

## cually abuse minors will be banned

blished in church read during Mass weekend in parishes of eight-county area, which in- Wayne and Me-

deacons in the diocese. It also says Pilla will present these same principles at the conference of U.S. bishops June 13-15 in Dallas, where the sex abuse scandal in the Catholic church is expected to dominate discussions.

defines three "non-ociples as a guide of sexual abuse in by priests and

"These difficult months of the sex abuse scandal in our church have been marked for all of us by shock, hurt, disappointment and



sadness," Pilla wrote in the opening paragraph of the letter, dated May 29. "Many questions remain in all of our minds. Like most of you, I have been listening, discussing and prayerfully reflecting in search of clarity and direction."

## SELINGS FILE SUIT

Youngstown brothers say diocese hid abuse by their priest. Page E3.

"My purpose in writing is to share with you what, through much reflection and analysis, I have concluded are essential components of any credible church approach to sexual crimes against children."

In addition to the prohibition

Please see Priests, E6

## Former official cleared in dirt trial

Neugebauer not guilty of abusing Summit job by taking trench spoils

By Carl Chancelor  
Beacon Journal staff writer

Not guilty.

Those were the words William A. Neugebauer had been praying to hear, and when he did, the tears flowed.

"Praise the Lord," said Neugebauer, 42, as he hugged his wife and smiled at Akron Municipal Court jurors as they filed out of Judge Allison McCarty's courtroom late Thursday afternoon.

The prosecutor failed to convince the eight-member jury that Neugebauer, the former deputy director of the Summit County Environmental Services Department, had abused his position for personal gain.

Neugebauer had been charged with violating "restrictions during and after employment" — in essence, soliciting or accepting anything of value from a company doing business with the county, creating the appearance of a conflict of interest.

At the heart of the case was the value of more than 20 truckloads of dirt delivered to Neugebauer's Biruta Street home by H.M. Miller Construction, a longtime county contractor, between September 2000 and October 2001.

"Our position has always been that this dirt had no value," said Patrick Hart, who, with Scott Riley, represented Neuge-

Please see Dirt, E4



## at things up during stop in Tallmadge



At top, raindrops bead up on the well-waxed hood of a 1939 Ford coupe, one of about 1,000 hot rods that stopped at Summit Racing Equipment on South-east Avenue in Tallmadge on Thursday. The cars are part of the Hot Rod Power Tour sponsored by Hot Rod magazine. The tour began in Lincoln, Neb., and will end in Carmel. At left, Chase Felger, 3, of Youngstown hangs out on his 1955 tricycle during Thursday's event. His dad, Shane Felger, drove his 1962 Ford Galaxia to the show.

KEN LOVE/Akron Beacon Journal photo

## nt denied low bond

ains in critical condition; prognosis isn't good

the child will ere brain dam- county Sheriff's chillov said. Harmon, 74, of initial court ap- Thursday at- Barberton Mi- Michael J. on remained in

the Summit County jail after McNulty set his bond at \$50,000 cash.

Harmon's lawyer, Julius Amouris of Akron, asked that the family be required to pay only 10 percent of a \$5,000 bond, but the judge declined the request.

McNulty scheduled Harmon

for another court appearance at 1 p.m. Wednesday in Barberton.

Harmon is charged with felonious assault and child endangering.

Please see Straker, E4



Harmon

## Summit lawmaker takes heat on budget

Challenger says Falls senator flipped on vote

By Dennis J. Wilentz  
and Doug Oplinger  
Beacon Journal staff writers

COLUMBUS: State Sen. Kevin Conhill, R-Girard, says Falls

# MAY

# 31

# 2000

Today

Some sun  
80/56

Tomorrow

T-storm  
80/58

Sunday

T-shower  
78/60

Monday

Some sun  
78/56

## Almanac

As of 5 p.m. yesterday

### Temperatures

Yesterday high: 75 (See E3)

Mean temperature: 71

A year ago high: 62, low: 41 (See E3)

### Other

Barometric pressure: 29.9 in.

Average humidity: 32%

### Precipitation

Yesterday: 0.31 inches

Month to date: 3.16 inches

Year to date: 19.16 inches

Normal yearly: 15.15 inches

Departure (year): +3.91 inches

### Lake levels

Lake Erie: 31.7'

Wind speed: 12-25 mph

Wind direction: W

## Indices

and more

300

150

100

50

## National forecast



ON  
seats

## Seat chart for Hall of Fame enshrinement tickets

Reserved seats for public and group (see E11)

Reserved chairs on field for families and special guests

Reserved seats for public and group (see E11)



## Underwater woods get whacked

Ed Schodowyk harvests woods this week on Cinnamon Lake in Ashland County. The ongoing harvest is necessary to keep the lake free for boating and fishing.



## Merle Andrew Clark

Merle Andrew Clark, 90, passed away from natural causes on May 14, 2002, three weeks shy of his 90th birthday.

Merle was born June 7, 1903, in Philadelphia, to Flora Baker Clark and Andrew J. Clark, as their second child; older brother Earle Clark was 18 years Merle's senior.

Merle's senior, Minnie Boyington Eiger (his maternal grandmother) essentially raised Merle from age 7, after both parents passed away. Once Merle finished his primary education, he went to Ohio, where he met and married Lillian A. Kuchanbecker, the eldest daughter of 13, whose family still owns and operates the Kuchanbecker Dairy farm in Marietta, Ohio. Merle and his wife made their home on 12th Street in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, and he owned and operated a print shop in Akron. In 1942 Merle received his Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Akron and began his 27-year tenure as a print shop teacher at Garfield High School in Akron. He also taught driver's education.

Merle was active in the Boy Scouts of America as a scout and later as a troop leader, and a member of the Masonic Lodge #1600, Temple in Akron, since 1933. Merle was a deeply religious man, and a lover of history and longhollow. He was also an avid photographer, and his wife were avid fishermen and lovers of the great outdoors.

After Merle's retirement in 1969, he and Lillian sold their home in Cuyahoga Falls and traveled the 48 contiguous states in their Avion trailer for six years. Merle was fond of saying that, for that time, "wherever we parked was home!" They finally settled in Mesa, Ariz., where Merle served as deacon at the Apache Wells Community Church for the next 30 years. Merle continued to reside in Mesa after Lillian's passing in 1989. In 2001, Merle relocated to Carrollton, Texas, to be closer to family, due to declining health.

Merle and Lillian had two daughters, Evelyn Flora Clark Randolph and Doris Jean Clark Meyers. Lillian, Evelyn, and Doris all predeceased Merle. He is survived by four granddaughters, Pamela R. Borsari of Indianapolis, Ind.; Sandra L. Kiper of Lakeland, Fla.; Deborah Lynn Meyers of Dallas, Texas; and Suzanne Meyers Rodriguez of Dallas, Texas; and four great-grandchildren, Jennifer and Stephanie Benson, Brian and Jason Kiper.

A memorial service will be held posthumously at the Westview Cemetery in Marietta, Ohio, on Saturday, June 1, 2002, at 11 a.m. The family asks, in lieu of flowers, that donations be sent to the Apache Wells Community Church, Merle A. Clark Memorial Fund, 2115 N. Gayrides Rd., Mesa, Ariz. 85215.

Visitors of the days departed shadow phenomena filed by him. They who like the earth in history only seemed to "see" the earth again.

R.W. Longwell, 3088

Please sign the guestbook at [www.ohio.com/obit/merle](http://www.ohio.com/obit/merle)

## TOGETHER AGAIN

### Dorsey V. Cottrell

Dorsey V. Cottrell, 71, of Hartsville, passed away Wednesday night, May 23, 2002, at Akron of Hartsville.

He was born in Calhoun County, Va., on Nov. 15, 1930, to the late John V. and Georgia (Wood) Cottrell. Dorsey was the second of four children. He also worked part time at the Golf Course after his retirement. He was a lifetime member of the Hartsville Golf and Country Club. He was a member of the Hartsville Golf and Country Club. He was a member of the Hartsville Golf and Country Club.

He is survived by his wife, Delores, of Sept. 22, 2000; daughter, Charlotte, former; and three sons, three brothers and one sister. He is survived by his children, Lynn and Chris Cottrell of Deshler, Ohio, and Jerry William Cottrell of Middlebranch, Ohio, and Debbie Cottrell of Sonoma, Calif. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Dean Cottrell of Hartsville, Pa., and Paul Cottrell of North Carolina. He is also survived by his great-grandchildren, Tracey Cottrell of Akron, Ohio, and Tim Cottrell of Columbus, Ohio, and his great-grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and countless other loved ones and friends.

Funeral services will be held Monday, June 3, 2002, at 11 a.m. at the funeral home, 247 E. James H. Wooding officiating. Final resting place at Mount Zion Cemetery, Akron, Hartsville, 330 877-9364.

Please sign the guestbook at [www.ohio.com/obit/dorsey](http://www.ohio.com/obit/dorsey)

Funeral services will be held Monday, June 3, 2002, at 11 a.m. at the funeral home, 247 E. James H. Wooding officiating. Final resting place at Mount Zion Cemetery, Akron, Hartsville, 330 877-9364.

Please sign the guestbook at [www.ohio.com/obit/dorsey](http://www.ohio.com/obit/dorsey)

### Helen C. Easton

Miss Helen C. Easton, 83, passed away May 20, 2002, at Akron. Her funeral services will be held Monday, June 3, 2002, at 11 a.m. at the funeral home, 247 E. James H. Wooding officiating. Final resting place at Mount Zion Cemetery, Akron, Hartsville, 330 877-9364.

Please sign the guestbook at [www.ohio.com/obit/helen](http://www.ohio.com/obit/helen)

### James Golding Jr.

James Golding Jr., 69, passed away May 26, 2002, at Akron. His funeral services will be held Monday, June 3, 2002, at 11 a.m. at the funeral home, 247 E. James H. Wooding officiating. Final resting place at Mount Zion Cemetery, Akron, Hartsville, 330 877-9364.

Please sign the guestbook at [www.ohio.com/obit/james](http://www.ohio.com/obit/james)

### Larry Hovis

Larry Hovis, 51, passed away May 26, 2002, at Akron. His funeral services will be held Monday, June 3, 2002, at 11 a.m. at the funeral home, 247 E. James H. Wooding officiating. Final resting place at Mount Zion Cemetery, Akron, Hartsville, 330 877-9364.

Please sign the guestbook at [www.ohio.com/obit/larry](http://www.ohio.com/obit/larry)

## Shaken

Infant's mother makes clear she backs accused

Continued from Page E1

The baby, Alicia Roberts, remained in critical condition Thursday in Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron, according to hospital officials.

Momchilov said the next 48 hours will be crucial for the child. He said doctors told sheriff's officials she probably will die or have severe brain damage.

"At this point, we are just praying and hoping for the little kid," Momchilov said.

The child's mother, Jodi Lynn Roberts, was hopeful Thursday as she spoke in court about her daughter's condition. Roberts said the baby seemed to be improving. "She's starting to breathe a little bit more on her own," Roberts told the judge.

The woman declined to talk to reporters. She did make it clear to McNulty that she supports her boyfriend.

Harmon's parents and brother sat with her in the courtroom.

"The entire family is here. It's a very supportive environment," said Amoutyis. "This is the story of a first-time father. . . . He's crying and worrying about the baby. I don't think he's really concerned about anything else right now."

Sheriff's investigators say

Harmon told them he shook the baby for "one or two minutes" Tuesday night because she wouldn't quit crying. The incident unfolded shortly after 8 p.m. at the Stoner Road home where Harmon and Roberts live with his father.

Harmon was watching the child and her 4-year-old sister. The mother was at work.

When the baby kept crying and refused her bottle, Harmon shook her, investigators said. He placed her back in her crib in the basement and returned upstairs to chat on the Internet, they said.

The baby apparently cried about a half-hour later, and Harmon went to investigate. He found the child stiff, with her eyes rolled back in her head, investigators said.

Harmon gathered the baby and her sister and took them to the conveniences store where their mother works. She told him to drive to Children's Hospital.

For the next 45 minutes, investigators said, Harmon drove a circuitous route to the hospital, stopping twice to call his brother for advice.

Harmon arrived at the hospital around 10 p.m. After examining the baby's injuries, hospital officials called the sheriff's department around midnight.

The 4-year-old girl was unharmed. She is in the custody of the Summit County Children Services Board.

Beacon Journal staff writer Stephanie Westrich contributed to this story.

Ashley Giam can be reached at 330-478-8000 or [agiam@ohio.com](mailto:agiam@ohio.com)

## Dirt

Prosecutor cites taxpayer confidence

Continued from Page E1

bauer.

During his closing argument, Hart said the dirt, which he termed "trench spoils" - "couldn't even grow weeds." In addition, Hart said, the prosecution didn't produce one witness to show that his client was influenced or compromised by the dirt he received.

Hart said that contractors give away excavated dirt - often crews with debris - for free "because no one wants it. They will give it to anybody."

Prosecutor Douglas Powley said in his closing that "one man's trash is another man's treasure." He said while a contractor may not place value on trench spoils, Neugebauer obviously did. He pointed out that Neugebauer had asked for the dirt and used it to fill in a depression at the back of his property.

During the trial, Powley pointed out that at the same time Miller Construction dumped the dirt on Neugebauer's property, Wingfoot Rental & Development - another construction company operated by Steven Smith, president and an owner of

Miller Construction - was in the midst of a \$1.9 million county sewer project. Wingfoot would eventually rack up an additional \$900,000 in overrun charges on the project.

According to court papers, Neugebauer had "direct authority" in the administration of contracts and change orders for Wingfoot.

However, Powley, in his closing, said he couldn't claim that "Mr. Neugebauer gave Mr. Smith anything."

Powley said nonetheless taxpayers must have confidence that their public officials are getting them a fair deal, and in this case they need confidence that the \$900,000 in overruns were legitimate.

Powley was clearly disappointed with the verdict.

"I think the state presented the case for showing conflict of interest. But, I respect the jury's decision," he said.

Hart said he was pleased to have the opportunity to "tell the whole story. . . . Obviously, we are very pleased."

Neugebauer, who was fired from his \$65,000-a-year deputy director job in February, said it felt "great to finally be out from under this cloud."

He said he was looking forward to taking his family, which includes seven children, out to dinner to celebrate.

Cliff Chacek can be reached at 330-994-3725 or [chacek@ohio.com](mailto:chacek@ohio.com)

## AREA DEATHS

### Summit

- Conley, Marian, 82, of Akron. Wednesday. Kucko-Anthony-Kertesz funeral home.
- Hill, Eugene A., 77, of Belington, W.Va., formerly of Akron. Saturday. Schoonover-Stapple funeral home, Belington.
- Lee, Vikkoffa F., 79, formerly of Akron. Sunday. Billow funeral home, Cuyahoga Falls.
- Strickland, Josephine M., 103, of Akron. Tuesday. Dunn-Quigley Ciriello & Carr funeral home.
- Vance, Vincent J., Jr., 85, of Akron. Tuesday. Dunn-Quigley Ciriello & Carr funeral home.
- Wigley, William E., 65, of

Akron. May 23. Billow funeral home, Fairlawn.

### Stark

- Chippys, Lillian M., 96, of Calera, Okla., formerly of Canton. Monday. Kreighbaum-Sanders funeral home.
- Cooper, Helen L., 96, of Alliance. Tuesday. Cassidy-Turkile-Christian funeral home.
- Flynn, Edna H., 91, of Canton. Tuesday. Schneeberger funeral home.
- Herman, Doris L., 82, of Alliance. Wednesday. Skarzynski-Stirling-Skivolocke funeral home.
- Hightower, Morris, 102, of Canton. Sunday. Brogan & Son funeral home.
- Lang, Mary, 84, of Canton.

Tuesday. Don Williams funeral home.

- Merriter, Ansel H., 74, of Canton. Wednesday. Reed funeral home.
- Rice, George Stowell, 73, of Massillon. Monday. Denbow-Primus-Kemery funeral home, Ashland.
- Walsh, Thomas J., Jr., 77, of Sandusville. Monday. Lumell funeral home, Canton.

### Medina

- Childs, Janice S., 41, of Brunswick. Thursday. Carlson funeral home.
- Edward, James, of Brunswick Hills. Tuesday. Carlson funeral home, Brunswick.
- Todrank, Valgean W., 81, of Brunswick. Wednesday. Carlson funeral home.

### Wayne

- Hoffman, Wilbur D., 74, of Smithville. Thursday. Custer-Glessig funeral home, Wooster.
- Kneisly, James M., 87, of Wooster. Thursday. McIntire-Davis & Greene funeral home.
- Lillich, Clarence L., 89, of Fort Mill, S.C., formerly of North Lawrence. Wednesday. Gresser funeral home, Orville.
- Miller, Joe J., Jr., 49, of Apple Creek. Thursday. Spidel funeral home, Mount Eaton.
- Mullin, Barbara E., 68, of Zanesville. Formerly of Crested. Wednesday. Murray funeral home, Creston.

### Noteworthy

From obituary in Beacon Journal: Look for music review Thursday in Beacon Journal.

The Beacon Journal will report local news.

What our readers are saying about the Beacon Journal:

"Love to relax on Sundays with the Beacon Journal."