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Tributes

Shedrich Fisher Jr., 60



HUBBARD - Services will be Saturday, April 24, at 10 a.m. at the L.E. Black, Phillips and Holden Funeral Home for Shedrich Fisher Jr., 60, who departed this life on Monday surrounded by his loving family.

Shedrich was born May 18, 1949, in Youngstown, a son of Shedrich Sr. and Sophia Lee Oree Fisher.

He was an Army veteran and had been employed as a pipefitter. He was a member of the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union Local 225 and had been a former member of the Trierstone Missionary Baptist Church. He loved sports, watching Westerns, but most of all, he loved his family dearly.

He leaves to cherish his memory, two daughters, Tonya Fisher of Dayton and Tina (Frank) Harris of Youngstown; a stepdaughter, Kimberly Shivers of Youngstown; a son, Ano Fisher of Dayton; two brothers, Charles of Liberty and Claude Sr. (Sabrina) of Youngstown; two sisters, Kathryn Frances (Donald) Lee and Cozetta Oree, all of Youngstown; nine grandchildren; a nephew whom he helped rear, Claude Jr.; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a sister, Baby Fisher.

Friends may call one hour prior to the services from 9 to 10 a.m. at the funeral home.

04-22-10

Walter S. Soich, 55 and Elaine M. Pregi-Soich, 57

YOUNGSTOWN - A joint memorial service will be held Saturday, April 24, 2010, at 11 a.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church, West Front Street, in downtown Youngstown for Walter S. Soich, 55, who passed away suddenly on Nov. 25, 2009, and for Elaine M. Pregi-Soich, 57, who passed away on April 9, 2010, at Hospice House after an extended illness.

Walter was born Dec. 8, 1953, in Youngstown, the son of Walter M. Soich and Betty Davis Soich.

He worked at M-7 Technologies at the time of his death.

Walter enjoyed fishing and camping at Lake Erie and along with Elaine loved having their neighborhood Good Friday fish fry that they had every year.

Elaine was born Nov. 24, 1952, in Youngstown, the daughter of Dominic Pregi Jr. and Helen Fabian Pregi.

She was a homemaker and enjoyed cooking and spending time at their camp on Lake Erie.

Walter and Elaine leave behind to cherish their memories, Walter's daughters, Jennifer, Roxanne and Elizabeth, along with Walter's brother and sister-in-law, Jerry and Donna Soich, Elaine's brothers and sister-in-law, Dominic III and Thomas and Linda Pregi, along with many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

Walter was preceded in death by his parents, Walter M. and Betty Soich and a brother, David.

Elaine was preceded in death by her parents, Dominic Jr. and Helen Pregi.

The families would like to thank the staffs of St. Elizabeth Boardman Health Center, Caprice Nursing Home and the Hospice House for their excellent care and kindness at this time of need.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hospice of the Valley, 5190 Market St., Boardman, OH 44512.

04-22-10

The Vindicator
Setting The Pace
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John "Jack" E. Swan, 84

POLAND - John "Jack" E. Swan, 84, died Monday, April 19, 2010, at St. Elizabeth Health Center in Youngstown with his family at his side.

Mr. Swan was born May 15, 1925, in Youngstown, a son of Viola Siefert Swan.

Jack started working for Isaly Dairy then enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. He was a World War II veteran, where he fought in Guam and Iwo Jima.

Following his return home, he went back to work for Isaly Dairy as a truck driver for over 26 years. He also drove for Coastal Tank Line, retiring in 1984. He was a member of the NRA and enjoyed hunting, bowling and golfing. He also enjoyed spending time with his family and friends and making everyone laugh.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, the former Jessie Cassidy, whom he married June 19, 1948; three daughters, Judy (Bob) Palrud of Rancho, Wyo., JoAnn (Michael) Sedlacko of Struthers and Jena (Andy) Lawrence of Toledo; one son, Jim (Gina) Swan of Waukegan, Ill.; 11 grandchildren; one great-grandson; a sister, Lois Maxwell of Englewood, N.J.; and a brother, Bill Swan of Florida.

Besides his mother, he was preceded in death by three sons, John Jr., Jeffrey and Jerry Swan.

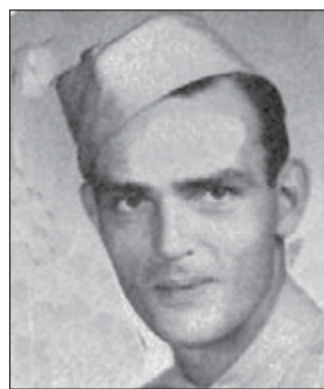
There will be no calling hours or services.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by the Cunningham-Becker Funeral Home in Poland.

Visit www.beckerobits.com to send condolences.

04-22-10

Robert E. Gaston, 94



GIRARD - Robert E. Gaston, 94, passed away Friday, April 16, 2010, at Campus Health Care.

Mr. Gaston was born Nov. 1, 1915, to the late Frank and Mae Nesbitt Gaston in Byesville.

He worked 32 years as a hand builder for Republic Rubber (Aeroquip) retiring in 1977.

He was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church and the American Legion. He served in the U.S. Airforce during World War II.

He is survived by his wife, the former Martha Thomas, whom he married Nov. 17, 1947; his children Marsha (Al Zavar) of Columbus and Phil Gaston of Beaver Falls; grandchildren, Elyse, Albert and Jason Zavar, three great-grandchildren; Brenna, Cole and Jared; nieces; JoAnn McHenry of Cambridge and Bertie Lou Stroud of Columbia, N.C.; his favorite cousin, Eileen Rose and her son, Bob.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Silence Pearl Hill and nephew, Larry Hill.

A memorial service will be held at noon on Saturday at the Trinity Lutheran Church.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Emmanuel Care Center.

Arrangements are being handled by the Blackstone Funeral Home.

Family and friends may visit www.blackstonesfh.com to view this obituary.

04-22-10

Anthony Flack III, 20

YOUNGSTOWN - A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. on Friday at the Evangel Baptist Church, 5248 Southern Blvd. in Boardman, with Pastor Greg O'Dell officiating, for Anthony Flack III, 20, who passed away at the Cleveland Clinic.

He was born April 25, 1989, in Youngstown, the son of Anthony Jr. and Margaret Flack.

Anthony liked to hangout with his friends and listen to music.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his mother, Margaret, with whom he made his home; four sisters, Sherry Flack of Florida, Tabitha Flack of Boardman, Brenda Hellman of Youngstown and Tonya Flack of Girard; and two brothers, Brandon Flack and William Bailey, both of Youngstown.

He was preceded in death by his father, Anthony Flack Jr.

The Flack family has entrusted the arrangements of their loved one to the Wasko Funeral Home in Campbell.

Family and friends may visit www.waskofamily.com to view this obituary.

04-22-10

"When simple words are just not enough"

The Vindicator Tributes

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Issue 1 would provide funds for high-tech jobs program

By **MARC KOVAC**
news@vindy.com

COLUMBUS Ohio voters will decide next month whether to allow the state to borrow \$700 million to continue



a much-praised high-tech jobs initiative. Issue 1 provides additional funding for the Third Frontier program, which was created about eight years ago to enable the state to invest public monies into biomedical, aerospace and other technology-intensive businesses.

The current 10-year, \$1.6-billion program is set to expire in about two years, and lawmakers decided to seek additional funding now to ensure funds are available in coming years.

Backers say Third Frontier already has created 48,000 jobs, generated nearly \$7 billion in economic activity and helped hundreds of

businesses to expand. In statements of support for the issue, a bipartisan panel of lawmakers, including Republican Rep. Ron Amstutz, from Wooster, and Republican Sen. Kirk Schuring, from Canton, wrote: "Independent evaluations of the Third Frontier confirm that the program works and has proven itself. Especially in these troubled times, we need proven, accountable jobs programs that produce results and produce the jobs that Ohioans need and want."

Issue 1 has wide support across the state, receiving more than 150 endorsements and backing from Gov. Ted Strickland and Statehouse Republicans and Democrats.

"Supporters of Issue 1 come from all parts of Ohio and represent every sector of our economy," Jo Ann Davidson, co-chairwoman of United for Jobs and Ohio's Future, said in a prepared statement released to the media. "The growing list of endorsements for Issue 1 shows that once people

understand how effective the Ohio Third Frontier has been at creating jobs, building new companies and expanding existing businesses, they want to ensure the program's benefits continue to grow and reach even more Ohioans."

Not all lawmakers are supporting the bond issue, however. Opponents say it will mean more state debt that the state can't afford.

And Rep. Lynn Wachtman, a Republican from Napoleon in northwestern Ohio, has called Issue 1 a boondoggle and corporate welfare.

"This [Third Frontier] money isn't free," he said during House deliberations earlier this year. "The last time I checked, the trees outside here had not started to grow money. This money comes from other business owners, other people who may choose to invest in companies on their own. ... We dry up money elsewhere by taking money away from one group of Ohioans and giving it to another."

Relocation of casino site on ballot

By **MARC KOVAC**
news@vindy.com

COLUMBUS Issue 2 on the May primary ballot would allow an already-approved casino in Columbus to relocate from a site near downtown to the west side.

And it appears to be the first time Ohio is placing a casino issue before voters without any organized, vocal opposition.

In November, voters approved a constitutional amendment allowing casinos in Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Toledo. The amendment stipulated the specific locations for each casino.

Columbus officials, who did not support the original ballot issue, began discussions with casino representatives after the amendment was approved by voters, hoping to relocate the site.

The two sides eventually agreed to an alternate location — a former General Motors/Delphi production facility west of downtown.

Bob Tenenbaum, spokesman for the casino operators, said plans still call for the Columbus site to be open for business in late 2012. Demolition work at

the proposed relocation site already has begun.

Though only affecting Columbus, voters statewide must again amend the constitution to allow the move to go forward.

Arguments in favor of Issue 2, written by several Columbus-area lawmakers, noted that the move would ensure "faster development, creating jobs and tax revenues as quickly as possible. Issue 2 is simply a change in the location of the casino authorized in Columbus by voters in November of 2009. It has no effect on the casinos authorized in Cleveland, Cincinnati and Toledo, or on any other aspect of gaming in Ohio."

Lawmakers agreed in January to place the new constitutional amendment before voters. The ballot issue passed by wide margins in both the Ohio House and Senate, though lawmakers from the Mahoning Valley were vocal in their opposition.

The latter wanted to



Hagan

amend the ballot language to include a potential casino site in Youngstown — a move that was not supported by a majority in either chamber.

Rep. Bob Hagan, a Democrat from Youngstown, said he is still bitter his fellow lawmakers didn't support the Youngstown amendment, which he believes could have brought needed economic development to his hometown.

"I think most people feel slighted in my district that we weren't considered, and we certainly led the charge in making sure that the [November] ballot issue did not pass in our area," he said.

Hagan isn't leading the charge against the May issue. But he isn't supporting it, either.

"I just don't see the people in my district running to the polls to allow an address change for the city of Columbus' gambling facility," he said, adding, "I'm not a big fan of [the issue]. The people of my district think that Youngstown has been left out by the likes of the lobbying efforts of Columbus, Cincinnati and Cleveland. We're kind of fed up with that."

More care required around lead paint

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Contractors across the country must take additional precautions when renovating houses where children could be exposed to lead dust from old paint, a safety measure that could add thousands of dollars to projects just as the remodeling industry tries to recover from the recession.

A federal rule that takes effect today forces contractors to use "lead-safe" practices when working on homes, day-care centers and schools built before 1978, the year lead paint was banned for residential use because of health risks. Many contractors complain that the government has not provided enough training to help them meet the deadline and want it extended.

"The country is not ready for this," said Donna Shirey, president of Shirey Contracting in Issaquah, Wash., and the chairwoman of a remodelers council



AP FILE PHOTO, FEB. 23, 2006

Contractors Luis Benitez, foreground, and Jose Diaz clean up lead paint at a contaminated building in Providence, R.I. As of today, contractors across the country will have to take additional precautions when renovating houses where children could be exposed to harmful lead dust from old paint, which could add thousands of dollars to renovation projects and cripple an industry already reeling from the recession.

for the National Association of Home Builders.

About 800 NAHB members were in Washington for the group's spring meeting and many were making an eleventh-hour attempt to lobby lawmakers for a delay for the rule.

The Environmental Protection Agency issued the lead-paint rule in 2008 be-

cause more than a million American children a year are at risk of being poisoned by lead-based paint in their homes, leading to learning disorders and behavioral problems, EPA spokesman Dale Kemery said. Two years was adequate time to prepare and the agency is sticking to its timetable, Kemery said.

Lawrence officials OK drug tests for new hires

Staff report

NEW CASTLE, PA.

New employees of Lawrence County government will have to undergo drug testing, and current employees soon may be subjected to random drug tests, Lawrence County Commissioner Steve Craig announced Tuesday.

He said that previous-

ly, only employees at the county jail had to go under drug tests before being hired as well as unannounced drug testing. However, he said that the county's labor attorney has recommended that the county start testing its new employees, which resulted in the new policy.

In addition, a proposed policy in the county's up-

coming employee handbook allows for random drug testing for county employees who are suspected of drug use. Craig said, however, that the handbook has not been finalized.

Lawrence County Human Resource Director Karen King said that the drug tests for prospective employees cost \$120.