

PLACE FOR HEAVENLY BURGERS

Stone Church serves up flavor VALLEY FOOD | C1

PLOW PAINTING

Students, ODOT team up LOCAL | A3

ON TO REGIONAL

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VOUCHERS.
SEE DETAILS, A2

VALLEY DEALS 365 .COM

White House denies, defends amid new bombshells

Comey notes say Trump asked him to end Flynn investigation

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump personally appealed to FBI Director James Comey to abandon the bureau's investigation into National Security Adviser Michael Flynn,



Trump, Comey, Flynn according to notes disclosed late Tuesday that Comey wrote after the meeting.

◆ **INSIDE:** The president's intelligence sharing risks damaging U.S. alliances. An analysis. **A2**

The White House issued a furious denial near the end of a tumultuous day spent beating back potentially disastrous news reports from dawn to dusk.

Comey's memo, an apparent effort to create a paper trail of his contacts with the White House, would be the clearest evi-

dence to date that the president has tried to influence the investigation.

Rep. Jason Chaffetz, Republican chairman of the House oversight committee, sent a letter to the FBI on Tuesday requesting that it turn over all documents and recordings that detail communications between Comey and Trump. He said he would give the FBI a week and then "if we need a sub-

See TRUMP, A8

WARREN

Teen girl's survival after going over dam called 'a miracle'

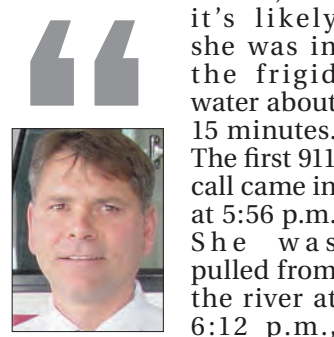
By ED RUNYAN runyan@vindy.com

WARREN

The Warren fire chief calls it a "miracle" that a teen who floated on the currents down the Mahoning River on Monday afternoon went over the lowhead dam at Summit Street and survived.

The girl, who had been on a fishing trip with Trumbull County Children Services, jumped into the river in Packard Park and was rescued just south of the dam in Perkins Park.

The distance she traveled was about a half mile, and it's likely she was in the frigid water about 15 minutes. The first 911 call came in at 5:56 p.m. She was pulled from the river at 6:12 p.m., according to the county 911 center.



"It's really a miracle she survived," Fire Chief Ken Nussle said. "She's the first person I'm aware of who has survived going over the lowhead dam." He added that he's aware of two or three others who did not survive such a trip in the past 20 years.

The girl was rescued by a bystander, Nussle said. A number of people learned of her getting caught up in the river current and watched for her in Perkins Park, Nussle said.

After she was safely on shore, she was wrapped in

See MIRACLE, A8

TV show to highlight Simon Roofing's innovations

ON TOP OF IT



ROBERT K. YOSAY | THE VINDICATOR

A production crew from the Fox Business TV show "Office Spaces" was in town Tuesday to film for an episode featuring Simon Roofing of Boardman. Anthony Vross, co-owner of the company, has his makeup touched up during the shoot.

By KALEA HALL khall@vindy.com

BOARDMAN

It was lights, camera, action at Simon Roofing on Tuesday.

A production crew from BrandStar filmed a segment for an upcoming episode for the TV show "Office Spaces" at Simon Roofing to show off the company's innovative products.

The episode will air at 5 p.m. June 25 on the Fox Business channel.

"They are an innovator in their field," said Jessica Graves-Bianco, creative producer for BrandStar.

For the third season of "Office Spaces," the production team is traveling across the country to talk with innovative companies that are developing technologies that will benefit the office world.

"It's about the products that

See SIMON, A8



Cameraman Brad Ryba and director Lauren Dauphinee film for a segment of "Office Spaces" at Simon Roofing in Boardman. The segment will air at 5 p.m. June 25 on Fox Business.

THEY ARE AN INNOVATOR IN THEIR FIELD... IT'S ABOUT THE PRODUCTS THAT ARE CHANGING AND REVOLUTIONIZING THE INDUSTRY."

JESSICA GRAVES-BIANCO, creative producer for BrandStar

GM LORDSTOWN

UAW locals: It's full speed ahead for Cruze in July

PLANNED SLOWDOWN POSTPONED

By KALEA HALL khall@vindy.com

LORDSTOWN

The speed of the assembly line at the General Motors Lordstown Assembly Complex will not be slowed this summer.

The union locals representing about 3,000 workers at the complex announced via Facebook on Tuesday they were able to indefinitely postpone the scheduled assembly-line slowdown in mid-July.

"Your leadership has been in Detroit meeting with the corporation discussing volume of the Chevy Cruze," the United Auto Workers Local 1112 announcement reads. "This will preserve jobs and allow us to pursue our GMS [Global Manufacturing System] journey uninterrupted."

UAW Local 1714 posted a similar note to its Facebook page.

"This postponement preserves jobs and is a result of ongoing joint efforts to improve the competitiveness of the Cruze in the marketplaces and volume opportunities for Lordstown," the Local 1714 post reads.

UAW Local 1112 President Glenn Johnson and UAW Local 1714 President Robert Morales did not comment on the announce-

See GM, A8

YOUNGSTOWN SCHOOLS

District, YEA lawyers mull best way to grant teachers pay raises

By GRAIG GRAZIOSI ggraziosi@vindy.com

YOUNGSTOWN

Lawyers for Krish Mohip, Youngstown schools CEO, and the teachers union will have to agree on what is the best way to grant teacher raises without violating labor laws.

Mohip on Tuesday responded to an unfair labor practice charge filed against him by the Youngstown Education Association.

The union's complaint accuses Mohip of engaging in public bargaining through the manipulation of local media and challenged Mohip's interpretation of when certain provisions of House Bill 70 become active.



Mohip

See SCHOOLS, A8

The Vindicator

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PLEASE RECYCLE



inside today

EARLY PRISON RELEASE

A 25-year-old North Jackson man sentenced last summer to four years in prison for unlawful sexual activity with a minor has been released from prison after serving 8½ months.

LOCAL, A3

'ROSEANNE' TO RETURN

"Roseanne," one of TV's rare working-class comedies, will return to ABC two decades after it wrapped its hit run and with star Roseanne Barr and the rest of the cast intact, the network said Tuesday in announcing its 2017-18 season plans.

VALLEY LIFE, C3

MAHONING VALLEY

Junior entrepreneurs show they're up to the challenge

By GRAIG GRAZIOSI ggraziosi@vindy.com

YOUNGSTOWN

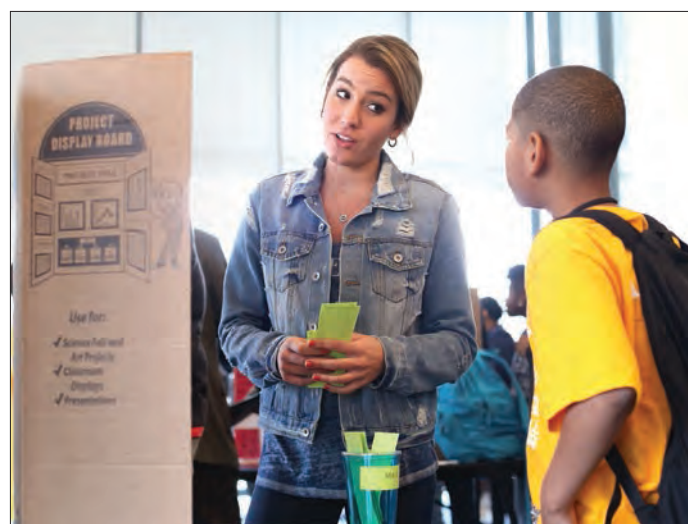
Young entrepreneurs were showered with thousands of dollars - fake dollars - by mock investors as part of the Junior Achievement of Mahoning Valley's Innovation Challenge event at Youngstown State University's Williamson College of Business Administration.

Teams of students from five city schools - East High,

Martin Luther King Elementary School, Volney Rogers Middle School, Williamson Elementary School and William Holmes McGuffey Elementary - spent Tuesday making business pitches to mock investors and participating in workshops led by local business leaders.

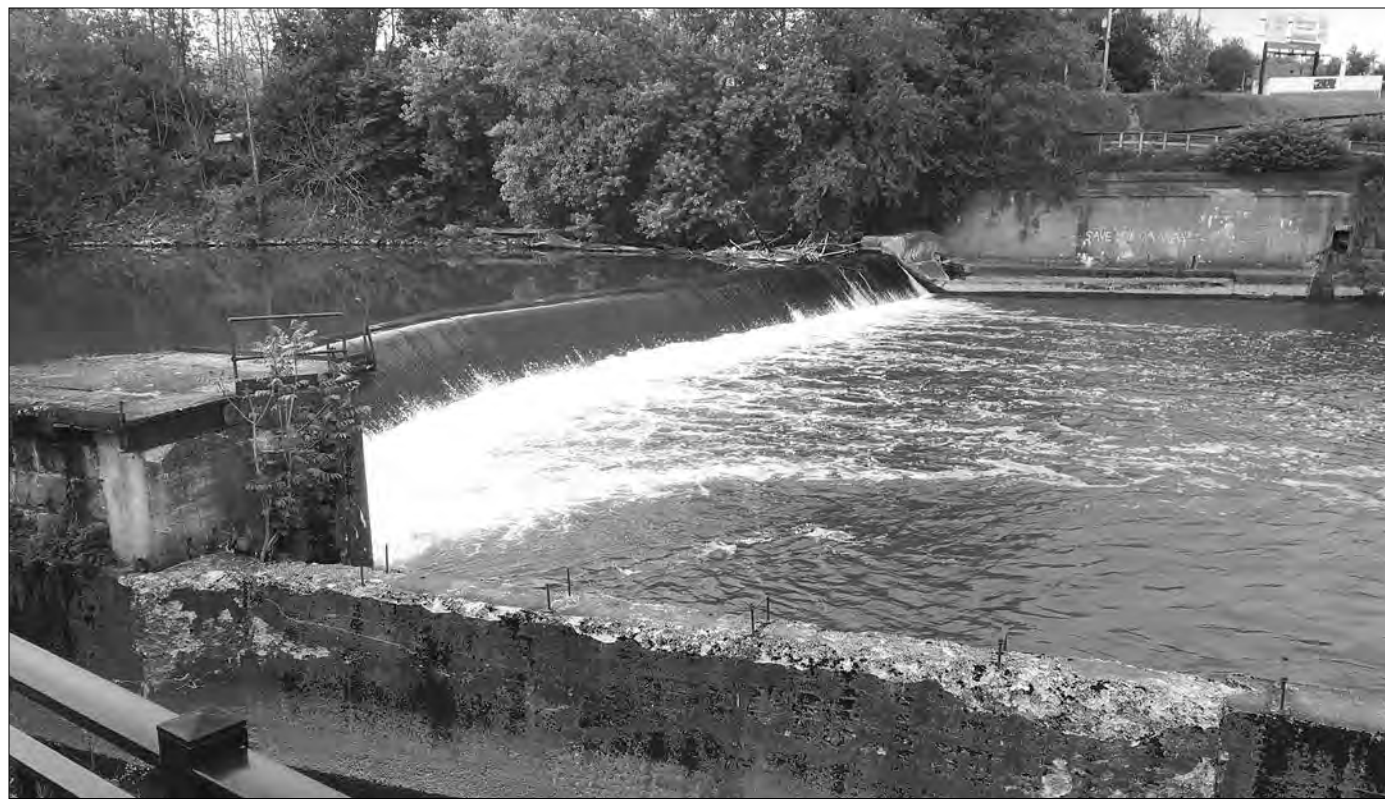
During part of the event, the students showed off their product ideas using poster

See JUNIORS, A8



NIKOS FRAZIER | THE VINDICATOR

Mock investor Kayla Motok, a senior at YSU, listens to Terry Robinson's business pitch at the Junior Achievement of Mahoning Valley's Innovation Challenge event Tuesday.



ED RUNYAN | THE VINDICATOR

This is the lowhead dam on the Mahoning River just north of Summit Street Northwest in Warren. A teen girl went over the dam after getting caught in the river about 6 p.m. Monday. Warren Fire Chief Ken Nussle said her surviving the tumble is a miracle because others have died. The girl was rescued a short time later from the river as she floated into the north end of Perkins Park.

MIRACLE

Continued from A1

a blanket and taken to a local hospital. Nussle said his firefighters reported that the girl was extremely cold. Firefighters responded to the dam first, then got to Perkins Park about the time the girl was rescued.

Tim Schaffner, Children Services executive director, said the girl is in her younger teens and is in residential treatment at its facility. She was with a small group of residents on a fishing trip and was being supervised by a "one-on-one" worker when she "impulsively jumped in the river."

Her one-on-one worker jumped in after her, Schaffner said. The worker apparently did not suffer any inju-

ries, he said.

The girl "laughed the whole time down the river and whooped it up the whole time," Schaffner said. She was checked out, and Schaffner said she was "medically cleared," but he said he doesn't know anything more specific about injuries.

"There are kids on our campus generally who have emotional and behavioral challenges due to their trauma histories," Schaffner said, not discussing the specific child involved in the incident because of privacy laws.

Such children stay in residential care at Children Services, typically for a shorter time period than would be likely if they went to a facility in Cleveland, Columbus or Toledo, Schaffner said.

Agency personnel take such children into the community for activities such as fishing or movies or any of the things other children do, Schaffner said.

"This is horrifying to me because we're so lucky to have everyone alive and safe," Schaffner said. "I'm sure the hand of God was at work here keeping her safe."

"And our staff did everything right. They called the police and emergency. One on foot chased her down river. One in the water swam after her until the falls, when he got out and went around. She was happy as a clam and probably the only person not traumatized by the event," he said.

"It was an impulsive act by a kid that could have been life-threatening, but it end-

ed up well due to the good work of the adults involved," he said.

The girl is also a "good swimmer," he added, but she did not perceive the danger she was in.

Another bystander near the dam took off his shirt and shoes and attempted to rescue the girl after she went over the dam, but he could not locate her. He got out of the water after a short time because the water was so cold, Nussle said.

One of the dangers of the dam is that the water swirls on the downstream side after passing over the dam and can trap a person, Nussle said.

At the point the girl was rescued, she was in slower moving and shallower water, Nussle said.

GM

Continued from A1

ment, deciding to wait until after they speak directly to their members in meetings next week.

GM does not comment on production, but a spokesman said the plant "continues to build to market demand."

GM announced in April the Lordstown plant would slow down the line to reduce the supply of the Cruze, a compact car. The slowdown was to occur after a four-week scheduled shutdown during the last two weeks of June and first two weeks of July.

Several hundred layoffs were anticipated to occur with the slowdown, a GM spokesman said.

The lower demand for

compact cars led GM to the original decision to once again adjust production.

In January, GM announced it would cut the third shift at the plant. The cut cost more than 600 jobs on the assembly side and about 235 on the fabrication side of the complex. Initially, 1,202 hourly positions were to be affected by the loss of the third shift.

GM brought a third shift to Lordstown in 2010 for production of the first-generation Cruze.

In 2016, Lordstown launched production of the second-generation Cruze.

The Facebook announcements led to questions.

"Your leadership asks for your patience in understanding as we work through the details," the Local 1112 announcement reads.

SCHOOLS

Continued from A1

HB 70 gives the CEO broad powers to run the school district to make sure it rises to state academic standards.

Mohip and YEA President Larry Ellis have been engaging in a back-and-forth over Mohip's intent to give district teachers a 5 percent raise on top of the 2 percent raise promised in their current contract.

Ellis and his legal counsel believe Mohip — who says he needs to reopen the contract negotiations to give the teachers a raise — is using the raise as a sort of "Trojan Horse" tactic for accelerating the implementation of provisions in HB 70.

"HB 70 gives me authority and decision-making power that is not typical for a district leader," he wrote in an op-ed piece for *The Vindicator* in April.

Mohip went on to say he has chosen not to use that power and would prefer to work with the teachers.

Atty. Ira Mirkin, a member of the YEA's legal counsel through the law firm of Green, Haines and Sgambati, said allowing Mohip to reopen the collective bargaining would put all future collective-bargaining rights in Mohip's control.

The union argues the provisions in HB 70 that would grant Mohip power over collective bargaining won't go into effect until 2018-19, when the current contract expires.

Mohip and his legal counsel disagree with that interpretation, however, arguing that HB 70 went into effect in October 2015, and that Mohip currently has the power to reopen negotiations with the union.

Before filing the labor complaint, the YEA suggested if Mohip wanted to take unilateral action to give the teachers a raise, the union would not file a labor complaint against him for doing so.

"The union won't challenge him if he takes unilateral action," Mirkin said.

Mohip said, however, he was unwilling to "cut a side deal" with the unions, alleging past side deals made before his tenure have been detrimental to the district.

Besides, he added, salaries and benefits are considered mandatory subjects of bargaining under the law, meaning any action to amend those issues must be done through negotiation.

"[Ellis] is essentially asking me to bend the rules and create a side deal. It's

making side deals that has crippled this district over the period of time when we've done that, and we've made some bad decisions along the way. We're not doing that anymore," Mohip said. "When it comes down to bargaining, there are mandatory subjects of bargaining; wages and benefits are one of them. I am not comfortable going ahead and unilaterally making a decision on the subject of bargaining. I won't operate that way."

The YEA's labor complaint also alleges Mohip engaged in public bargaining, using the press to create public pressure on the union to bend to Mohip's wishes.

"Mr. Mohip published an op-ed in the *Vindy*, and Larry [Ellis] had no choice but to respond to it. When that happens, it's legal and appropriate for the other side in a labor dispute to respond publicly once that door is open. He had no choice but to respond," Mirkin said.

Mohip argues, however, the public airing of grievances began with the union, not him.

He claims to have written the op-ed in response to a quote made by YEA vice president Paula Valentini in a Jan. 19 *Vindicator* article concerning Mohip's leadership team's salaries.

The quote in question reads: "Whether this team will warrant the high salaries that they are being paid remains to be seen. With that being said, it is the responsibility of this district's teachers to implement the academic initiatives to benefit our children, yet we are one of the lowest-paid group of educators in the county," she said. "It's important to remember that this will make it difficult to attract new teachers to our district in the future."

Mohip maintains this quote prompted his April op-ed piece.

He also said it was Ellis who first went public in the recent debate, saying Ellis' news release was the opening shot in the public debate. A May 4 letter from Mohip to Ellis was made public as well, but Mohip said the letter became public as a result of a third-party FOIA request, not an intentional leak to the press.

Despite the communication breakdown over the last several days, Mohip and Ellis have expressed a desire to solve their issues at the bargaining table rather than in a courtroom, though currently no official plan of action has been announced by Mohip.

SIMON

Continued from A1

are changing and revolutionizing the industry," Graves-Bianco said.

"Office Spaces" filmed inside the lab at the Simon Roofing headquarters on Karago Avenue in Boardman, on the rooftop at the headquarters and at the Simon production plant in Struthers.

Simon Roofing was started in 1900 by Alex Simon, and now the third generation runs the company: Anthony Vross, Alex Simon and James Simon Jr.

The three have taken the company on a path to innovation through manufacturing roofing products for its roof repair, restoration and replacement services. The company employs more than 500 and has 66 service centers and 15 branches throughout the U.S. to provide for customers.

"Office Spaces" liked our story about owning our entire supply chain," said Sue Stricklin, senior vice president for marketing at Simon



ROBERT K. YOSAY | THE VINDICATOR

Jess Abdallah with Simon Roofing prepares for filming for a segment in "Office Spaces."

Roofing.

One of the products filmed for "Office Spaces" was the CLP membrane, a roof-replacement option that is designed "to reduce or eliminate the most common failure points found in competing single-ply systems," ac-

cording to Simon's website. "It's one of the strongest plys in the industry," Vross said.

For the roof scene, "Office Spaces" filmed the restoration process taking place with one of the Simon Roofing solutions called the poly-

write brite system. "It actually creates another membrane off of the membrane," Vross said.

The owners of Simon were excited to tell the story of the locally grown company for the nation to see.

"I'm honored," Vross said.

JUNIORS

Continued from A1

boards in setting similar to a trade show, with mock investors wandering the floor, talking to the students and doling out fake investment money to the products they found most impressive.

The challenge was the culmination of a 12-week after-school course undertaken by the students that focused on entrepreneurship. The course dealt with idea development, marketing, advertising and building a client

base, among other topics.

With the coursework behind them, the students were challenged to come up with product or service ideas, which they then pitched to mock investors — portrayed by a group of business leaders from around the Mahoning Valley who were volunteering their time — in an effort to win prizes for the best product ideas.

The ideas developed by students ranged from cars specially made for individuals with disabilities to art studios and cellphone cases.

One team of students — Melvin Torres, 12, Juanito Fornore, 11, and Alex Green, 11, all from MLK Elementary — developed an idea for a video game called "Johnny Blaze" about a hero with a watch that lets him travel back in time.

Marissa Devantier, program coordinator for Junior Achievement of the Mahoning Valley, said more than 60 students were at the event and praised the community's support of the program.

"For some of these students, this is the first time

learning about business," Devantier said. "It's exciting for them to have conversations with adults from the business world."

The mock investors included Julie Smith and Jim Cossler from the Youngstown Business Incubator; Elijah Stambaugh, a member of the board of Junior Achievement and owner of Illuminate Education based out of the YBI; Ryan Pastore of PNC Bank; and Chaney Nezbeth of the YSU Foundation, among others. In all, 20 mock investors participated.

TRUMP

Continued from A1

poena we'll do it."

The panel's top Democrat, Elijah Cummings of Maryland, a constant Trump critic, called the allegation of Trump pressure on Comey "explosive" and said "it appears like a textbook case of criminal obstruction of justice."

Mitch McConnell, the Republican leader of the Senate, said simply: "It would be helpful to have less drama emanating from the White House."

The bombshell Comey news came as the beleaguered administration was still struggling mightily to explain Monday's revelation that the president had disclosed highly classified information to

the Russian foreign minister and the country's ambassador to the United States.

Defending Trump's actions, officials played down the importance and secrecy of the information, which had been supplied by Israel under an intelligence-sharing agreement, and Trump himself said he had "an absolute right" as president to share "facts pertaining to terrorism" and airline safety with Russia. Yet U.S. allies and some members of Congress expressed concern bordering on alarm.

As for Comey, whom Trump fired last week, the FBI director wrote in a memo after a February meeting at the White House that the new president had asked him to shut down the FBI's investigation of Flynn and his Russian contacts, said

a person who had read the memo. The Flynn investigation was part of a broader probe into Russian interference in last year's presidential election.

The person who described the Comey memo to the AP was not authorized to discuss it by name and spoke on condition of anonymity. The existence of the memo was first reported Tuesday by *The New York Times*.

The White House vigorously denied it all. "While the president has repeatedly expressed his view that General Flynn is a decent man who served and protected our country, the president has never asked Mr. Comey or anyone else to end any investigation, including any investigation involving General Flynn," a White House statement said.

Trump fired Flynn on Feb. 13, on

grounds that he had misled Vice President Mike Pence and other officials about his contacts with Russians.

The intensifying drama comes as Trump is set to embark Friday on his first foreign trip, which had been optimistically viewed by some aides as an opportunity to reset an administration floundering under an inexperienced president.

When Trump fired Comey, he said he did so based on Comey's very public handling of the Hillary Clinton email probe and how it affected his leadership of the FBI. But the White House has provided differing accounts of the firing. And lawmakers have alleged that the sudden ouster was an attempt to stifle the bureau's investigation into Trump associates' ties to Rus-

sia's meddling in the campaign.

Mark Warner of Virginia, top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, said he would ask Comey for additional material as part of that panel's investigation. "Memos, transcripts, tapes — the list keeps getting longer," he said.

According to the *Times*, Comey wrote in the February memo that Trump told him Flynn had done nothing wrong. Comey said he replied that "I agree he is a good guy" but said nothing to Trump about limiting the investigation.

The newspaper said Comey was in the Oval Office that day with other national security officials for a terrorism threat briefing. When that ended, Trump asked everyone to leave except Comey, and he eventually turned the conversation to Flynn.