



**Buckeye North Elementary’s auditorium will get an updated look after its current seats are replaced with plastic chairs acquired at auction from the former Follansbee Middle School. More than 200 chairs will be installed this summer while paint work is also set.**

## *Auditorium Upgrades Set at North*

Buckeye North Elementary School’s auditorium project is moving closer to reality as newer seating was delivered to the site for future installation.

Principal Susan Nolan said volunteers collected hundreds of blue seats from the former Follansbee Middle School after she placed the winning bid for the furniture. The chairs will replace seating which has been part of the building since it opened in the 1950s. One noticeable change is the newer seats are wider, meaning there will be fewer spots to sit.

“I had several dads with trucks and trailers and they transported everything over here,” she said, noting that the men volunteers with the school’s WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) group. School maintenance workers and other volunteers were also lending a hand.

Nolan said she contacted the company which installed the 290 chairs at Follansbee to potential-

ly purchase 200 more and business officials offered to install all of the seats at North. She was seeking a price quote for the newer purchase and installation, as well as a grant through the Charles M. and Thelma M. Pugliese Foundation to aid the project. Nolan also planned to use proceeds from the sale of the original seats at North to help defray expenses.

Meanwhile, even more updates could occur with new walls bearing pictures of the school mascot.

“I wanted to ask our painters’ union to donate their time to paint the walls in the auditorium and have the high school art class paint panthers on the walls,” she commented, saying all of the work could be done this summer.

“It could possibly be done in June because we use the auditorium throughout the year and the [grant application period] closes May 31. We would find out after that if we’ve gotten any funding.”

## **Car and Craft Show Benefit in May**

Craft vendors and classic car aficionados are being sought for the third annual South Elementary Playground Committee Car and Craft Show in May.

Events get under way on May 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the school located at 100 Walden Ave. in Tiltonsville with a raindate on May 18. Cars, crafters, food and fun are on the agenda and benefit the school’s playground committee. Joe Malechowski, PTO president and event organizer, said attendees can expect a lot of the popular offerings from years past but the committee is also looking at other ways to make it more enjoyable.

The show has drawn 80-90 car and bike entries as well as 20-30 vendors who sell everything from crafts to cosmetics. Dash plaques will be given for the first 100 vehicle entries, in addition to 30 trophies with the top three by year range and a Best of Show custom trophy. Registration for the car show is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at a cost of \$8 and no preregistration is necessary. Judging starts at 1 p.m. with trophies being distributed at 3 p.m. For more information, contact Malechowski at (740) 275-6406. Meanwhile, vendors must preregister for a \$30 fee with \$10 for an additional space. Space will be held and confirmed when the payment is made while setup is from 9-10 a.m. and the sales run until 4 p.m. It is open to crafters,

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## **West Conducting Academic Challenges**

Buckeye West Elementary is looking to boost excitement about education with a series of academic challenges.

Principal Lucas Parsons said it was important to educate the whole student by using events to get them excited about learning. The activities aim to build their academic prowess and competitive spirit while teaching leadership, teamwork, pride and unity. For that reason, West has adopted the theme “We’re On the Same Team” for the entire school year.

Parsons said information and bookmarks were previously distributed to kick off a yearlong reading challenge. Classes are competing against each other to determine who could read the most books and the 262 students are tracked in a football format.

“Students will work together to score touchdowns—for every 10 books a class reads, they will gain 10 yards,” Parsons explained. “The class with the most touchdowns at 3:50 p.m. on May 1 will win an epic celebration party.”

He added that reading was the first focus and he wanted to spotlight its importance. Students read at home and school and kids complete “Tell Me” papers explaining what they’ve read. Meanwhile, a reading-based challenge wound down in February with the inaugural Grammar Bowl. Reading and science teacher Marge Scherich said she incorporated both subjects into the concept for all grades to enjoy.

“I wanted the challenge to be fun and hands-on, and there were so many ideas to choose from. The activity had to be differentiated

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# Buckeye Local, Red Cross Collaborate on Spring Blood Drive

School and community members rolled up their sleeves at Buckeye Local High School during the biannual blood drive on March 19.

About 33 units were collected to help save lives during the event, which was sponsored by the student council in conjunction with the American Red Cross. Student council members manned stations from registration to the canteen while Red Cross officials oversaw the blood collection and organizers said contributions were steady throughout the day.

Advisor Jaide Brown said the school organization raised 35 units this past fall and a similar goal was set for the spring event. Although about 47 people were registered, about 39 donors were processed with 33 total units collected. Brown said another seven donors were unable to be processed due to time constraints, but she was pleased to see people involved because it helped so many others.

“It was moving pretty steadily. Ultimately, we ended up with 47 people signed up and we’ve had some people call and say they wanted to come in. The Red Cross gave us a total of 33 units as a goal this fall and we made 35 units, so we at least wanted to match our goal.”

She said to reach the campaign goal, the Red Cross provided the student council with 45 appointments. About 42 BLHS students, staff and community members signed up but the student council always tries to fill more spots in case someone is unavailable to donate the day of the drive. The student council has sponsored blood drives for more than two decades and attempts to conduct two each year. It also benefits the organization since the Red Cross provides scholarship money to graduating members.

“[The amount] depends on the units collected, but we’ll have at least one scholarship guaranteed and this blood drive could make it a higher amount.”

Brown continued that the campaign makes a



**Buckeye Local High School junior Emily Berry, pictured here getting assistance from American Red Cross official Lisa Blackwell, was among the donors participating during the biannual blood drive conducted by the student council on March 19. About 47 people were registered and the Red Cross oversaw the collection process. In addition to saving lives, student council members could also earn Red Cross scholarships to further their education.**

significant difference and the blood donated during the previous campaign has been used at the Wheeling Clinic, Marietta Memorial Hospital, Uniontown Hospital and Charleston Area Medical Center. Meanwhile, the school has collected 1,170 units of blood with 1,384 total donors over the course of 24 blood drives. She noted that Buckeye Local has also hosted 688 first-time blood donors, and at this time several registered contributors made milestone donations, including a senior who will achieve a half-gallon of blood contributed.

One of the major donors was high school business and marketing teacher Roger Roberts, who has provided more than a gallon of blood to date. He said he’s made nine donations at BLHS events in addition to 20 others

in the community.

“I gave once and thought it was a good idea, so I decided to give more because it helps others,” he added.

Students on hand concurred that they enjoyed participating in such a good cause.

“I like to help people,” said junior Emily Berry, who gave blood once before.

Like Berry, it also marked the second time for juniors Kya Demeter and Bryan Blazeski to take part.

“It’s helping other people, so that’s what it takes,” Demeter said. “You’re saving lives, so please donate. We appreciate the people coming from outside the community and donating here.”

“It helps out the community,” Blazeski concluded.

## CHALLENGES (Continued from Front)

for grades K-6 to all be involved during their intervention times,” she said. “My final academic challenge was designing a Grammar Bowl.”

As part of the event, each grade level participated against each other during their intervention time and played a version of Pictionary or Charades. Teams played the best out of three games with the winning class earning the Grammar Bowl trophy.

The sporting concept carried with “March Mathness,” which is based upon

the basketball-centered March Madness tournaments and an activity was held March 22.

Parsons said it combined physical and mental activity and students will had a shoot-off, counting off by two’s to do some quick warm-up math before facing off in a hula hoop race with math flashcards. Events were broken down between grade levels and trophies were given to the winning team but every student earned a lucky coin.

## SHOW (Continued from Front)

skilled trades and home business retailers and vendors may set up their own 10-foot-by-10-foot tents, tables and chairs. To pre-register, email [sepgc@comcast.net](mailto:sepgc@comcast.net) or go to the group’s Facebook page.

Door prizes, a Chinese auction, food and kids’ fun are also slated with shirts being sold for \$10-\$12 to benefit playground upgrades. More information about the show is available at the South Elementary Playground Facebook page.