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HOW IT'S MADE

Creating lasting memorials at Chillicothe Monument



Industrial lifts are used to move the monuments between the cemeteries and the shop. Granite headstones can weigh over a ton. MEGAN BECKER/ CHILLICOTHE GAZETTE

About the Series

How It's Made is a series highlighting unique products and services in Chillicothe and Ross County. If you have a suggestion for a future business to feature, email Megan at mbecker@gannett.com.

Megan Becker Chillicothe Gazette | USA TODAY NETWORK

An insurance agent, a general contractor and a funeral director walk into a church and walk out with a business they knew little about. Seven years later, Chillicothe Monument is still growing and thriving in Ross County.

See MONUMENT, Page 2A

"I love working with the families . . . sometimes it's difficult, but it's rewarding."

Elizabeth Mason

Pickaway sheriff donates cruiser

Career & Technology Center students learn law enforcement

Shelby Reeves
Chillicothe Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

CHILLICOTHE — Students in the Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center law and public safety program were filled with excitement Monday as their new cruiser made its way to the school.

The vehicle was donated by the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office.

Students will use the cruiser to get a better understanding of what it is like being out in the field as a law enforcement officer. Instructor Rex Cockrell said the students will get great use out of the cruiser as they use it in practice stops and car inspections.

"Everything we teach here helps our students become future law enforcement officers," said Cockrell.

They will also be in charge of completing daily cruiser checks, just like an active officer. These checks include making sure all parts of the vehicle work and all needed equipment is inside. At the end of the day students will have to make sure the car is clean and presentable for the next officer.

Pickaway County Sheriff Mathew Hafey said he is happy to help provide learning opportunities for students. The cruiser, which needed a little work done on it, will help the automotive program and the law and public safety program learn more about their respective fields.

Hafey also took time to talk to students about what life is like on the job. Many of the students already know what they want their future job to be,

See CRUISER, Page 3A

Ross County Christian Academy provides on-site counseling for students

Megan Becker
Chillicothe Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

CHILLICOTHE — Ross County Christian Academy (RCCA) has partnered with Mares Cares Counseling to provide on-site counseling for students every day of the week.

Head of schools Valerie Jones said

when she came to the school in January, she spoke with teachers and students about how she could improve the school. She said one high-need area was mental health.

"These kids have been through a lot with COVID, the lockdown... all the interruptions to schools, everything you can think of. They've been through a lot," Jones said. "I started looking at

what can we do, because obviously we are not trained mental health professionals, we are educators."

Jones reached out to Trish and Alvin Mares with Mares Cares Counseling, who were more than happy to partner with the school. Rev. Jessica Warth and Jessie Wallingford began working on-campus at RCCA this school year.

"The students there are very loving

and very hungry to be built up and to have someone to talk to," Warth said. "The parents have been very receptive as well and open and excited to have us there."

Jones said Mares Cares and RCCA's missions are "very aligned" and the counselors are a natural fit with the school.

See RCCA, Page 6A

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QAnon posts connected to suspect in Pelosi attack

Michael Biesecker and Bernard Condon
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The man accused of breaking into House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's California home and severely beating her husband with a hammer appears to have made racist and often rambling posts online, including some that questioned the results of the 2020 election, defamed former President Donald Trump and echoed QAnon conspiracy theories.

David DePape, 42, grew up in Powell River, British Columbia, before leaving about 20 years ago to follow a girlfriend to San Francisco.

DePape was arrested at the Pelosi home early Friday. San Francisco District Attorney Brooke Jenkins said she expected to file multiple felony charges, including attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon, burglary and elder abuse.

Stepfather Gene DePape said the suspect had lived with him in Canada until he was 14 and had been a quiet boy.

"David was never violent that I seen and was never in any trouble although he was very reclusive and played too much video games," Gene DePape said.

He said he hasn't seen his stepson since 2003 and tried to get in touch with him several times over the years without success.

"In 2007, I tried to get in touch but his girlfriend hung up on me when I asked to talk to him," Gene DePape said.

David DePape was known in Berkeley as a pro-nudity activist who had picketed naked at protests against local ordinances requiring people to be clothed in public.

Gene DePape said the girlfriend whom his son followed to California was named Gypsy and they had two children together.

Photographs published by The San Francisco Chronicle on Friday identified DePape frolicking nude outside

city hall with dozens of others at the 2013 wedding of pro-nudity activist Gypsy Taub, who was marrying another man. Taub did not respond Friday to calls or emails.

A 2013 article in The Chronicle described David DePape as a "hemp jewelry maker" who lived in a Victorian flat in Berkeley with Taub, who hosted a talk show on local public-access TV called "Uncensored 9/11," in which she appeared naked and pushed conspiracy theories that the 2001 terrorist attacks were "an inside job."

A pair of web blogs posted in recent months online under the name David DePape contained rants about technology, aliens, communists, religious minorities and global elites.

An Aug. 24 entry titled "Q," displayed a scatological collection of memes that included photos of the deceased sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and made reference to QAnon, the baseless pro-Trump conspiracy theory that espouses the belief that the country is run by a deep state cabal of child sex traffickers, satanic pedophiles and baby-eating cannibals.

In an Aug. 25 entry titled "Gun Rights," the poster wrote: "You no longer have rights. Your basic human rights hinder Big Brothers ability to enslave and control you in a complete and totalizing way."

The web hosting service WordPress removed one of the sites Friday afternoon for violating its terms of service.

On a different site, someone posting under DePape's name repeated false claims about COVID-19 vaccines and wearing masks, questioned whether climate change is real and displayed an illustration of a zombified Hillary Clinton dining on human flesh.

There appeared to be no direct posts about Pelosi, but there were entries defending Trump and Ye, the rapper formally known as Kanye West, who recently made antisemitic comments.

In a Sept. 27 post, the writer said any journalists who denied Trump's false claims of widespread voter fraud in the 2020 presidential election "should be dragged straight out into the street and shot."



Ross County Christian Academy has partnered with Mares Cares Counseling to provide on-site counseling for students every day of the week. PROVIDED BY VALERIE JONES

RCCA

Continued from Page 1A

The counselors are available to the students and the teachers for full sessions or for quick chats. Right now the counselors are both seeing about a dozen students per week, but they are still receiving referrals from educators and parents.

Jones said meeting with counselors on campus is beneficial for both students and teachers because minimal

instruction time is lost.

Jones said since Mares Cares has come to RCCA, there have been better days and weeks for the students.

"That helps everybody. That helps the classroom, that helps the student, that helps the teacher, that helps the parents. So we've seen the benefits of it already."

Megan Becker is a reporter for the Chillicothe Gazette. Contact her at 740-349-1106, email her at mbecker@gannett.com or follow her on Twitter @BeckerReporting

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