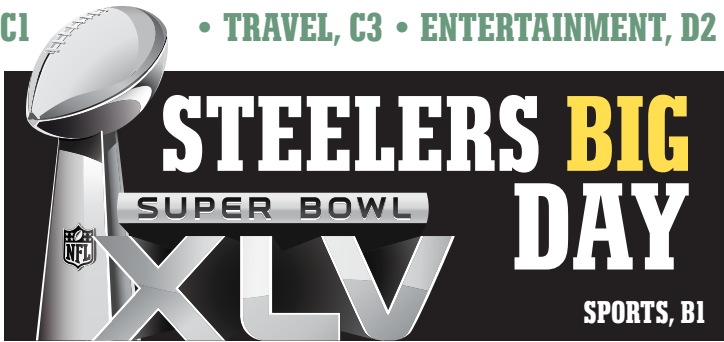




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# The Vindicator

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YOUNGSTOWN-WARREN AIRPORT

## FAA funds may ride on sale of building

By ED RUNYAN  
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VIENNA

The company that purchased a building at the Youngstown-Warren Regional Airport's western edge in 2009, leasing the land under it from the Western Reserve Port Authority, will sell the building to the authority — at the price it paid for the building and improvements.

Such a sale could become necessary to keep federal funding flowing to the airport.

The Federal Aviation Administration told the port authority last year it should not have leased the land under the building to Millwood Inc. — for 38 years with a 25-year company option — without FAA approval. That, the FAA said, ties the port authority's hands regarding future use of a cargo apron immediately behind the building, built in 1999 with \$11.5 million in federal funding.

The FAA said one of the acceptable options the port authority could employ to "fix" the 2009 lease was to buy the building from Millwood.



Dickten

The port authority runs the airport and promotes economic development. In a letter to the FAA last week, the port authority said Millwood Inc. "has expressed a willingness to sell the building" on Ridge Road.

The port authority doesn't have the funds to buy it now, but will work hard to find an aviation-related buyer, the letter said.

Lionel W. "Chip" Trebilcock, Millwood president, said the company doesn't want to move its research and development operations to another location but will do so to prevent the port authority from losing the \$1 million per year it gets from the FAA to maintain and improve the airport.

Trebilcock said Dan Dickten, director of aviation at the air-

See PORT, A4

Younger residents present new challenges to nursing-home staffs

## The new face



TOP: Patrick Mulrooney, 53, displays his collection of ball caps in his room at Orange Village Care Center in Masury.

LEFT: Adrien German, 43, holds the journal he writes daily while passing time at Orange Village.

BELOW: Darla Humphreys, 43, recently moved into her own apartment after a year in Concord Care Center.

PHOTOS BY ROBERT K. YOSAY AND WILLIAM D. LEWIS | THE VINDICATOR



## of assisted living

By KRISTINE GILL  
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MASURY

**A**DRIEN GERMAN calls the paralyzing gunshot to his head 20 years ago the best thing that ever happened to him.

Caught up in drugs at a young age, the now reformed crack addict and shooting victim said he's since found God.

But German calls the next two decades of his life spent recovering in nursing homes boring, lonely and terrible.

"I don't want to be living in a nursing home the rest of my life," said German, who has lived at Orange Village Care Center in Masury since August 2008. "I don't feel like I'm nursing home material just because I can't walk. My mind is still there."

At 43, German is part of a growing population of nursing home residents under 65 in facilities across the country. Many residents are admitted temporarily, recovering from trauma or surgery in a facility offering round-the-clock care, while others like German have been admitted indefinitely.

**“NURSING HOMES ARE JUST BEING USED IN A DIFFERENT WAY THAN THEY WERE 15 YEARS AGO.”**

BOB APPLEBAUM,  
Miami [Ohio] University

Fellow Orange Village resident Patrick Mulrooney, 53, is going on three years at the center, and though he finds the staff accommodating, he misses his freedom.

"Hopefully, it will be temporary, and I can move on into the real world," he said.

Younger residents have presented new challenges for nursing home staff used to caring for the elderly, especially because an estimated 75 percent of younger patients are mentally ill requiring different care and — in many cases — a locked facility.

Melody Wilson, Orange Village director of social services, said the center recently invested in new doors with panic release bars that make it more difficult

See ASSISTED, A4

### IN NURSING HOMES

By percentage, in the United States:



Source: Centers for Disease Control, 2004 study

## Public library in peril next?

Building called 'challenged,' \$11M upgrade proposed

By PETER H. MILLIKEN  
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YOUNGSTOWN

An architectural study recommends nearly \$11 million in upgrades to the century-old Main Library at Wick and Rayen avenues.

The Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County commissioned the evaluation by Faniro Architects Inc., and it was presented recently to the library system's board of trustees.

"This report should be considered fair warning. The Main Library building is challenged," and addressing the challenges "will be costly," Library Director Carlton Sears wrote in a foreword

to the architect's report.

Sears told the trustees he wants to ensure that the Main Library does

not suffer the same deterioration the Mahoning County Courthouse has experienced.

Both buildings are of the same vintage and were designed by the noted architectural firm of Owsley, Boucherle and Owsley; and both are on the National Register of Historic Places.

"We are not planning any immediate action, nor do we have the money to take on this project at this time," Sears said.

Although improvements to the main library are mentioned in the library's strategic plan, the library board has made no commitment to perform any of the work Faniro recommended.

Sears and Architect Ronald Cornell Faniro told the trustees the main library would not necessarily have to close during

See LIBRARY, A6

## 'Filthy' Canfield house gets makeover

By ELISE FRANCO  
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CANFIELD

The house at 535 Brookpark Drive is well-known throughout the community as "the filthy house," but that's about to change.

The home formerly owned by Georgia Holowach has been vacant since October 2009 after Holowach's daughter Betsy Spin Holowach, 33, and her now ex-husband, Brian Spin, 39, were found living there amid garbage, mold and animal

and human waste.

Also living there were their two small children and at least 12 dogs and cats.

But Debra Bish, corporate vice president of marketing for First Place Bank, said residents can look forward to a completely renovated property by springtime.

First Place Bank in Canfield now owns the home through foreclosure, Bish said.

"There are some construction

See HOUSE, A5



WILLIAM D. LEWIS | THE VINDICATOR

Workers from Nick Hornbeck Construction work on the roof of a house on Brookpark Drive in Canfield, formerly known as the "filthy house." The house fell into foreclosure, and First Place Bank is renovating it.

### The Vindicator

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Darla Humphreys, right, talks with Jamie Watkins of Ohio's Long-Term Care Ombudsman office. Watkins helped Humphreys move into her own apartment after spending a year in a nursing home.

## ASSISTED

*Continued from A1*

for patients to leave the facility.

Aside from new considerations triggered by mental illness, Wilson said the staff accommodates later breakfast times for younger residents who like to sleep in and has taken a new approach to group activities, which now include video games and outings to high school basketball games.

"Nursing homes are just being used in a different way than they were 15 years ago," said Bob Applebaum, director of the Ohio Long-term Care Research Project at Miami University's Scripps Gerontology Center.

The center found that about 16 percent of nursing-home residents in Ohio were under 60 in 2009, up from 4 percent in 1994.

Applebaum predicts that 75 percent of those people are also mentally ill and that the recent closing of several state facilities for such patients likely prompted the increase of mentally ill patients in nursing homes.

John Saulitis, a long-term care ombudsman in the Mahoning Valley, said a change in approach with younger residents is part of a bigger change that could improve living conditions for residents of all ages.

"In activity rooms, you see the same shows on the TV. Some young people might like Lawrence Welk [a TV personality from the 1950s] — I don't know any of them, but they might be out there," Saulitis said. "Not all seniors like him either, but there's these assumptions."

The person-centered care approach is an idea proposed by Pioneer Network, a national advocate for the aging that aims to tailor care to the individual. Saulitis compares the concept to the unfortunate reality he refers to as the "institutional imperative," the automatic response those working at these facilities give when confronted with requests or preferences that don't fit the mold.

"Young folks are asking for Internet access or enough plugs to hook up a computer or monitor, things people in the community almost take for granted," Saulitis said. "Sometimes institutions say you can't have one because we're not allowed to have extension cords. That's the automatic response. The re-

sponse should be let's find a way to make this work."

Saulitis said it's the institutional imperative that dictates bed and meal times, whether residents can have pets and when they'll receive help showering or getting dressed.

While visiting a facility one summer, Saulitis offered to buy ice cream for residents he met with and learned they hated eating it out of cups.

"I told [staff] to have some cones for them the next time," he said. "You go beyond this minimal thing. What we need to strive for is connecting to people ... People forget we're dealing with people's homes."

There is hope for those individuals — old and young — looking to transition back into the real world.

On Jan. 19, Darla Humphreys, 43, left Concord Care Center of Cortland after a year and moved into her own Hubbard apartment with help from HOME Choice, a program through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. It helps people who have lived in a nursing home for more than 90 days and who are eligible for Medicaid move back into the community.

For the year she was a resident at the center, Humphreys rarely left her room.

The Hubbard native didn't feel comfortable socializing with fellow residents, some of whom were twice her age and many of whom suffered from Alzheimer's, the same degenerative disease that affected her favorite uncle.

"I didn't want to see it," she said. "I'd rather sit in my room and watch TV."

Instead, Humphreys bonded with her roommate, a 33-year-old woman who, like Humphreys, used a wheelchair because of multiple sclerosis.

HOME Choice helped Humphreys purchase bedding and other essentials with a \$2,000 stipend that also helps former nursing-home residents pay security deposits and the first month of rent on new apartments. They also arranged for aides to visit daily for a few hours to help Humphreys with household tasks. She now lives on her own.

"I'm just ecstatic right now," Humphreys said hours after moving into her new place.

# Ohio lawmakers reconsider 'sexting,' pay cuts

By JIM SIEGEL  
*The Columbus Dispatch*

## COLUMBUS

Clarifying how a teen should be charged for illegal "sexting," allowing people to carry guns in bars and cutting pay for state lawmakers are among the bills that have resurfaced this year in the state Legislature after failing to reach the finish line last session.

The previous politically divided General Assembly set a modern record for fewest bills passed into law, leaving plenty of unresolved issues. This session, Republicans hold the

governor's office and large majorities in the House and Senate, giving them plenty of opportunity to push legislation that was held up the past four years.

"It will be a lot easier to get things done, and there will be a lot more done," said Rep. Louis Blessing, R-Cincinnati, the No. 2 House leader. "You take the good with the bad. A lot of people don't like one-party rule, but on the other hand, you can get a lot of things done."

Rep. Ron Maag, R-Lebanon, said he was shocked last session when the Legislature failed to pass a bill that would

ensure teenagers engaged in "sexting" — the transmitting of nude or seminude images of themselves — would not get caught up in Ohio's penalties for child pornography.

A Democratic version of the bill, introduced a year after Maag proposed a change in the law, passed the House in May but did not get a hearing in the Senate.

A bill allowing concealed-carry permit holders to carry guns in bars and restaurants that serve alcohol, as long as the person is not drinking, and a second bill allowing people with certain misdemeanor drug convictions to carry guns

were stopped last session.

Also reintroduced is a bill on prison sentencing. Despite support from former Gov. Ted Strickland and a bipartisan mix of lawmakers, a proposal to divert some lower-level felons to community centers and give prisoners greater ability to earn credit for certain behavior failed to get through either chamber.

Also, Rep. Terry Boose, R-Norwalk, is proposing a 5 percent pay cut for all legislators and statewide elected officials until the state's gross domestic product increases by at least 2.5 percent for two of three calendar years.

## PORT

*Continued from A1*

port, told him that if the port authority fails to correct the lease, the FAA could pull the airport's funding, and that could shut the airport down.

Trebilcock said he told Dickten, "Please take your building. I don't want to be a hindrance to the community."

Millwood paid the estate of the late D.D. Davis about \$850,000 for the building and invested additional money to gut the inside, rewire and repaint it, and repair the parking lot. Trebilcock said he couldn't say for sure how much is invested in the building.

Even selling it at cost would harm Millwood, Trebilcock said, because moving its research and development elsewhere would involve down time for research and development. The company is in the packaging and pallet business.

Millwood purchased the R&D building and its corporate offices, two doors south, at the same time.

Trebilcock said Dickten told him it was not a matter of "if" Millwood would have to vacate the R&D build-

ing but "when."

Dickten said last week he will withhold comment on whether it is certain Millwood will have to vacate the building.

"I think we need to wait and see how they [the FAA] respond" to the authority's letter, Dickten said.

As for whether failing to correct the Millwood lease would cause the airport to lose its \$1 million in annual funding through the Airport Capital Improvement Program, Dickten said he has seen cases where it has happened.

An air cargo apron is a concrete area designed for aircraft to use to load and unload cargo.

The R&D building, constructed with private money, and the apron were intended to attract air cargo business, but none came.

Trebilcock said renegotiating the lease is probably not an option because the FAA won't approve a lease that involves expansion of the building. Expansion is allowed under the terms of the current lease.

"The FAA has said that building will never be expanded," Trebilcock said.

Trebilcock added that Millwood's position is that the port authority should "buy the building or live up to

the lease's terms."

The lease was written in 2009 when the airport's director of aviation was Steve Bowser, who has since left for a job in California. Dickten was hired in April 2010. In August, Dickten reported to the FAA that the lease "didn't look right."

In last week's letter to the FAA, the port authority said it will need three years or more to resolve the problem with the Millwood lease.

"While the port authority is actively searching for funding options to purchase the building, we believe that the best option is to continue to actively market the building and cargo apron to an aviation-related user, so that a new aviation-related tenant may assist in the purchase of the building," the letter said.

The letter said the port authority, county commissioners from Mahoning and Trumbull counties and U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan of Niles, D-17th, are "prepared to embark upon an aggressive plan to develop an air-cargo demand" at the airport.

"We optimistically believe that a period of 36 months, possibly more, may be required to acquire an air cargo and/or aeronautical user for the building," Dickten said.

# 2011 ATHENA AWARD

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*Do you know an exceptional professional woman in the Mahoning Valley?*

*Please nominate her for the ATHENA Award, which will be presented at the annual dinner May 19.*

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- Business and professional achievements.  
*Has she demonstrated significant, measurable achievements that have made an impact in her organization?*
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*Has she provided valuable leadership and service to the community or region?*
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The deadline to submit a nomination for the ATHENA Award is March 1.

Nomination forms and additional information are available at [www.regionalchamber.com](http://www.regionalchamber.com)

For more information, call Kim Gonda, Vice President, Marketing and Business Services, at (330) 744-2131, ext. 35 or email [kim@regionalchamber.com](mailto:kim@regionalchamber.com)

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