

Man killed in fire

GREEN

Township firefighters responded to a blaze early Tuesday that left one man dead. The state fire marshal's office is continuing to investigate the fatal fire that occurred at 8129 West Road in Salem. According to a release from that office, an apartment with four occupied units out of six total caught fire about 3:30 a.m. The people in three of the occupied units escaped, but a man in the fourth unit died. The Mahoning County coroner's office has not released the man's name or age. Smoke alarms were activated, and the fire caused significant damage, but its source is still undetermined, the release stated.

2 burglars sought

YOUNGSTOWN

Police are looking for two burglars who surprised an East Side man coming home early Tuesday. According to reports, the 20-year-old Himrod Avenue man returned home shortly after midnight with a friend and saw two hooded men run from the upstairs area of the house. One of the men ran out the back door, but the other struggled with the man's 19-year-old friend before running out the door. The resident found a duffel bag loaded with games, movies and a pair of tennis shoes the thieves apparently had planned to steal. Rooms had been ransacked.

MVSD meeting

MINERAL RIDGE

Mahoning Valley Sanitary District will have a meeting at 4 p.m. today in the assembly room at the district's offices on Ohltown-McDonald Road.

More digest on A12

Agenda Thursday

♦ **West Branch school board**, study session, 6 p.m.; regular meeting, 7 p.m., high school media center, 14277 S. Main St., Beloit.

♦ **Jackson-Milton school board**, 5:30 p.m., high school cafetorium.

♦ **Lordstown Water Department**, 4 p.m., Lordstown Administration Building, 1455 Salt Springs Road, Lordstown.

♦ **ABC Water and Storm Water District Board of Trustees**, 1 p.m., Boardman Township Government Center, 8299 Market St.

♦ **Mahoning County Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board Executive Committee meeting**, 4:30 p.m., followed by the board meeting at 5 p.m., both at the board office, 20 Federal Place, West Federal Street, Youngstown.

♦ **United Local school board**, 7:30 p.m., high school library.

♦ **Newton Falls Exempted Village school board**, 6 p.m., board room, 907 1/2 Milton Blvd.

♦ **Mahoning County Educational Service Center governing board**, 4:30 p.m., Board Room C-2, Suite 220, 100 DeBartolo Place, Youngstown.

♦ **Niles City school board**, 6 p.m., 805 Hartzell Ave.

♦ **Weathersfield Township trustees**, work session, 8 a.m., to do a walk-around of planned improvements at Kerr Cemetery.

♦ **South Avenue Area Neighborhood Development Initiative (SAANDI)**, 5 p.m., Metro Assembly of God, 2530 South Ave., Youngstown.

♦ **Craig Beach Village finance committee**, 9 a.m., council chambers of Craig Beach Municipal Building.

♦ **Beaver Township trustees**, executive session, 5 p.m., administration building, 11999 South Ave., North Lima. Will discuss potential purchase of real property.

♦ **Legacy Academy school board**, 7 p.m., third floor, 1812 Oak Hill Ave.

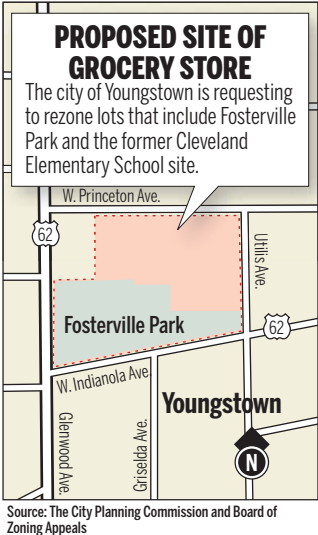
AGENDA runs daily. Items for the column should be sent to The Vindicator Regional Desk at least two days in advance.

Surplus food

♦ **E.B. Family Life Center**, 7 S. Garland Ave., Youngstown, various commodities, noon to 1:30 p.m. Thursday.

Food-distribution notices are to be submitted by 3 p.m. the day before they are to be published.

Panel OKs grocery-store plan for Fosterville site



By DAVID SKOLNICK
skolnick@vindy.com

YOUNGSTOWN

Over the objections of three Fosterville neighborhood residents, the city's planning commission voted to recommend a zone change for a 17,000-square-foot grocery store in that area.

That area has been without a full-service grocery store for several years.

The store would be bounded by West Princeton, Glenwood and West Indiana avenues.

“I'M TERRIBLY OPPOSED TO THIS. WE ALREADY HAVE TOO MUCH TRAFFIC ON THE STREET.”

JAMES WHITE, *West Princeton Avenue resident*

Three residents of West Princeton voiced their opposition to the project Tuesday to the commission, saying they're concerned about increased vehicular traffic on their street.

“I'm terribly opposed to this,” said James White, one of the three West Princeton residents. “We already have too much traffic on the

street.”

Also, White contended the supermarket would provide another place for drug dealers.

The property is the location of the former Cleveland School and adjacent Fosterville Park on the city's South Side.

Planning commission members support the zone

change, saying the store would benefit the community.

“It's such a big issue with no access [from other stores in that area] to fresh food,” said Heather McMahon, a commission member.

City council is expected today to authorize the board of control to buy the 5.5-acre parcel from the school board for the grocery store for a price not to exceed \$15,000.

The planning commission recommended Tuesday

See STORE, A6

Youngstown's Hakim Fareed helps fill Valley need

Adapting & adopting



WILLIAM D. LEWIS | THE VINDICATOR

Radhika Cruz, right, of Mahoning County Children Services, talks with Hakim Fareed, who has adopted one teenager and is in the process of adopting two more.

By KRISTINE GILL
kgill@vindy.com

YOUNGSTOWN

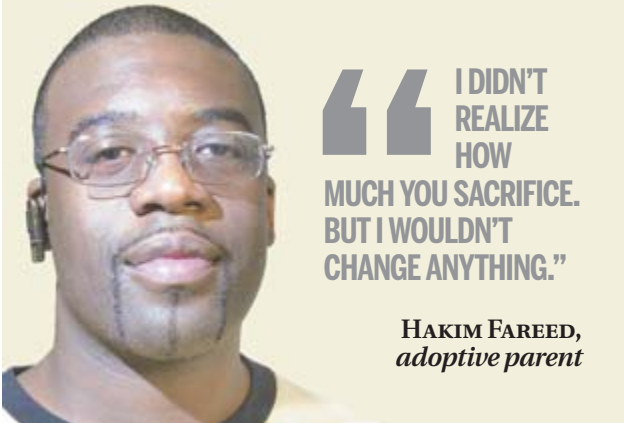
HAKIM FAREED never thought he'd be a father.

The Youngstown resident and Washington state native was content mentoring teens in a program he joined back home. But when friends encouraged him to try foster parenting, he took the plunge.

“It took me a few years to contact Mahoning County to start the process,” he said, regarding his hesitancy.

A few years later, Fareed, 38, has adopted a son, is finalizing adoption of a second son, and is working to adopt a third teen in January.

Radhika Cruz, the community educator with Mahoning County Children



“I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW MUCH YOU SACRIFICE. BUT I WOULDN'T CHANGE ANYTHING.”

HAKIM FAREED,
adoptive parent

Services, said there is a constant need for minority teens in foster care to be adopted in the Valley and across the nation.

“People think the kids waiting to be adopted are zero- to 5-year-old Caucasians, but that's not it,” she said. “Our kids are 9 and up and minorities.”

November is National Adoption Month. MCCC has 34 children awaiting adoption through

its foster-care program, and serves hundreds of children each year. But Karen Tesyk, an adoption specialist with MCCC, said some would-be parents can be hesitant to adopt teens.

“They're the hardest to recruit for, but they need to be prepared for life,” she said. “We all need family. Even after 18.”

Fareed had dealt with some of their behavioral

issues as a mentor and felt prepared to take on that age group.

Though Fareed's children did not wish to be identified, they did agree to be interviewed for this article.

Fareed became Aaron's (name changed) foster parent when he was a pre-teen. Fareed had planned to foster Aaron for a time but soon realized he wanted to adopt.

“You just get so attached,” he said. “I wanted to test the waters just to see if I even had the ability to do this, then I realized I can do this.”

Aaron had floated around to various foster homes in the area since he was 4 and had even been through a failed adoption. Now 13, he remembers feeling excited to learn that Fareed, his foster parent of a three years, wanted to adopt him. His

See ADOPTION, A9

Lawyer for Cafaros files motion to dismiss Oakhill indictment

By PETER H. MILLIKEN
milliken@vindy.com

YOUNGSTOWN

A lawyer for the Cafaro interests has filed a motion to dismiss the Oakhill Renaissance Place indictment and a memorandum of law in support of that motion.

Both were filed under seal, meaning they are not available for public view.

Both filings are shown as Tuesday entries in the Courtview computer system maintained by the Mahoning County Clerk of Courts.

Atty. Ralph E. Cascarilla of Cleveland made the filings on behalf of Anthony M. Cafaro Sr., former president of the Cafaro Co., and his sister, Flora Cafaro, part-



A. Cafaro

F. Cafaro

owner of the Cafaro Co., and the Cafaro Co. and its affiliates, the Ohio Valley Mall Co. and the Marion Plaza Inc.

Joe Bell, the Cafaro Co.'s director of corporate communications, declined to comment on the filings, saying all the company's statements would be made in open court.

“We're deferring all statements based on the wishes of Judge [William H.] Wolff,”

Bell said, referring to the visiting judge from Kettering, who is handling this case in Mahoning County Common Pleas Court.

To avoid pretrial publicity that might bias potential trial jurors, Judge Wolff ordered that all nonroutine filings in this case be made under seal so he can screen them before making all or parts of them public. The trial is set to begin June 6, 2011.

A Mahoning County grand jury returned a 73-count indictment in the Oakhill case July 28. Five people and three companies are charged with conspiring to impede the move of the county's Department of Job

See OAKHILL, A9

Suspected meth worth \$400K seized by agents

Staff report

YOUNGSTOWN

The Mahoning Valley Law Enforcement Task Force and the FBI said they seized 13 pounds of suspected methamphetamine worth about \$400,000 in what they believe to be one of the largest methamphetamine seizures in Northeast Ohio.

When they made that seizure Saturday, FBI and task-force agents arrested two San Diego men and a St. Paul, Minn., man.

The men were identified as Daniel Hernandez-Meza and Oscar Esteban Lavenant-Escalante, both of San Diego, Calif., and Timothy A. Vennemann of St. Paul.

The arrests and seizure

were part of a long-term, ongoing investigation, and the FBI said multiple federal indictments and arrests are expected as the investigation concludes in the next two to three months.

The probe has targeted a multistate and international ring responsible for importing and distributing cocaine and other drugs, the FBI said.

In September, the FBI, task force and Ohio State Highway Patrol seized 13.2 pounds of cocaine and arrested Michael T. Argentine of Los Angeles.

The case began based on information concerning Youngstown-area drug distributors and dealers, many of whom will be arrested when the probe ends, the FBI said in a news release.

See HELMS, A6