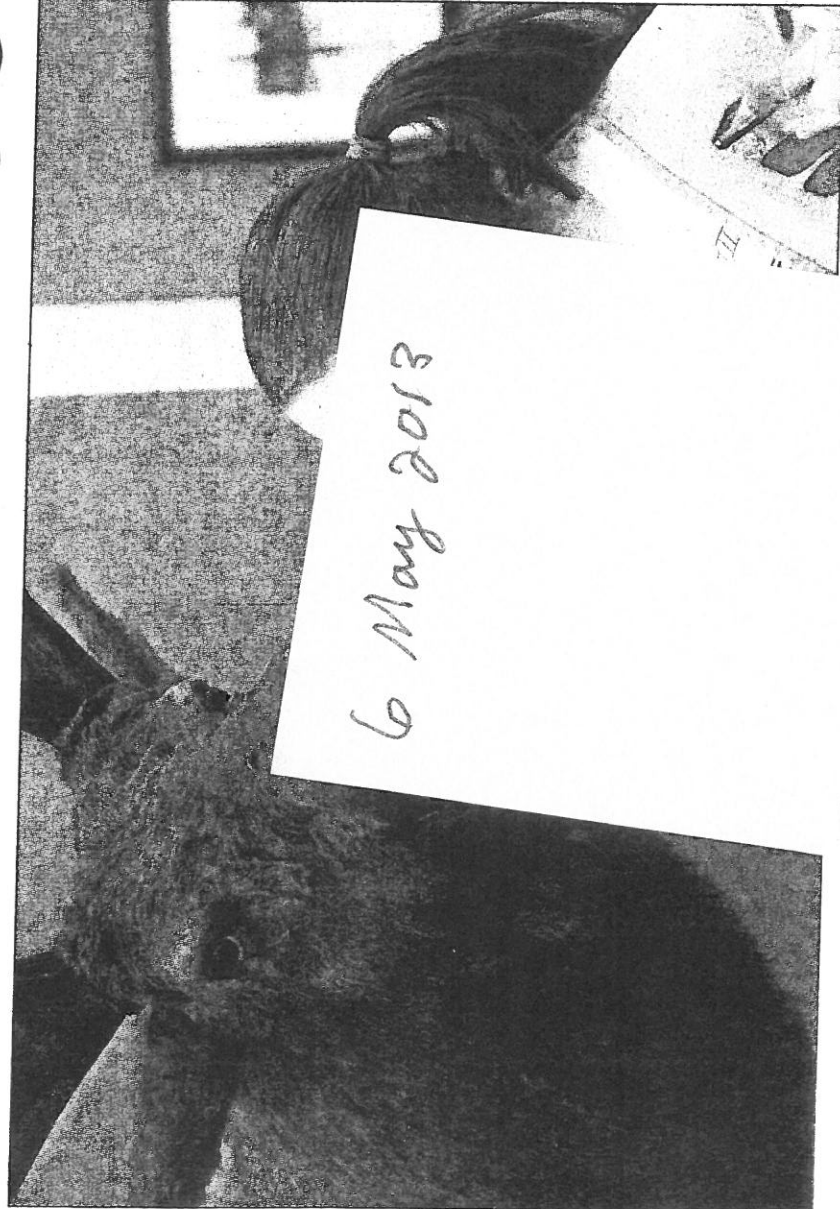


retaliation after carrying out two airstrikes in Syria over 48 hours. **WORLD, PAGE A-7**



feasting on home cooking in their weekend series with the Twins at Progressive Field, but were defeated 4-2. **SPORTS, PAGE B-1**

WILD THINGS



■ Kaitlyn Bragg, 12, from Girl Scout Troop 35, comes face to face with the Wildlife Baby Shower Celebration on Sunday at the Exploration Gateway at Sippo Lake Park in Perry Township.

'Wildlife Baby Shower' at Sippo Lake Park celebrates new arrivals

BY HEATHER BEYER
Independent staff writer

PERRY TWP. To celebrate spring and the arrival of wild animal babies into the world, the staff and volunteers of Stark Parks' Sanders Wildlife Rehabilitation Center held a "wildlife baby shower" Sunday at Exploration Gateway at Sippo Lake Park, 5712 12th St. NW.

Dozens in attendance enjoyed cupcakes and punch — it was a shower, after all — and then met the guests of honor.

Guests enjoyed up-close and personal encounters with the park district's animal ambassadors: a red-tailed hawk, great horned owl,

screech owl, mallard duck, big brown bats, woodchuck, pine snake, bullfrog, American toad, box turtles and an opossum.

Kathy Hofacre ended up attending the event by accident when she and her twin children, Allison and John, were returning materials to the library.

"We really didn't plan on coming today, so this was kind of a nice surprise," Hofacre said.

Allison said that she enjoyed seeing the screech owl because of its tiny ears, while her brother John liked watching the bats.



FOR THE INDEPENDENT **JAMES DREUSSI**

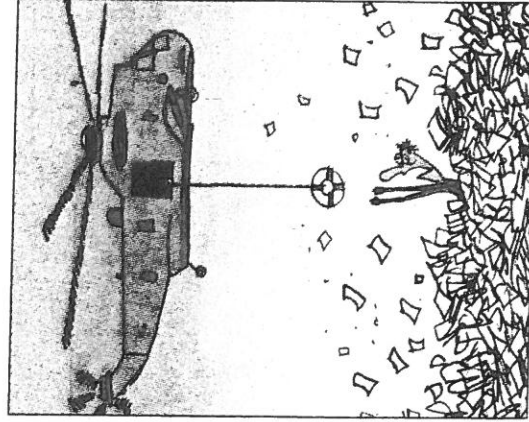
■ 8-year-old Lauren Williams of Perry Township visits Olivia the Opossum during the Wildlife Baby Shower Celebration at Sippo Lake Park.

SEE **WILDLIFE** A-2

DAY'S TOP THREE: STUFF TO KEEP IN MIND AS YOU GO ABOUT YOUR DAY

TICKLE OUR INNYBONE

Look at this cartoon and come up with a humorous caption to amuse readers and The Independent. You can email your caption to news@IndeOnline.com or feel free to call us at 330-775-1125 and leave your comic caption over the weekend. You can even drop your caption in the mail to: The Independent, 50 North Ave. NW, P.O. Box 30, Massillon, OH 44646-0730. The author of the funniest caption will be recognized on the front page of the day's Independent Weekender.



2. ONLY ONLINE

Here is some content available exclusively at IndeOnline.com:

- **PHOTO GALLERY:** Massillon senior vs. junior girls Powderpuff football game action.
- **PHOTO GALLERY:** Tuslaw Mustangs vs. Indian Valley varsity baseball game.

3. SOCIAL MEDIA

Keep tabs on what's happening in Massillon and throughout Western Stark County by following Independent reporters Christina McCune (@cmccuneINDE), Steven Grazier (@sgrazierINDE), Heather Beyer (@hbeyerINDE) and Editor Joe Shaheen (@jshaheenINDE) on Twitter.

Council vote expected on Hampton Inn

BY STEVEN M. GRAZIER
Independent staff writer

MASSILLON It's decision day for City Council, which is expected to vote this evening on the proposed deal for a buyout of debt on the federal loan taken out for the construction of the downtown Hampton Inn.

Eight council members are slated to vote on the possible agreement, in which the hotel, at 44 First St. SW, would pay the city \$1.2 million toward a \$2.25 million federal loan taken out in 1999 to finance the project. Council President Tony Townsend will vote only in the event of a 4-4 tie.

At least one council member is looking at voting in favor of the deal.

"I'm leaning toward getting the thing done," said Councilman at-large Paul Manson, a Democrat. "I'm looking at voting for what we have on the table."

Manson called the Hampton Inn an "asset" to the city and a "first-class" operation.

He said he'll continue to listen to fellow council member and constituents on their thoughts on the plan right up until voting time.

Another council member appears to be leaning against the proposal.

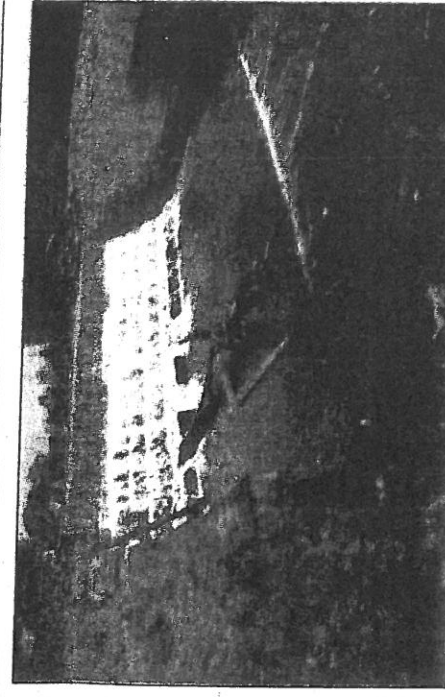
"I don't think it's a good deal and I'll probably vote against it," said Councilman at-large Milan Chovan.

Chovan, a Republican, noted "uncertainty" with John Hellene, the developer representing the Hampton Inn who has not ruled out selling the hotel in the future if the deal is approved.

The buyout deal was proposed to council March 11 by Mayor Kathy Catanzaro-Perry and put together through negotiations between her office and Hellene.

If the plan is approved, the city will cancel the promissory note issued in connection with the loan and forgive any liens on the Hampton Inn.

SEE **VOTE** A-2



■ The waterfall at Reservoir Park in Massillon. **INDEPENDENT KEVIN WHITLOCK**

6 May 2013

City looking at repairs to Sippo Creek Reservoir dam

BY STEVEN M. GRAZIER
Independent staff writer

MASSILLON A plan to implement structural repairs to the aging and eroding Sippo Creek Reservoir Dam, which serves as a picturesque backdrop of Reservoir Park on the city's northeast side, is being developed but remains in the early stages.

Bricks and subwall of the 127-year-old, 18-foot-high dam continue to erode, and vegetation is growing through much of the masonry.

"We've had our eye on this for some time," said Mayor Kathy Catanzaro-Perry. "A plan is in progress but not finalized, as we're considering options."

City Engineer Keith Dylewski

Sippo Creek Reservoir Dam

WHEN BUILT 1886
PURPOSE Retain water for Sippo Reservoir
HEIGHT 18 feet
ORIGINAL MATERIAL Brick, stone masonry
COST TO FIX Early estimate \$500,000-\$600,000

said an analysis of the dam recently was completed by Cleveland-based URS Corp., which determined its structural integrity is falling and its spillway system is deteriorating.

SEE **DAM** A-2

