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October 23, 2023

Last week, CCAO Executive Director Cheryl Subler and Assistant Director John Leutz visited Madison County and heard from County Commissioners Mark Forrest, Chris Wallace, and Tony Xenikis, along with County Administrator Rob Slane, about projects with the courthouse, ARPA investments, and more.

Association and Member News | State and Federal News | Education and Grants | ARPA and BIF Resources | County News | Did You Know? | Job Postings

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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Ohio counties receive broadband funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission

Three Ohio counties received awards in October from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for broadband projects. Short descriptions of each project are below. Congratulations to Ashtabula County, Morgan County, and Tuscarawas County!

Ashtabula County Project
Ashtabula County received an ARC grant for $2.5 million to contract with a vendor to expand access to un- and underserved areas of the county. Through partnerships with the county's farm bureau, community action agency, and public libraries, the project will extend access to nearly 3,000 households and 90 businesses.

Morgan County Project
Morgan County received an ARC grant for $2.5 million to fund the provision of broadband services to the Village of Chesterhill and other areas of the county. The grant will provide access to 914 households and 23 businesses.

Tuscarawas County Project
The Tuscarawas County Economic Development Corporation received an ARC grant for $1.1 million to construct and equip six fixed wireless telecom towers that will expand access to more than 10,000 households and 200 businesses.

You can read more about the various projects that ARC funded here. The Ohio projects begin on page 7.

Registration open for CCAO-CEAO Winter Conference!

Register today!

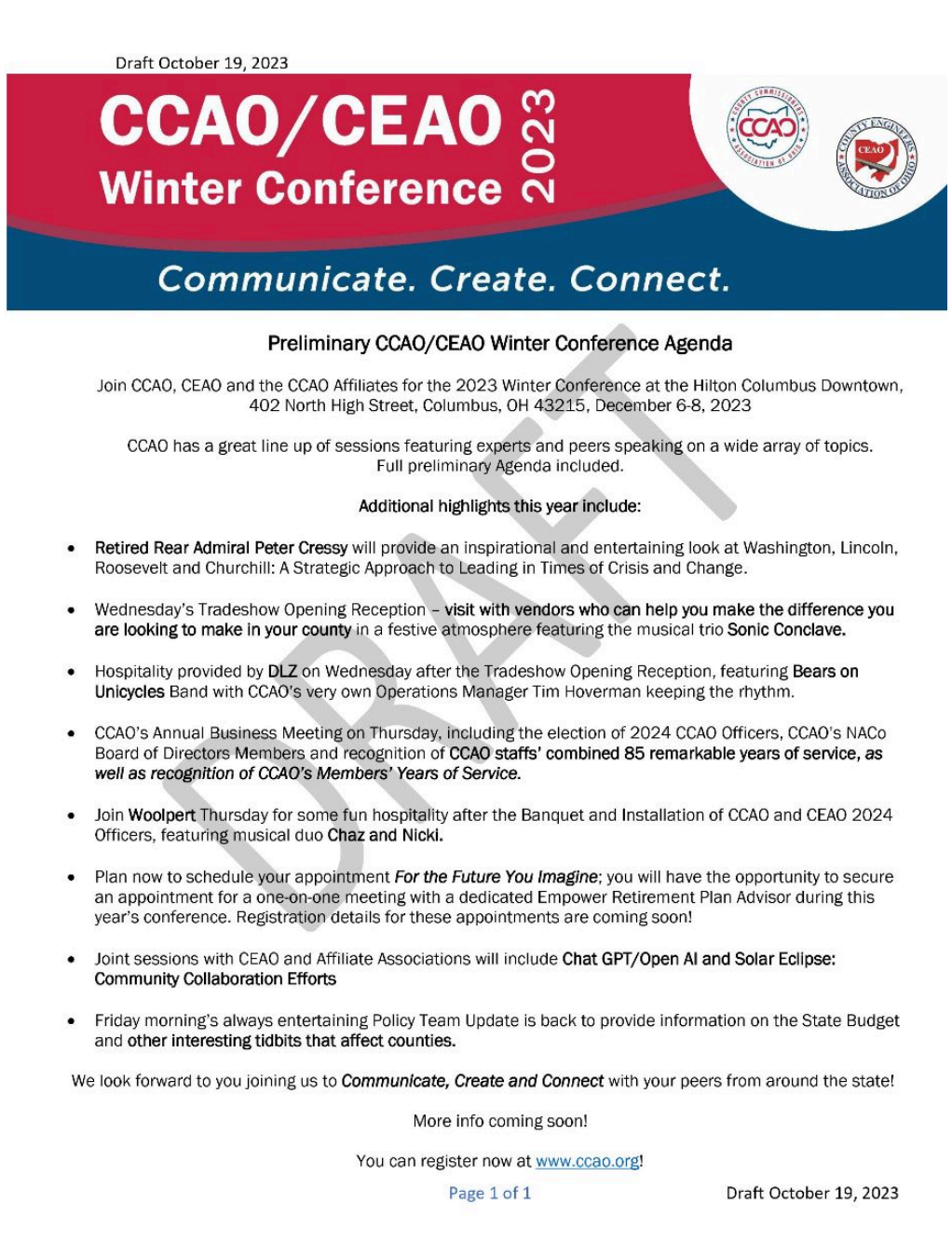
The County Commissioners Association of Ohio and the County Engineers Association of Ohio invite you to the CCAO/CEAO Annual Winter Conference! The event will be held December 6 - 8 at Hilton Columbus Downtown (402 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43215). You can reserve rooms now, at a rate of $142/night, plus applicable taxes.

Registration for the event itself can be completed here. Registration is $495 through November 6, after which the cost increases to $595.

Sessions will cover topics such as community-based solar, broadband, cybersecurity and more! Attendees will also have the opportunity to hear from guest speaker retired Rear Admiral Peter Cressy, who will share leadership strategies used by President George Washington. A preliminary agenda is below, which you can click to obtain a PDF copy.

Additionally, for the future you imagine, you will have the opportunity to secure an appointment for a one-on-one meeting with a dedicated Empower Retirement Plan Advisor during this year's conference. Registration details for these appointments are coming soon!

If you prefer to print a copy of the registration forms for affiliate associations, click here. For the county registration and or sponsor form, click here, and for the spouse or guest registration form, click here.



Draft October 19, 2023

CCAO/CEAO Winter Conference 2023

Communicate. Create. Connect.

Preliminary CCAO/CEAO Winter Conference Agenda

Join CCAO, CEAO and the CCAO Affiliates for the 2023 Winter Conference at the Hilton Columbus Downtown, 402 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43215, December 6-8, 2023

CCAO has a great line up of sessions featuring experts and peers speaking on a wide array of topics. Full preliminary Agenda included.

Additional highlights this year include:

- **Retired Rear Admiral Peter Cressy** will provide an inspirational and entertaining look at Washington, Lincoln, Roosevelt and Churchill: A Strategic Approach to Leading in Times of Crisis and Change.
- Wednesday's Tradeshow Opening Reception – **visit with vendors who can help you make the difference you are looking to make in your county** in a festive atmosphere featuring the musical trio **Sonic Conclave.**
- Hospitality provided by **DLZ** on Wednesday after the Tradeshow Opening Reception, featuring **Bears on Unicycles** Band with CCAO's very own Operations Manager Tim Hoverman keeping the rhythm.
- CCAO's Annual Business Meeting on Thursday, including the election of 2024 CCAO Officers, CCAO's NACo Board of Directors Members and recognition of **CCAO staffs' combined 85 remarkable years of service, *as well as recognition of CCAO's Members' Years of Service.***
- Join **Woolpert** Thursday for some fun hospitality after the Banquet and Installation of CCAO and CEAO 2024 Officers, featuring musical duo **Chaz and Nicki.**
- Plan now to schedule your appointment ***For the Future You Imagine***; you will have the opportunity to secure an appointment for a one-on-one meeting with a dedicated Empower Retirement Plan Advisor during this year's conference. Registration details for these appointments are coming soon!
- Joint sessions with CEAO and Affiliate Associations will include **Chat GPT/Open AI and Solar Eclipse: Community Collaboration Efforts**
- Friday morning's always entertaining Policy Team Update is back to provide information on the State Budget and **other interesting tidbits that affect counties.**

We look forward to you joining us to ***Communicate, Create and Connect*** with your peers from around the state!

More info coming soon!

You can register now at www.ccao.org!

Page 1 of 1 Draft October 19, 2023

One CCAO regional budget briefing remains

The CCAO policy team has enjoyed conducting regional meetings to bring together CCAO members and key staff from across the state and discuss pertinent policy issues and funding included in the state operating budget. The final event will occur on October 30.

The event will begin at **9:30 a.m. and end at 1:15 p.m**. Lunch will be served. An event agenda is also included below.

Please RSVP to Nedra Benson at nbenson@ccao.org or 614-221-5627 and please also include any dietary requirements in your RSVP.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

- **OCTOBER 30 – NORTHWEST REGION**
  - Allen County OhioMeansJobs: 951 Commerce Pkwy, Lima, OH 45804

Event Agenda

9:30 am – 10:00 am	Registration & Networking
10:00 am – 11:00 am	State Budget Overview Presentation Part 1
11:00 am – 11:10 am	Break
11:10 am – 12:10 pm	State Budget Overview Presentation Part 2
12:10 pm – 1:15 pm	Lunch with county updates and "Ask the Policy Team"

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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Call for NACo Board of Directors letters of interest, registration open for 2024 NACo Legislative Conference

There are two important NACo notices to share.

NACo Board of Directors Letter of Interest
First, CCAO has issued its annual Call of Letters of Interest for the NACo Board of Directors. Per NACo and CCAO bylaws, the Ohio membership of NACo elects two members of the NACo board during CCAO's annual business meeting (December 7th).

Those individuals interested in running for one of these two positions must submit a 1-2 page letter of interest with Robin Garrett (rgarrett@ccao.org) no later than Monday, November 20, at noon. Letters of interest will be circulated to NACo members on November 22.

During the annual business meeting, each NACo county will receive two votes and the top two vote-getters will be elected to terms that run from July 2024 to June 2025. ***PLEASE NOTE***: this election does not impact any other NACo board positions, such as members who may have received a presidential appointment or who are on the NACo Board by virtue of previously having served as NACo President.

If you have questions regarding the election process, please contact either Cheryl Subler or Robin Garrett.

NACo Legislative Conference Registration
The second NACo notice to share is that registration is now open for the 2024 NACo Legislative Conference held annually in Washington, D.C. The conference will take place from February 10-13. Registration, which can be completed here, will cost member counties $520 until December 9, $575 from December 10 through January 27, and $690 after January 28. Those figures for non-member counties are, respectively, $750/$810/$960.

A tentative schedule for the event is available here.

BroadbandOhio BEAD proposal Volume 2 open for public comment

BroadbandOhio announced last week that Volume 2 of its Initial Proposal for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program is available for public comment. The volume focuses on the proposed sub-grantee selection progress.

The public comment period ends November 21, so please take time sooner than later to familiarize yourself with the document and the Executive Summary, which provides highlights of the major components. Comments can be submitted to broadbandohio@development.ohio.gov.

It is important that counties and the communities they represent make their thoughts known so that BroadbandOhio can ensure that the BEAD program is representative and beneficial to all parts of Ohio.

If you have questions regarding the BEAD program or broadband more generally, please contact either Kyle Petty or James Kennedy.

Two pending Attorney General Opinions of interest to counties

CCAO would like to inform counties of two pending Attorney General Opinion requests that may have implications for counties.

Broadband Right-of-Way
First, the Madison County Prosecutor requested an opinion on behalf of the Madison County Board of Commissioners and County Engineer regarding what authority counties have to utilize the road right-of-way for the installation of broadband. Specifically, the request asks the following four questions:

1. Does the county engineer have authority to permit installations within the road right-of-way to broadband providers not registered with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio?
2. If so, is the engineer required to permit said installations, provided it does not incommode public use of the right-of-way?
3. If the engineer has the authority but is not required to permit, may the engineer or the county commissions charge a fee above actual administrative and inspection costs for ongoing use of the right-of-way?
4. Can the board of commissioners enter into an agreement with a private broadband provider allowing the use of the right-of-way for broadband installations?

Scope of Marsy's Law Redactions
The second opinion request comes from the Lake County Prosecutor, on behalf of the Lake County Clerk of Courts. It primarily concerns the scope of public record redactment under Marsy's Law, the recent crime victim rights law. The request asks three specific questions, all of which concern the scope of R.C. 2930.07:

1. Can a victim request information be redacted from any type of case maintained by the clerk of courts that includes the victim's identification (such as bank foreclosures or divorce cases) or only from the criminal case pertaining to the victim?
2. Is the clerk of courts required to automatically redact a victim's information from all records relating to a protection order if the victim did not complete the redaction request form upon initial contact with law enforcement?
3. What effect, if any, does *State ex rel. Summers v. Fox* have on the law regarding public records requests made in a case where the victim has requested redaction under Marsy's Law?

CCAO will keep members informed both in *Counties Current* and on our website when the Attorney General issues formal opinions on these requests.

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

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Visit the Grants and Funding Opportunities page on the CCAO website for a detailed listing of open grant programs.

OBM announces fourth annual Grants Summit

The Office of Budget and Management (OBM) will be hosting its fourth annual Ohio Grants Summit on November 29 and 30, from 9:00 a.m. to noon each day.

The event, which is free, brings state and local officials together to discuss the federal and state intergovernmental grant process. The event is also broadcast and archived on the Ohio Channel for those unable to come to Columbus.

The sessions this year are:

- **November 29:**
  - Tips for a Successful Grant Application
  - Proposed Updates to the Federal Uniform Guidance
  - Federal Grant Update
- **November 30:**
  - Closeouts and Continuing Responsibilities
  - Maximizing Federal Funds
  - Preparing for Infrastructure Funding

Registration for each day is separate and at no cost. You can register for November 29 here and November 30 here.

America 250-Ohio announces grant program to focus on Ohio history and culture

Last week, the Ohio Commission for the United States Semiquincentenial (also known as America 250-Ohio) announced that it was launching a grant program to fund educational and commemorative programing regarding the 250th anniversary of the independence and founding of the United States.

The grants are broken into two cycles: Fall 2023 and Winter 2024. Applications for the Fall cycle must be submitted by November 17, while the application for the Winter cycle will be released in January and must be submitted by the beginning of March.

There are two different levels of funding available:

- **Buckeye Impact Grants**
  - Up to $50,000 available per grant.
  - Intended for projects with statewide, regional, or significant local impact.
- **Trillium Local Activity Grants**
  - Up to $5,000 available per grant.
  - Intended for projects with a local or community-wide impact.

A wide variety of entities are eligible for the grants, including individuals. Individuals must apply through a fiscal agent or sponsor.

America 250-Ohio released a document with more information regarding the program, including details on eligible and ineligible use of funds.

If you have questions regarding the program, please contact grants@ohiohumanities.org.

OEPA to host Mosquito Control webinar

On November 16, the Ohio EPA will host a webinar focusing on its Mosquito Control Grant for summer 2024. The webinar will share information regarding allowable uses (such as mosquito surveillance, control, and source reduction) and how to apply.

In past iterations of the program, local government entities have been eligible recipients, providing they receive a letter of support from their local health department.

The webinar is free and registration can be completed here.

Save the Date! Fishel Downey to host labor and employment law seminar in November

On November 29, the law firm of Fishel Downey Albrecht & Riepenhoff, LLP, will be hosting a seminar on labor and employment law.

The seminar, being held at the Quest Conference Center in Westerville, is recommended for local government administrators, HR professionals, prosecutors, department heads, supervisors, and more. Attendees will learn about the latest in discipline, civil service law, and policy updates and review.

The cost for the event is $175 per attendee, although entities that register two or more will receive a discounted rate of $150 per attendee.

Continuing legal education credit has been requested for attendees.

Registration is not yet open; CCAO will note in a future edition of *Counties Current* when registration begins.

ARPA and BIL RESOURCES

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NACo provides analysis of new allowable uses and guidelines for ARPA funds

On August 10, the US Department of Treasury released a new Interim Final Rule (IFR) for ARPA funding in light of an amendment that recently passed which expanded the allowable usages for the funds. All of the existing allowable usages are unchanged.

NACo has provided an analysis of the new IFR, available here. Additionally, last week NACo held a membership call to discuss the IFR. The slide deck is available here and a recording is available here.

The new IFR added three new allowable uses, discussed in turn.

Emergency Relief from Natural Disasters
Counties may now use ARPA funds to provide relief from natural disasters or mitigate the negative economic effects of a natural disaster. The eligible uses are broad, as long as they are tied to the natural disaster. The NACo analysis has a lengthy, but non-exhaustive, list of allowable usages.

Additionally, ARPA funds can be used to mitigate the threat of future natural disasters. Examples of eligible usages include structure elevation, structural retrofitting, and others.

Surface Transportation Projects & Community Development Block Grant Projects
ARPA funds can now be used for surface transportation projects and CDBH projects, subject to some limitations. These limits include a limitation on contribution, a prohibition on supplanting funds, and a compliance with other laws.

Counties may only use an amount equal to the greater of $10 million or 30% of the county's total ARPA allocation for transportation and CDBG projects. For example, if a county received a total allocation of $58 million, 30% of that is $17.4 million. That is the maximum amount the county can use for these two types of projects. It can be split between the two in any proportion as long as the total does not exceed $17.4 million.

Counties must use ARPA funds to supplement, not supplant, other funds being used for the project. For example, if a county is working on a surface transportation project and has already allocated $4 million for it, it cannot withdraw that $4 million and replace it with ARPA funds. The ARPA funding can be added to it to enhance the project, but not to keep the project scope the same while withdrawing local funds.

Generally speaking, using ARPA funds for surface transportation projects and CDBG projects must comply with other applicable laws. This includes certain environmental laws, procurement laws, and more. The NACo analysis provides more detail on this issue.

Finally, funds used for surface transportation or CDBG must be expended by September 30, 2026. This is earlier than the deadline for other usages (December 31, 2026).

Please utilize the resources linked to above to help gain an understanding of the guidelines for the new allowable usages.

COUNTY NEWS

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Each week Counties Current highlights the happenings in our counties in the words of their local media. One county from each of the CCAO's five districts is highlighted.

Northwest District

Bid awarded for 49 reconstruction

Times Bulletin, October 20, 2023

Van Wert County Commissioners on Thursday approved the bid by Tom's Construction of St. Henry for the state Route 49 highway project in the Village of Wren, beating out two other companies who bid on the project.

"On October 3, Tom's Construction was the low bid. We reviewed the bids and the recommendation is to go with the low bid at $1,281,308," said Craig Knapke, Project Manager for Access Engineering.

Construction is expected to start after the first of the year with completion by the end of July, 2024.

"The scope of the project is reconstruction of state Route 49 from Jackson Street, south to South Street, in addition to the main storm tile outlet that starts at Jackson Street and kind of heads southwest to the edge of the village," Knapke said.

The project became necessary after parts of the village were flooded.

"It's mainly to reconstruct or upsize the storm sewer tile that's in there and then we're also reconstructing state Route 49, which is currently falling apart at the intersection and a few other spots. So we're going to rebuild the street there," Knapke said.

Northeast District

New $37.6M plan will address homelessness for people who have spent time in jail

News5Cleveland, October 16, 2023

Cuyahoga County leaders are working on a plan to address homelessness for those who have been incarcerated.

"My wheels were turning when I looked at that. It's so many different avenues that this money can help us with," said Waverly Willis, who once experienced a drug and alcohol addiction, homelessness and even spent time in jail.

Willis says he's thankful he beat the odds.

He says he's even more grateful he has created a name for himself, and he wants others to have the same opportunity for success as he has.

That's why he's a big supporter of Cuyahoga County's new Housing Justice Plan.

It outlines eight immediate and short-term action steps to better house people who have been released from incarceration, which include the development of new units and expansion of existing programs.

Central District

Judge orders Union County, Jerome Township enter mediation to resolve zoning flap

Columbus Dispatch, October 19, 2023

Union County and Jerome Township officials must enter mediation after a judge signed an order that temporarily prevents the township from enforcing a zoning amendment that county officials say has delayed development in the township.

"What business is going to locate there when you have these legal issues?" Union County Commissioner Dave Burke said, who added the goal is to reach an economic development agreement with the township.

Union County commissioners said in a statement that the zoning amendment that Jerome Township trustees adopted on July 18 "wrongfully" sought to condition all zoning approvals by forcing property owners to consent only to township tax increment financing. That's an incentive using property taxes that development generates for public improvements such as roads.

County officials also said the amendment was forcing property owners to join a Joint Economic Development District that imposes new income taxes on the employees of the business.

Southwest District

Commissioners recognize Red Ribbon Week; hear recycling, investment updates

Highland County Press, October 19, 2023

Highland County commissioners Terry Britton, David Daniels and Brad Roades recognized Oct. 23-27 as Red Ribbon Week in Highland County during their Wednesday, Oct. 18 meeting.

Accepting the Red Ribbon Week proclamation were Karie Emery of Bright Local Schools; Toni Lewis of Greenfield Exempted Village Schools; Jeff Meyer of Hope for Highland County and the Highland County Drug Abuse Prevention Coalition; Susan Rhoads of Hillsboro City Schools; and Bill Showman of Paint Valley ADAMH.

Congress established Red Ribbon Week in 1988. The week raises awareness of drug use and the problems related to drugs and encourages parents, educators, business owners and other community organizations to promote drug-free lifestyles. Red Ribbon Week encourages the entire community to adopt healthy, drug-free lifestyles.

The theme of this year's national Red Ribbon Week campaign is "Be Kind to Your Mind. Live Drug Free." According to redribbon.org, the annual theme serves as "a reminder that everyday Americans across the country make significant daily contributions to their communities by being the best they can be because they live drug-free."

Southeast District

Muskingum County Auditor Debra J. Nye Honored with Distinguished Auditor's Award

WHIZ News, October 19, 2023

The Muskingum County Commissioners met Thursday to present an award to the County Auditor.

Debra J. Nye has been the Muskingum County Auditor for 13 years. This is the first time she has been recognized with the Distinguished Auditor's Award from Auditor of State Keith Faber.

Nye talked about all of the contributions her and her team have made to the county.

"I have changed the software we use for real estate," Nye said. "I have also changed the BSNA, which really helped through COVID. We were able to separate into teams and work without hindrance to the office."

Nye said that this award was a surprise but it means the world to her and her team to get recognition for their work.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please view the CCAO Calendar for a comprehensive list of events to note.

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OCTOBER 27
CEBCO Board of Directors Meeting

OCTOBER 30
CCAO Regional Budget Briefing - Allen County

NOVEMBER 3
CCAO Justice and Public Safety Committee Meeting

NOVEMBER 3
CORSA Board of Directors Meeting

NOVEMBER 7
General Election

NOVEMBER 10
Veterans Day (observed)

NOVEMBER 11
Veterans Day

NOVEMBER 16
CCAO General Government Committee Meeting

NOVEMBER 17
CCAO Board of Directors Meeting

NOVEMBER 23
Thanksgiving

DECEMBER 6 - 8
CCAO-CEAO Annual Winter Conference

DID YOU KNOW?

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Richland County

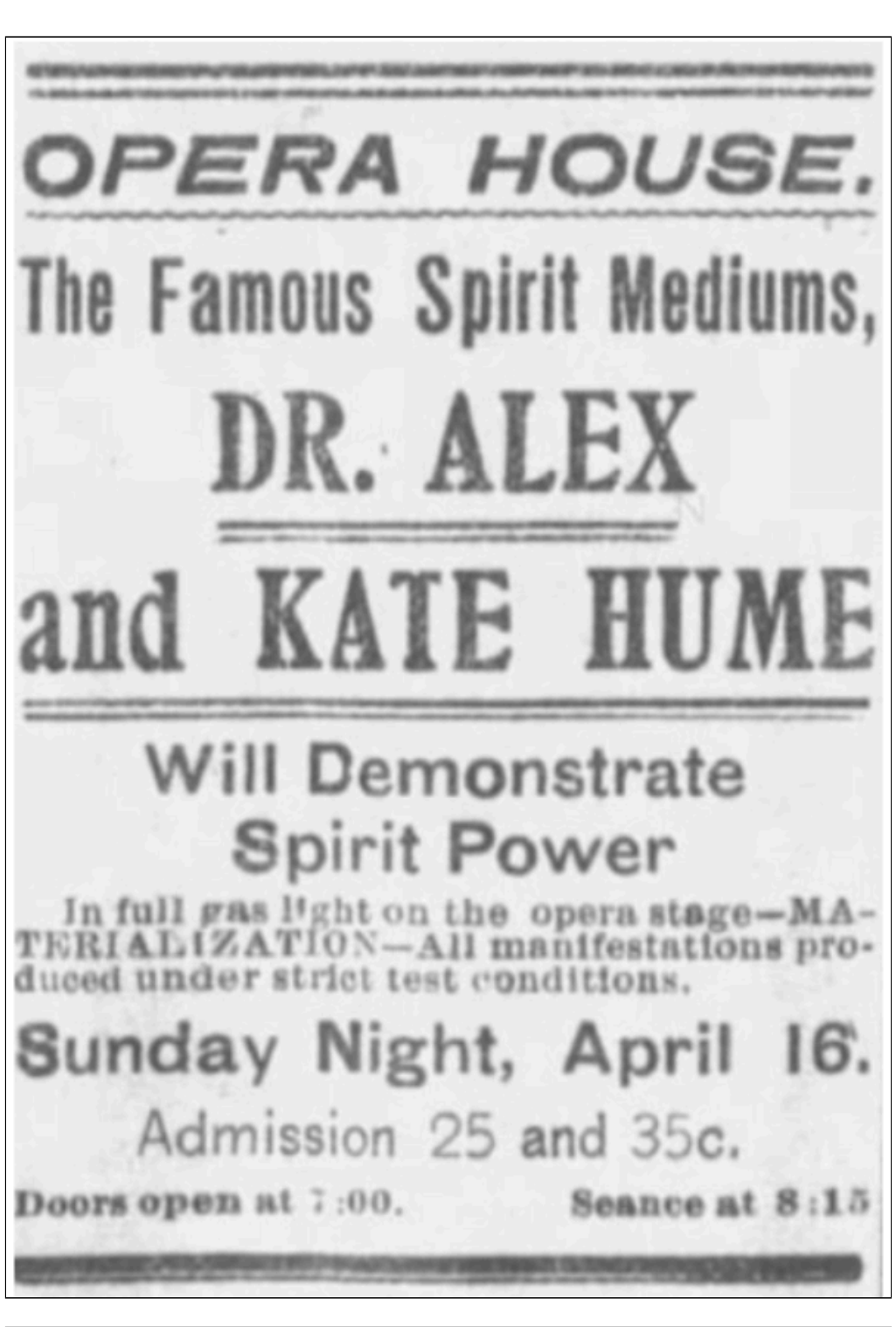
While never home to a spiritualist on the level of Jonathan Koons or Harrison Tuttle, the Richland County county seat of Mansfield was a hotbed of spiritualist activities in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

One of the earliest recorded spiritualism episodes in Mansfield was the 1860 visit to the city by Tennessee Claflin, a 14-year-old who claimed psychic abilities (as was later revealed, under pressure from her abusive father).

The Mansfield Memorial Opera House hosted numerous spiritualist shows over the years, including at least one by a Mansfield native named Charles Adams, who worked under the stage name "The Boy Demon."

Next week, as October comes to a close, we'll highlight the most lasting impact that spiritualism has had on American culture, an item that can still be seen in TV shows and horror movies down to the present day: the Ouija Board.

Below: Three clippings from Richland County newspapers advertising spiritualist events at the Mansfield Memorial Opera House.



OPERA HOUSE.

The Famous Spirit Mediums,

DR. ALEX

and KATE HUME

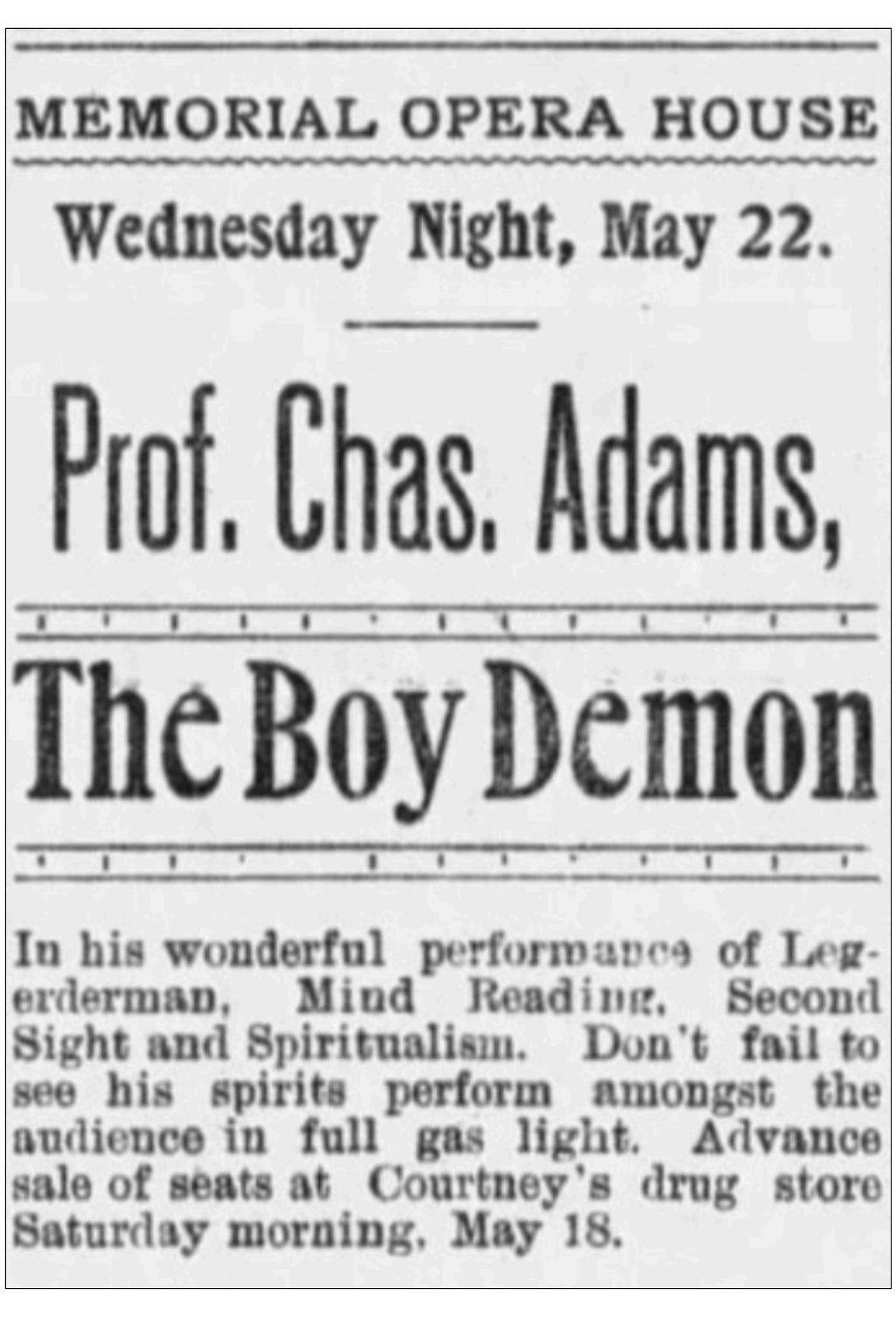
Will Demonstrate Spirit Power

In full gas light on the opera stage—MATERIALIZATION—All manifestations produced under strict test conditions.

Sunday Night, April 16.

Admission 25 and 35c.

Doors open at 7:00. Seance at 8:15



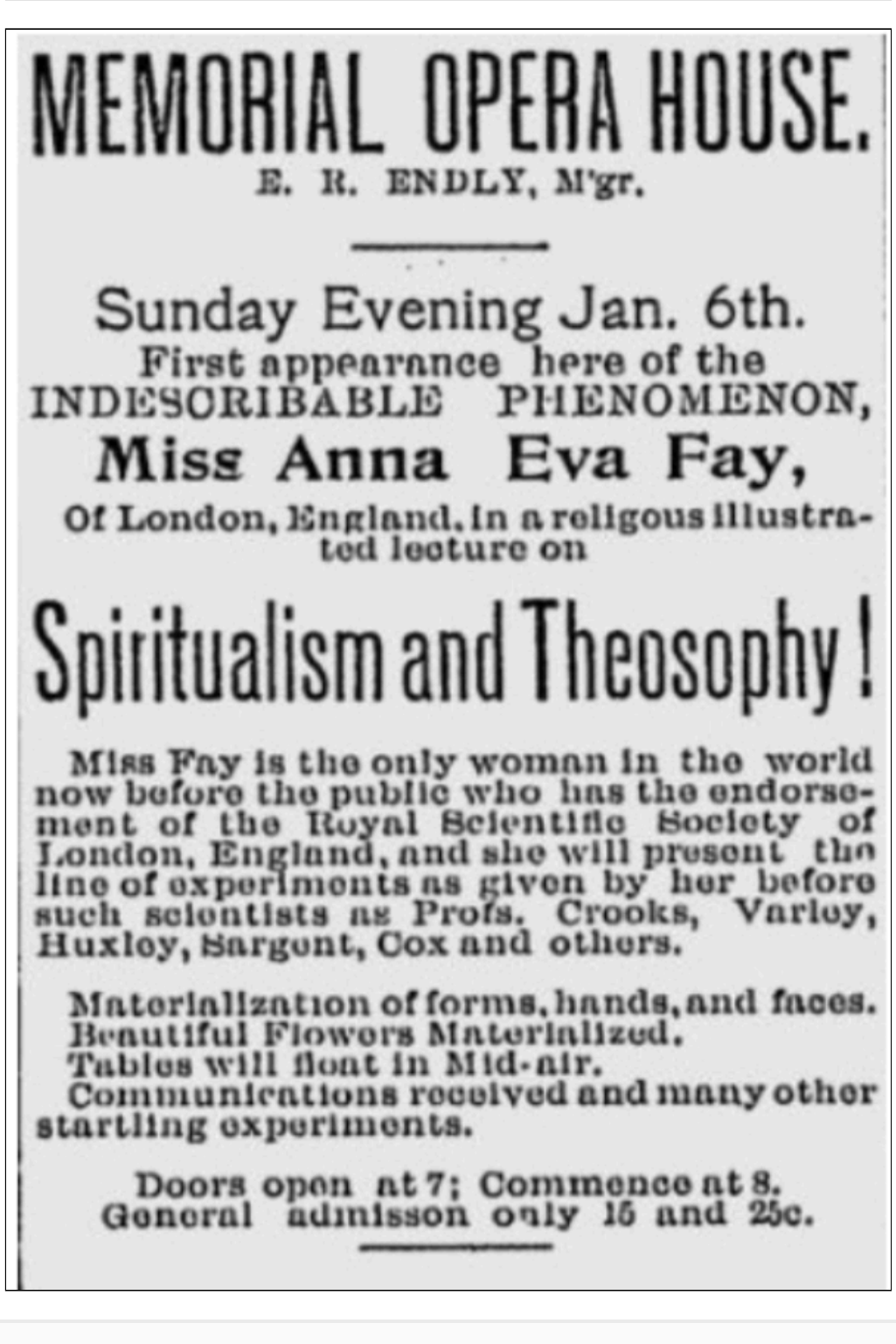
MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE

Wednesday Night, May 22.

Prof. Chas. Adams,

The Boy Demon

In his wonderful performance of Legerdermain, Mind Reading, Second Sight and Spiritualism. Don't fail to see his spirits perform amongst the audience in full gas light. Advance sale of seats at Courtney's drug store Saturday morning, May 18.



MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE.

E. R. ENDLY, M'gr.

Sunday Evening Jan. 6th.

First appearance here of the INDESCRIBABLE PHENOMENON,

Miss Anna Eva Fay,

Of London, England, in a religous illustrated lecture on

Spiritualism and Theosophy!

Miss Fay is the only woman in the world now before the public who has the endorsement of the Royal Scientific Society of London, England, and she will present the line of experiments as given by her before such scientists as Profs. Crooks, Varley, Huxley, Sargent, Cox and others.

Materialization of forms, hands, and faces.
Beautiful Flowers Materialized.
Tables will float in Mid-air.
Communications received and many other startling experiments.

Doors open at 7; Commence at 8.
General admisson only 15 and 25c.

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