

Have an ice day!

By Taiah Douglas taiahdouglas@thecourier.com

There's snow place like the ice skating rink! Plenty of frosty fun can be found for families within the 419 area this winter.

The Cube Ice Arena, located inside of the Flag City Sports Complex at 3430 N. Main St., is open seasonally from September to late March. The Cube offers a variety of services including public ice skating sessions;

hockey games; figure skating shows and practice times; adaptive skating for individuals with physical or developmental

disabilities: team building programs; and school field trips.

Public skating at The Cube is offered on Fridays,

Sundays.

Afternoon skating slots are typically for families and children, whereas evening sessions generally draw in an adolescent to adult crowd. The exact time for public skating varies based on other events such as hockey games, and can be found through the city of Findlay's website. Skating admission is \$6, with a \$3 skate rental fee.

Continued on Page 3



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Continued from Page 1

"We want to remind people anytime (that) they can be out moving around — it's a good thing," said Lisa Mansfield, recreation administrative supervisor for the city of Findlay.

Mansfield, who said skating is "a fun family activity," encourages community members to skate at The Cube especially after the pandemic previously shut down the arena in 2020. In fall 2021, The Cube reopened to the public and has been following protocols to ensure a healthy environment for visitors.

Located on the campus of

Bowling Green State University, 417 N. Mercer Road, Bowling Green, Slater Family Ice Arena remains frozen and ready for skating year round, excluding five weeks each year. From June to early May, skating programs are made available for "everyone and anyone," according to Jamie Baringer, athletics associate director for arena operations the university athletics department.

Figure skating programs are offered from basic-level courses to senior and gold levels of U.S. figure skating testing. Cheap skate is held from 12:15-1:15 p.m. weekdays, and public skate is

open from 7-8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

"It's open to all skill levels; you don't have to be an expert," Baringer said of the pastime. "Once you learn it, like riding a bike, you can do it forever."

Slater Family Ice Arena is Americans with Disabilities Act compliant and offers special clubs for community inclusivity, said Baringer.

Due to the increase in demand for ice skating this season, it is recommended — but not required — to preregister at www.bgsu.edu/ice-arena

Open-air ice skating is available at Toledo's Ottawa Park, with the facility noting it is the only outdoor skating rink in the northwest Ohio/southeast Michigan area. The rink has new chillers and a new floor, with the new chiller system allowing the winter season to extend from mid-December to mid-March.

The rink offers open skating periods, hockey leagues, tournaments and practice, as well as the indoor Rink Cafe, where visitors can take a break, or rent and sharpen skates.



Slater Family Ice Arena, BGSU



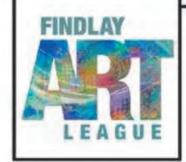
Ottawa Park, Toledo



The Cube, Findlay



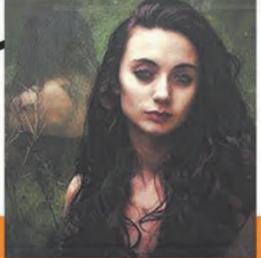
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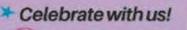
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Saget got emotional about cause dear to him just days before he died

By CHRISTIE D'ZURILLA

Los Angeles Times (TNS)

Just days after his death, Bob Saget got one more chance to speak out for a cause that was a driving force in his life.

Early last month, the comedian taped an interview for CBS News, talking about raising awareness of scleroderma, the autoimmune disease that killed one of his two sisters in 1994, when he was in his late 30s. That interview aired mid January on "CBS Mornings."

"My sister should not be dead, and that's one of the things that will keep me doing this until I'm gone," he told his friend Dr. Jon LaPook, CBS' chief medical correspondent, adding somewhat presciently, "I'll do it when I'm gone."

Gay Saget had a hard time getting diagnosed back in the early 1990s, when there weren't the same treatments available as there are now.

"She went to a lot of regular doctors who said it could be lupus, it could be mental illness, it could be Epstein-Barr," her brother said. "They named everything except what it was."

She described feeling like her skin was on fire, the "Full House" alumnus said, and had a lot of fatigue. Ultimately it was a three-to four-year process that led to her death.

Scleroderma affects about 300,000 people in the U.S., 80% of them women, and tends to be worse in Native American and Black women. It usually

hits between ages 30 and 50 and can affect the skin, blood vessels, internal organs and digestive tract. Nowadays there are drugs and other treatments that can help people with their symptoms, especially when treatment starts early.

Gay's death clearly had a huge impact on her brother, who died January 9th, 2022 in Orlando, Florida, at age 65. All through the interview, emotion welled up in him. "I can't watch what happened to my sister happen to other people," he said.

"We were all in the room when she let out her last breath and ... I don't know how to explain it, but it felt like — I mean, I'm gonna go all woowoo here — but it felt like the soul going past us," Saget said. "Literally felt it. I felt my hair kind of move."

"Being an actor, that's a very important thing, if your hair gets out of place," he added, unable to resist a punch line. "Humor is the only way my family survived. It is so healthy to laugh, and I'm out there doing it and I know it's healing for people."

Saget raised \$26 million for the Scleroderma Research Foundation. He did so via an event called "Hot Comedy Cool Cuisine" and enlisted the likes of Robin Williams, John Stamos, George Lopez, Dave Chappelle and John Mayer.

(Mayer and comedian Jeff Ross paid emotional tribute to Saget after his passing when they picked up Saget's car at LAX and documented it on



TNS

Bob Saget attends the red carpet premiere and party for Peacock's new comedy series "MacGruber" at California Science Center on Dec. 8, 2021, in Los Angeles.

Instagram.)

Upon Saget 's death, LaPook said, the foundation got a final matching donation of \$1.5 million. The doctor described his friend to the "Mornings" co-hosts as "a love, he was sweet, he was emotionally intelligent, he was a mush."

in an outpouring of love for Saget the week following his death, including from his "Full House" co-stars.

"For me," the comic said in the CBS interview, "it's an homage to her and somehow telling her that her life had real purpose."

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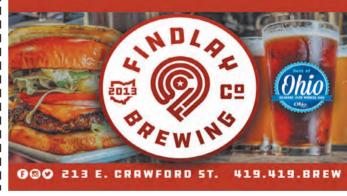
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LITTLE CAESARS

Wildlife officer: Charles McMullen

By ERIN CALDWELL

erincaldwell@sanduskyregister.com

FREMONT

Charles McMullen went to college not know- ing what career to pursue.

He had good grades, but he spent about a year and a half being undecided. Eventually, McMullen decided on an environmental biology major because he liked the outdoors.

When McMullen was a junior, he added a criminal justice minor because he thought it would be interesting, and he had time to fill.

McMullen enjoyed the

stick around. The offer, however, fell through.

Positions opened again in 2020, and McMullen was hired.

"I'm glad the offer fell through because being a wildlife officer is much better than construction work," McMullen said.

Now, McMullen is going on two years as a wildlife officer, patrolling Sandusky County. He's originally from Hartville in Stark County.

His expertise in concrete work did prove to be useful when a public wildlife area needed new concrete.

"Charles jumped in



Wildlife officer McMullen talks with Rich Braun about trapping at Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area.

criminal justice classes but knew he didn't want to be a police officer. He discovered being a wildlife officer would be a good fit for him.

Pursuing the job

The Ohio Division of Wildlife was hiring while McMullen was still attending college so he couldn't apply at that time.

The next time hiring opened up, McMullen was doing concrete construction work, and he was given a good offer to

to help the crew, and the project was completed in short order, improving the safety and appearance of the area for everyone. He is a true team player," said Jim Quinlivan, the law enforcement program administrator for the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

"There's always something going on. We have deer, walleye and waterfowl," he said.

During the summer he keeps a close eye on the Sandusky River for fishing violations as well as litter.

"Litter is just awful," McMullen said.

He will spend time observing fishermen from afar and make a list of everything a person tosses on the ground. Once the person leaves their trash behind, McMullen stops them and issues a citation.

When it's deer season, McMullen will check hunters in the field. He also studies the harvest records because he can uncover violations from them.

One thing McMullen enjoys is working nights. He said it's important to patrol during the night because anything can happen — dumping trash, drugs, spotlighting and other things.

He wants families to feel safe while fishing at night. "I do contact people doing the right thing at 1 o'clock in the morning. They're out catfishing and having a good time," McMullen said.

Passion for the outdoors

Personal interests and work tend to overlap for wildlife officers.

McMullen recently picked up water fowl hunting and likes the public land access Sandusky County offers. He spends a lot of free time hunting and fishing.

"I like it for the peace and quiet to get away from everything and just relax," he said. "It's a great way to relax and unwind.

"Everyone is tied to their phone these days. If you can get outside and away from screens and just do something, it's good for you."

Being outside definite-



Register photos/ERIN CALDWELL

Wildlife officer Charles McMullen talks with hunters Aaron Jasko and Jeremiah August about different types of ducks at Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area.

ly has health benefits, he added. There's hiking involved, so it keeps people active.

Another passion Mc-Mullen has is birding. He began birdwatching at an early age with his uncle and grandpa.

To learn more about birds, he took an ornithology class in college. Then birdwatching became a hobby of his.

McMullen has since traveled to southern Texas, Costa Rica, Bolivia and a few countries in Europe where he was able to see all kinds of birds.

According to his supervisor, Kevin Newsome, McMullen's knowledge and appreciation of bird-

ing set him apart from many other officers. He was a big help at last year's Biggest Week in American Birding event at Magee Marsh Wildlife Area in Oak Harbor.

Sandusky County and around the western basin of Lake Erie has some of the best spring birding opportunities in Ohio.

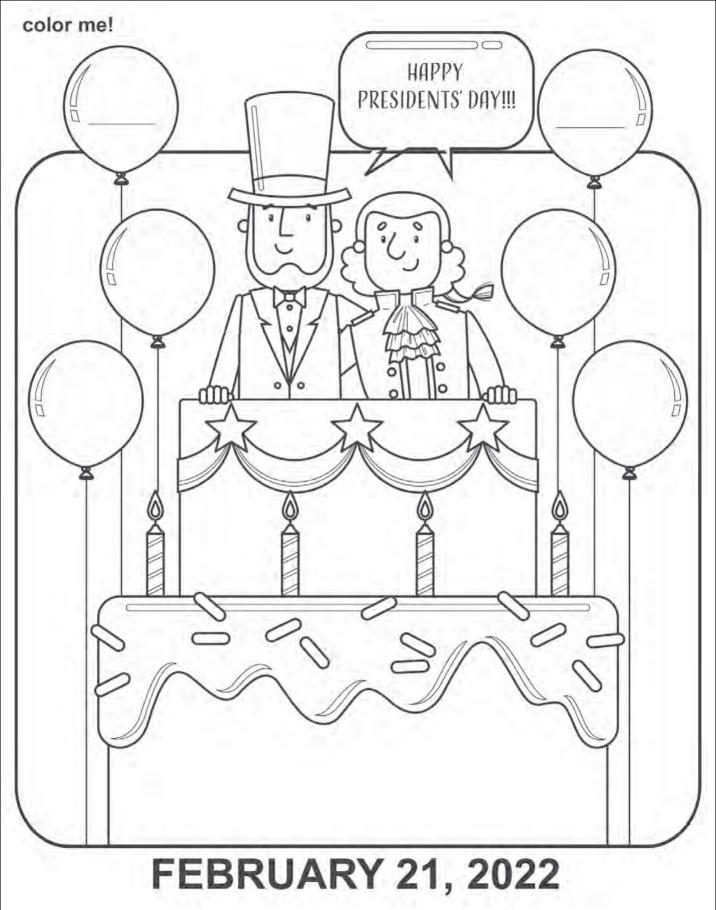
"I enjoy birding because if I see an animal, I like to be able to identify what it is," McMullen said. "Birds are easily viewable anywhere you go, so it is a good hobby for traveling."

To learn more about becoming a wildlife officer visit: ohiodnr.gov/careers.



Wildlife officer Charles McMullen inspects a hunter's shotgun at Pickerel Creek Wildlife Area.

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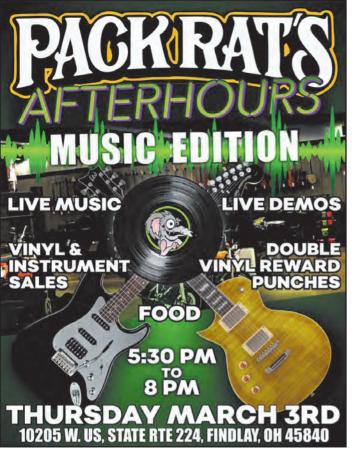
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Who doesn't enjoy receiving a fresh bouquet of flowers on a special occasion? Flowers traditionally are given for Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, anniversaries, and other special events. While a beautiful bouquet can make a lovely gift, fresh flowers have finite lasting power.

Recipients of floral arrangements need not fret. Various strategies can help prolong the life of freshly cut flowers. Florists employ certain tricks to keep cut flowers fresh longer. In fact, that's a person's best bet to keep cut flowers fresh - purchasing arrangements from knowledgeable florists who have done their part to ensure flower longevity.

Here are some additional strategies to consider.

Make fresh cuts in stems Think back to the last time you purchased a fresh Christmas tree. What is the key to ensuring it gets enough water while on display? You guessed it: making a fresh cut in the trunk of the tree. The same concept applies to floral arrangements. Use a sharp scissor or pruning shears to cut about one inch from the bottom of each stem at a 45-degree angle. Continue this process every three days or so. The 45-degree angle prevents the stem from squishing during the cut and enables it to absorb more water.

Get them in water quickly Place the flowers in a vase or other vessel with water promptly after making the cuts. Some florists like to cut the stems under water to prevent air bubbles from forming in the stems. Choose an arrangement first, then cut and place the flowers in water quickly. This gives fresh arrangements a good chance to last awhile.

Monitor water temperature The temperature of the water in the vase should coordinate with the flowers on display. Do not use hot water or the stems will cook. Room temperature is best for most flowers, except for blooms from bulbs that flower during cooler months, such as tulips and daffodils. They'll be more likely to thrive in cooler water, according to Consumer Reports.

Chill your arrangement The experts at FTD by Design tested various theories for keeping floral arrangements fresh, including adding aspirin to the water or using sugar or concoctions that contain vodka. Sugar and vinegar served as a runner-up for long-lasting blooms, but the best solution for prolonging the flowers was putting the arrangement in the refrigerator each night for roughly eight hours.

Prune the foliage Before placing cut flowers in a vase, remove extra leaves at the base of the stems that will fall underneath the water line. This helps to limit bacteria growth in the water and cuts back on foul odors. Plus, removing foliage focuses flowers' energy on the main blooms rather than the leaves.

These steps can add life to cut flowers, helping arrangements thrive in any home.



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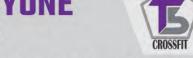
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