

Geauga

TIMES COURIER

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Second Senate run announced by Dolan

By SUE REID

Three-term state Sen. Matt Dolan, (R-Chagrin Falls), announced Tuesday that he again will run for the U.S. Senate in 2024, challenging incumbent Democrat U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown.

Mr. Dolan, 58, who has lived in Chagrin Falls since 2009 and whose family owns the Cleveland Guardians

baseball team, represents the 24th Ohio Senate District. He was unsuccessful in his last attempt at a U.S. Senate bid in 2022, finishing third in the GOP primary that was won by now-Sen. J.D. Vance.

He said Tuesday he is running again because “the challenges that I know face America



Dolan

are still there.” Those challenges include securing the border and improving the economy, he said. “We have got to secure the border.”

Mr. Dolan said Sen. Brown, who has held the seat since 2007, “won’t even acknowledge the seriousness of the problem. Not only is it an

economic crisis but a security crisis. If you are not willing to acknowledge the problem, how will you fix it?”

Mr. Dolan said he brings a unique skill set to the position of U.S. senator in facing that issue and other problems, as he has worked on them in both the state and private sector. What he has

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New Leaf honor



Photo by Michael Steinberg

Steven Andersen (left) was among the three graduates of the Geauga County Court of Common Pleas’ New Leaf Drug Court honored last Thursday in a ceremony recognizing their successful completion of the program. The ceremony, attended by Judge Carolyn Paschke (right), probation officer Maureen Maruna (center) and others, took place at the Heritage House on Chardon Square. New Leaf Drug Court aims to reduce recidivism among individuals with drug and alcohol dependency issues in the justice system by providing resources and support and requiring accountability.

Mental health committee narrows director search

By ANASTASIA NICHOLAS

The Geauga County Board of Mental Health’s executive director selection committee met Jan. 12 and narrowed the search from 20 applicants to three finalists to be interviewed. Board chairman Steven Oluic said they hope to fill the position by spring.

The 14-member board dismissed the executive director of 35 years, Jim Adams, last May in a 9-1 vote, declining to give a public explanation.

Then-board chair Jennifer Malainy voted in favor of the measure along with members

Walter “Skip” Claypool, Martin Fay, Jimmy Lee Holden, Kathy Johnson, Gregory O’Brien, Mr. Oluic, Michael Petruziello and Mary Ruth Shumway. All nine of those board members were appointed by the three-member Geauga County Board of Commissioners.

The only member to vote against the measure was Alberta Chokshi, one of five members of the board appointed by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. The other four state-appointed members were not in attendance for that vote.

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Bainbridge farm case heads back to court

By SUE REID

A Geauga County Common Pleas Court judge is to determine at a Jan. 23 hearing whether Kelly’s Working Well Farm’s educational programming constitutes protected agritourist activity.

The farm on South Franklin Street has been tangled in litigation with Bainbridge Township since the fall of 2019, when the zoning and fire departments issued violations for numerous safety hazards on the property.

Currently, Kelly Clark, who has owned the six-acre farm for the past decade and lives adjacent to it, is

allowed to conduct agritourism activities but under strict parameters that were imposed by the court in a judgment entry she agreed upon. Mainly, according to the agreement, the public is not allowed to enter the buildings on the property, and activities must be held outside.

“They forced us to close, and we were not allowed to have anyone non-agriculture on the farm,” Ms. Clark said last week.

In November, she held a community event during which participants planted a mini-forest in the backyard of the farm, and she held a plant

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