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WEST CARROLLTON

Board selects architect for buildings

Garmann Miller Architects plans to host a series of forums to gather community input.

By Bonnie Meibers
 Staff Writer

WEST CARROLLTON — The West Carrollton school district is one step closer to replacing its current buildings.

The school board selected Minster-based Garmann Miller Architects and Engineers as the archi-

tect for the first phase of the district building project.

Bids were accepted for the project following the passage of a 5.6 bond issue on Nov. 5. Bids were reviewed and the school board interviewed two “top firms,” district officials said.

The 37-year, 5.6-mill tax increase will allow West Carrollton to build

four new schools to replace all of its current buildings, with significant financial help from the state. Many of the district’s schools are more than 50 years old, according to West Carrollton officials.

The state will contribute over \$92 million to the project, according to Ohio Facilities Construction Commission documents.

School district officials have said the total principal cost of the project is currently estimated at \$124 million, with millions in

interest payments on top of that.

According to Andrea Townsend, West Carrollton superintendent, both finalists were “top quality firms,” but the school district’s established relationship with Garmann Miller was the deciding factor.

Garmann Miller will soon be holding community forums for school district residents, students and staff as they begin to design the Phase 1 PK-1 and 5-6 buildings. Forum dates are yet to be deter-

mined and will be announced when available.

The school for preschool to first grade and another for grades 2-4 will be on the current middle school site, a school for grades 5-6 will be on the current CF Holiday site, and a new grade 7-12 campus on the high school site.

West Carrollton officials have been studying the possibility of building new schools for about two years.

GREENE COUNTY

WSU gets nearly \$1M for scholarship efforts



Mike Alfaro (from left), Kyle Ahearn, Darin McCarren, Alison Guyton and Josh Harris are among computer science and engineering students who will participated in the Make-It-Wright hackathon. CONTRIBUTED

University using money to bring in students in computer science.

Staff Report

Wright State University has been awarded nearly \$1 million in Choose Ohio First scholarships from the state for computer science and related fields.

The Ohio Department of Higher Education said the \$971,355 grant will help support student recruitment and continuation for the

first two academic years.

“Your proposal to provide computer science scholarships will help improve Ohio’s workforce development capacity to innovate and grow our economy,” Chancellor Randy Gardner wrote in a letter to Wright State President Cheryl B. Schrader.

More than \$20 million in Choose Ohio First scholarships were awarded statewide, supporting 35 colleges and universities and an estimated 1,400 students. The scholarships were announced by Gardner and Lt. Gov. Jon Husted.

“The Choose Ohio First program is one of our state’s best tools to increase the number of students preparing to work in STEM-related fields,” Husted said. “In today’s technology-infused economy, every industry and business has important tech-focused jobs, and training Ohioans for careers in those positions is key to growing our economy.”

Awards in later years will be subject to budget appropriations by the Ohio General Assembly,

WSU continued on B8

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

New unit to treat mental health, substance abuse

14-bed unit now open to treat adults with ‘co-occurring disorders.’

By Kaitlin Schroeder
 Staff Writer

A new 14-bed inpatient unit just opened at Kettering Behavioral Medicine for adults with both a mental illness and substance abuse disorder.

“Historically, clinicians and programs have treated these ‘co-occurring disorders’ separately,” said Anita Adams-Jenkins, president of Sycamore Medical Center and Kettering Behavioral Medicine Center. “Treating the mental health disorder and substance abuse disorder together increases the likelihood the patient will have a successful outcome.”

The new beds are possible in part because Kettering Behavioral’s inpatient pediatric beds moved to Dayton Children’s Hospital, leaving room and resources for Kettering to expand adult

services.

Patients admitted to Kettering Behavioral Medicine Center’s new co-occurring inpatient unit would have a primary mental health illness with a secondary substance use disorder.

“We are excited to be able to provide this much-needed service in our community and assist patients in beginning and maintaining their recovery,” says Julie Manuel, clinical program manager for Kettering Behavioral Medicine Center. “The co-occurring unit is patient centered – focusing on meeting the patient where they are in their recovery process.”

Manuel says following treatment in Kettering Behavioral Medicine Center’s inpatient co-occurring unit, the goal is to transition patients to the behavioral hospital’s next level of service, which is the co-occurring intensive outpatient program.

For further information regarding the services at Kettering Behav-

New unit continued on B8

REGION

Census jobs available in Ohio next year

Pay varies between \$16 and \$20 an hour depending on location.

By Sarah Cavender
 Staff Writer

With the upcoming April census date approaching, the U.S. Census Bureau has hundreds of thousands of temporary jobs open. Ohioans are able to apply and work to conduct the population count of each county in the state while also making a paycheck.

Throughout the Miami Valley, the census taking jobs pay between \$16 to \$20 depending on which county you apply to work in. Montgomery County jobs range between \$16.50 to \$18.50 an hour and in Warren County the pay is \$20.50 an hour.

The U.S. Census Bureau is accepting applications online at 2020Census.gov/jobs. The qualifications are listed on the website.

The federal government has conducted a census every 10 years since 1790 that is used to help determine funding and the number of Congressional representatives states receive.

The census for the Dayton area is critical for different government-funded programs, including the SNAP program, Medicaid, highway construction fund-

ing, local education, the national school lunch program, state children’s health insurance program and more, according to Philanthropy Ohio.

In the Dayton area, cities like Trotwood, Riverside and other local communities have what is known as “a low response score.”

According to the Census Bureau, the government distributes more than \$675 billion to states and their communities based on information collected from the census.

“As we enter the next decade, it is critical that all Ohioans are accounted for in the 2020 Census,” U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown said. “Our government relies on the Census to evaluate needs and allocate resources. I encourage Ohioans to apply for this unique opportunity to ensure their communities are accounted for and receive the assistance they need.”

The census will be conducted in April, those that apply for a census taking job will receive offers between January and April.

Census jobs range in several weeks and on their site are listed with flexible hours of work and also range in job descriptions such as census takers, field supervisors, recruiting assistants, clerks, and office operations supervisors.

Contact this reporter at 937-225-7492 or email Sarah.Cavender@cmg.com.

MIAMISBURG

Miamisburg mayor-elect will make history

Michelle Collins will be sworn in as city’s first female mayor Tuesday.

By Nick Blizard
 Staff Writer

MIAMISBURG — History will be made in Miamisburg on Tuesday as the city swears in its first female mayor.

Mayor-elect and current at-large City Councilwoman Michelle Collins will take the oath as retiring Mayor Dick Church Jr. performs the swearing in at 1 p.m. in council chambers at the Miamisburg Civic Center.

A Republican, Collins, 53, ran unopposed in November to succeed Church, a Democrat who is finishing his seventh straight term



Michelle Collins

as Miamisburg’s longest-serving mayor.

“I have all of the faith in the world that Michelle will be a great leader for this town,” Church said recently.

“We have worked together over the past several months to make sure that we have a smooth transition,” Church added. “I would urge our citizens to get behind Michelle and work with her to keep these great things happening in Miamisburg.”

Collins, who has run a real estate business for nearly three decades, was elected to city council in 2015, defeating incumbent Charles Case

in her first bid for elected office.

Earlier this year, Collins said becoming the city’s first female mayor “would be an honor,” but she said it wasn’t at the forefront of her decision to run.

“I’ve always looked at my public service as my desire to give back to a community that’s been so good to me,” she said. “The fact that I’m a female really didn’t enter into my thought of running.”

Miamisburg’s mayor is paid \$14,500 a year, and the job is considered part time.

Collins is a 1984 Miamisburg High School graduate and attended Heidelberg College, Cape Cod Community College, Wright State University and Hondros College.

She and her husband John Ebersole have been married for nearly 10 years.

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