



Wednesday
May 31, 2017
P.M. Storms
67°/48°

**Dragons fall
in semifinals**

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A plan in place

County to begin distribution of unaccounted funds

By **JOSH COTTON**

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Warren County announced on Tuesday a significant step in unweaving the tangled web of unaccounted - and unclaimed - Tax Claim Bureau funds.

A Tuesday release from the Commissioners explained that they - along with Tax Claim Director Phil Gilbert - have "established a plan to distribute unaccounted funds and subsequently close obsolete accounts."

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Last June, Treasurer Denny Munksgard was stripped of his responsibilities with Tax Claim and Gilbert was appointed to head the Bureau.

In August, it was revealed that Munksgard had mishandled funds for several years.

"There is no indication that any funds have been misappropriated," the Commissioners said in August.

"There was no hint of any fraud or any bad conduct of anyone," Jim Schaffner of Schaffner, Knight, Minnaugh and Company, who performed a review of the Bureau's finances.

At the same time, Schaffner said in the report, "Mr. (Denny) Munksgard failed to fulfill his duties as the Director of the Tax Claim Bureau."

"Due to stagnant fund distribution, (the) Commissioners appointed Mr. Gilbert to research un-

accounted for funds from previous Tax Sales and propose a distribution plan," the Commissioners' Tuesday statement explained. "After extensive and successful research, Mr. Gilbert concluded that the distribution can be split into three categories, spanning back to 2007."

Gilbert explained on Tuesday that potential lien holders have three years to claim funds generated from a tax sale before those funds can then be allocated to the

county's taxing bodies - the county, the Warren County School District and each individual municipality - based on the millage rates at the time of the sale.

While the previous treasurer had cleared out all the accounts she could when she left office, Gilbert said that "the process stopped" after that.

"The first set of undistributed funds came from either Upset Tax

See **FUNDS / A-3**

Kapp, Sosic to be featured at upcoming Crary art exhibition

By **STACEY GROSS**

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Hummingbirds and colored pencils.

The upcoming exhibition opening at Warren's Crary Gallery features work by Cathryn Kapp and Samila Sosic. The exhibition opens on Saturday, June 3 from 6 to 8 p.m. with gallery talks at 7 p.m.

The work will remain on exhibit until Saturday, June 24.

The majority of Kapp's work features abstract pieces done in colored pencil, an unexpected medium for such large works. The use of colored pencils, said Kapp in her artist's statement, "originally allowed me to travel light and work anywhere." The medium was practical rather than a stylistic choice. "But as time when on, said Kapp, "I became enamored with the softness, the layering, and the challenges that come with selecting the amount of detail to capture. My intention is to take colored pencil into the abstract, into the qualities one finds in fine art."

Kapp said she works from the outside in with the work she's exhibiting in this show, entitled "In My Nature." Kapp said that she has a "respect for the rhythm and persistence of nature." The "minutia and vulnerability" are elements of natural scenes that Kapp said she

See **CRARY / A-10**



Photo submitted to Times Observer

"Constantly in the State of Becoming" by Cathryn Kapp.

Over 14,000 pounds of waste brought in during Recyclathon

By **JOSH COTTON**

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Over 14,000 pounds of recyclables were collected last month during the first of three recyclathons put on by Warren County.

Sharing information from County Planner Dan Glotz, Commissioner Cindy Morrison explained during a Tuesday work session that 106 households participated and 14,449 pounds of hazardous household waste was collected.

She noted that a similar

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event held last year at the Warren Mall generated 35,213 pounds of recyclables from 217 households.

The event was held on April 29 at the Warren County Fairgrounds.

Looking for detail into the decline in total amount generated, Morrison asked if the effort hit everyone on the first attempt last fall or whether the location may have been a factor.

Commissioner Jeff Eggleston said it was likely a combination of things.

He said that the county didn't do as much to promote the April event compared to the one last fall but also said that the western "area of the county has a couple locations that do a greater degree of recycling. Location could have affected it."

Eggleston noted that there are two other events scheduled for this year - in July and October.

One will be held at the Youngsville High School parking lot with the other to take place at the Warren County School District central office building in Russell.

Veterans Affairs Director Ed Burris asked whether a county-wide recycling center - such as the one that Eggleston has proposed - would accept these types of waste.

"The goal is to have a variety of things that are going to be taken," Eggleston said.

Judicial tax sale moved to September

By **JOSH COTTON**

County News

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A judicial tax sale initially set for June has been pushed back to September.

Tax Claim filed a petition for the sale and, three months ago, filed an amendment to that petition which was approved by the courts. However, an error in that amended petition has been discovered that necessitated pushing the sale back.

"We've got to reserve everybody," Tax Claim Director Phil Gilbert said.

During Tuesday's Warren County Commissioners work session, Commissioner Cindy Morrison noted that the judicial sale used to always occur with the upset sale in September.

Morrison said that her concern is that a significant amount of money has been spent in preparing for the sale and she does not know if the county is going to have to spend that same amount again to service notice and advertise the sale.

"My goal is to find out what went wrong and make sure it doesn't happen again," she said.

Gilbert noted that the second mailing would be less costly in part because the addresses for all the mailings have already been obtained, calling the shift to September a "bump in the road."

There are two sales that a property goes through before it would enter the county's repository.

See **TAX SALE / A-3**

Warren County sees setback in state program

By **JOSH COTTON**

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Warren County is still looking to participate in the state's Early Intervention Program.

But it won't happen as quickly as initially hoped.

The idea behind the program - which the state has opened up to municipalities and counties that are not distressed - is that the county would have contracted with a consultant who, according to Commissioner Ben Kafferlin, would have assisted with things such as fiscal planning, a five-year trend analysis as well as multi-year budgeting. The state would then reimburse a portion of that cost.

Kafferlin said during Tuesday's commissioners work session that the county sent out proposals to a dozen companies who could perform that type of work.

While a couple calls were received, no firms responded with solid offers.

"So we didn't get any applications," Kafferlin said, explaining that he had talked to several of the firms and learned that "DCED (the state Department of Community and Economic Development) had run around asking everybody to apply so all these companies got a lot of applications all at once. I guess we weren't a priority."

He then proposed sending out the application again with the expectation that it will be funded in the state's 2017-2018 fiscal year which starts July 1 rather than in the current 2016-2017 fiscal year.

See **EIP / A-3**



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Your Thoughts Count

Both, 40.43%

Neither, 12.77%

Cavs, 6.38%

Pens, 40.43%

Yesterday's question:
Will the Cavaliers and/or Penguins win the title?

Today's question:
Have you been to an event at the Crary Art Gallery?

Vote and comment at:
timesobserver.com

(The results of this poll are not scientific and represent only the opinions of Internet users who have chosen to participate)

Deaths

Linda Krespan, 69, Sugar Grove
Maynard Sweeney, 82, Lander
Nancy Morrison, 68, Torpedo
Eleanor Dyke, 91, North Warren
Bruce Lawton, 72, Warren



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