

# Solon TIMES

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## Dettelbach confirmed as ATF director

By MICHELE COLLINS

The U.S. Senate approved Steven Dettelbach's nomination Tuesday to lead the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), making him only the second Senate-confirmed director in the gun regulatory agency's history.

Mr. Dettelbach, 56, of Solon, was

confirmed by a partisan vote of 48-46 with Ohio Sen. Rob Portman and Maine Sen. Susan Collins, both Republicans, joining their Democratic counterparts.

Upon hearing the news about Mr. Dettelbach's confirmation, Solon Mayor Edward Kraus raised his arms in celebration.

"That is great news," he said.

"Great for Steve. Great for Solon. Great for law enforcement and great for our country."

President Joe Biden echoed Mayor Kraus' sentiment in an official statement issued by the White House describing Mr. Dettelbach as "an extraordinarily qualified and decorated career prosecutor with

strong support across the law enforcement community."

"Steve's distinguished prosecutorial experience spans over two decades at the Department of Justice under four



Dettelbach

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Photo by Geoff Powers

**Genevieve Burke (center) rehearses with cheerleading instructors Rhian Butler (left) and Ella Gartner in preparation of a recent performance by Solon's Adapted Cheer Team. Presented as part of the City of Solon's Blue Ribbon Adapted Recreation Program, participants get to enjoy social connection and a fun fitness activity with other special needs adults.**

## Go team!

Unique partnership brings energetic joy to Solon-area special needs adults

By MICHELE COLLINS

Thanks to a partnership between a motivated college student who helps those with disabilities, and the Solon recreation department, nine area young women have been given something truly special to cheer about.

Lexi Simmerson dreamed of starting a program for special needs

adults that allowed them both a social connection and a fitness activity. She thought hosting an adaptive adult cheerleading/cheer dance class might just be the ticket.

"While in high school, I had wanted to start an adaptive cheerleading program for special needs students. Although it did not work out then, I went on to Ohio University where

I majored in special education, and communication science disorders and kept thinking about doing the cheerleading program," said Ms. Simmerson.

While still in college, Ms. Simmerson approached Tracy Sullivan, Director of Community and Cultural Enrichment and Jillian Babej, Adapted Recreation

Coordinator at the Solon Recreation Department, about her idea.

"My dream was to offer an activity that was adaptive and inclusive in my own community," said Ms. Simmerson, a Solon High School grad. "I chose cheerleading, because there are a lot of sports programs out

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## Increase in revenue has city in solid financial shape

By MICHELE COLLINS

The City of Solon's coffers are in the black, thanks to an 11.8% increase in operating revenue from the same time last year, according to Matt Rubino, the city's Director of Finance. Mr. Rubino reports monthly to the Solon City Council to keep members abreast of the city's financial picture.

While an operating revenue

surplus is good, inflation, employee healthcare costs and pension contribution changes could impact the city's financial picture in the future.

"The biggest factor for that operating revenue increase is the withholding income tax is higher than expected, for now," he said.

Mr. Rubino said that the city had been concerned that the number of workers from Solon-based

companies who were working remotely, would mean lower income tax revenue. Home-based workers are supposed to pay income tax to the city that they are working in, which in the case of remote workers, is not the city their job is located, but rather the city where their home is located.

He said workers who split their time between home and their

workplace are able to pay income tax proportionately to each municipality.

"For example if a worker is working one day a week from home, and 4 days in the office, they might do a 20 percent income tax payment to their home city and an 80 percent payment to the city where their job is located," said Mr. Rubino.

But for the most part he said, the

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