendum.

"O-H-I-O! S.B. 5 has got to go!" protesters chanted ahead of a final Senate vote of 17-16 that sent the bill to Gov. John Kasich for his signature, expected this week. The vote followed a day filled with Statehouse demonstrations by about 750 people,

who raucously chanted and shouted throughout the process. After a House vote of 53-44, opponents spewed expletives at House members.

The vitriol wasn't limited to the Statehouse.

Leo Geiger, 34, a Republican who works as a sewer inspector for the city of Dayton, said he's "deathly afraid that this is going to affect me, my family and the entire state of Ohio in an incredibly negative way."

He believes the bill is political payback for unions' support of Democrats in November's election.

"I find this to be loathsome," he said from Dayton on Wednesday night. He didn't attend protests because he couldn't take the time off. "I find this to be disrespectful to Ohioans and disrespectful to the process of democracy."

The measure affects safety workers, teachers, nurses and a host of other government personnel. It allows unions to negotiate wages and certain working conditions but not health care, sick time or pension benefits. It gets rid of automatic pay increases, and replaces them with merit raises or performance pay. Workers would also be banned from striking.

A ballot challenge would stall implementation of the law that Republicans championed as vital to Ohio's economic future.

"This state cannot pay what we've been paying in the past," House Speaker Bill Batchelder said during a news conference ahead of Wednesday's vote. "Local government and taxpayers need control over their budgets. This

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SEUSS-TASTIC



EXAMINER PHOTO | REUBEN MEES

West Liberty-Salem student Trevor Smoot, playing Horton the Elephant, is joined by other cast members during a Wednesday dress rehearsal for the musical Seussical Jr. Live performances are tonight and Friday at 7:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday at the high school. Ticket prices range from \$6 to \$9.

Oil near \$105 a barrel as Gadhafi takes back Libya oil port

By PABLO GORONDI Associated Press

Oil prices climbed back above \$105 a barrel Thursday after control of a key oil port swung back to forces loyal to Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, dimming hopes of a quick rebel victory and a restart of crude exports.

By early afternoon in Europe, benchmark crude for May delivery was up \$1.20 to \$105.47 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The

contract fell 52 cents to settle at \$104.27 on Wednesday.

In London, Brent crude was up \$1.28 at \$116.41 a barrel on the ICE futures exchange.

On Wednesday, Gadhafi forces pushed rebels out of Ras Lanouf, an important oil terminal that has switched between the two sides several times since the uprising began last month. The latest rebel setback has raised speculation that coalition powers, which have bombed government forces for two

weeks, may send ground troops to protect the rebellion or overthrow Gadhafi.

"The market is reacting to news from Libya that rebels have lost some ground again," said analysts at Commerzbank in Frankfurt. "An end to the fighting in Libya soon is thus not in sight and the resumption of oil shipments has moved into the far distance."

Investors will be closely watching U.S. jobs numbers from March, scheduled to be announced Friday.

U.S. stock markets have rallied this week as analysts forecast the economy added about 190,000 non-farm jobs this month.

"We expect Friday's employment data to offer additional encouragement toward U.S. economic growth," Ritterbusch and Associates said in a report. "These expectations are already feeding into a strong stock market that is providing background support to the energy market."

Oil prices were also boosted by a weaker dollar, which lost ground to

the euro on expectations of a rate hike by the European central bank. A falling dollar makes oil cheaper for investors trading in other currencies.

The euro rose to \$1.4212 from \$1.4121, while the dollar fell to 82.81 Japanese yen from 82.89 yen.

In other Nymex trading for April contracts, heating oil rose 3.1 cents to \$3.0706 a gallon and gasoline added 1.9 cents to \$3.083 a gallon. Natural gas gained 0.3 cent to \$4.358 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Tea party rallies to keep Republicans cutting spending

By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The tea partiers who helped drive GOP gains in the last election are rallying in the city they love to hate Thursday, urging Republican House leaders — Speaker John Boehner above all — to resist the drive

toward compromise in the protracted fight over the federal budget.

Even, they say, if that means Congress fails to do its most important job — paying for the government.

And if Boehner opts instead to agree to a deal with President Barack Obama?

"You're going to see massive amounts of (GOP) primaries" in next year's election, said Mark Meckler of the Tea Party Patriots.

If the Ohio Republican strikes a budget deal that doesn't cut spending enough, Meckler said Wednesday, "he is going to face a primary challenge."

It's tough talk from a member of the loosely affiliated political force that helped drive Boehner's Republican troops into the House majority last year on a platform of smaller, more austere government. And during three months in power, Boehner's been listening.

The House passed a tea party-friendly budget that would cut hundreds of programs and eliminate others, including a costly defense project. It also would repeal the Democrats' year-old health care law and assorted regulations on

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Belle Center area man charged with raping 10-year-old girl

By THE BELLEFONTAINE EXAMINER STAFF

Deputies of the Logan County Sheriff's Office charged a Belle Center area man Wednesday afternoon with rape involving a victim under age 13.

Jacques Thomas Dennis, 31, of 110 E. Buckeye St., was arrested and lodged in the Logan County Jail.

The family of the 10-year-old female victim contacted the sheriff's office about 8:45 p.m. Tuesday to make the complaint. Then a joint investigation ensued with Logan County Children's Services.

The defendant has been a member of the Richland Township Fire Department for about five years. Chief Ronald Smith said this morning that Mr. Dennis has been temporarily suspended. The department will monitor the case to determine the next course of action, the chief said.

Mr. Dennis faces a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted of the rape of a child under age 13.



JACQUES T. DENNIS



EXAMINER PHOTO | JOEL E. MAST

Heavy snowflakes fell Wednesday in downtown Bellefontaine and across Logan County fulfilling predictions and leaving snow on the ground overnight.

Joke's on Northeast as April Fool's snow en route

BOSTON (AP) — A no-joke April Fool's snowstorm swirled toward the Northeast today, a cruel prank on a region that was finally seeing a reprieve from its long, white winter.

The spring snowstorm pushed through Ohio Wednesday and left snow on the ground today.

The front is expected to hit the Northeast today and last into Friday morning — April Fool's Day — dropping up to a foot of snow in some areas including northwest New Jersey, eastern New York and around New England.

The timing could make for a messy Friday morning commute. Storm warnings were up around the

region, and parts of New Jersey and New York's Hudson Valley and Catskills could see 5 to 10 inches. Up to 8 inches were possible in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains.

High-altitude areas of central Vermont could get up to a foot of snow.

Coastal parts of Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut were expected to get mostly rain, or wet snow that won't accumulate.

No snow was expected in New York City, but the National Weather Service said commuters could see a rain-snow mix Friday morning.

The storm caps a particularly brutal winter for the region, with many cities setting record or near-record snowfalls.