



WEATHER

Weather drawing by Cassie, Blanchester

Noon rain possible

Partly sunny today, with a chance of showers, mainly in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 60s. Chance of rain 30 percent.

See **FOR THE RECORD**, Page 2A

Visit us online at:
www.wnewsj.com

INSIDE



Hodges close on and off the track

Wilmington High School track and field is a family affair for the Hodges.

See **SPORTS**, Page 1B

TAKE NOTE

What are you doing this Memorial Day?

The *News Journal* is looking for information on Memorial Day events. If your community or organization has scheduled an event, submit information online at info@wnewsj.com or at the newsroom at 47 S. South St., Wilmington.

INSIDE

Don't miss out

Entries for the Clinton County Weather Watchers photo contest are due by Friday. Submit your photos online at www.wnewsj.com.

ON THE WEB

Get the latest

Sign up for breaking news and e-mail newsletters on the *News Journal's* Web site at www.wnewsj.com.

LOTTERY

From Tuesday's day drawing:

Pick 3: **6, 0, 4**
Pick 4: **4, 6, 7, 0**
Ten-Oh: **8, 10, 12, 16, 22, 25, 26, 27, 46, 49, 52, 55, 56, 57**

WILMINGTON News

Journal

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Serving Clinton County, Ohio, since 1838

50 CENTS

Sister charged after woman's death

BLANCHESTER

Alleged assault discovered after sister died

By **ROSE COOPER**
rcooper@wnewsj.com

A Blanchester woman has been arrested and charged with the assault of her sister who was functionally impaired.

Clara D. Rhoads, 45, of 319

Lazenby St., Blanchester, who was indicted by a recent Clinton County grand jury, was arrested at 1:45 p.m. Tuesday by Blanchester police.

Rhoads was indicted for assault upon a functionally-impaired person, a fourth-degree felony, said Blanchester Police Chief Scott Reinbolt.

Rhoads is alleged to have assaulted her sister, the late Pamela Burgess, 47, who resided with her. The indictment alleges the assault took place between

April 12, 2006 and April 12, 2008, Reinbolt said.

Burgess, who was mentally handicapped, was found dead at her residence on the morning of April 12, 2008.

"At that time, the police department undertook an investigation in order to ascertain the circumstances of Burgess' death," Reinbolt said. "While no evidence was found to indicate that anyone had purposely caused her death, evidence was discovered that expanded the scope of the investi-

gation to include Burgess' living conditions prior to her death."

Reinbolt said the information which was discovered was reviewed by Assistant Clinton County Prosecuting Attorney Richard Moyer, which led to the charge.

Clinton County Coroner Dr. Ronald Seaman has not made an official determination on the cause of Burgess' death. The ruling is pending final laboratory analysis by the Montgomery County Coroner's Office, where the autop-

sy was performed, Reinbolt said.

"Rhoads was arrested without incident and was booked into the Clinton County Jail after processing at the police station," Reinbolt said.

Burgess also resided with her brother, James Burgess, at 319 Lazenby St. No charges are anticipated against him.

James Burgess was investigated by the Blanchester Police Department in 2004 for assaulting Pamela, but no charges were brought at that time.



An unexpected lesson on frontier day

News Journal photo/Brandon Smith

James, Charles, William and George, oxen named for former kings of England, attempt to extract a school bus from the mud Tuesday at Quaker Knoll, just north of Cowan Lake State Park. The oxen happened to be on hand as a part of Frontier Resources, a traveling group hired to teach students from Holmes Elementary about frontier history. Shelley McClanahan, shown center, is a member of the group. The oxen weigh from 1,800 to 2,200 pounds each, and may have eventually freed the bus had they not broken a part of their harness in the process, forcing a tractor to finish the job.

Holmes Elementary children glad for modern-day school after seeing its predecessor

VERNON TOWNSHIP

By **BRANDON SMITH**
info@wnewsj.com

What's the worst punishment a frontier schoolboy could have gotten in 1800?

Being forced to sit on the girls' side of the room.

But it was a particularly heinous punishment for more than just a childhood apprehension toward the opposite sex — it was something more ingrained into the fabric of the whole society.

"As children, you are not real people; you do not have rights," said Dr. Butch Hauri on Tuesday as he taught Sheryl Sloan's Holmes Elementary class about life at the turn of the 19th century.

"But you girls will never be real people. You will always be the property of a man: first your father, then your husband ... so when the teacher puts a boy on the girls' side of the room, he's saying publicly that this boy will never grow up to be a real person."

Hauri is a proponent of hands-on history and a member of Frontier Resources, a small group of individuals that provides a "living museum" experience for curious groups in Ohio and surrounding states.

Follow the group at frontier-resources.blogspot.com.

Frontier Resources came to Quaker Knoll, a campground on the north side of Cowan Lake State Park, to spend a day

with students from Holmes Elementary.

Hauri's presentation was done in character, as if he were an average frontier schoolmaster from around 1800. This is to say, by today's educational standards, frighteningly strict.

The occasional screaming burst of "Keep your hands out of your pockets!" was not uncommon.

"Do you like my world?" asked Hauri at the conclusion of his presentation.

"No," the kids replied.

"Do you like your world?"

"Yes," was the response.

"Well, always remember that a lot of people worked a long time to change it from my world to your world ... the best thing you can do is to learn, to

learn how to think. Keep your hands out of your pockets!"

The students spent about 20 minutes at each station, learning about more than just 19th century education. Other stations featured children's work around 1800, hauling freight with oxen, town meetings and voting rights and Quaker history.

Gerry Barker deals with Frontier Resources' oxen the most. He taught the freight-hauling session Tuesday.

"This is the semi of 200 years ago," he said while pointing at an uncovered wagon.

But unlike the main method of freight transportation today, he said, oxen were mostly driven by children, about the

age of the students he was talking to.

A child — starting at about 8 years old — could earn three pennies per day by driving oxen. One penny was enough to buy a cheaper meal of bread, butter, cheese and beer, since water tended to breed illness. But after 12 years, generally enough could have been saved to buy a team and wagon of his or her own.

To compare this rate of saving to today's standards, the following could be proposed: Having earned a paycheck of only about \$90 per week for the past 12 years, do you think that a 31-year-old today could have saved enough to start his or her own shipping company? It's doubtful.