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Because community matters.

Briefly

Toy collection

Five Seasons Country Club in Symmes Township is a dropoff point for a toy collection for the Kicks for Kids charity.

Kicks for Kids, founded by former Cincinnati Bengals placekicker Doug Pelfrey, provides at-risk children with the opportunity to pursue their dreams.

Bring wrapped new toys, labeled for the age appropriate boy or girl, to the Five Seasons lobby.

Five Seasons Country Club is at 11790 Snider Road.

Prayers for peace

The Oratory at Grailville is open Thursday evenings for silent prayer, reflections and meditation. Sacred music is played, followed by periods of silence.

Vigil hours at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Grailville is at 932 O'Bannonville Road, Loveland.

Homemade holiday cards

Symmes Township resident and naturalist Erin Morris will present a nature activity program, entitled Homemade Holiday Cards, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 13, in the meeting room of the township administration building, 9323 Union Cemetery Road.

Residents are asked to bring last year's holiday cards to recycle them into postcards to send this year. Extra cards will be provided. This activity is appropriate for adults and children ages 5 and up; no craft skills are needed.

For more information on this free program or other township nature activities, call the Symmes Township administration office at 683-6644.

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Council meets Saturday to discuss 2002 budget

Weisgerber questions priorities

BY JEREMY D. JOHNSTON
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One city council member says Loveland residents will need to pay more attention to the city's budget and future spending.

Council will convene at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, at city hall to deliberate the city manager's 2002 proposed city budget — and a concern has been voiced that the city is facing financial hardships.

"Loveland is faced with some serious issues surrounding the budget,"

new Councilmember Rob Weisgerber said, adding that city services will see an increase in price due to overspending.

Weisgerber says city council has been spending money on discretionary items that are not mandatory for the operation of the city and is facing the largest reduction in revenue for a single year in over the last decade.



Weisgerber

Budget

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Four new members sworn in

BY JEREMY D. JOHNSTON
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Out with the old, in with the new. Loveland has a new city council.

During a swearing-in ceremony Monday in Loveland City Hall, councilmembers-elect Dan Daly, Joe Schickel and Rob Weisgerber and incumbent Brad Greenberg took their oath and then took their seat behind council's desk.

Daly, Schickel and Weisgerber replace former council members Ceci

Bauer, Paulette Leeper and Lee Skierkiewicz.

Peggy Goodwin, who came in fifth during the election race, was appointed unanimously by council to take the place of Heather Russell, who was elected Municipal Court District 5 judge and resigned her council seat prior to the ceremony. Rus-



Russell

Council

Continued on A6

Wheel dilemma



ANNETTE STIERWALT/STAFF

Loveland Primary School second-grader Jacob Alten tries to keep control of the spinning wheel during a recent visit from Center of Science and Industry.

Group looks for stormwater answers

BY JEREMY JOHNSTON
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The search for answers to stormwater flooding problems along Polk Run Creek in Warren and Hamilton counties continues, with the possible formation of a regional storm water committee.

In a preliminary meeting Nov. 13, representatives from Montgomery, Symmes Township, Sycamore Township, Deerfield Township, the Hamilton County Engineer's Office and Metropolitan Sewer District gathered to discuss the possible establishment of a storm water steering committee involving several area jurisdictions.

Because the water shed flows from

Deerfield Township in Warren County to Symmes Township, Montgomery and Sycamore Township in Hamilton County, the hope is to get all affected jurisdictions involved, Deerfield Township project coordinator Joel Smiddy said.

The first step towards a solution may be a study of the Polk Run Creek watershed.

"What we're looking to do...is get a study done of that area," Smiddy said.

Hilvert said she and the representatives are requesting that a study performed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers be conducted on the major drainage areas.

"If we are successful with getting this study, the hope would then be to formulate this county-wide storm water

district to implement the recommendations made from the study," Hilvert said.

The congregated group developed an idea which involved water quantity issues and explored the formation of a county-wide storm water district, which would serve as a regional approach to handling storm water.

"It would be more of a comprehensive approach at these issues instead of having Montgomery working all by itself," Montgomery City Manager Cheryl Hilvert said.

The representatives have gone back to their respective elected officials to discuss the idea and to encourage their participation in such an effort.

"We believe a regional approach makes a lot of sense," Hilvert said.

Symmes Township trustees already expressed an interest in participating in the joint effort.

"We've already decided to do that," Symmes Township Administrator Gerald Beckman said.

Montgomery city council has already expressed interest in learning more about how the regional district and the study will work since there will be funding issues involved. A cost has yet to be determined.

"Our council has been aware of the county-wide thing and have showed interest in participating in that, in a group to proceed the study with a Poll Run Creek study," Hilvert said.

Storm water

Continued on A6

Loveland-Madeira change gets green light

It pays to ask ...

At least two readers (undoubtedly speaking for many, many, many more) think the traffic sig-

nation we feel with all the traffic using Loveland-Madeira to avoid construction on I-275, the green time will be adjusted for Loveland-

Ted Gregory, Montgomery Inn founder, dies

Theodore "Ted" Gregory, founder of the Montgomery Inn restaurant, died Sunday, Dec. 2.

