

TODAY'S WEATHER

HIGH: 81  
LOW: 55  
It will be partly cloudy.

# THE GAZETTE

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## WINNING EVERY SKIRMISH



Brunswick wide receiver Jordan Gribble has declared war on defensive backs. Gribble is winning the battle. He leads Medina County with 28 receptions. Gribble will try to build on his stellar season Friday when the Blue Devils host Normandy.

Sports, B1

## COYOTES ON THE MOVE

Buckeye Woods Park is hosting the free Exploring Nature Series "Coyotes on the Move" at 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 22. Come learn how coyotes have adapted to life in Ohio suburbs. The program includes a lesson and a short hike. The park is located on state Route 162, a half-mile east of U.S. Route 42 in Lafayette Township. No registration is required.



## FULL HARVEST MOON HIKE

Allardale Park, 401 Remsen Road, Granger Township, is hosting the free night hike series "Full Harvest Moon Hike" at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 26. Each hike in the series will touch upon the Native American significance of the moon, how it got its name and other seasonal highlights. Dress for the weather. No registration is required.



## MEET PEET

If you are enjoying a good cup of coffee as you read your newspaper today, you are part of the modern coffee culture created by Alfred Peet, who died last month at age 87. Author Corby Kummer shares how Peet changed the way Americans drink their java.



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Issue No. 226  
20 pages, 3 sections



# Medina bank suspect surrenders

Medina Police Chief Dennis Hanwell tells reporters about the surrender Wednesday of Raymond A. Shaffer, 29, in last week's robbery of Citizen's Charter One Bank.



Staff photo by RAMI DAUD

## Guilford man turns self in, is charged in Sept. 12 holdup inside Giant Eagle grocery

By CASSANDRA SHOFAR  
Staff Writer

MEDINA — A Guilford Township man suspected in the robbery of Citizen's Charter One Bank on Sept. 12 turned himself into police Wednesday afternoon.

Raymond A. Shaffer, 29, of 3481 Blake Road, arrived at the police station at 3:30 p.m. along with his attorney, and was charged with robbery, a second-degree felony, before being taken to the Medina County Jail, Police Chief Dennis Hanwell said during a press conference



SHAFFER

Wednesday afternoon. Shaffer is accused of robbing the bank inside Giant Eagle, 870 N. Court St., at 6:42 p.m. He allegedly displayed a handwritten note to a teller that said he was armed with a gun and for her not to look at him. He's also a suspect in Stark County, the chief said. "He's continuing to be investigated for bank robberies in the jurisdiction of Perry Township and the Canton Police Department," Hanwell said, adding similar robberies have occurred in those jurisdictions.

See BANK, A3

# So easy to get along with

Phillip A. Baird remembered as a patient judge who treated everyone in court with respect

By ALLISON WOOD  
Staff Writer

On the bench, Phillip A. Baird was said to be a calm, easygoing judge. Outside the courtroom, he was an avid outdoorsman with a sweet tooth who took in stray pets while spending time with his large family at his Medina Township home.

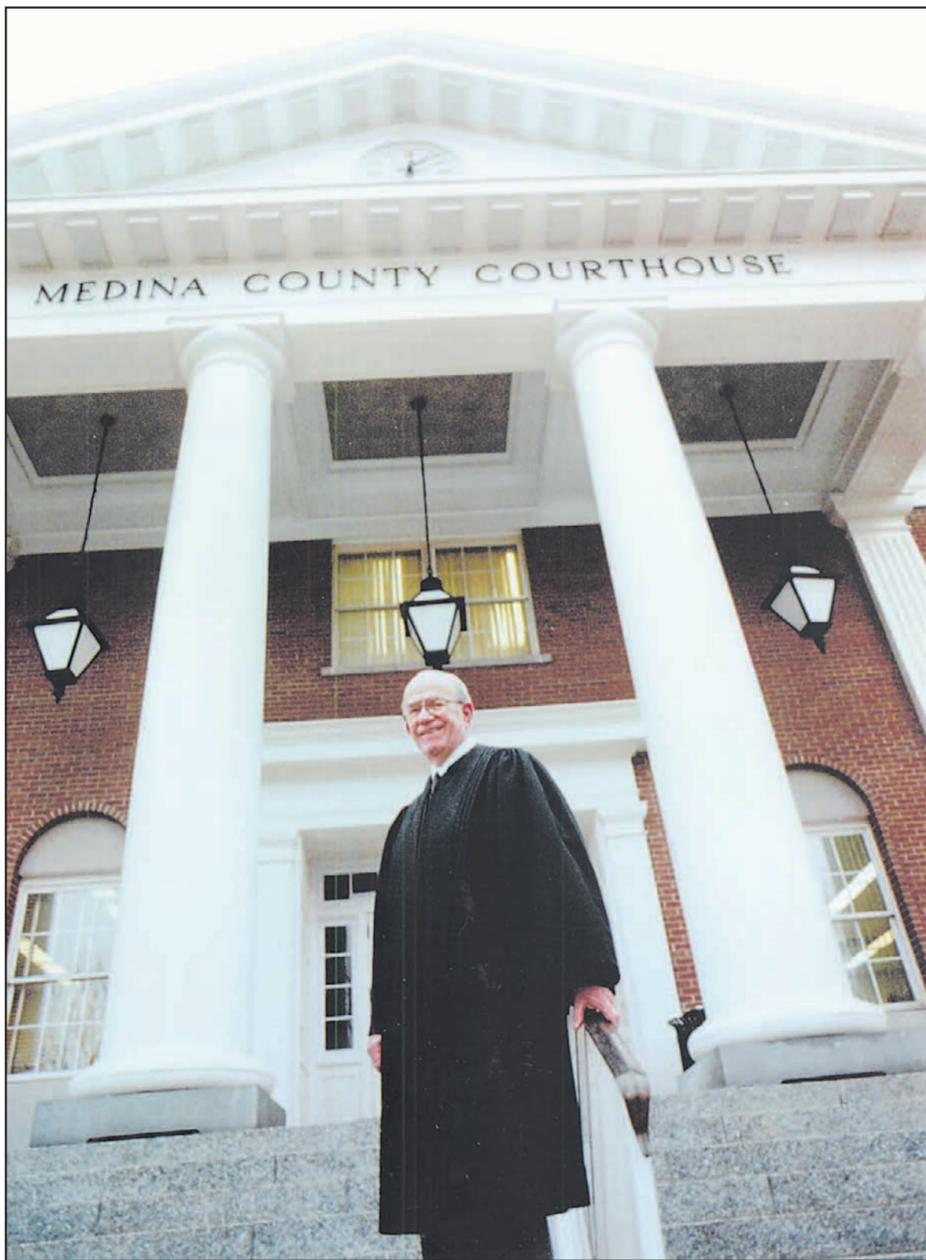


Baird served as a Navy gunnery officer in the Pacific during World War II.

"If you couldn't get along with him, you couldn't get along with anybody," said David Benedict, Baird's court reporter for the 21 years he was a common pleas judge from 1975-96. Baird, 84, died Sunday at Cleveland MetroHealth Medical Center due to a head injury. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, six children, four stepchildren, 15 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

As a judge, Baird was always patient and concerned about everyone in his court, said

See BAIRD, A3



Photos courtesy of Baird family

Retired Medina County Common Pleas Judge Phillip A. Baird, who died Sunday at 84, was described Wednesday as a jurist who "made everyone feel like a professional in his courtroom."

# Hayas accentuates long list of positives in Brunswick district

By HANNAH SCHAEFER  
Staff Writer

BRUNSWICK — Brunswick City Schools Superintendent James Hayas doesn't think the district always gets the credit it's due.

"When you hear conversations about quality school districts in this area, you should hear about ours," Hayas said, addressing members of the Brunswick Area Chamber of Commerce during a luncheon at Mapleside Farms on Wednesday afternoon.

In his state of the schools address, Hayas outlined the Brunswick district's many accomplishments in the

past year and its future. Hayas said the district was rated excellent by the state three of the past four years. He noted the district met 29 of 30 indicators on its state report card for the 2006-07 school year.

"Out of 97 Northeast Ohio school districts, only 10 did better than Brunswick City Schools," Hayas said.

Among the district's other accomplishments is a nationally recognized peer assistance and review program for first-year teachers, Hayas said. In the program, veteran teachers mentor first-year teachers to help them adjust.



JAMES HAYAS

"In our district, new teachers are evaluated, observed and supported at least 25 times to 30 times a year by master teachers," Hayas said, noting many districts evaluate teachers only two or three times yearly. "It's an excellent program."

See HAYAS, A3

# Three juveniles, adult arrested in thefts from vehicles in Wadsworth

By MARIA KACIK  
Staff Writer

WADSWORTH — Following a wave of thefts from vehicles in the city, police have arrested four people reportedly caught with stolen materials.

The arrests of three juveniles and one adult stem from three separate incidents this month.

Police reported: On Sept. 8 at 1:18 a.m., an officer saw a man leaning out the driver's side door of a vehicle in the 150 block of East Walnut Street. As the officer approached the man, he fled and climbed over a

nearby fence.

Deangelo McCraney, 21, of Akron, was found by officers on nearby State Street and he matched the description of the man who ran from the officer. Materials, reportedly stolen, were found nearby on L Street.

The owner of the car on East Walnut Street said a CD player and a CD holder were missing from his vehicle.

McCraney was charged with theft and subsequently posted bond. He was released to the Akron Police Department, which

See THEFTS, A3

# Man facing charges in crash that killed Brunswick girl, 8

By HANNAH SCHAEFER  
Staff Writer

BRUNSWICK — Criminal charges are pending against the 21-year-old who reportedly ran a red light in Brunswick Sunday night, killing an 8-year-old girl and injuring her mother and brother, Police Chief Carl DeForest said.

Robert Stankiewicz, 21, of Hinckley Township, has been in Southwest General Health Center in Middleburg Heights since the accident Sunday night. He was listed in

good condition Wednesday, a Southwest spokeswoman said.

Around 8:10 p.m. Sunday, Stankiewicz was eastbound in a pickup truck on state Route 303 and reportedly ran a red light at Parschen Boulevard, striking a minivan driven by Brunswick High School teacher Shawna Curtis, 43, of Brunswick, who was attempting to turn left from Parschen onto Route 303. The minivan also was carrying Curtis' son, Colin, 13, and daughter, Kathryn, 8.

Stankiewicz's truck struck the driver's side of the minivan, injuring everyone inside and Stankiewicz.

Kathryn Curtis died early Monday morning at Cleveland MetroHealth Medical Center from injuries resulting from the crash. Colin and Shawna Curtis were treated at MetroHealth. Colin was released Monday, and Shawna was released Tuesday, a MetroHealth spokeswoman said.

The accident isn't the first traf-

fic violation on Stankiewicz's record, Medina Municipal Court records show.

A few days before the accident, Stankiewicz was stopped by Medina police on Sept. 13 for speeding.

Between January 2006 and May 2007, Stankiewicz was found guilty in four incidents of speeding. His record also shows a stop sign violation and a guilty plea for failure to control a vehicle.

Schaefer can be reached at 330-721-4048 or hschaefer@ohio.net.