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New Albany High School Mandarin teacher Yan Omen (left) said junior Tommy Pollack should have no problems communicating when he studies in China this summer.
SARAH SOLE/THISWEEK

New Albany High School

Language studies lead junior to China

By SARAH SOLE
THISWEEKNEWS.COM

New Albany High School junior Tommy Pollack said he began studying Mandarin Chinese in the fifth grade after his grandma jokingly agreed to take him to China if he learned the language.

Pollack still hasn't made the trip with his grandmother, but his pursuit of Mandarin has earned him a National Security Language Initiative for Youth scholarship to study the language in China for the summer.

Video online

Go to ThisWeekNEWS.com/NewAlbany to watch Tommy Pollack describe his summer plans while speaking Mandarin Chinese.

He is one of 600 students in the program traveling overseas to study languages that include Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Persian, Russian and Turkish.

The scholarship program stood out because it intertwined the U.S. Department of State with diplomacy, Pollack said.

"I've always been super interested in politics," he said.

Pollack said he will stay with a host family in Suzhou, a city in the Jiangsu province.

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Pizzuti plan could produce 175 jobs

By SARAH SOLE
THISWEEKNEWS.COM

Construction of a multitenant facility in the New Albany International Business Park's Personal Care and Beauty Campus will begin in a few weeks, according to Jim Miller, executive vice president of the Pizzuti Cos.

Once site work begins, building construction will start in mid-July, Miller said, and company officials hope to be finished by November or early December.

"We are talking to a number of interested parties, and we have a long list of prospects for the building," Miller said.

New Albany City Council on May 3 approved a resolution authorizing City Manager Joseph Stefanov to sign agreements with Pizzuti related to an incentives agreement for the development.

That incentives package originally was approved Feb. 2, according to Jennifer Chrysler, the city's community-development director.

Since that time, the developer moved the project site from the west side of Beech Road to the east side of Beech. A retention pond on a portion of the new site made it unusable for the development, Chrysler said, but now that the pond is being reconfigured, the area is available.

The city will offer a 100 percent real property-tax abatement for 10 or 15 years, depending on the structure's "green" building-program eligibility, according to the legislative report for the incentives resolution approved in February. The project has a capital investment of more than $11.8 million.

The city's estimated value of the approved incentive package is $2.6 million, but that estimate is

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Stuntman, artist added to Founders Day entertainment roster

By SARAH SOLE
THISWEEKNEWS.COM

Daring stunts and feats of artistry will be on display in the form of two new sideshows at this year's New Albany Founders Day.

The festivities will begin with an 11 a.m. parade and will be followed by a full slate of activities from noon to 5 p.m. May 21 at the New Albany elementary parking lot at 87 N. High St. For more information, visit newalbanyfoundersday.com.

Stacy Adkins, a Founders Day festival committee member, said the addition of the sideshow entertainment was the result of searching online for different acts.

"We just thought it was a way to kind of get everyone involved (and bring something new to the festival)," she said.

The first entertainer, a spray painter, will produce landscapes and other picturesque images in minutes, Adkins said, and he will give away his paintings to those around him.

"Hopefully that will be a crowd-pleaser," she said.

The other entertainer will perform stunts, such as walking on glass and escaping a straitjacket, Adkins said.

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Founders Day

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He also will perform magic tricks.

The celebration will feature local vendors, food and rides and inflatables for children, she said. Although admission is free, the carnival rides will require tickets.

The theme for Founders Day is Paws on Parade, which will be reflected in the design of the parade floats, Adkins said. The planning committee also reached out to local animal shelters and nonprofit organizations.

Each year, a community nonprofit organization is recognized during Founders Day, she said.

This year's award will go to the new Rocky Fork Metro Park in northern Plain Township. The park opened last August.

The parade grand marshal will be former mayor Nancy Ferguson, Adkins said.

The parade will begin at the Church of the Resurrection, 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Road, loop around to Market Street, travel past Eagles Pizza and finish at the 2-5 elementary building, she said.

Ferguson said she is honored to lead a community tradition since the 1970s.

Nancy Ferguson

"I feel like the community and the residents are really good friends, and we've been through a lot of challenges together," she said.

Ferguson served as mayor from 2004 to 2015 and on the village council from 1998 to 2003. She did not run for re-election last November.

Ferguson said she and other city leaders accomplished many things together during her tenure as mayor, but the most significant might be making good on a campaign promise to build the local tax base.

Because of New Albany's increased income-tax revenue created by economic-development efforts, city leaders can do more for residents and help support the New Albany-Plain Local School District, she said.

"Ten years later, I think that has been one of the most successful things that we've done," Ferguson said.

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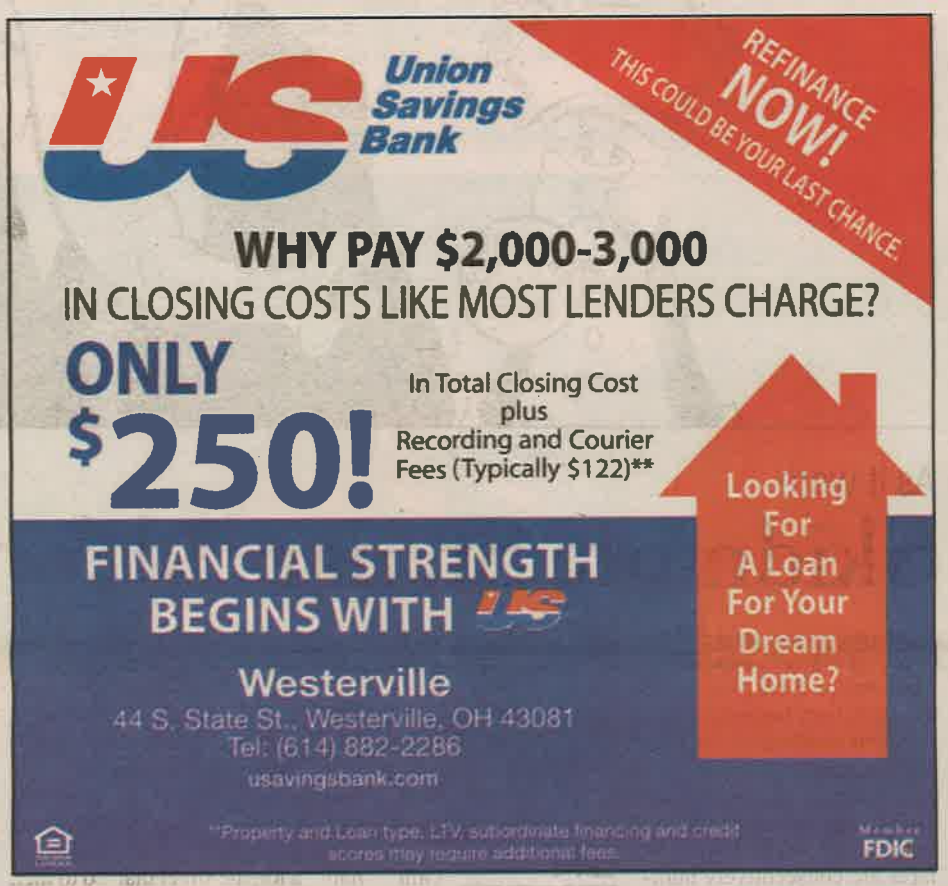
If you go

The New Albany Founders Day celebration will include a parade at 11 a.m. and an afternoon of festivities from noon to 5 p.m. May 21 at the New Albany elementary parking lot at 87 N. High St. Admission is free.

College notes

- Mackenzie Ferguson of New Albany has been commissioned into the U.S. Army. The class of 2016 graduate was a criminal-justice major at the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina.
- Elizabeth Wisma of New Albany recently participated in the University of Findlay's 2016 Symposium for Scholarship and Creativity. Undergraduate and graduate students were given the opportunity to share their research, creativity and professional learning experiences with the university and community.



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