

**ERIE COUNTY TECHNICAL SCHOOL
AGENDA ITEM**

DATE: March 15, 2012

SUBJECT: Erie Regional Chamber & United Way—Chamber Challenge

CATEGORY: Operations

INITIATED BY: Aldo Jackson

DESCRIPTION:

The Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership collaborated with the United Way of Erie County to create a *Chamber Challenge* to raise \$10,000 from Chamber members to help the United Way fight poverty in Erie County. ECTS, as a Chamber and Growth Partnership member, received an invitation to contribute \$100 to the campaign. The director is passing along the invitation to the operating committee for its consideration of this invitation.

The JOC gives an annual contribution to the Perry Highway Fire company.

MOTION:

Motion to approve a \$100 contribution to the United Way of Erie County as part of the *Chamber Challenge*.

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Jury selection continues in double homicide

MEADVILLE -- Seven jurors had been selected for a double-homicide trial in Meadville as of midafternoon Wednesday, Crawford County Court staff said.

Jury selection began Monday in the trial of Linesville garage owner Gary C. Wiley. Wiley, 39, of Linesville, is accused of killing Tod Prenatt, 51, and his wife, Laurie Prenatt, 44, in their home on Wheeler Road in Conneaut Township on April 10, 2010.

Crawford County Judge Anthony Vardaro, District Attorney Francis Schultz and defense lawyer J. Wesley Rowden will continue juror interviews today.

Prospective jurors are being asked if they have formed an opinion of Wiley's guilt or innocence from news reports. Other questions focus on their willingness to impose the death penalty, or alternately a life sentence, if Wiley is convicted of one or both killings.

Twelve jurors and up to four alternates will be chosen to hear the case.

Suspect in Erie robbery apprehended in Florida

An Erie man wanted by city police on charges of robbing and assaulting a man downtown in November was apprehended in Florida on Wednesday.

John R. Bellotti, 28, was taken into custody by U.S. marshals in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and was placed in jail to await extradition to Erie, police said.

Bellotti is wanted on robbery, assault and other charges in a Nov. 24 incident in which police accused him of taking part in the beating and robbery of a man at Fourth and State streets. A wallet, cash, credit cards, an iPhone and a gold ring were stolen from the victim, police said.

Police said Bellotti later sold the stolen iPhone to a woman who helped investigators identify him as a suspect in the incident.

Bellotti is also wanted by the Erie County Sheriff's Office on a simple assault charge.

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Businesses give \$20,300 in funds to fight poverty

The United Way of Erie County today will announce that local small businesses have given more than \$20,300 to the agency's 2012 Chamber Challenge.

This collaboration with the Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership sought to raise \$10,000 by encouraging 100 companies to give at least \$100 to the United Way to accomplish its goal to reduce poverty in Erie County.

The nonprofit and the chamber will hold a news conference today at 10:30 a.m. at the United Way's offices, 420 W. Sixth St.

United Way also will announce that the annual 2012 fundraising campaign is currently tracking 6 percent above the pace of the 2011 drive.

A final fundraising total will be announced at the agency's annual meeting on May 17.

Construction work to close one lane of Holland Street

A portion of Holland Street will be reduced to one lane for construction work today.

The southbound lane of Holland Street will be closed between East Eighth and East Ninth streets, city officials said. They did not say how long it will be closed.

-- from staff reports

- » Erie-area students at Behrend jobs fair
- » Erie County residents
- » Erie police approach



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