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FORECAST PAGE 2

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 2012

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GIRLS GOLF » Patriots win, Braves set school record at Olentangy Classic Page 15

Buckeye Valley obtains occupancy permits

DUSTIN ENSINGER
Staff Writer

Buckeye Valley Local School District officials learned Friday that their plans to operate with just four buildings during the 2012-13 school year will not be complicated by occupancy per-

mit limits.

District officials received occupancy permits for all four buildings from the Delaware County Code Compliance Department after a lengthy process of trying to determine how many people each building can legally hold at one time.

"I'm glad we don't have issues with having too many people," director of administrative services Mark Tingley said. "I wasn't expecting we would have problems."

The high school has a maximum capacity of 4,437 people. The building is set to house

approximately 742 students and 75 staff members this school year.

East Elementary will have about 400 students and 30 staff members in the building this school year, well under the limit

Please see BV, Page 3

Brenner faces new tax lien

■ Powell council member says lien an error

DUSTIN ENSINGER
Staff Writer

For the fourth time in the past two years, a tax lien has been filed against a local business owned and operated by a Powell City Council member.

As of earlier this week, Prestige Music Studios Inc., owned by Sara Marie Brenner, the wife of State Rep. Andrew Brenner (R-Powell), was facing a new tax lien filed by the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation in the amount of \$959.02, according to records on file with the Delaware County Recorder's Office.

The liens are a result of unpaid workers compensation premiums for the period covering July 1, 2011 to Dec. 31, 2011.

Under Ohio law, all employers are required to "have an active workers' compensation policy to insure coverage for those employees against a workplace injury."

Sara Marie Brenner is listed as the company's CEO and president.

After being contacted by the *Gazette* and questioned about the unpaid premiums, Sara Marie Brenner stated in an email that she was unaware of the most recent tax lien filed against her company. She indicated the lien was likely a clerical error and asked the *Gazette* to provide her with additional time to sort the issue out, which she was granted.

On Friday, Sara Marie Brenner informed the *Gazette* through email that after speaking with Bureau of Workers' Compensation officials that the situation "was a mix up as I'd thought originally." She asked that the *Gazette* "not run an article about a mix up that is clearly now resolved."

Please see
BRENNER, Page 3



Brenner, S.

Iconic Beauty Images



Dana Hamm poses with an African Lion at an animal reserve. She and her husband, photographer Scott Schisler, offer similar photoshoots at their company, Iconic Beauty Images.

COURTESY | DANA HAMM/SCOTT SCHISLER

Take a walk on the wild side

KATE LIEBERS
Staff Writer

A Delaware County couple have a wild side that they want to share with central Ohio: posing with live, exotic animals.

Fitness cover model Dana Hamm and photographer Scott Schisler of Iconic Beauty Images have partnered with animal reservoirs in Wisconsin and Montana to offer clients a chance to pose with lions, grizzly bears, cougars, wolves and baby animals.

"Our mission is, especially on the local level, to offer people in the surrounding areas Hollywood style photography," Hamm said. "Photography that you're not going to get in the Midwest."

To say that their website backs up this promise would be an understatement.

The content at iconicbeautyimages.com is generally not suitable for work, as most of the poses and outfits are just as wild as the animals.

Hamm said this racy style is not the sole focus of their business.

While many of the photos online were

shot for models' portfolios, Hamm said the non-modeling clientele leave with pictures suitable for their living rooms. Assuming they can afford it, of course.

The photo shoot prices start at \$4,000, not including travel expenses to the photo site. Hamm said the most expensive package they've done — a three-day shoot involving a lion, two wolves and a grizzly bear — had an ending price tag of \$16,000.

So far, most of their clients have hailed from Los Angeles, but Hamm is determined

Please see IMAGES, Page 3

New *Gazette* column allows readers to get 'Local Answers to Life's Questions'

Editor's note: Today's edition of *The Delaware Gazette* marks the launch of "Local Answers to Life's Questions," a new local advice column that gives *Gazette* readers the opportunity to ask an Ohio licensed professional counselor from Delaware for advice on a broad range of issues and life situations. Readers will be able to submit their questions via the *Gazette's* website or by mail, and responses will be printed in the *Gazette* in the style of a local "Dear Abby" or "Ann Landers." Readers who submit questions will remain anonymous. The column will run every Saturday on the Lifestyle page. Read on.

you, the reader, a local forum for addressing life's challenges or the need for a referral to various community resources, anonymously addressed in this newspaper.

As a member of The Delaware-Morrow County Mental Health Recovery Services Board, the dilemma of an ongoing national and local



Mariann Main

Local Answers to Life's Questions

economic downturn equates to fewer people having the financial means or time availability to access traditional counseling services. After much contemplation and my being a lifetime dedicated reader of sisters "Ann Landers" and "Dear Abby," I approached *The Delaware Gazette* with my idea of offering local readers a forum to express their dilemmas prior to engaging in a traditional counseling relationship. The editor enthusiastically accepted my proposal, and so here we begin.

My column will never substitute for needed therapy or legal

involvement to address emergency or life-threatening situations. However, it could serve as a starting point for those readers who have been hesitant to admit and define the personal challenge they are encountering in their own lives, within their family, at their worksite, with a significant other or involving a friend.

After 20 years living in Atlanta, I have returned to this area, marrying for the first time four years ago and encountering

Please see
ANSWERS, Page 3

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INDEX

- Weather 2
- Lifestyle 4
- Youth 5
- Opinion 6
- Obituaries 7
- TV Listings 8
- Bulletin Board 9
- Comics 10
- Classifieds 11
- Sports 15



Know a Delaware County resident you think should be featured in the *Gazette*? Contact us at 740-363-1161 or newsroom@delgazette.com.

WEATHER



PAGE 2

ONLINE POLL at delgazette.com

Do you think the selection of U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan as the vice presidential candidate will help or hinder Mitt Romney's chances to defeat Obama in November?

- Help
- Hinder
- Undecided

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS

Should high-powered assault weapons be outlawed in the United States?

- Yes 53%
- No, but only legal with a special permit 18%
- No restrictions except for felons 29%

IMAGES

■ Continued from Page 1

to tap into the central Ohio market.

She knows that exotic animal ownership is not without controversy — especially in Ohio. But Hamm isn't trying to make a political statement, she said, just offer people a unique, professional photo.

"Basically, these days, with Photoshop and all the technology that goes into photography, anyone can pick up a camera and say they are a photographer," Hamm said.

It's the incorporation of exotic animals that sets their photography apart from the rest.

To pose next to these animals is "like being close to god," Hamm said.

"It's definitely a humbling experience," she said of her first photo shoot. "Even though the animal has been bottled for two generations, you know the power of a wild animal."

She said the animals are very tame, however, and accompanied by a team of trainers.

"When I posed with the lion, there were trainers just outside of the camera frame," Hamm



COURTESY | DANA HAMM/SCOTT SCHISLER

Photographer Scott Schisler poses with a trained grizzly bear.

said. "It looks like its just me and the lion in the middle of nowhere, but there are six people around."

The trainers use various commands, but never weapons, Hamm said.

"They use clickers and all kinds of things to keep them engaged in the trainer and not engaged with me or whomever is working," she said.

A self-described animal lover, Hamm said the reserve sites are selected for their cruelty-free practices.

Her fascination with animals is apparent when walking into the Hamm-Schisler home, from which they conduct most of their business. Their log-cabin style home, decorated with zebra rugs and mounted taxidermy creatures, also functions as a cat rescue center.

Hamm may have left Hollywood to live in Delaware, her husband's hometown, but the extravagant Hollywood style is still very much a part of the couple's business.

Hamm embraces their eccentricity when juxtaposed to the conservative reputation of Delaware County.

"You never know who lives across the corner from you, that's for sure," she said with a chuckle.

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BV

■ Continued from Page 1

of 954 people.

West Elementary has a total capacity of 1,103 people. It will hold roughly 450 students and 40 staff members in the 2012-13 school year.

The building that worried district residents the most because it will be adding about 200 students due to the closure of North Elementary, the middle school, will be at just over two and a half times under capacity.

The building can legally hold 2,210 people. Expected enrollment at the building is 800 students along with about 60 staff members.

In addition, the district also owns five portable classrooms, each of which holds 74 people.

"It appears that none of our buildings are even at half capacity," Tingley said.

Capacity concerns became an issue after district officials elected to shutter North Elementary to close a projected \$1.3 million budget gap. Because of the decision, all the district's 5th grade students will this year be

enrolled at the middle school, adding about 200 additional students to the building. Students in grades K-4th that would have attended North Elementary will be split between East and West elementary schools.

The process of obtaining the occupancy permits hit a slight snag earlier this month after Code Compliance issued the district a correction letter on its applications for permit because they were lacking certain information.

The district had not provided information about office space, storage space and the size of the buildings' hallways, according to Tingley.

Tingley credited Code Compliance and local fire departments for helping the district obtain the occupancy permits.

"They really went by the book and I think they did a very thorough job of going through the buildings," he said. "I really couldn't have done it without those guys' help."

Although the issue is now resolved, not all those involved are satisfied. Board member Tom Kaelber said that the fact that the district could not

locate the original documents is an "embarrassment."

"It doesn't matter at this point whether we get occupancy or not," he said. "The damage has been done. It wasn't handled well and it make us all look irresponsible."

When contacted by the *Gazette*, officials in the Olentangy Local School District and the Delaware City School District were able to produce their occupancy permits within an hour.

Vic Whitney, who has been critical of district officials in recent weeks, took issue with the fact that the schools have been operating without occupancy permits for some time.

"I'm relieved to finally learn that our buildings can legally open their doors for students on Aug. 23," he said. "But the real issue here is that the district was operating for years without certificates of occupancy. Whoever allowed that to happen needs to be fired."

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4-H

■ Continued from Page 2

made me realize that despite our differences, we still have a lot in common and the world is much smaller than we realize."

Now, after graduating in June with an Ohio State University degree in Japanese, Hope feels more confident in her language skills but is glad to know that the first month's training program includes a language school.

"I'm excited to think I'll

be fluent by the time the program is over," Hope said.

Primarily, though, Hope is looking forward to working with the kids.

"Japan isn't a very diverse country, but that's the goal of Labo, to broaden horizons," she said. "I'm looking forward to helping (the members) see and understand that there's a whole other world outside of Japan."

Hope also is looking forward to learning more about her host country. As part of the program's visa requirements, interns

need to complete an independent study project on an aspect of traditional Japanese culture. Hope will study washi paper-making.

"I'll be studying the whole process, from the plants it is made from, to making the paper, to what washi is used for." Her project may help her when she returns to the U.S. in August 2013, when she hopes to attend graduate school in art and design.

Ohio 4-H is the youth development arm of OSU Extension.

Resident robbed by man posing as water company employee

Staff reports

An elderly Calhoun Road resident was robbed by someone claiming to be with a water company Thursday, the Delaware County Sheriff's Office reported.

The woman told deputies that shortly after 3 p.m. Thursday a white male with a dark complexion, wearing an orange traffic vest and a hat said he needed to check the property behind the residence. As he proceeded to the rear of the property, the resident walked to the back of the house and

opened the back door. At that time, the male suspect forced himself inside the home.

The woman did not observe a weapon, but one was implied, according to a statement by the DCSO.

"This brazen criminal threatened the life of this elderly victim, took cash and fled," Sheriff Russell Martin said in a release. "The victim didn't see anyone with the suspect, but the suspect did make mention of another person waiting for him in a vehicle. We ask that anyone who has any information that could assist investiga-

tors, contact our office immediately."

The male suspect was described as approximately 6 feet tall. He fled in a small white vehicle that appeared to be dirty.

Delaware County detectives continue to investigate the situation.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Delaware County Sheriff's Office at 740-833-2800.

newsroom@delgazette.com



BRENNER

■ Continued from Page 1

"Even if you include 'my side of the story,' it won't be viewed that way — people will think there's something here and that that's why you ran with it," she further stated in the email. "It will only lead to my experiencing further undue harassment."

To prove her point that the lien was the result of a "mix up," Sara Marie Brenner also attached a fax from the Bureau of Workers' Compensation that indicated that the lien "is in the process of being released."

However, Bureau of Workers' Compensation spokeswoman Melissa Vince informed the *Gazette* Friday that the release is due to a payment made on Thursday. She also said that she could not find any evidence to indicate that the lien was originally filed

due to a clerical error or mix up.

Sara Marie Brenner did not return a call on Friday requesting comment, but did issue a written statement through email.

"I want to sincerely thank the *Delaware Gazette* for bringing this to my attention! Until they did, I wasn't personally aware," she said. "This former business' BWC account is now closed as of (Dec. 31, 2011), as we had notified them of previously. With the assistance of the *Gazette's* excellent staff, I was able to get the information I needed and handle the problem promptly. I hope that the paper and its staff will continue to help local businesses with their endeavors."

The tax lien, which was filed on July 14, is the fourth that the Brennens' company has faced in the past 12 months.

The first was filed last year by the federal government on July 11 and covered unpaid payroll

taxes for each quarter of 2010 in the amount of \$42,121.53.

On that same day, a certificate of release of a federal tax lien was filed with the Delaware County Recorder's Office after the company paid \$17,157.97, covering the liens filed for the first two quarters of 2010.

A second federal lien was filed against the company on Sept. 1, 2011, in the amount of \$16,601.44 for unpaid payroll taxes for the first quarter of 2011.

Just 13 days later, the federal government filed yet another tax lien against the company. The lien covered \$12,266.14 in unpaid payroll taxes for the second quarter of 2011.

Sara Marie Brenner said that those tax liens are in the process of being released.

"I've been given documentation to file for the lien releases," she said in an email.

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ANSWERS

■ Continued from Page 1

the challenges of being an only child to an elderly widowed parent whom at "92-years-young," staunchly lives alone on our family farm. During my professional career prior to a recent mid-life "reinvention" and becoming a licensed counselor, I worked in both organ donation and hospice, thus giving me many years of experience when encountering devastating end-of-life choices. Through the Delaware Police Department, I am certified in crisis intervention and have worked as a therapist on the acute unit of an inpatient psychiatric facility. My master's degree in counseling is from Georgia State University with post-graduate training from Richmond Graduate

University, both in Atlanta. Through Kennesaw State University, I am certified in gerontology and in May of 2012, I received certification as a smoking cessation specialist through the Breathing Association in Columbus.

A few of the topics I am willing and qualified to address with readers include the challenges of blended families, step-parenting, addiction issues, boundaries, co-dependency, divorce, the infringement of technology in our lives, financial issues, unemployment or a career change, the impact of physical and mental illnesses and coping as an adult child with the struggles of caring for an aging parent, just to name a few. At times, if a question is beyond my scope of training, I will access other professional resources within our community to

offer their guidance for a particularly problematic situation.

My column will be printed weekly at first, depending upon reader response, so please do not hesitate to submit questions by visiting

<http://delgazette.com/life-questions-with-local-answers/> or sending them to Mariann Main, *The Delaware Gazette*, 40 N. Sandusky St., Suite 203, Delaware, OH 43015.

Thank you for possibly writing to me with your questions or discussing life issues. I hope to be of assistance to my hometown of Delaware and to those central Ohio readers who are struggling with a problem but unsure of where to turn.

Mariann Main, LPC, APC

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