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 from the Ohio News Media Association in 2023

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The Lake County

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ONE LIGHTHOUSE + ONE TOTAL ECLIPSE = A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY



FAIRPORT HARBOR LIGHTHOUSE
 Lighthouse and keeper's dwelling, erected in 1874 to replace the 1825 structures destroyed by Jonathan Goldsmith. From the time it guided early settlers into the Western Reserve until it was decommissioned in 1925, this station served Great Lakes shipping for its most important 100 years. The present well-proportioned tower, constructed of boxes...

Ten lucky people will be able to view the Monday, April 8, total eclipse from the walkway atop this historic lighthouse. "We see this as an opportunity to raise money for the museum's needs and provide a unique experience for ten lucky people," said Marty O'Gara, Fairport Harbor Maritime Museum president.

BY ROBIN LUTHANEN
 Gazette Newspapers

The online raffle, Encounter the Eclipse: A Towering View, will allow five winning tickets to be drawn. Each winner may invite a guest to enjoy the view. Museum representatives will draw names at noon Wednesday, March 20.

SEE ECLIPSE PAGE 8

COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES RECEIVE BODY-CAMERA GRANTS

ASHTABULA AND LAKE COUNTIES – Several local law enforcement agencies received grants to help defray the expenses of existing body-worn camera programs, according to a press release from Gov. Mike DeWine's office on Friday, Jan. 12.

The Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office, as well as the Conneaut and Geneva police departments, were named among \$4.8 million in grant recipients in a program designed to aid local law enforcement agencies across Ohio to cover costs associated with body-worn camera programs.

The Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office received the largest grant locally – \$50,620.79 to help implement an existing program and to cover the expense of switching to a new service provider, according to Stacy Millberg, public information officer with the sheriff's office.

SEE GRANTS PAGE 8

Emerging Leaders of United Way of Lake County honors 4 Under 40

BY GABRIEL MCVEY
 Gazette Newspapers

MENTOR – Four women were honored as recipients of the annual 4 Under 40 young professional awards, honored by the Emerging Leaders of United Way of Lake County as Lake County's best and brightest during an evening reception held Thursday, Jan. 18, at The Everly.

Winners included Sarah Bals, founder and owner of 440 Marketing and executive director of the Lake County Development Council; Lindsay Defeo, owner of Leolo Hospitality; entrepreneur Anna Dey, owner of Smoothie King in Mentor and Painesville, owner of Clean EatZ in Mentor and Westlake, owner of The Yard on 3rd in Willoughby, owner of The Vitamin Shoppe in Huber Heights, partner of Barrio Tacos + Tequila in Columbus and Pittsburgh and founder and director of The 24 in 24; and Andie Musial, professor of biology at Lakeland Community College and co-advisor of Phi Theta Kappa and Alpha Psi Rho.

"I am inspired by the exceptional accomplishments of our Emerging Leaders' 4 Under 40 Award winners," United Way of Lake County President and CEO Dione DeMistro said. "Their im-



Winners of the 2023 Emerging Leaders of United Way of Lake County honors 4 Under 40, pictured from left to right, Sarah Bals, Anna Dey, Lindsay Defeo and Andie Musial.

pact is a testament to the positive change that arises from passion and commitment. I admire their many accomplishments and their remarkable dedication to shaping a brighter future for our community."

During her remarks, Bals credited her mother for teaching her the values that put her on the stage that night.

"She has taught me commitment, patience, compassion, friendship, how to balance my checkbook, when to order new tags for my license and to wipe down my license

plate before putting a new tag on it," she said. "But most importantly, she taught me never to give up."

Defeo said she's always tried to ring herself with good people.

"Surrounding myself with strong leaders and genuine humans has always been something I tried to have in my life," she said.

But mostly she credited her mother, who Defeo said started from nothing and now owns her own real estate company.

SEE LEADERS PAGE 18

WILLOUGHBY LIONS REBORN



The Willoughby Hills Lions Club was reborn on Thursday, Jan. 18, at the Willoughby Hills Community Center with over 30 founding members—making it the biggest Lions Club in the area.

MAN WANTED IN 2016 FAIRPORT HARBOR BOATING DEATH ARRESTED

BY GABRIEL MCVEY
 Gazette Newspapers

MIAMI, Fla. – Alen Gorishti, suspected in the 2016 killing of Roger Burton, was arrested by the U.S. Marshals Service in the early morning hours of Sunday, Jan. 14, during a stopover in Miami while flying from Columbia to Canada.

Gorishti, 33, of Ontario, was wanted by the U.S. Coast Guard for a boating incident that resulted in the death of Roger Burton, a local fisherman, according to a press release from the U.S. Marshal's Service.

On Nov. 6, 2016, a motor vessel operated by Gorishti collided with another boat that was anchored approximately two miles off the coast of Fairport Harbor. Two men were aboard the second boat at the time of the collision.

SEE ARRESTED PAGE 17

LEADERS From Page 1

"She's someone I've always looked up to," Defeo said. "Her work ethic and her passion go unmatched and her dedication to her real estate agents and her customers has laid the groundwork for the passion I bring to the relationships built in Leolo."

Defeo shared some humorous remarks regarding how awkward she feels accepting compliments, saying she tends to rely on self-deprecating remarks to counter the discomfort.

She said everyone is self-aware enough to know they're not perfect and that some things about oneself are not as impressive.

"It would be weird if I said, 'There were a few times I got arrested in my 20s, or there was a job I



UWLC President and CEO Dione DeMitro.



Lindsay Defeo, owner of Leolo Hospitality.



Anna Dey, owner of Smoothie King in Mentor and Painesville, Clean Eat in Mentor and Westlake, The Yard on 3rd in Willoughby, The Vitamin Shoppe in Huber Heights, partner at Barrio Tacos+Tequila in Columbus and Pittsburgh and founder and director of The 24 in 24.



Sarah Bals, founder and owner of 440 Marketing and executive director of the Lake County Development Council.



Andie Musial, professor of biology at Lakeland Community College and co-advisor of Phi Theta Kappa and Alpha Psi Rho, and her family.

was really bad at right out college," Dey said. "That would be weird, it would be uncomfortable. But it also feels like it's part of my story that's core to development. So, I feel a little guilt when it's all great."

Defeo said the second reason she's awkward with compliments is that she's buoyed up by great employees, saying her achievements are "not mine to celebrate."

Musial said she wouldn't be able to be as involved as she is without her husband, Dave, to help shoulder the load, allowing her to volunteer and help out.

"He allows me to have these opportunities where I volunteer and I say 'yes' and I can commit and help," she said.

In a press release, United Way of Lake County said its Emerging Leaders believe the significance of recognizing these young leaders goes beyond individual achievements

and speaks to the importance of fostering a culture that values and uplifts the next generation of change-makers. By acknowledging their efforts, the organization hopes to send a powerful message that dedication, innovation and service are qualities worthy of celebration and emulation.

Nominees were submitted by members of the community. All were required to live in Lake County and fall between the ages of 21 to 40 years of age during the year ending Dec. 31, 2023.

The winners were determined by a rubric scoring process based on their work and achievements in four areas: leadership, community involvement, entrepreneurship and professional accomplishment. The evaluation and scoring process maintained anonymity by keeping nominees and their nominators undisclosed.

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