



SECTION B TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017

Business: Ignite Brewing to open in Barberton. B6

# Community

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Bob Dyer



## Engineer takes dig at Browns

The other day I was struggling to get a handle on 260,000 cubic yards of rock and soil.

I mean "get a handle" figuratively, not literally. Let somebody else dig it out.

Anyway, that's the amount of stuff that is expected to be excavated during construction of the Ohio Canal Interceptor Tunnel, the massive Akron project to protect the Cuyahoga River from wastewater.

So ... 260,000 yards. Sounds like a lot, but what could we compare it to?

Nobody better to put it in perspective than

## Summit invests in jobs fund

County officials expect \$2 million to create \$14 million in new economic development

**By Jim Mackinnon**  
Beacon Journal business writer  
Summit County says the math works out like this: \$2 million in county government funds will create \$14 million in new economic development and jobs.

Government officials on Monday announced what they call Summit County's Down-Payment for Jobs.

The county government is looking at placing \$2 million of its \$300 million in "inac-

tive funds" — money the county has in its accounts but isn't using other than to generate interest — with the Development Finance Authority's Jobs and Investment Bond Fund. That additional \$2 million in turn means that the Development Finance Authority will be able to issue up to \$14 million in

bonds to fund economic development projects in the region.

County Council gave initial approval to the plan on Monday and may pass it on April 17 after additional discussions.

The \$2 million in Summit County funds would be a last-resort backstop in case borrowers default on repaying

their bond loans, county officials said.

Without the \$2 million in funding, the quasi-public Development Finance Authority will have \$12 million in projected bond fund capacity later this year.

With the additional \$2 million backstop as

Please see **Jobs, B4**

## Theater review



**By Kerry Clawson**  
Beacon Journal arts writer

With *The Devil's...*

# Jobs

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leverage, bond fund capacity jumps to \$26 million.

The \$2 million will still be invested at the direction of the Summit County fiscal officer. Interest earned on the \$2 million will continue to fuel the county's general fund; earned interest from the \$300 million inactive fund also goes to the county general fund.

The \$2 million that goes into the DFA fund will be a low-risk investment, county officials said.

"The economy would have to fall apart for the county to lose the \$2 million," County Executive Ilene Shapiro said.

"This is another arrow in the quiver for economic development for Summit County," said John Schmidt, council president.

Rick Rebadow, executive vice president of the Greater Akron Chamber, was at the news conference and said he liked the concept.

"I think it's a good opportunity," he said. "It's very low risk for a high return."

Chris Burnham, president of the Development Finance Authority, said the DFA and county late last year began discussing creating the new finance tool. He said other governmental entities outside Summit County could also provide similar financing to the authority.

Lucas County took part in the same kind of financial arrangement with the Toledo-Lucas County Port Authority several years ago, Burnham said.

The DFA's Jobs and Investment Bond Fund dates back to 2004. Since its inception, the fund has issued \$82.2

million in bonds, with \$37.1 million of that used for projects in Summit County. There has been one default over those years, with the money paid back via the selling of a building.

The Development Finance Authority has used the bond fund for the Goodyear headquarters project, the East End redevelopment of the former Goodyear campus, the Cleveland Cavaliers, Shearer's Foods and the East Bank of the Flats renovation in Cleveland.

The DFA expects to use the fund to help provide financing to the Pro Football Hall of Fame Village project in Canton and the Testa renovation of the City Center Hotel in downtown Akron.

County Council also:

- Agreed to rebid for a mobile hospital unit that would be used if there is what is called a mass casualty event. Council rescinded a \$185,500 bid it accepted earlier this year.

- Held a public hearing on having the county join the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council natural gas aggregation program.

- Listened to a presentation by Brian Harte, president of Cleveland Clinic Akron General. Harte provided an overview of the hospital and ongoing projects, including the expansion of its emergency department.

- Adopted a resolution supporting a state House bill that would close a loophole and cap annual interest rates for payday loan lenders.

- Declared April to be Child Abuse and Family Awareness Month in the county.

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28, passed away. Announcements later. Sommerville Funeral Services, (330) 836-2725

## Ronald L. Bender



Ronald L. Bender, 78, passed away April 1, 2017. Born in Akron, he lived most of his life in Tallmadge.

Ronald retired in 2001 with 41 years of service in production at Goodyear Tire and Rubber. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve. Ronald was a member of Cornerstone Free Methodist Church, was the ultimate handyman and loved woodworking and had a great sense of humor. Ronald was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Audrey Bender; infant son, Brian; two sisters and two brothers.

Ronald is survived by his wife of 39 years, Mildred; daughters, Kimberly (Daryl) Paris, Tammie (Chris) Biller, Bonnie (Eugene) DiDonato; sons, Ronald (Robin) Bender, Robert Bookwalter, Michael (Lisa) Bookwalter; brother, Jim (Loretta) Bender; 16 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be TODAY 4 until 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at the Donovan Funeral Home, 17 Southwest Ave. (on the Historic Tallmadge Circle) and one hour prior at the church.

Funeral service will be 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at Cornerstone Free Methodist Church, 578 Killian Road, Akron with Rev. Brenda Young officiating.

Interment will be at Greenwood Cemetery,

Continued next column

(Skip) Eckert, and Lana (Thomas) Powell; sons, Christopher (Erin) and Leonard (Desiree) Bickett; 13 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and many other loving family and friends.

A funeral service will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at Schermesser Funeral Home, 600 E. Turkeyfoot Lake Rd. (SR 619), Akron, OH 44319, with Rev. Bob Denton officiating. Family and friends may call on Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. until the time of the service at the funeral home. Private inurnment will take place at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please make donations in John's name to the Akron F.O.P. Lodge #7, 217 S. High St., Ste. 405, Akron, Ohio 44308. To leave a special message online for the family, visit our website at [www.schermesserfh.com](http://www.schermesserfh.com).

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## Sonya Jean (Dixon) Block

Sonya Jean Block, 74, passed away March 18, 2017.

Sonya was preceded in death by her parents, Lewis and Laraine Dixon, and brother, Ronald Dixon. She is survived by sons, Robert and Todd Block, both of Michigan; and four grandchildren.

Cremation has taken place. There will be no services. Interment at Greenlawn Memorial Park.

## Dolores Davidson

Dolores Davidson passed away March 29, 2017, one day before her 90th birthday.

Funeral services will be held at the Prentice-Conley Funeral Home, 1154 Kenmore Blvd., on Wednesday at 11 a.m. officiated by Pastor Gerald Morris, followed by burial at Greenlawn Memorial Park. Friends may call on Tuesday, from 7 to 9 p.m.

The family would like to thank the caring staff at Rokynol and Copley Health Care Center.



Jackie L. (Nace), age 68, passed away Friday, April 4, 2017. Born in Akron, Ohio, July 4th, 1949, graduate of Garfield High School, Class of 1967.

Family and friends describe her as a most kind and gentle person. She had the pleasure of knowing her for many years. She was a very kind and gentle person. She was a very kind and gentle person. She was a very kind and gentle person.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Lawrence Nace; father, Judy Dank; survived by her daughter, Joanne Nace; Steven and grandchildren, and Stevie; sisters, Ashley; and her nephew, and grandnephews.

Funeral services will be held Monday, April 3, 2017 at 4 p.m. at Cornerstone Free Methodist Church, 578 Killian Road, Akron, OH 44319. Family and friends may call on Monday prior to the service at the church.

The family has requested that, in lieu of contributions, donations be made in her memory to Cox-McNulty Home.



## Abbie Carol (LaRose) Gungler

Abbie Carol Gungler, age 76, passed away Monday, April 3, 2017.

She was born in 1940, in Akron, Ohio, to parents Thomas and Helen Kathryn LaRose. Carol was a devoted homemaker, faithful member of Bible Church. She loved all animals, but especially feeding

