**By CARRI GRAHAM** 

Times Leader Staff Writer

Christmas day this year.

Salvation Army.

open," he said.

family.

and other side dishes.

the day feel cozy for residents.

with food items for Christmas.

BELLAIRE - Homeless shelters in the Ohio

The Bellaire Salvation Army provided a hot

Valley helped ensure dozens of people in need

had a warm place to sleep and an enjoyable

holiday meal to nearly 30 people in need on

Christmas day, along with presents for adults

Major Louis Patrick said the shelter had 29

residents call the shelter home for Christmas

this year. At around 10 a.m. Friday morning,

guests at the shelter began their holiday by

unwrapping gifts. The gifts were provided to

residents through donations collected by the

this morning. Each adult resident was given

two gifts and every child got multiple gifts to

Christmas meal including ham, baked beans

In the afternoon, residents were served a hot

Patrick said the shelter does its best to make

We try to make sure everyone has a re-

laxing day just like people would at home on Christmas," he said. "Everyone relaxes and watches TV and enjoys time with their

Earlier this week, the Salvation Army pro-

vided hundreds of residents in need with more

than 2,000 gallons of milk and boxes filled

children this year for Christmas," Patrick said.

The Salvation Army serves men, wom-en and children of the Ohio Valley. It is a

We serviced over 600 families and 1,600

'Every resident recieved at least two gifts

and children to open Christmas morning.

Lottery Results for Dec.25, 2020

Ohio: Day: Pick 3: 8-5-4 Pick 4: 7-8-1-8 Pick 5: 8-5-1-6-8 Night: Pick 3: 6-5-5 Pick 4: 0-1-7-9 Pick 5: 4-0-8-2-8 **Rolling Cash 5:** 12-13-16-19-33 Lucky for Life: Mega Millions: 17-23-36-69-70-19

West Virginia: Daily 3: 8-3-7 Dailý 4: 2-9-0-9 Cash 25: 3-13-16-20-23-24

Pennyslvania:

Day: Pick 2: 3-3 Pick 3: 2-4-4 Pick 4: 6-8-6-3 Pick 5: 0-3-9-5-9 (Wild Ball: 3) Treasure Hunt: 2-7-9-22-25

Night: Pick 2: 4-0 Pick 3: 4-5-9 Pick 4: 4-5-8-7 Pick 5: 4-9-7-4-9 (Wild Ball: 7) Cash 5: 8-20-27-30-38 Cash 4 Life: 4-26-44-56-57 Cash Ball: 2

## Recognition

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GC was rated No. 1 among companies in the chemical and was listed in the top 10 companies in the Dow Jones World Indices and Emerging Markets Index for the eighth consecutive year.

Columbus-based PTTGCA spokesman Dan WIlliamson said these rankings should reassure Ohio Valley residents that, if the ethane cracker plant is eventually built, it will be constructed and operated with an eye toward preventing climate change and protecting the air and water of the local region.

"I think people (in Eastern Ohio) wouldn't know and don't know what kind of company this is," WIlliamson said. "It would surprise some to know this company doesn't just respond to issues such as climate change, they bring these issues up and push themselves to address them.

Williamson said the area's industrial past may cause some residents to believe conflict between an energy company and those concerned with environmental issues is inevitable; however, he said PTTGCA and GC see issues such as climate change and plastics proliferation as concerns, and the companies take them seriously.

"In Thailand, they are known for bringing these issues to the fore-front," he said. "They aren't concepts that they just talk about. They act and have been recognized for that.'

WIlliamson said this is becoming increasingly important to many, especially younger people

"We have to protect our climate. ... For a project like this to succeed, we need a company with a record of caring about these issues.

have a Merry Christmas

"For the new (presidential) administration in the United States, these issues are a priority," he added. "It's important for members of this administration to see this as a company that makes these issues a priority.

Williamson acknowledged PTTGCA has heard concerns from local and national environmental groups such as Concerned Ohio River Residents that oppose the project. Members of those groups have said the plant -- which would use natural-gas fired furnaces to "crack," or break apart, ethane molecules from the local natural gas stream -- would pollute the air and water of the region, including the Ohio River. They also say the plastics feedstock it would produce is not needed, since efforts are underway to eliminate single-use plastics around the world.

" Overall the concern is that this project is not consistent with environmental protection and will exacerbate these problems ...," Williamson said. The EPA addressed a lot of these issues through their process. The greater issue of climate change ... there is an assumption the project will not be sensitive to the climate. ...

"This company actually cares about these issue. ... As time goes on new technology will make such projects even more effective in reducing carbon, and this company is commit-

#### non-profit organization that is funded by public donations. Anyone interested in donating to the cause, may send checks to the Bellaire Salvation Army at 315 37th St., P.O. Box 489, Bellaire.

In Wheeling, the Youth Services Systems' Winter Freeze Shelter provided a warm place for dozens of people in need. Betsy Bethel-McFarland, communications manager for YSS, said they had a full house at the shelter both Thursday and Friday night.

The shelter recently opened its doors to the the shelter is located at the Hillcrest Behavioral Services building at the former Ohio Valley Medical Center which hosts around 20 beds.

dinner Friday.

Kate Marshall, employee of YSS Winter Freeze and director of House of Hagar, said

ered to sing and pray and have a simple meal of shepherds pie and angel food cake. ... And then we had a Christmas feast with our friends today," she said in a text message

kitchens are closed on Christmas, it was imperative to get folks indoors in this freezing weather. It made us really contemplate what it means to find no room in the inn, but we to help us keep our houseless friends warm.

Marshall said everyone received gifts donated by local churches, YSS and the House of Hagar Catholic Worker.

public for its 12th year of operation. This year

Although the shelter is only open at night, two of the shelter's employees invited guests to spend the day at the House of Hagar where they were treated to gifts and a large Christmas

everyone had a very nice time. "Along with a church service, folks gath-

Friday evening.

"As all the day warming shelters and soup were grateful for all those who came together

"For this industry to be successful, all companies need to do what this company does -- address these issues proactively," Williamson added. "We need energy. We also need a clean environment. We have to address climate change. We can't make it an either-or thing."

The DJSI was jointly established by the S&P Dow Jones Indices and the SAM Corporate Sustainability Assessment and serves as an index to evaluate expertise in sustainable development of leading globally listed companies. CDP, a nonprofit organization recognized as the largest online data source for greenhouse gases, uses a scoring methodology ranging from A to D-; the average score for companies in Asia and for chemical companies is D.

GC CEO Dr. Kongkrapan Intarajang said that the company is committed to operating as a sustainable organization and taking on a pivotal role in mitigating the impacts of climate change while transitioning to a low-carbon community in support of the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. GC is taking a leading role responding to climate change through its pledge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% in 2030 from the base year of 2012. By establishing comprehensive water management goals, both internally and externally, GC will ensure that its operations are accountable and that it maintains its leadership position in sustainability at

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ODNR Spokesman Adam Schroeder said the division complied with instructions from the Ohio Supreme Court to make a decision. Schroeder said ODNR reviewed all comments and found no valid objections.

He said if the wells are constructed, Omni will then be required to obtain a permit authorizing injection operations. Approval would be contingent on Omni meeting terms and conditions and passed the required tests.

The permitting process was held up in April by a suit in Belmont County Common Pleas Court from businessman Bob Murray, who has since passed away. The suit had asked that a public hearing be held to allow residents to voice their opinions, rather than a virtual hearing as had been scheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

'Our plan is to move forward as quickly as we can, Omni CEO Gerard Russomagno said, adding while he is aware of the local opposition, he believes their fears to be unfounded. "We can't deviate from the permits we received, so all of our site design and implementation were part of our permit. ... We will strictly adhere to ODNR and (Ohio Department of Transportation) rules. They're our regulatory authorities. We'll observe every safety issue they have, every protocol that they have. Our intention was and always will be to be as compliant as possible.'

Omni's attorney, Chris Gagin, further elaborated. After Murray filed his suit, Gagin filed a suit with the Ohio Supreme Court in April.

"On Dec. 9, the Supreme Court ordered the division to make a determination," Gagin said, adding he argued that a public meeting was not necessary to obtain a permit and the process could not be held up in order to have one.

The public meeting is technically illegal," Gagin said The reason we sued ODNR is because there's nothing in the law that calls for a public meeting. If...the written public comments that were submitted by the end of July 2019 if those had adversely affected health, safety, on conservation issues as the ODNR determined, then there has to be a formal public hearing. A public hearing is not the same as a public meeting, and the Supreme Court agreed with us.

Gagin said Omni is awaiting one additional permit from ODOT, which he said would allow Omni to proceed after a decision by the Richland Township trustees when they indefinitely tabled a request in July of last year from Omni to allow ingress from U.S. 40 onto Pickering Road, and a road use maintenance agreement for use of the road for well construction and operation.

"We are expecting that (permit) as early as (today)," he said. "ODOT was simply waiting on the ODNR to make its decision on the permits.'

Gagin added he believes denying Omni use of the road due to expected heavy traffic would not have stood, since the J.B. Green Team uses the road.

"That would, I believe, violate equal protection," Gagin said. "We were prepared to sue the trustees if necessary but we have been assured that we are getting our ODOT permit to have access off of U.S. 40, so Pickering is no longer an issue."

Gagin said he believes Murray's suit will be dismissed as a moot point since the permits have been issued.

Gagin said there have been traffic studies and engineering studies prior to obtaining any permits. He said there will likely be no seismic issues because Omni's drilling will be above the seismic zone. The company will also operate several thousand feet below the aquifers. There will also be radioactivity monitors on-site to ensure no radioactive material will be accepted.

'All of these concerns are unfortunately due to a lot of misinformation that's been out there," he said.

Gagin said opposition to the well could attempt to challenge Omni's permit to inject.

"I don't believe they would succeed, but they have that right," he said, adding Omni could be ready to apply for an injection permit by late spring or early summer.

Richland Township Trustee Rick Ferrell said he was disappointed in the decision.

The residents deserve to be heard regarding this project. We've been adamant that we would want a public hearing in Belmont County," he said. "It sounds like it's a done deal. We did join with...Robert Murray...in the lawsuit.

"This is a really touchy subject," Ferrell said. "The res idents of that area, they feel that they really have not been heard. ... We are still supporting them. Whatever legal means we have, we will look at."



Ferrell said the trustees will speak to the Shaheen Law Group, which filed the suit for Murray, to ask for legal opinions. The law group could not be reached for comment.

# Bridge

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"He (Christian) has the material list and he will evaluate how many pieces we'll need, then we'll take it from there and see if we need to adjust that number,' he said.

Commissioners have been planning to renovate the bridge for the past few years. However, the historic bridge collapsed last summer prior to the renovations becoming underway due to a combination of the bridge's deteriorating condition and harsh weather.

In 2018, the project was originally put out for bid, however only one bid was received which was 40 percent above the engineer's estimate. Commissioners declined the bid and the project was put on hold until the bridge collapsed in 2019. Schumacher said the original bidding company had planned to purchase the oak needed for the renovations from out-of-state, which could have contributed to the significant increase in cost.

Schumacher said is hopeful that the project's cost will be much lower due to the county being able to provide the timber needed to complete the project.

Since COVID-19 started, materials have tripled in price, so this makes it that much nicer that it's our own materials, and we're not plagued with that increased cost in materials," he said.

Although an estimate is not yet known for the new project, the engineers original estimate was around \$1.3 million.

Schumacher said the county being able to use local timber will not only save on rebuild costs, but also preserve the historic value of the bridge.

This is a chance for us to utilize our own materials for one of our own structures and keep the materi-als here local," he said. The county has secured

a \$950,000 grant through the Ohio Department of Transportation for the project. The ODOT funding is meant to help preserve historic sites. If the estimate is greater than the earmarked funds, the county will have to cover the additional costs. However, Schumacher said that with the county being able to contribute its own materials to the project, he is hopeful the additional cost will not be significant.

The timber will be harvested and stored this winter. Officials are hoping to begin the bridge restoration project sometime in the spring.

