

TODAY
WINDY WITH CLOUDS
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DOW: 12,690.96
+95.59
(+0.76%)

KROGER CO24.59 +0.30
 Amex Index 2,481.24 +30.55
 S&P 5001,355.66 +8.42
 NASDAQ2,860.88 +22.34



WJ Egg Hunt

See Page 6

BRIEFLY

DARBY CREEK BIRD WALK SCHEDULED

The Madison Soil and Water Conservation District is hosting a guided bird walk along Darby Creek at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 7, at Prairie Oaks Metro Parks, 3225 Plain City-Georgesville Road, West Jefferson, at the Sycamore Plains Trail Access, 2009 Amity Road, Hilliard. (From state Route 142 (Plain City-Georgesville Road) go about 1/4 mile south of I-70 exit.

Turn left on High Free Pike. Go about one mile to Roberts Road and turn left. Go about one mile on Roberts Road to Amity Road and turn left. Entrance is on the left.)

Binoculars are recommended. Free Birds of Ohio Songs CD and Guidebook will be provided. RSVP by e-mail julia.cumming@oh.nacdn.net or call (740) 852-4004.

DINNER TO BE HELD FRIDAY

Madison County-London City Health District Relay for Life Wild About Wellness dinner will be held from 4:30-7 p.m. Friday, April 29, at the Madison County Senior Center, 280 W. High St., London.

The beef and noodle dinner, provided by senior center staff will cost adults \$10; seniors 60 plus \$8; children 3-12 \$5; and children under 3 free. Carryout is available.

SCRAPBOOK MARATHON SLATED

A free scrapbook marathon will be held from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, May 14, at the Madison County Vineyard, 106 Olive St., London. To reserve your space, call Tera at (740) 845-0154, ext. 303.

OBITUARIES

Mary Ruth Howard (88)
 Robert L. Smith II (74)
 Homer S. Sollars Jr. (65)
OBITUARIES, page 3

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County goes after Zimmerman

BY JANE BEATHARD
 Staff Writer



Edwin "Gene" Zimmerman

A former London resident, with a history of sexual assaults against women will be in Madison County Common Pleas Court next week as part of a local effort to keep the man behind bars.

Edwin E. "Gene" Zimmerman, 48, is scheduled for a May 4 arraignment before Judge Robert D. Nichols on a charge that he failed to comply with a police officer's signal on July 3,

2008. The charge stems from a 13-mile high-speed pursuit by London and Columbus police on state Route 665 that ended with Zimmerman's arrest for kidnapping and rape in Franklin County in 2007. One of those incidents allegedly occurred at Zimmerman's former home at 123 S. Union St. in London.

Zimmerman denied the rape charges, saying sex with the women was consensual and not forced.

He eventually entered an "Alford" guilty plea on June 1, 2009 in Franklin County Common Pleas Court to two counts of rape and

See ZIMMERMAN page 2

TIMELINE IN THE CASE OF EDWIN E. "GENE" ZIMMERMAN

July 2, 2008 — A Franklin County judge issues an arrest warrant for Zimmerman, based on incidents that allegedly occurred in Columbus during November and December 2007.

July 3, 2008 — Zimmerman, then living at 123 S. Union St., London, is arrested on state Route 665 by city police officers, following a 13-mile, high-

speed chase.

July 11, 2008 — Franklin County Grand Jury hands down an indictment against Zimmerman, charging multiple counts of rape, attempted rape, kidnapping and gross sexual imposition.

Oct. 23, 2008 — A Franklin

See CASE page 2

Costello drops out

BY JANE BEATHARD
 Staff Writer



Eamon Costello

Citing a need to promote unity within the Madison County Courthouse and local Republicans, Assistant County Prosecutor Eamon Costello dropped out of the race for municipal judge on Tuesday.

The move leaves Judge Eric Schooley, a Republican and the current office holder, the only declared candidate for the non-partisan bench, according to the county board of elections.

Filing deadline for the Nov. 8 race is 4 p.m. on Monday, May 2.

The decision caught most courthouse regulars by surprise. But Costello said he spent several weeks debating it. "Why create divides within the courthouse and the party when the person (Schooley) in the job is proficient?," Costello asked.

He came to that conclusion after consulting with county law enforcement agencies and members of the local legal community.

"They all said Eric Schooley is doing a decent job," Costello said.

Schooley said Costello called Tuesday with news of his decision.

"It's gratifying to know he (Costello) investigated the situation and got reassurance that I was doing a good job," Schooley said. "Eamon and I have worked together in the past and will continue to do so in the future."

See COSTELLO page 2



BY KEVIN DYE/THE MADISON PRESS

West Jefferson veteran and avid cyclist Gary Heiman has taken his wife Barbara's suggestion and will soon be riding 700 miles to raise funds and awareness for Huntington's disease.

Cycling for charity

BY KEVIN DYE
 Staff Writer

West Jefferson resident Gary Heiman is First Vice Commander for the American Legion Post 201 and is an avid cyclist. He averages around 2,000 miles a year riding his bike around central Ohio. He also has participated 11 times in the annual GOBA (Great Ohio Biking Adventure) rides, so much so

that this year Heiman wasn't sure that he was interested in doing the same ride once again.

That is when his wife Barbara inspired him by suggesting that he consider a different type of bike event to participate in this year. Barbara is a social worker for the Huntington's Disease Society of America, Central Ohio Chapter. She knew of a different bike event that

would truly be more of an adventure for her husband and at the same time he could help those afflicted with the terrible, hereditary disease.

Gary Heiman is now looking for Madison County and central Ohio residents who might be willing to sponsor him for the Plains to Lakes cycling event, whose goal it is to raise money

See CYCLING page 7

A Confederate amongst us

BY ROB TREYNOR
 Staff Writer

Longtime London resident Richard Meade received his draft notice several weeks ago. He was to report to the Confederate Army's Waccamaw Light Artillery unit in Charleston, South Carolina.

The unit joined many other Civil War battalions to mark the 150th anniversary of the war's start with the attack on Fort Sumter in South Carolina on April 12, 1861.

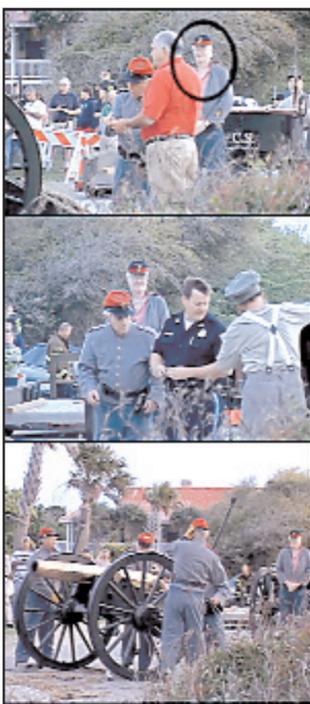
The unit, armed with a replica Napoleonic-era style cannon with a solid brass barrel (approx. value: \$30,000), "drove those Yankees away from Fort Moultrie, just like the first time," Meade said.

The battle was part of a reenactment of the opening shots of the Civil War. The re-enactment included 350 Confederate and 200 Union soldiers. "There were a lot of women running around in hoop skirts, too," Meade said.

"We shot 15 rounds," Meade said. "We used a pound of black powder for each round."

Meade's job for the day was to man the the box that holds the powder charges, known as a "limerick." "If a spark or something got into that box, you'd have a heck of a bang," Meade said.

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FOR THE MADISON PRESS

In a video posted to Youtube, Rich Meade can be seen manning the powder keg for the Waccamaw Light Artillery Unit at Fort Moultrie, on April 12. The unit was among many reenactors marking the 150th anniversary of the start of the American Civil War in Charleston, South Carolina.

Prescription drug take-back slated for Saturday

BY FRAN ODYNEC
 Editor

This coming Saturday, April 30, is national "Prescription Drug Take-Back Day."

As part of this nationwide effort to rid homes of unused or unwanted prescription drugs, the Madison County Sheriff's Office has established two "drug take-back" locations in the county.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., deputies will be accepting unused or unwanted prescription drugs at the Sheriff's Office Operations Center, at the corner of Garfield Avenue and Elm Street in London, and in West Jefferson in the village parking lot across from the West Jefferson Police Department.

Medications in the form of pills, salves, and liquids will be accepted.

Saturday's event will be the fourth time that the Madison County Sheriff's Office has participated in this national effort with the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

"We have taken back over 200 lbs. of medications and pills," said Madison County Sheriff Jim Sabin.

"Most of the medications we have collected are expired or no longer used," he continued. "But people don't know how to properly dispose of them. So they set in the back of the medicine cabinet or on a shelf."

He said that the goal of "take-back day" is to help "dramatically reduce the amount of medications in a residence to prevent them from falling into the wrong hands."

According to research provided the sheriff's office,

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