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# The Delaware Gazette

DELAWARE COUNTY'S ONLY DAILY NEWSPAPER

Merry Christmas!



PAGE 7 & 8

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50 CENTS

## CHRISTMAS EVE WEATHER

HIGH 49  
LOW 25



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## ONLINE POLL

Go to [www.delgazette.com](http://www.delgazette.com) to answer this week's latest poll question:

This week's question: Where is your favorite place to shop/frequent in Downtown Delaware?

- A) Antique stores
- B) Clothing stores
- C) Specialty stores
- D) Barbershops/salons
- E) Restaurants/bars

Readers commenting on this question after voting may have their comments printed on the *Gazette's* editorial page.

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## Thank You

Thank you, Connie Carter, for subscribing to *The Delaware Gazette*, and thank you, First Presbyterian Church, for your advertising support.

**I remember my wife telling me she gets the last word. I quickly wrote on a pad of paper, 'Oh no, you don't.' — Tim "Bubba" Mendenhall, following throat cancer and a tracheotomy replacement**



Lifelong Delaware resident, former standout athlete and well-known coach Tim "Bubba" Mendenhall is living life to the fullest after being diagnosed with throat cancer and undergoing a tracheotomy replacement.

# A familiar face regains his voice

Story by **Connie Curry** • Photo by **Matt Emmons**

When people around town hear the name Tim Mendenhall they think of Bubba, a robust, happy-go-lucky, talkative guy with a big smile that lives life to the fullest.

Mendenhall, 56, has spent all his life in Delaware but has been a little scarce lately. So what has happened to Bubba? Many people wonder why they don't see this once social butterfly out and about in Delaware or going to the schools to show his support for

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local athletes. Mendenhall's life took a drastic change when he underwent a laryngectomy and had 20 lymph nodes removed after being diagnosed with throat cancer. Now, he has a permanent tracheotomy placement. (A small tube that is placed in the neck, referred to as a neck breather.)

"It's wild when I sneeze," he said as he found some humor in all he has endured. "I sneeze through my neck."

Today he is at peace when he says, "I am healing." A standout athlete during his school days, Mendenhall took honors in wrestling, track and football, graduating in 1970 from Delaware Hayes High School. He attended two years of college at the University of Akron.

Sports have always been a big part of Mendenhall's life.

Please see **VOICE**, Page 3

# A hero and a special Christmas gift

By **LIZ ROBERTSON**  
Staff Writer

If you would have asked Katina Johnson two months ago what she wanted most for Christmas, she would not have thought then that the most precious gift would be the life of her son. But since then, Christmas brings a new meaning to the Johnson family in Delaware this year.



Johnson

Unless you have been there, there is no way you can imagine a mother's anguish at seeing a child in a hospital bed going into emergency surgery — and then living at the hospital, literally for days, hardly daring to leave to pick up a change of clothes.



Eberst

This is what Johnson has been through, and now, for her and her family, Christmas is all the more merry because of a Hayes High School coach knowing what to do, and doing it.

Please see **GIFT**, Page 3

# County approves \$2 million for disability center

By **ANDREW TOBIAS**  
Staff Writer

On Monday, the Delaware county commissioners approved 2-1 the \$2 million purchase of a building at 7991 U.S. 23 in Lewis Center that will be renovated for use as the new home of the Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

The money for the purchase will come from funds from within the board's budget and will not come from the county's general fund.

Please see **CENTER**, Page 3

# Commissioners' employees get raises

By **ANDREW TOBIAS**  
Staff Writer

Four employees of the commissioners office on Monday got a holiday boost: a late-year raise, approved 2-0 by the commissioners following a closed-door executive session.

The four employees will receive the raise despite a previously announced salary freeze for county employees. Delaware County administrator Dave Cannon relinquished about \$3,300 of his base salary for next year to make the three percent raises possible.

Cannon defended the decision, saying that the commissioners' employees earned the additional money under county guidelines.

The commissioners' office has taken on extra work since the departures of multiple executive-level positions in recent months that have not been replaced, including the public information officer, economic developmental director and 911 director, Cannon said.

"This was recognizing that those employees worked beyond their job description for the year and saying, OK, we need to account for that in their pay," Cannon said.

The commissioners raised eyebrows in October when they granted Cannon a \$4,800 raise, just days after Cannon sent out a memo throughout the county announcing a salary freeze for the next year.

"If we notice any pay adjustments given prior to the end of the year, we will decrease the 2009 salary appropriations."

Please see **RAISES**, Page 3

# Firefighters stop blaze from damaging home



Gazette Matt Emmons

Firefighters responded to a garage fire at 11531 U.S. 36 near the Union-Delaware County line Tuesday morning. Homeowner Jay Gould said his four-member family, plus two neighbor children, were sleeping in the home, located less than two miles from the Delaware-Union county line when his family was alerted that the garage next to the two-story home was on fire. The garage was completely destroyed. No cause of the fire has been determined. For more on the story, see Page 17.



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