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ARC grants designed to train workers

Money will create 'makers spaces' in Marietta, Nelsonville, Somerset

By Janelle Patterson
 The Marietta Times
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Though the Appalachian Regional Commission's future is still unknown in the nation's capital, projects are full steam ahead in the region.

Buckeye Hills Regional Council was awarded \$1.2 million recently to fund a three new "makers spaces"

At a glance

- Appalachian Power Grant awarded to Buckeye Hills by the Appalachian Regional Commission for three innovation and education centers in Somerset, Nelsonville and Marietta.
 - The grant amount is \$1.2 million.
- Source: Buckeye Hills.**

in Marietta, Somerset and Nelsonville.

Executive Director Misty Casto said she was pleased to announce the investment

because of the impact the new spaces can have on workers from the coal industry. These shared workspaces will ultimately

be open to anyone, though. Across the ARC, 18 projects will receive \$15.7 million and create or retain more than 1,700 jobs. The projects are expected to benefit nearly 1,200 students and workers and leverage an additional \$64 million into the region.

"The network project will help workers and communities impacted by coal's

decline to recover employment and income, strengthen and diversify local economies and grow, retain and attract talent to the region," she said. "The three spaces will be unique to the needs of their communities. In the village of Somerset, they don't have as much access locally to higher education so the space will be primarily focused on learn-

ing." Meanwhile in Nelsonville and Marietta entrepreneurial development will coincide with specific skill development.

"In Nelsonville they will have wood working and textile equipment and training in their space while Marietta will have things like 3D

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SAFETY LESSONS

New crop of youngsters learns the basics at Safetytown



JANELLE PATTERSON The Marietta Times
 Landon Dunn, 5, of Marietta, looks both ways while crossing a miniature street at Safetytown Monday.

More than 8,000 have graduated

By Janelle Patterson
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"One: stop, look and listen before you cross the street," said Isabel Derenberger, 5, of Marietta, when asked what she learned Monday.

Derenberger will join the ranks of more than 8,000 local students who have graduated from the Samuel L. Cook Safetytown after completing interactive training both this week and next.

The first lesson rising kindergartners learned Monday during day one of Safetytown focused on pedestrian safety.

"Really with any of the elementary schools we have a lot of walkers and they're crossing a lot of busy streets so it's impor-

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ABOVE: Layne Stewart, 5, of Williamstown, shows during Safetytown in Marietta Monday how he must stop, before checking if it is safe to cross a street. BELOW: Logan Mayle, 5, of Marietta, practices stopping before crossing the street.

JANELLE PATTERSON
 The Marietta Times



Willow Wilson, 5, of Marietta, listens, as she practices pedestrian safety at Safetytown in Marietta Monday.



Family killings: State checks on 4 former Ohioans

By Andrew Welsh-Huggins
 The Associated Press

COLUMBUS — Authorities on Monday asked for information about four former Ohio residents who may have moved to Alaska as part of their investigation into the unsolved slayings of eight family members last year.

Investigators said they're seeking details on personal or business interactions and conversations that people may have had with the four, who once lived near the victims in southern Ohio.

"Specifically, information could include, but is not limited to, information regarding vehicles, firearms, and ammunition," Attorney General Mike DeWine and Pike County Sheriff Charles Reader said in a statement.

The four were named as George "Billy" Wagner III, Angela Wagner and their sons George Wagner IV and Edward "Jake" Wagner. None was named a suspect.

Jake Wagner was a longtime former boyfriend of

Hanna Rhoden, one of the eight victims, and shared custody of their daughter at the time of the massacre.

Jake Wagner and Angela Wagner told the Cincinnati Enquirer this month they were not involved in the April 2016 killings.

"Please let's concentrate on finding the real monsters who did this," Jake Wagner said in a combined email from him and his mother, the newspaper reported June 8.

In May, investigators searched property in southern Ohio recently sold by the Wagners. The family, formerly of Peebles, is believed to be living in Alaska.

"What has happened to us in the last few weeks has been devastating and will follow us for the rest of our lives," Angela Wagner wrote in an email to the Enquirer. "Hanna was loved by all of us. She was like a daughter to me then and now."

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Democrats say they will drag their feet on health care bill

By Alan Fram
 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats plan to slow the Senate's work, force votes and make late-night speeches in an effort to focus attention on how Republicans are crafting legislation revamping the nation's health care system behind closed doors, a senior Democratic aide said Monday.

The effort comes with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., hoping to weave together a bill dismantling much of former President Barack Obama's health care law so the Senate can vote on it before leaving for its July 4 recess.

Republicans have held no committee meetings or votes on the measure, which McConnell is trying to produce from numerous private meetings among GOP senators.

Democrats, who solidly oppose the Republican

effort but lack the votes to block it, are trying to capitalize on the secrecy and contrast it with the numerous committee meetings and votes that produced the 2010 statute.

McConnell will need to win the votes of 50 of the 52 GOP senators to push the bill through the Senate. It remains unclear if he'll be able to write legislation that will attract enough votes.

Republicans are writing their measure privately hoping to weave together a bill dismantling much of former President Barack Obama's health care law so the Senate can vote on it before leaving for its July 4 recess.

"If Republicans won't relent and debate their health care bill in the open for the American people to see, then they shouldn't expect business as usual in the Senate," Schumer said.

A spokesman for McConnell declined to

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Spaces

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printing, welding and wood-working along with computer graphics programs," explained Casto.

The Innovation Gateway Network will also provide locals with access to the other network facilities.

"We're going to tailor these spaces to the needs of locals but if there's a pro-

gram that is offered at another location that someone needs we will help coordinate transportation so that you have access to the entire network," explained Casto.

Casto said though the Appalachian Regional Commission's funding is still proposed to be cut by President Donald Trump's budget, the three-year project is fully funded out of this fiscal year's budget and would not be affected immediately if that cut is approved by congress.

"The administration has proposed to close out the ARC by Oct. 2018 but this project is through available funds in this fiscal year," she explained. "And we were allowed to leverage the value of the buildings as the local match so the \$1.2 million will go entirely to equipping the facilities and contracting services."

In the Marietta makers space, location still to be determined, welding and other hand-skills classes can open doors to other educa-

tional tracks in the area, provide a space to build products for internet-based secondary income sales, or to prototype product ideas for mass-manufacturing.

"It's an opportunity to prototype in an environment where you only have to pay a small fee instead of have that overhead," said Development Director Bret Allphin. "And it will be a space for multi-generational use, young entrepreneurs can learn from the skills of the great workforce and indus-

trial community we have in this region."

A variety of regional partners are supporting the creation of these spaces as well including Hocking College, Ohio University and in Marietta, the Building Bridges to Careers program.

"There's an overarching opportunity that can build a community through these spaces," said Jennifer Simon, executive director of regional innovation at Ohio University. "People need to feel like their skills are

important and these spaces will show them they're still part of a network of people with similar skills and ideas."

The innovation center will provide visiting experts for the three spaces to provide guidance and basic instruction on the equipment in each space.

For more on what a makers space can provide to a community and budding entrepreneurs visit ideafoundry.com.

Safetytown

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tant for them to be aware of crossing safety," said Safetytown Teacher Andrea Eichhorn, who also teaches kindergarten at Washington Elementary. "I was a Safetytown kid and then I was a Safetytown volunteer and it's just something I wanted to get back into. I just think it's a great program, you hear kids years later say 'I learned that in Safetytown.'"

But the first rule of the program can be applied to more than just roadside

safety, said Marietta Police Officer Pat Gragan who has taught with the local program for well over 20 years.

"I like that rule because it applies to a lot of aspects of life," he said. "Whatever you're doing, if you can stop, look and be aware of your surroundings and listen for warning signs, it's a life principle."

This year's program has 156 students registered between the morning and afternoon sessions to learn bus, pet, boating, construction site, seat belt, fire, electrical, phone and 911, poison, weather, drug and personal safety.

"I learned when the cars go, you stop, and when the

cars stop you go," said Landon Dunn, 5, of Marietta. "And you look both ways."

Dunn was excited to explain the meanings of colors both on road signs and on the traffic light in the middle of the miniature town built atop the Harmar Elementary black top Monday.

"Red means stop, yellow is slow down and green means go!" he said as he jumped.

Donovan Wheeler, 13, of Marietta attended Safetytown before his kindergarten year and is now volunteering for the program for a second year.

"It's fun being with the kids," he said. "I hope they

learn to be smart so they don't get hurt. You shouldn't hurt yourself just to have fun."

Sarah Miller, a counselor with Harmar and Washington elementary schools, said her focus for Monday was on not only stranger safety, but personal safety and appropriate touching.

"We talk about good touch and bad touch, like high-fives are OK, and handshakes or hugs with friends," she explained. "But we also talk about the bad touches and how nobody should touch you in the bathing suit area."

Miller did give examples of exceptions to that rule, but also gave the students

Safetytown rules

- Stop, look and listen before you cross the street.
- When you don't know, don't go.
- Sit, buckle and behave whenever you go riding.
- Think safe when you play.
- Always swim with a buddy in a supervised area.

- Don't play with matches.
 - Be poison smart.
 - Don't ride double, one rider to a seat.
- Source: Samuel R. Cook Safetytown, Marietta.

Online

- Go to mariettatimes.com for an audio slideshow.

options for who to go to if needed.

"If your mom is, for example, helping you with a bath or a doctor has to listen to your heartbeat or your tummy that's OK," she said. "But especially in this area that kind of abuse has increased so we felt that we needed to let kids know that if there's an uncomfortable

touch, tell an adult that you trust."

Later on this week the children at Safetytown will learn more about pet and playground safety and will continue the nine-day program into next week before graduating on June 29 at 7 p.m. with a ceremony at Marietta High School.

Few opioid-addicted youth get standard treatment medication

By Carla K. Johnson
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO — Only 1 in 4 teens and young adults with opioid addiction receive recommended treatment medication despite having good health insurance, according to a study that suggests doctors are not keeping up with the needs of youth caught up in the worst addiction crisis in U.S. history.

"Young people may be dying because they are not getting the treatment they need," said Brendan Saloner, an addiction researcher at

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health who wrote an editorial published with the study Monday in JAMA Pediatrics.

Researchers looked at records for nearly 21,000 patients ages 13 to 25 from one large insurance carrier, UnitedHealthcare.

All were diagnosed with opioid addiction, but only 27 percent were given buprenorphine or naltrexone during 2001-2014, years when addiction was soaring.

"The take-home message for parents is: If you have a child struggling with opioid

addiction, understand that there are medications that support and sustain recovery," said study author Dr. Scott Hadland of Boston Medical Center.

Hadland was following a hunch when he began the study last year. In his practice, he was seeing more young people addicted to opioids. Many already had been through multiple treatment programs and they told him they'd never before been offered treatment medication.

Doctors must become more comfortable treating

addiction with medications, Hadland said, noting that buprenorphine and naltrexone are recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Buprenorphine is given daily as a pill or film that dissolves under the tongue. It costs about \$100 a month. Doctors need special training and a government waiver to prescribe it. A common version of buprenorphine is Suboxone.

Vivitrol is a brand-name version of naltrexone. It's a shot given once a month and can be used only with

patients who have completely detoxed from opioids. It costs about \$1,000 per month.

The drugs work slightly differently, but both can ease cravings while patients work on addiction issues in counseling.

In the study, females, blacks and Hispanics were even less likely to receive the medications than males and whites. It's unclear why, but unequal access to care or doctor bias could be to blame.

"The treatment gap is bad for everybody and even

worse for certain subgroups," Hadland said. "Even though all the youth in our sample had access to high-quality health insurance, they may not have had equal access to high-quality addiction care."

Hadland and his colleagues plan to study access to treatment medications for youth from low-income families covered by government health insurance programs such as Medicaid.

U.S. student freed by North Korea in a coma dies at 22

By Dan Sewell
The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Otto Warmbier, an American college student who was released by North Korea in a coma last week after almost a year and a half in captivity, died Monday, his family said.

The 22-year-old "has completed his journey home," relatives said in a statement. They did not cite a specific cause of death.

"Unfortunately, the awful, torturous mistreatment our son received at the hands of the North Koreans ensured that no other outcome was possible beyond the sad one we experienced today," his parents said.

Doctors had described his condition as a state of "unresponsive wakefulness" and said he suffered a "severe neurological injury" of unknown cause.

His father, Fred Warmbier, said last week that he believed Otto had been fighting for months to stay alive to return

to his family. Their statement Monday said he looked uncomfortable and anguished after arriving June 13, but his countenance later changed.

"He was peace. He was home, and we believe he could sense that," they said.

Warmbier was convicted of subversion for allegedly trying to steal a propaganda banner while visiting with a tour group. He was put before North Korea officials and journalists for a televised "confession."

"I have made the worst mistake of my life!" he exclaimed, choking up as he begged to be allowed to reunite with his parents and two younger siblings. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison with hard labor.

The University of Virginia student was held for more than 17 months. His family said they were told he had been in a coma since soon after his March 2016 sentencing.

Doctors said he suffered extensive loss of brain tissue

and "profound weakness and contraction" of his muscles, arms and legs. His eyes opened and blinked but without any sign that he understood verbal commands or his surroundings.

Unresponsive wakefulness is a new medical term for persistent vegetative state. Patients in this condition who have survived a coma can open their eyes, but they do not respond to commands. People can live in a state of unresponsive wakefulness for many years with the chances of recovery depending on the extent of the brain injury.

North Korea said Warmbier went into a coma after contracting botulism and taking a sleeping pill. Doctors in Cincinnati said they found no

active sign of botulism or evidence of beatings.

His parents told The Associated Press in a statement the day of his release that they wanted "the world to know how we and our son have been brutalized and terrorized by the pariah regime."

Fred Warmbier praised his son's "performance" and President Donald Trump's administration. He was critical of the approach to his son's situation taken by former President Barack Obama's administration.

In a White House statement, Trump said, "Lot of bad things happened, but at least we got him home to be with his parents." He called North Korea a "brutal regime."

The younger Warmbier

grew up in the Cincinnati suburb of Wyoming. He was salutatorian of his 2013 class at a highly rated high school, and was on the soccer team, among other activities.

He had had planned to study in China in his third year of college and heard about Chinese travel companies offering trips to North Korea.

Young Pioneer Tours described itself as providing "budget tours to destinations your mother would rather you stayed away from." Its travel options also included Iran, Iraq and former Soviet countries.

Warmbier was in the process of leaving North Korea on Jan. 2, 2016, when he was detained at the airport.

The State Department

warns against travel to North Korea. While nearly all Americans who have been there have left without incident, visitors can be suddenly seized and face lengthy incarceration for what might seem like minor infractions.

Jeffrey Fowle, also from Ohio, was detained in 2014 when he intentionally left a Bible in a night club. Fowle was freed after six months. He said he was kept isolated most of the time but not physically abused. He and others freed from North Korea have said they were coached and coerced into giving confessions. Three Americans remain held in North Korea. The U.S. government accuses North Korea of using detainees as political pawns.

Health

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comment.

A senior Democratic aide said the effort will begin Monday evening.

It will include trying to force votes aimed at drawing attention to the lack of transparency, such as committee hearings, on the GOP legislation.

The aide said Democrats will begin slowing work on bills by refusing to let the

Senate bypass time-consuming procedural steps, which it customarily does on most legislation. Democratic senators will also make floor speeches late Monday on the subject.

The GOP-run House narrowly approved its version of the legislation last month.

President Donald Trump privately called the House bill "mean" last week. Senate Republicans are expected to ease some of its cuts to Medicaid, the health care program for the poor, and make other changes.

Rhoden Sr.; her mother, Dana Rhoden; her brothers Clarence "Frankie" Rhoden and Christopher Rhoden Jr.; Frankie Rhoden's fiancée, Hannah Gilley; a cousin, Gary Rhoden; and Kenneth Rhoden, Christopher Rhoden's brother. They ranged in age from 16 to 44.

DeWine's office has said Christopher Rhoden Sr. had "a large-scale marijuana growing operation," leading to speculation the killings were drug-related.

Killings

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Authorities suspect there were multiple attackers who were familiar with the victims' homes and the surrounding area. The motive behind the April 22, 2016, killings remains a mystery.

Besides Hanna Rhoden, those killed in the attack were her father, Christopher

The Parkersburg

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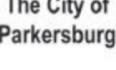
8/19/17 - HALF MARATHON: Join some of the best runners in the world in the News and Sentinel Half Marathon as it winds its way through the streets of Parkersburg. This popular race is the RRCA W.Va. Championship and was the 2015 Race of the Year.

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