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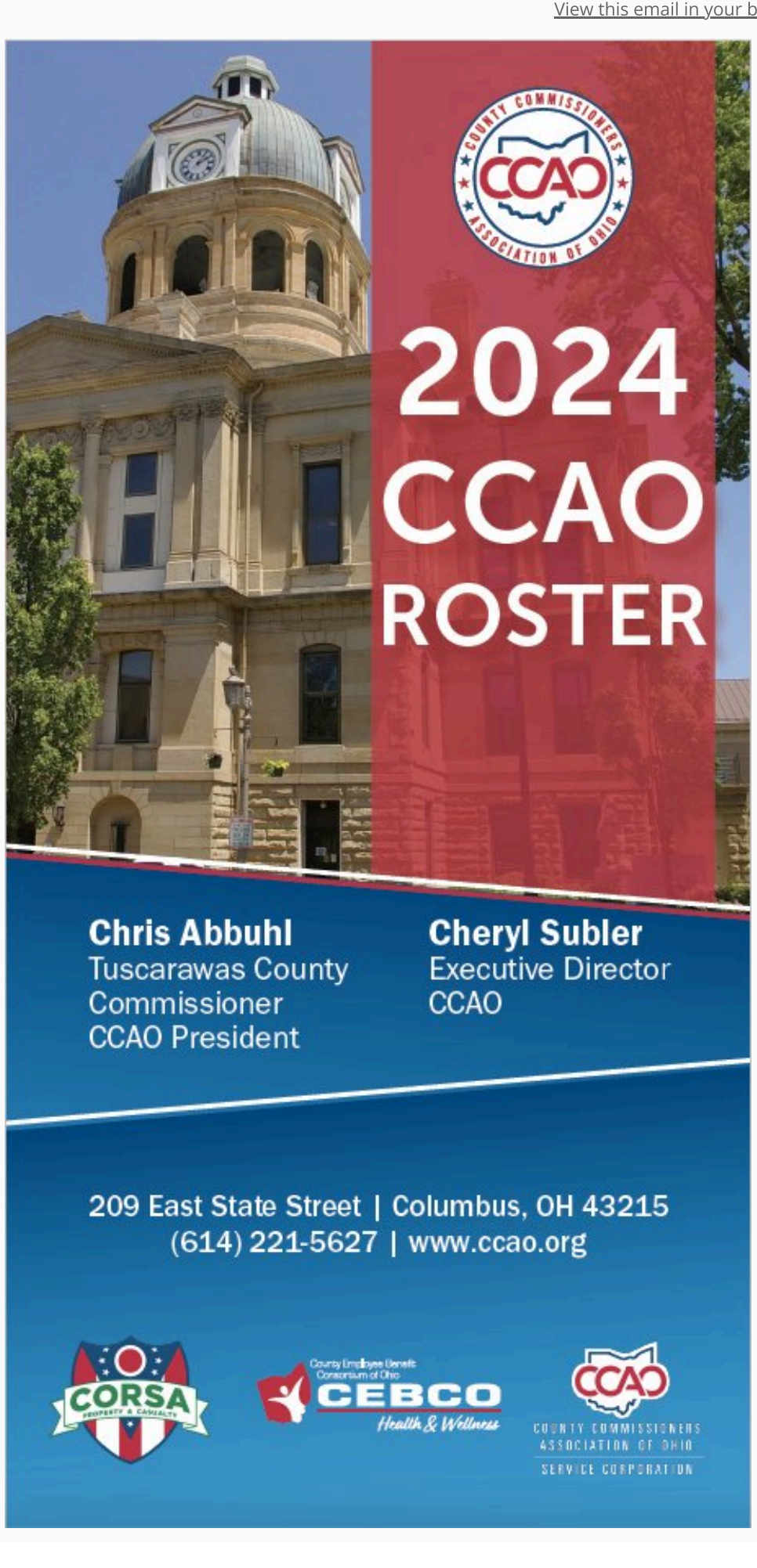
2024
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ROSTER
Chris Abbuhl
Tuscarawas County
Commissioner
CCAO President
Cheryl Subler
Executive Director
CCAO
209 East State Street | Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 221-5627 | www.ccao.org
CORSA
CEBCO Health & Wellness
CCAO County Commissioners Association of Ohio Service Corporation

March 4, 2024

The online version of the 2024 Roster is now available on our website! View the new document at http://ccao.org/roster.

Physical copies are being printed and will be mailed in the near future.

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

Statehouse Report and Counties Current Archive | Dates to Remember

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ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

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2024 Ohio Counties Scholarship now available

Throughout the state, there will be one scholarship offered to students in each CCAO District (Central, Southwest, Southeast, Northwest and Northeast). The award amount is $2,000 and is payable to the student when our office has received confirmation of your attendance at a university, community college, training program or vocational school. Applicants should plan on a career in public service in Ohio. Last year, we had over 100 applicants from 53 of Ohio's 88 counties! This year, we are looking forward to even more applicants.

The deadline to apply for this scholarship is Friday May 3, 2024.

To download scholarship materials, please visit ccao.org/scholarship

If you have questions, please email scholarships@ccao.org.

CCAO shares analysis of CCAO-BSSA Jail Project Survey

CCAO is happy to share the analysis of a survey conducted in conjunction with the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association concerning county jail projects.

The survey, conducted from December 2023 through January 2024, is an update on a similar survey conducted in 2019. The original survey found a statewide need of $1.4 billion for jail construction, renovation, expansion, and repair. The new survey has found that figure increased to $2.2 billion.

In addition to the significant increase during the gap between the two surveys, the new survey found that individual project costs were coming in 41.5% higher than the initial quote, on average.

County jails are facing pressures due to the rising need for drug addiction and mental health service provision to keep inmates healthy and an increasing population of female inmates. Those two factors, along with the need to enhance safety for corrections staff, are the primary drivers of jail projects.

The survey's findings support CCAO's request for $250 million through the capital budget for jail construction and renovation. This funding is currently contained in House Bill 2, recently passed by the House. CCAO encourages our members to engage with your senators concerning jail needs in your county and the findings in the CCAO-BSSA survey.

If you have questions concerning the survey, please contact CCAO Research Analyst Nick Ciolli at nciolli@ccao.org.

Central District to hold meeting on May 3

The Central CCAO/CEAO District will host a regional meeting in Fairfield County on May 3.

The event will feature a breakfast and a welcome by Central District President and Delaware County Commissioner Gary Merrell, followed by an update from CCAO. Then, each Fairfield County Commissioner will give a brief presentation on one of their areas of focus:

- Commissioner Jeff Fix: Fairfield County's Land Use Planning Process
- Commissioner Steve Davis: Expanding Transit to Meet Workforce Challenges
- Commissioner David Levacy: The Fairfield County Workforce Center and Training Programs.

The event will conclude with a tour of the county's workforce center and a lunch.

Registration can be completed here. Please RSVP no later than April 22 so that appropriate preparations can be made. If you have difficulties registering, please contact Fairfield County Administrator Aundrea Cordelia at aundrea.cordle@fairfieldcountyohio.gov.

A Special Thanks to our Pinnacle Partner:

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STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

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OACHBA, Auditor of State release Behavioral Health Handbook

The Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities, in partnership with the Auditor of State, recently released an updated copy of their Behavioral Health Handbook. The handbook is a comprehensive reference guide that identifies and explains the laws and regulations that address the operational duties and responsibilities of Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health (ADAMH) Boards in Ohio including a detailed overview of fiscal and auditing requirements.

As noted by Auditor of State Keith Faber in the handbook, the Auditor of State's review does not constitute a legal opinion, so counties and ADAMH boards should still consult with their county prosecutor or other legal counsel with legal questions concerning the content of the handbook.

CCAO encourages our members to familiarize themselves with the handbook as recent law changes regarding ADAMH boards and the ongoing review of property tax law at the state level has increased the importance of an up-to-date familiarity with the functions of these key levy agencies.

OneOhio Recovery Foundation set to release RFP today, to host webinar series on abatement strategies through March

The OneOhio Recovery Foundation, created to administer the majority of opioid settlement funds that come to Ohio, is set to begin the first round of grants today, March 4.

According to its 2024 Regional Grant Schedule, the foundation will release the 2024 Regional Grant Request for Proposals (RFP) today and open access to the OneOhio Grant Portal. The portal will not begin accepting applications until April 2, but prospective applicants can use the period before April to familiarize themselves with the RFP and the grant portal.

The Foundation also announced three webinars it will hold in March to support applicants as they prepare funding requests. Each webinar will focus on an abatement strategy that grant applicants may apply for funding under. The first webinar will take place tomorrow, March 5. The complete schedule is:

- March 5 (10:00am) - Recovery Housing
- March 11 (2:30pm) - Recovery Supports
- March 20 (10:30am) - Prevention

Please visit the OneOhio Recovery Foundation's website for more information concerning the grants and the webinar series. If you have any questions concerning the grants, please contact Apply@oneohiofoundation.com.

Residential Broadband Program challenge window open again, to last until April 19

The challenge process has begun for the second round of the Ohio Residential Broadband Expansion Grant program and will continue until April 19.

The challenge process is an important part of the program as it ensures that broadband maps are accurate so funds can be better allocated to where they're needed.

You can access the maps, challenge forms, and other necessary information on BroadbandOhio's website.

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.

THURSDAY: CCAO, Ohio Housing Finance Agency to host webinar on housing tax credit program

On March 7, CCAO, in conjunction with the Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OHFA), will host a webinar to educate members on a new tool that local governments can utilize to improve single-family housing stock in Ohio: The Single-Family Housing Tax Credit (SFHTC).

Created in the state's most recent operating budget, the SFHTC allows for a maximum of $50,000 tax credit per dwelling to projects aimed at developing or rehabilitating housing in Ohio communities. Counties play an important role in the SFHTC program, as the lead applicants for the programs must be a county, township, municipality, regional planning commission, community improvement corporation, or economic development corporation.

OHFA has produced a one-page handout with an overview of the program and more detailed information about the SFHTC, including the allocation plan and underwriting guidelines, can be found on the Agency's website.

Housing is one of the most pressing issues that the state is facing, so CCAO is happy to offer this educational opportunity on one of the new roles that counties can play in alleviating the housing crunch.

Registration is free and can be completed here.

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation bringing Ohio Safety Congress to Columbus in March

Get ready to attend the 2024 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo® (OSC24®) on March 27-29 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center where you will LEARN, SOLVE, and CONNECT with leading experts! Knowledgeable presenters will focus on issues directly related to the challenges you face each day. Find your favorite sessions in the full educational program. ***Sessions will apply toward the BWC 2-hour annual safety training requirement for Group Rating and Group Retro members***.

In addition, the keynote line-up consists of two diverse speakers, Brett Culp and Eduardo Garcia. They both have amazing messages you won't want to miss.

Can't make it to Columbus? A select number of the sessions will be livestreamed so you can watch from anywhere!

Don't miss this opportunity to strengthen your workplace safety practices and protect your most valuable asset – your employees. Please attend OSC24® and take steps toward a safer, healthier, and more productive workplace.

State accepting county and independent fairs grant applications

The Department of Development is now accepting applications for the County and Independent Fairs Grant Program, created as part House Bill 33, the state's main operating budget. The program is funded with $10 million in FY 2024. All county and independent agricultural societies that hold an annual exhibition to promote agricultural interests of the county and the state will be eligible to apply.

This program focuses funding on capital expenditure projects with the purpose of increasing fair access or economic impact within their local fairgrounds. Eligible projects the grants can be used for include but are not limited to:

- New/upgraded machinery/equipment.
- Technology improvements.
- Property/Structure – Construction, improvements, or enhancements.
- Property/Structure – Repairs or renovations.
- Assets with useful life of more than one year.
- Road/access improvements.
- Upgrades to electrical or sanitation systems.
- Grandstand purchases or renovations.
- ADA accommodation improvements.

The application portal will close on April 30, 2024. The award amount will be granted equally among eligible applicants or by total project cost; whichever is less. The applicant, if granted funding, will be required to enter into a grant agreement with the Department of Development within 60 days of receiving notification. The funds will then be awarded after completion of the project and as a one-time payment.

Additional information, including reporting guidelines and where to apply for the program, are available on the Department of Development's website.

Grant writing workshop to be held in Columbus on March 21 & 22

On March 21-22, Grant Writing USA will host a workshop in Columbus on how to write grant applications for governmental grants and grants from foundations.

The first day will feature instruction on how to articulate the community need, how to develop credibility as an applicant, and how to justify your need. The second day will include instruction on how to develop a grant budget, how to condense your grant summary into a one-pager, and how to locate and track grant opportunities.

Registration costs $495 per attendee but using the code "ASSN" at registration will save your county $30 per registration.

You can register and learn more about Grant Writing USA here.

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, and on occasion other stories may be highlighted as well.

Northwest District

Few apply for county demo funds

The Courier, February 27, 2024

Hancock County is hoping for more takers of demolition funds now available through a state grant.

As of mid-February, only three applications had been made to the fund, and a large amount of funding is still available, said Kaysie Penzinski, grant administrator for the Hancock Regional Planning Commission.

The deadline for applications is 4 p.m. Friday. Application packets can be picked up at 318 Dorney Plaza, Room 304, Findlay, or accessed on Hancock Regional Planning's website at www.hancockrpc.org

The funding is being made available through a $500,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Development to be used to demolish commercial and residential buildings.

The grant is part of the department's fiscal year 2024-25 Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program.

Commercial and residential buildings on sites that do not contain environmentally hazardous substances or conditions and are located within Hancock County are eligible for demolition funds.

Northeast District

Summit County announces $8M to help residents 60 and older age in place

Cleveland.com, February 28, 2024

Summit County this week announced it has earmarked $8 million over the next two years to assist eligible residents ages 60 and older through a new initiative called the Aging in Place Program.

Direction Home Akron Canton Area Agency on Aging and Disabilities is partnering with the county to manage the program, which offers funding for eligible residents for home repair, one-time chore assistance, digital literacy and in-home managed care services such as personal care and home-delivered meals. Direction Home will work with its providers and the Summit County Department of Community Development to provide services.

The program is funded by a $4 million grant from Summit County Council and an additional $4 million in state funds from the Department of Aging and federal American Rescue Plan Act.

The initiative comes as the number of Summit County residents ages 60 and older continues to increase; the number of adults ages 60 and older is expected to exceed 20% by 2030, according to the county. Many older adults wish to remain in place as they age, but they face obstacles to maintaining their homes or accessing support services.

Central District

Franklin County still spending pandemic relief money on local projects

Axios, February 27, 2024

Franklin County still has millions of dollars in pandemic relief money to spend in the coming three years, Axios has learned.

Why it matters: Years after the final pandemic lockdown, local governments are still using relief funds to support public services and make infrastructure improvements.

Driving the news: Franklin County commissioners will vote this morning to allocate three "COVID-19 Recovery Grants" toward local nonprofits:

- $1 million to Lutheran Social Services to fund the CHOICES Domestic Violence Shelter.
- $1 million to Community Partners Youth Development to support a business resource hub for "minority and underserved entrepreneurs."
- $300,000 to Besa Community Inc. for events in "distressed" neighborhoods that connect women and children with social services.

The big picture: The county received $256 million in American Rescue Plan funding after President Biden signed the law in 2021.

- County officials came into 2024 with around $51 million still left to allocate.

What they're saying: This spending is guided by community input received back in 2021, spokesperson Tyler Lowry tells us.

- "Our strategy [since] then has been to focus first on addressing the public health aspects of the pandemic and then on community agencies and programs that will help Franklin County families get ahead in the future."

Southwest District

County re-allocates over $700k in funds for mortgage, property tax relief

WCPO 9, March 1, 2024

Hamilton County commissioners have re-allocated over $700,000 of federal funds into a program that provides financial relief to homeowners struggling to make ends meet.

Commissioners voted to approve the re-allocation of $701,000 into the county's Mortgage, Property Tax and Utility Program, according to a press release. Those funds mean the program now has $1.4 million available to help homeowners cover costs as property taxes skyrocket.

"At 513Relief Bus stops, at commission meetings and at community gatherings across Hamilton County, we have heard directly from homeowners about the need for help," said Alicia Reece, Hamilton County commission president. "This funding allows us to extend the program to help more homeowners who are struggling to stay in their homes, keep the lights on and help pay property taxes."

The Greater Cincinnati region was up for property reappraisal in 2023. In Hamilton County, property values increased an average of 28% while property taxes rose by an average of 10.4%. Those numbers are due to a combination of several factors including a booming housing market, school districts and new levies, Hamilton County Treasurer Jill Schiller said.

Southeast District

Progress being made at local jail site; foundation work being completed

WTRF.com, February 21, 2024

Progress is the name of the game in Harrison County, especially when it comes to the new jail.

Sheriff Joe Myers says things are starting to take shape despite a few weather delays over the past few weeks.

Construction crews are now pouring concrete for footers and doing other foundation work.

Sheriff Myers says he's confident they'll meet their goal to get everything done by March next year.

The new jail will be an eighty-bed facility, which is a significant upgrade over the current jail that can only house eight prisoners.

Myers says it'll be a benefit to taxpayers. "Our biggest thing and biggest thing for me was to try to find a place to cut taxpayers dollars down by housing prisoners locally instead of housing them outside of the county. We have five different jails that we've used over the years, and it gets costly. Not so much the cost factor of them being housed there. It's the transportation cost to and from the jails."

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

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MARCH 11
CCAO Justice and Public Safety Committee Meeting

MARCH 15
CORSA Board of Directors Meeting

MARCH 19
Ohio Primary Election

MARCH 20
Northwest District Meeting, Fulton County

MARCH 21
CORSA Renewal Meeting

MARCH 21
CCAO General Government Committee Meeting

MARCH 22
CCAO Board of Directors Meeting

DID YOU KNOW?

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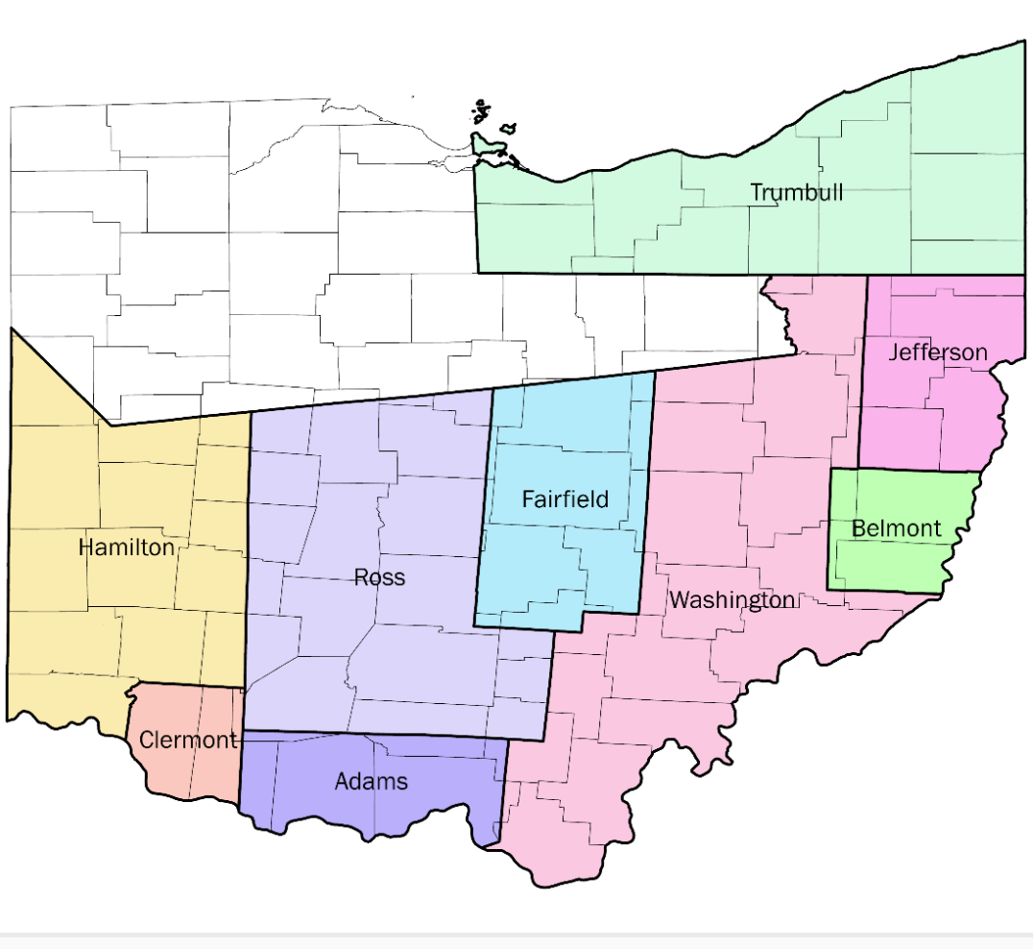
Pre-Statehood Counties

Last Friday, Ohio celebrated its 221st birthday, after being admitted to the United States on March 1, 1803. When it achieved statehood, Ohio already had nine of its eventually 88 counties: Washington, Hamilton, Adams, Jefferson, Ross, Trumbull, Clermont, Fairfield, and Belmont. The state would add eight more counties by the time its first birthday rolled around.

The pre-statehood counties are shown in the map below, superimposed over the current county boundaries. The blank area was largely set aside by the 1795 Treaty of Greenville as off-limits for Euro-American settlers.



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