



**December 24, 2011---**Another Christmas has come around---our fourth at The Voice and, as I have said before, this is my favorite day of the year. There is nothing like the anticipation of Christmas on Christmas Eve and the fun of spending time with friends and family. All of us at The Voice feel fortunate to have such good families and friends and appreciate you one and all. Our business depends on the sponsors who believe in us and those that visit the site. When all is said and done, the real joys of life include doing what you want to be doing with people you want to be doing it with for people you want to do it for.....and we enjoy all three situations at The Voice. I hope you and your family have a blessed and safe Christmas season and that is is all you hope it to be.

**July 2, 2011—Year Four Begins!**—Today marks the start of our fourth year at The Voice. It seems incredible that we've been doing it this long already. Time truly does fly. Over the last three years, we have worked very hard to bring you a quality product and we continue to enhance it at every opportunity. Obviously, some things happen quicker than others but we've come a long way since we launched the site in 2008. I just wanted to take a moment to thank all of our sponsors who have been with us from the beginning and those who have joined us along the way. Without you, it doesn't happen and we never take that for granted. I also can't say enough about our staff of Rob Moser, Fuzz Mackey, Michelle Rodhe and Drew Stutzman. They spend a lot of time going above and beyond the call of duty to get things accomplished and it is much appreciated. Our other valued partners who send us photos, etc., are an extremely important part of the effort as well. We all very much enjoy what we are doing and thank you, our sponsors, and the community for allowing us to do it. We feel very fortunate to be working in Holmes County and just wanted to say thanks again for everything everyone has done for us.

**Monday, April 4, 2011—THE VOICE GOES TO WASHINGTON—**Last week, we traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with Holmes County's Congressman Bob Gibbs at his office at the Cannon Office Building. We are starting a five-part video interview series with him today that we hope will give you a unique view of his life in Washington.

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We also conducted video interviews with Ryan Stenger, Bob's Chief of Staff, Dave White, Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Krysta Harden, Chief of Staff for Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Gary Mast, former USDA Under Secretary and a regular contributor to The Voice. Various photo galleries will also be shared. I hope you will take time to look over what we brought back from the Nation's Capital. We think it is unique and special and if you can let your friends on Facebook, Twitter and other social media know about it, I think they'd enjoy it as well. We will add two things per day to our special "The Voice In Washington D.C." section Mon. Apr. 4 through Fri. Apr. 8. Special thanks to Kaufman Realty and Auctions, Millersburg Electric and Holmes Oil Distributing for sponsoring our trip and a very special thank you to Gary and Diane Mast—without their kindness, support and willingness to shuttle us all over the Nation's Capital, we never could have accomplished what we were able to do. And a big thanks to our staff members who accompanied me--Drew Stutzman, who handled our video work and some still photo shooting as well, and to Fuzz Mackey for his photo work and other help. **THANKS TO OUR COACHES, AD'S AND OTHER SCHOOL EMPLOYEES**—Another basketball season has come and gone and over the course of a 73-game schedule, as we had this year, one really appreciates the hard work of our coaches, AD's and other school staffers. We appreciate all their help throughout the season and the year. We cannot do what we do without their help, cooperation and encouragement and all three are very valued by all of us at "The Voice." Congratulations to all on great seasons once again and, in particular, to the Hiland Hawks boys basketball team for their second Division IV State Championship!

**Monday, January 10, 2011—HAPPY NEW YEAR!** I hope you and your family had a great holiday season and the new year is all you wish it to be. **MAC USERS CAN NOW LISTEN TO GAMES ON MACS!** We are pleased to report that Mac users and users of other Apple products (ipod Touch, iPad, etc.) with internet access, can now listen to the games live. Just click on the "Mac Users" link on the front page photo on game day.

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**Friday, December 24, 2010**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**—As I have written before, Christmas Eve is my favorite day of the year. I love the anticipation and the serenity that Christmas Eve brings with family and friends. It is always a time of reflection; a time of remembering all the good things I've been blessed with in my life and the good friends I have been fortunate to make. I always look forward to the quietness that settles in right before bedtime, knowing what the next day will bring. With each passing year, those are the things that mean more and more to me. I have always said if the measure of a man's wealth is the friends he has enjoyed, then I am truly rich. As I continue my 20<sup>th</sup> year in Holmes County, I again say thank you for letting me part of this community—a community rich in the traditions of the season and in the caring for its own all year round. If you stumble and fall in Holmes County, the first thing you will see when you look up is a hand reaching out to help you back to your feet. It is a unique setting with unique people. We live in a time in which much of the daily focus centers on what's wrong and not nearly enough time is spent on recognizing what is right. I....we....have much to be thankful for this holiday season. I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I hope it brings you peace and all that you hope for and strive for each day. We thank you for the gift of allowing us to do business and work in a community such as this. It is truly the gift that keeps giving throughout the year in the friendships we enjoy, the working relationships we have built, and the pleasure in serving you. Thanks, again...and Merry Christmas from all of us at The Voice!

**Monday, November 22, 2010**

**IT'S THAT TIME!**—The winter sports season has arrived and we're gearing up for another great winter. You'll find our basketball webcast schedule by hitting the "Broadcast Schedule" tab on the front page. All dates are weather dependent and we will be announcing our Classic In The Country plans later. In the meantime, enjoy the Winter Sports preview with the four Holmes County Basketball Coaches and West Holmes Wrestling Coach Jeff Woods. You'll find all of them on one page located here:

<http://thevoiceofholmescounty.com/archives/2010WinterSportsPreview.html>

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**Don't forget** that you can download any game we have ever done or will do at our new MP3 store. All you need is a Pay Pal account. Remember, these are large files and will take some time to download but if you want a copy of a game, you'll find them here: <http://thevoiceofholmescounty.com/purchaseaudio>

**SHARE A CHRISTMAS**—There is no greater project than Share A Christmas in Holmes County. You know how much that project means to me and I hope you'll find a way to support it this holiday season. Whether through financial donation or by donating your time, whatever you provide makes a difference. It is who we are and what we do each year and it is a staple within our community. So many people making so much of a difference. It is the greatest single project I have ever had the privilege to be associated with and Christmas wouldn't be Christmas for me without it.

**Friday, July 2, 2010**

**YEAR THREE BEGINS**—Today, we begin year three of our website development effort known as The Voice Of Holmes County.com. On one hand, it sure doesn't seem like it's been two years since we launched the site. On the other hand, when I think back to where we were day one and where we are today, it seems like light years. We have made many changes and improvements---a process that never ends---and we have added various technical and other features we never imagined when we began. Such is the world of the web and why it presents so many exciting opportunities. Through July 1, 2010, two full calendar years, we have had over 625,00 page views at our site. We cannot tell you how we appreciate that level of interest and support. And we cannot tell our sponsors how much we appreciate that they are the ones who have made it possible. I just wanted you all to know as we start another year, how much I appreciate the opportunity to work here and be a part of the community. Thank you!

**Monday, June 14, 2010**

**RELAY FOR LIFE**—One of Holmes County's great community events is coming up June 18 and 19. The Annual Relay for Life event will be held at West Holmes High

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School and we plan plenty of coverage beginning Friday night. Watch the website for updates throughout the evening. We are looking forward, once again, to being a part of this important Holmes County activity. **RACING**—We've had a lot of positive comment in regard to our new racing section. We hope you're enjoying the results, photos, reports and interviews. If you haven't checked it out yet, just click the "Pit Pass" logo in the upper right hand corner of the main page or you can click on the link here:

<http://thevoiceofholmescounty.com/racing>

**WELCOME JONATHAN SCHOLLES**—We are pleased to now have the contributions of writer Jonathan Scholles. Jon will be covering a variety of things for us including racing stories and other stories of local interest. Jon is an outstanding writer and we are pleased to have him contributing to our website. Check out Jon's Journal when it appears and you'll see what we mean!

### Monday, March 22, 2010

**THANKS TO ALL**—There is no way I can ever do so, but I want to try and thank the folks who make doing this work so enjoyable. We just completed a 70-game basketball season. It took a lot of concerted effort by a lot of people to allow us to do what we do. Our sponsors are, first and foremost, at the top of the list. Without their support of our product and belief in our business, we would not be able to do all we've been able to do in less than two years. We thank them and we hope you will thank them by patronizing their businesses and supporting them. We want to thank those that helped with photos: Brent Smith and Bob Reining at <http://www.zoomshot.us>, James Wagler and Trapper Troyer. I urge you to visit Bob and Brent's site...they do great work and they're great guys to work with, too. James Wagler is new on board this season and took some great shots for us and Trapper Troyer has shot for us on and off this sports season. We can't thank them enough. They are very, very talented people. The video presentations at the Classic and for the State were put together by a young man of unbelievable talent, Drew Stutzman. Check out his work and you'll see what I mean. West Holmes Athletic Director Todd Day and Hiland Athletic Director Erik Buen---you have no idea how much

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time, effort, and caring they put into their jobs. And, they still find time to help us in any way they can. The schools are lucky to have two guys as dedicated to their jobs as Todd and Erik are...and that goes for all of the other school personnel we work with who make it a point to get us what we need as quickly as possible. You know who you are.....thanks. There are many media people who would give anything to be as lucky as we are to have the coaches we work with....Jim Lindeman, Lisa Patterson and Wrestling Coach Jeff Woods at West Holmes.....Mark Schlabach and Dave Schlabach at Hiland. Great people, great teachers, great coaches. They build winners, but more importantly, they produce good young people who benefit from their leadership in so many ways. You see the results on the courts and the mats. What you don't see is how the values they teach, the work ethic they promote, and the code of conduct and behavior they expect from their players benefits these kids for the rest of their lives. We also thank the young people who make up their teams...it's been fun to watch you perform and enjoyable to be a small part of your high school careers. We could not do without the help staff member Michelle Rodhe provides at the Classic and Fuzz Mackey brings things to the website that you may not see on the surface but his impact is major just the same. He's a sounding board, ideas guy, and a great friend. We spend a lot of time together during the basketball season and there's no one I'd rather be working with, night after night, than Fuzz. Rob Moser, with all he has to do during the season, keeps us technically on track and makes sure things run the way they should from the technical standpoint. And....a special thanks to you...the fans....you make it fun....your support is always appreciated....and you're the best folks in the world to work for every night. **Truly, a Mouse Click From Home!**—We have said, from the beginning, that you are only “a mouse click from home” no matter where you may be in the world. Never was that more apparent than during our state tournament coverage. We received email from Holmes County residents, or former residents, in Holland, in Bethlehem, and a player's brother on a West African mission. We heard from folks in Washington D.C., Chicago, Columbus, Stow, Salem, and other locations in Indiana, Southern California, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Florida, and New Mexico as well as numerous, local folks as well. And that was just this

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weekend. We have heard from many folks in various states and locations over the course of the season. Friday and Saturday, we recorded over 8,500 page views at our site with Friday being a one-day record of over 4,600.

### **Tuesday, March 16, 2010**

**STATE TOURNAMENT COVERAGE HERE!**—We will have our normal play-by-play coverage of the state tournament this year. We plan extensive coverage starting with player video interviews before the tourney as well as the game played in Columbus and more. The restrictions barring us from doing live web streaming from the state are gone with the dissolving of the exclusivity contract the OHSAA had signed previously so we are looking forward to doing the games as we always have. Our webcast for the semi-final begins at 12:40 Friday afternoon and, if Hiland wins, our Saturday webcast would begin at 4:40. Join us...we're excited to be back at the state tournament and excited to be able to bring you the game live...right here!

### **Thursday, January 21, 2010**

**ANOTHER CLASSIC**—Another Classic in the Country Challenge has come and gone and for the seventh straight year, it was an enormous success. The number of people who travel to Holmes County for this event is phenomenal and the influx of dollars, during a normally stagnant time of year, is a major boost to the local economy. We hope you will take time to stop by our Classic coverage page and look over all we did this year at <http://thevoiceofholmescounty.com/ClassicintheCountryChallenge.html>

The Marvin Blanks re-enactment of the "I Have A Dream Speech" is brilliant and we have video of it plus game broadcasts, pictures, and other video as well. While basketball is the centerpiece, there is so much more to the event and we hope we've captured the feel of it. We had a great time, met a lot of great people, renewed old acquaintances and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. Fuzz Mackey, Drew Stutzman, Rob Moser, Michelle Rodhe, James Wagler, Brent Smith, Sean Hoxworth and Bob Reining did a great job for

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us, as always. Check it out and thanks to Tom Jenkins and everyone who made our job easier and more enjoyable.

#### **Thursday, December 24, 2009**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**—The most anticipated night and day of the year has arrived. It hardly seems possible that we have arrived at Christmas, once again. I have written before that I most enjoy Christmas Eve...sometimes the anticipation and excitement of what is to come is as good as the day and the events that follow. I hope your Christmas is all you wish it to be and that you and your family find peace and happiness on this wonderful day. We open the gifts of good fortune every day by having the privilege and opportunity to work here. So at The Voice, we don't ask for much more, as our tree has that gift under it all year round. Here's hoping you enjoy family, friends, festivity and fun during this joyful season. Let the reason for it be remembered and celebrated. Merry Christmas...and thank you for everything!

#### **Wednesday, December 23, 2009**

**OHSAA-OHIO HS SPORTS.COM DISSOLVE CONTRACT**—For a variety of reasons, the Ohio High School Athletic Association and Ohio HS Sports.com have dissolved the contract that gave the exclusive audio and video rights for state tournament coverage to Ohio HS Sports.com. This move allows The Voice of Holmes County.com to webcast from any and all state tournament events and lifts the exclusion that existed under the contract. Obviously, this is good news for us and others who wanted to cover their local teams on the internet but were not allowed to do so. Let me make clear that our opposition had nothing to do with the outcome directly but may influence where this all goes from here. The Voice and others around the state raised many strong objections to this “exclusivity” and that may well guide the OHSAA’s thinking in the future about entering into such agreements. One other thing I want to make clear. I was very critical of the OHSAA in writings when this all occurred (*see Sunday, March 9, 2009 entry*). I want to equally praise the Association now for listening to what we had to say. I met on

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numerous occasions in person and by phone with a variety of OHSAA officials. Each time, they listened, spent considerable time with me, and went out of their way to help us within the limitations of the contract. Commissioner Dan Ross, Associate Commissioner Bob Goldring and, especially, Director of Information Services Tim Stried, could not have been more open to discussion and willing to take the time to do so. They were under no obligation to do that and I am appreciative of their willingness to repeatedly discuss the situation. Stried details the need for corporate partners for the OHSAA in a recent interview which you can find here:

[http://thevoiceofholmescounty.com/archives/features/2009/December/20091218\\_TimStried.aspx](http://thevoiceofholmescounty.com/archives/features/2009/December/20091218_TimStried.aspx)

We understand and agree that corporate partners are needed in this day of tough economic times. But we also believe there are ways to achieve this without exclusivity agreements and exclusion of others who also want to be a part of promoting and supporting the OHSAA through coverage and other beneficial ways. Going forward, I believe the OHSAA is sensitive to this and will do its best to achieve the goals that need to be met without excluding those who support the organization through their work day in and day out. It is good to have all this behind us and move forward. Again, my thanks to the OHSAA officials who offered their time and willingness to discuss this difficult issue. Hopefully, we'll see you at a state tournament very soon!

### **Friday, October 30, 2009**

**FAIRGROUNDS/EXPO CENTER PROPOSAL**—This week, Holmes County received a gift that could pay dividends in many ways for years to come. The donation of land by Paul Weaver to the Holmes County Fair Board has paved the way for the moving of the Fairgrounds and the construction of a new expo center. It's an opportunity that must not be missed.

I am hopeful the community will see that the time has come and work together to make this a reality because it will take the entire community getting behind the effort to make it happen. The Fair Board cannot do this alone. Holmes County Commissioners

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have pledged moral support but no money because of dwindling county coffers. The Holmes County Chamber, who will work to establish the expo center, cannot do it without help. It will take government, business and private citizens to complete moving the fairgrounds and building the expo center—it is that simple. No one entity is going to take this on and finish it on its own.

So why is this so urgently need? Because not having a viable Fairgrounds area and an exposition center is costing Holmes County money. And, every day that goes by, means more money out the window. The potential economic and related benefits to Holmes County cannot be ignored. The now defunct Holmes County Expo Center proved, in just a single year of existence, that an expo center will fly.....and fly high. Over \$5 million dollars of economic impact was realized when that center was operating.

There are many organizations who want to come here and will if the new center is built. Some have had to leave because there is no facility here. That needs to be remedied. When towns, cities and villages across the country are scratching, clawing and begging for this type of business, it is unthinkable not to find a way to build a facility here when you already have people knocking on your door. Some communities cannot attract convention-type business no matter what they do. All we have to do is provide the facility and they will come. They are waiting to do so right now and Holmes County needs their business.

The current Fairgrounds area is an economic dead-end and a disaster waiting to happen. A flash flood on the fairgrounds, during a fair, would be a catastrophe this county does not want penned in the chapters of its history. No government agency is going to provide grant money for the current fairgrounds for either improvements or replacement of flood-damaged buildings. It has to come out of the fair board's pocket and that's money down the drain at a site exposed to flood damage, at any given time.

There is no where to go with it. It has reached the end of its useful life. It cannot be expanded, improved, used in the off-season or provide any other benefit that can be mined for the greater good.

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A new Fairgrounds location provides improved facilities. A commercial building will bring vendors back to the fair when they no longer have to be worried about their items being in tents and exposed to the elements. Built from the ground up, a new Fairgrounds area can be designed for year-round use, rented out, and utilized to provide much needed income to help the fair board put on the best fair it can year after year. It can be a showcase for the state's best Junior Fair for one-week a year, and provide a revenue generating facility for the other 51 weeks.

It will provide new multi-use buildings with pens that can be moved and removed for whatever purpose the building needs to serve. It is an upgrade that is badly needed for the fair and is not possible on the current grounds.

These are just a few examples. Track improvements, parking improvements...the list goes on and on...all possible in a new location, none possible in the current one.

But none of this will happen if we spend our time debating whether or not it should. It should. Not in five or ten years. Now...or as soon as possible. There will never be a better opportunity. The project's wheels are in motion. They need to pick up speed, not travel in fits and starts. In tough economic times, communities need to help themselves and do whatever they can to generate income. Here's an opportunity to do so. The spin-off money potential from having these new facilities could be immense.

The challenges of pulling it off are great; challenges that will demand time, cooperation and commitment; challenges that will require creative solutions; and challenges that aren't yet known. But I've never known this county, in my time here, to back down from a challenge. Rather, I have watched it come together to meet a challenge head-on. It's part of what makes Holmes County...Holmes County.

Forty years ago, a flood destroyed the current fairgrounds. Forty years from now, or sooner, people are going to look back at the time when we stood at the cross roads of this opportunity. Will they speak of how we had the vision and foresight to capitalize on the moment? Or will they shake their heads in wonder of how such a golden opportunity could have been missed?

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**Thursday, October 29, 2009**

**LUNCH BUNCH HIATUS**—The Lunch Program will be going on hiatus until April. The show was basically designed as a spring/summer event but was carried on through the end of October. It will resume after the conclusion of the basketball season and we are looking forward to its resumption. In the meantime, you'll find 7 months of shows in the "Lunch Bunch" section on our website. There are some really interesting and fun interviews. I hope you'll take time to take a listen.

**Thursday, September 10, 2009**

**LUNCH BUNCH**—One of the most fun things I've ever done in my career is the "Lunch Bunch" show. Each week, I get the chance to talk with your friends and neighbors about...well...you name it. We talk a little about what they do and a LOT about them as people. I really hope you'll take time to click the Lunch Bunch tab on the site and listen to the interviews. We have them posted individually now and I think you'll find them quite interesting. As we say, "you'll learn something about someone you thought you already knew." With school starting again, we will be visiting the schools for shows regularly. We just did our first show at West Holmes yesterday ( Sept. 9) and we'll be visiting Hiland for the first time on Sept. 23. Whether you listen to the show live or visit the site and download the interviews later, I think you'll get caught up, as we do, in the fun and the interesting people with which we visit. **KEIM TV**—I've been getting a lot of questions about this so here's the scoop: Keim Lumber currently has a cable television show on local cable channels in Tuscarawas and bordering counties, including Holmes County. Ryan Tetrault and I host the show on various home improvement projects. The show airs monthly, throughout the month. A number of you have seen it and we appreciate you watching. If you haven't seen it, you can also watch it on the Keim website here: <http://www.keimlumber.com/enhancingyourhome>.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**—Just a reminder as folks get back to regular schedules after the summer, that we will be glad to post your community event on our Community Calendar. Just email us. The policy is on the Community Calendar page and items sent

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to us by email in word documents will get the item posted much faster than retyping faxes and handwritten items.

### **Monday, August 24, 2009**

**2009 FAIR**—Well, another Holmes County Fair has come and gone and, all in all, it was a pretty good week. The heat and rain didn't help the Fair Board but they dealt with it as best they could. We want to thank everyone who helped in our coverage and was willing to work with us. It was much appreciated as always and we're already looking forward to next year. I also want to thank our partners, Millersburg Electric and Snyder Brothers Sales and Service, for combining with us to buy the Grand Champion Market Hog of Payten Boring. It was an exciting moment for us and, with this purchase, plus a portion of a Dairy Basket, we were pleased to be able to support the Livestock Sale. A reminder—if you are looking for Fair Coverage, etc., **CLICK ON THE HOLMES COUNTY EVENTS** tab and follow the links from there. **FOOTBALL SEASON**—Unbelievable. But it is here. We have an extensive pre-season show with Head Coach Tom Eastep up on the site and are looking forward to bringing you West Holmes football on the internet again this season.

### **Monday, August, 10, 2009**

**NEW LOOK**--You haven't heard from me here for awhile but that doesn't mean we haven't been busy. Today, we launched our redesigned website and we hope you like it. We've tried to add content, make it easier to navigate, add weather, add a larger ticker, and a host of other changes throughout the website. We have also added a feature many of you, visitors and advertisers alike, had asked for: **CLICKABLE** block ads and banners. Now, if you pass your cursor over an ad, you can click on it and go directly to the sponsor's website (providing they have one, otherwise it will not be clickable but stay tuned, we are working on some other options for those folks). There will be a number of tweaks yet to come, but the primary redesign has been concluded, so take a spin and check out all the new things. The tab bar at the top will make it easier to find things and

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we have dedicated areas for major events and other items, like “The Lunch Bunch” show. Speaking of the Lunch Bunch, when you click that tab at the top of the page, it will take you to a page where you can listen to any and all of the interviews that we’ve done INDIVIDUALLY and we hope you will. We’ve had a lot of fun doing the show and I think you’ll find the folks we’ve had on have been very good interviews. Take a moment, check them out and learn something about someone you thought you already knew! Gotta go for now (Fair and football are on the way ☺.) so until we’re together again---stay connected!

#### **Thursday, July 2, 2009**

**One Year Ago Today.....**—One year ago today, we launched The Voice Of Holmes County.com. It was our hope that the community would embrace a “meeting place” on the internet dedicated to the county, its people and its events. We cannot thank you enough for doing just that. As we look at the past year, we are humbled and appreciative of the support, encouragement and participation of our sponsors and you. There were a lot of questions a year ago today that we’ve been able to answer, with your help, and a lot of hills that you have helped us climb. It has been an incredibly rewarding year and we have truly enjoyed serving you. Rob Moser, David P. “Fuzz” Mackey, Michelle Rodhe, Nick Hostetler and I have been thrilled to watch the site grow. I can’t tell you enough how much we are looking forward to the next year and the good things we believe will happen in the site’s continued development. Since our launch on July 2, 2008, we have had 279,805 visits and 100,275 unique visits. Those are numbers we could not have comprehended a year ago. We could see it growing before our eyes as word spread about what we were doing. We have made numerous advancements since then. Some that were more noticeable, like switching the majority of our webcasts from cell phone origination to direct broadband. Some have been entirely within the framework of the site and behind the scenes. There will be more changes and advancements as we move forward into our second year. As I said a year ago, this is a work in progress and will largely be that for the foreseeable future. As we are able, we will always be adding to

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and improving the site and looking to add new things of interest. Things never move as fast as one would like, in that regard, but we are very pleased with the progress we have made in just one year. We hope you are as well. The vision for the site remains the same...your voice, your community, your world and your contributions and participation. We will continue to work for those things and hope you will include yourself in the process. There are so many to thank....so many who have reached out and helped us get started....so many who have taken part....I could never name everyone and be assured that I hadn't missed someone in the process. My family, my friends, my business associates and sponsors.....without any one of them, this might not have happened. How many ways are there to say thank you? I would use them all to let those who have played such an important and inspiring role, know how much we appreciate them. It seems almost unbelievable that we have been doing this for one year already....I hope there are many more to come. We are doing what we love to do, where we love to do it, with the people we love doing it with and for.....thank you for the opportunity to do so.

### **Sunday, June 21, 2009**

**What An Event**—The committee members putting together The American Cancer Society's Relay For Life for Holmes County wanted to change things up a bit this year and freshen up the event in its 10<sup>th</sup> Edition. They had no idea how much different it would be. Mother Nature was a late committee addition and weighed in less than 24 hours before the event was to begin. With the threat of severe storms looming, it was near midnight on Thursday that officials began pondering a Plan B. In an incredible show of community, resolve and dedication that "the show must go on", West Holmes administrators, custodians and staff worked with the committee to move the entire event from Knights Stadium to inside the West Holmes Middle School. What is even more incredible is that it came off without a hitch. Everything was in readiness for the opening ceremonies Friday night at 6 p.m. and the show did go on. Yes, there was a tornado siren and warning to deal with and some other inconveniences but it was amazing to watch. It wasn't until Friday morning at about 9:30 that the final decision was made and the plan

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put into action in a building that essentially was being closed down for the summer and refurbished for the next school year. Within hours, it was “Relay For Life” Central and away it went. Kudos to all for what took place. Your efforts kept spirits high, enthusiasm peaked, and the event right on time. **Coverage Note**—We will be adding things to our Relay For Life coverage page so be sure to check back for the latest additions each day!!!! Thanks to all who helped us in our efforts in covering the event. We appreciate it and enjoyed working with all of you!!!! **Point To Ponder**—The Relay For Life switch pointed up something not often talked about when the matter of schools come up in the conversation. It is easy to forget when the schools seek funding support, just how much they do for the community that doesn’t show up on a grade card or in a test score. In Holmes County, our schools are the focal point. Most schedules are built around the school year and activities. The schools do a great job of educating Holmes County children but they also provide much more in the way of buildings for activities and a place folks can always go to when large facilities are needed for weather related problems, power outages, and other emergencies. No one likes to pay more taxes and, believe me, the school districts don’t like to ask for more. Unfortunately, school officials don’t write the rules on funding—state legislators do, or, as it has been for years, DON’T, leaving local communities to fend for themselves. The point being that our schools not only serve their mandate to educate and do it well but they provide much more to the community and come through in various other ways when asked. Just something to think about the next time one or both needs some funding help.

### **Tuesday, June 16, 2009**

**Relay For Life Coverage**—One of the community’s most meaningful events, Relay For Life, will be coming up Friday and Saturday, June 19 and 20. We plan extensive coverage at “The Voice” beginning at 5 p.m. Friday afternoon when live audio coverage will begin.....we are also planning photo and other coverage of the event and we hope you will join us beginning at 5 p.m. on Friday for interviews and more. **Sponsor And Contributor Barbeque**—We want to thank those sponsors and contributors who were



able to attend our “Thank You” Chicken Barbeque event on Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate the support of our sponsors and those who contribute regularly to the site. We enjoyed the event immensely and hope to make it an annual get together. **Submissions:** We again encourage you to submit items of interest for posting on the site. We have had some folks send us pictures of events they attended, news items, community events, etc., and wanted to remind you that you are welcome to do the same as it is YOUR VOICE at The Voice Of Holmes County.com.

### **Sunday, May 3, 2009**

**Church Service Page---**Today we began a new service. We will have a page devoted to churches who wish to have their services made available for folks to listen to whenever they choose. Killbuck Valley Christian Church is the first to take advantage of this new program. Other churches interested can contact me or Michelle Rodhe here at The Voice. The cost to participate is reasonable and offers churches the opportunity to have their services heard anytime, anywhere by anyone. Churches wishing to sponsor their services on our website should contact us as soon as possible so the arrangements can be made.

### **Wednesday, April 29, 2009**

**“Lunch Bunch” Interviews**—Just wanted to make mention that we are working to develop a page that will list the individual interviews we have done on the 5 programs so far. We have had a number of people ask for this and so we are working to accommodate. When completed, you will be able to access individual interviews one at a time, rather than the entire show. We hope to have that up before too long and in the interim will continue to post the complete show the day after it airs live. Take time to take a listen! I think you’ll really enjoy hearing from your friends and neighbors in a whole new way!

### **Sunday, April 19, 2009**





“**The Voice Lunch Bunch**”—I hope you’ve had a chance to check out our weekly program “The Voice Lunch Bunch.” We are really enjoying getting out and talking to folks. It’s a chance for you to meet some of our clients more personally as well as other guests that we’ll be featuring throughout the spring and summer. And, if your group or organization would like to be a guest on the show, email and let me know. The format is fluid and we’re more than willing to spend some time promoting your community group, event or organization. Check the broadcast schedule link to see where we will be and when. All of our shows are archived and available to hear under the features and archives sections on the site, so if you missed them, check them out. I think you’ll find that you’ll know a little more about people you already thought you knew....and we do have fun. **Off-Season---**I get asked a lot about what we’re doing now that we are not in a gymnasium every other night. Well, I can assure you the pace doesn’t slow, it just changes direction. Our off-season time is being spent experimenting, changing, testing and preparing new things for you to enjoy. Things tend to pile up from late November to mid-March and digging out takes a while...thus not much written here for the last couple of weeks. And...there’s ALWAYS paperwork. But, we’re enjoying the daily challenges and very appreciative of the support we’ve received. Keep an eye out for new and different things over the next few weeks. We continue to try and make the website something the county can call their own. And...you’re always welcome to contribute...whether it be photos, story ideas, items for community calendar, or other ideas, we look forward to hearing from you. It’s YOUR voice.....and we hope you’ll take advantage of it. For example, I know many of you take great pride in your gardening and landscaping skills and creations. Send us photos! We’ll be glad to post them. Having an event? Take some shots and send them to us. We cannot be everywhere personally but we sure will consider posting what you send us, photos, story items, and otherwise. **Sponsors:** We hope you’ll take time to mention to our sponsors you saw them here and appreciate them supporting the site. If you like what we’re doing, remember our sponsors are the ones who make it possible. We’ve received a lot of positive comment from folks who were away for a few days and were able to listen to a

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game they couldn't have heard otherwise. We appreciate the kind sentiments and ask you to remember, without the sponsors, that doesn't happen. So shop with them and support them at every opportunity. They do a lot for us and for the community in general!!!! In recent months, we've welcomed new advertisers like Berlin Contractors and Holmes Crane, Inc., the Holmes County Education Foundation, Snyder & Co., C.P.A's and Yoder Dental Associates. They, along with everyone else, make our website possible. We thank them and hope you will, too!

**Wednesday, March 25, 2009**

**BOYS STATE TOURNAMENT HERE—If all goes as planned, we will be offering a video and audio feed from the Boys State Basketball semi-final and final games this weekend. Watch the front page for the link on the main picture. Enjoy the games.**

**Tuesday, March 17, 2009**

**CELL PHONE BROADCAST APPROVED:** We are pleased to announce that today we have received OHSAA permission to broadcast the state tournament games **VIA CELL PHONE.** As you know, we have always made our live broadcasts available by way of cell phone for those without internet service or not near their computer. We will have the OhioHSSports.com video and audio feed on our website for all state tournament games this weekend. For those who wish to hear our call of the Hiland game or games, you can do so by accessing our broadcast with your cell phone. Instructions can be found here: <http://thevoiceofholmescounty.com/broadcastschedule.html>. You will see an illustration of the card we hand out. If you want to print out cards, you can do so here: [http://thevoiceofholmescounty.com/docs/CellPhone\\_Instructions.pdf](http://thevoiceofholmescounty.com/docs/CellPhone_Instructions.pdf). This is the **ONLY** way we can bring our call of the state game to you at this time. You must access it by cell phone. There will be no way to access it on the site due to contract restrictions. We have been working diligently to bring you all the coverage we can and for those who wish to hear our call of the game, there is now a way to do so. See posts of March 16 and March 9 below for background on why this is necessary.

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**Monday, March 16, 2009**

**THE BEST WE CAN DO:** We are announcing today that The Voice Of Holmes County.com has reached an agreement with OhioHSSports.com to bring you video and audio coverage of ALL games in this year's girls state tournament. You will find a link on our website to a page on our website that will allow you to watch and listen to the games as covered by the exclusive rights holder, OhioHSSports.com

As I informed you last week, we are barred from doing play-by-play coverage of the state tournament due to the OHSAA contracting out the exclusive internet audio and video rights. You can read the details in the posting below this one so I won't go there.

We promised to do the best we could under the circumstances and we are going to follow through. While we strongly oppose the whole idea of anyone being barred from covering their local teams as they have all year, we also feel that we must do the best we can by our kids, our community and our clients. Thus, we will be bringing you the state games the only way we can.

In addition, I have agreed that if we have a team in the championship game, I will appear as a guest on the OhioHSSports.com pre-game, half-time and post-game shows as a commentator representing our team.

We also plan other coverage surrounding the state tournament. Watch the site for further information.

Both the OHSAA and the rights holder understand that we completely and totally oppose this exclusivity agreement that provides no provision for local media and will continue to do so. However, we will put the dispute aside for the now until the tournaments have concluded, and work for changes in the future. To do anything else would not be fair to the kids, the community or the clients we serve.

**Sunday, March 9, 2009**

**NO STATE TOURNAMENT FOR US:** I had hoped I would not have to write this but it appears I do. Should any of our teams advance to the state tournament, we will NOT be able to webcast the play-by-play of their games. Why? Because the OHSAA has

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signed a 5-year contract granting exclusive internet audio and video rights to Cleveland.com and related partners.

I knew this was likely when I launched the website, and informed those who advertise with us before they agreed to be sponsors so they would know the likelihood up front. I knew that because we were making sure we were following all the rules and regulations before I embarked on this endeavor by checking with the OHSAA first. I had hoped there might be some sort of licensing system or waiver system introduced if the contract was signed, which it was. Not the case, as of this writing.

Let me be clear on a couple of things. The first is simple...I don't believe ANY media outlet should have exclusivity at ANY high school event. Period. I didn't agree when they did it with the TV contract, I don't agree now, and I will be just as opposed if they take this route with the remaining media—which to a certain extent, they already have. Radio stations who were also carrying the state games on the internet are now prohibited from doing so.

The second thing I want to be sure is understood is that I have no problem with the OHSAA or any of their partners. I have a problem with THIS decision and direction. I have served for the last several years on the OHSAA Media Advisory Committee, have made a lot of friends within the organization, and have developed a good relationship with the Commissioner, several Associate Commissioners and others within the OHSAA. The organization has been good to me. I have tried to be good to it, follow the rules, and promote high school athletics in a positive way.

I met personally with the OHSAA Commissioner Dr. Dan Ross, Associate Commissioner Bob Goldring, and Director of Information Services Tim Stried on Jan. 29 to voice the position that this whole exclusivity idea was unfair to local media who had covered their teams all year long. While all three understood the point, and offered other ideas as far as covering the state tournament, there has been no movement toward changing the situation---as of this writing. That is not to say it can't yet happen, it just appears that it won't. And, no, we can't record and run the games after the fact or post them so our listeners could listen later. Exclusive means exclusive.

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It strikes me as VERY ironic that the organization that promotes inclusion, fair play, competition, and sportsmanship, didn't seem to feel that applied when the TV deal and, now, the internet deal was signed. Just a side note....I received an email Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> from the OHSAA asking us to help promote the sale of the tickets that had not been sold yet for the state tournament games. How ironic is that? Let me see... I'm not invited to the party but you want me to help sell the invitations?

Nonetheless, it is what it is. We will do what we can within the confines that have been imposed upon us, if any of our teams qualify. I just wanted you to know that it isn't that I don't want to do the state tournament games....it's that I can't. I've done nearly 65 high school basketball webcasts to this point but I'm prohibited from carrying the biggest games of the year. Inclusion? Fair play? In this case, I think not.

**Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009**

**Thanks For Understanding:** Just wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for your understanding during our recent absence due to family illness. While suspending our broadcast schedule was not something we wanted to do, we felt the situation dictated that we put family first and we appreciate that you understand and continue to support us. Our situation remains fluid so watch the site for any changes in scheduling, etc. We resumed webcasting last night for the West Holmes-Dover girls game and intend to continue as we had planned, unless circumstances dictate otherwise. Thanks again for understanding. We truly appreciate it along with all the emails and other communications of support.

**Monday, February 2, 2009**

**It's Been A While**—Sorry for that but it has been a grueling month. We just finished up doing 28 games in 31 days in broadcasts for the website. Between basketball and the weather, time has been at a premium. Nonetheless, we wanted you to know that we had another record month for visitors in January. Over 45,200 hits were recorded on our site—over 10,000 during Classic In The Country weekend alone. We appreciate that level of support and want to thank all of you for being a part of this exciting new endeavor. We are continuing to develop new ideas that we hope to unveil in the spring

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but, speaking honestly, until we get by basketball, it is very difficult to implement new things. Hang with us....we're working on it. **Community Calendar, Photos, Etc.**—As we roll through the winter, we again remind you that the site is intended to be interactive and if you have community events, photos, or other information you wish to be posted (as well as story ideas), please send those to me at [mark@thevoiceofholmescounty.com](mailto:mark@thevoiceofholmescounty.com). We want to help you get the word out but we need your help to do it.

**Thursday, January 15, 2009**

**Classic In The Country:** This weekend will mark the sixth time that girls basketball fans from around the state and the country will make the mid-winter trek to Berlin. It is an event like no other and one that has grown unbelievably in just a few short years. The weekend will be about basketball to the fans but to the coaches, players, college representatives, media and others, it's about a lot more than the games. It has become a place where old friendships are renewed, hospitality truly is king, and stories abound...good stories.....positive stories about positive people. It's what I like most about being a part of it. Picking up that microphone to introduce starters and welcome the crowd is a rush no matter how many times I've done it or do it. It is THE premier girls basketball event in our region, if not the country and it's right here in Holmes County. Those that have been here before, welcome the chance to return. Those that are making their first trip are in for a treat that's better than all they've been told. Boy, this will date me big time but as we used to say....it's a happening and it's where it's at! One of the real delights of my career is having the chance to meet and talk with many people from around the country over the three-day period. Everyone has a story and most all of them are interesting. You will see a lot of kids out and about at nursing homes and care centers because, for many teams, it's a chance to see another way of life and do something good for the community that is offering them so much. The amount of people, revenue, and potential future visitors The Classic brings in is phenomenal. We plan to take it all in with half the games, 10 in all, being webcast right here at The Voice as well as many interviews and sidebars to the games. In fact, our coverage began 10 days ago.

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Want to meet some of the big names and hear their thoughts BEFORE the Classic? Just click here... <http://thevoiceofholmescounty.com/2009ClassicInTheCountryChallenge.html>. You'll be more than ready for the games and once The Classic starts, just come to the Voice for the most complete coverage. Our thanks to Tom Jenkins, Dave Schlabach, Rob Moser, David Borter and everyone else for letting us continue to be a part of this fabulous weekend.

### **Monday, January 5, 2009**

**Happy New Year!:** I hope the holidays were joyous for you and your loved ones and now a new year begins. We are looking forward to the challenges it will bring. We also want to welcome a new staff member! Michelle Rodhe of Millersburg has joined The Voice as a sales representative. We're excited to have Michelle as a part of our staff as we continue to grow our new business. **Build It And They Will Come:** Ok, that's said with tongue *firmly* in cheek, but it was sort of our philosophy when we started. We felt that if the county residents had a website devoted to the county, that they would respond and you have. We are very pleased to report that, for the first six months ending Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, our website received over 100,000 hits since it was established on July 2nd. The actual total is 102,319. When you consider that we really only had the page up for demonstration purposes for the first six weeks, those 100,000 hits came primarily since mid August. In the month of December, we really took off with 35,420 hits in that month alone. And, for the first four days of January, we have already logged nearly 4,200 hits. Visitors are spending an average of 2 to 4 pages per visit. And just for the record, the two biggest days for hits since we started? Dec. 5 and Jan.3---when West Holmes and Hiland played each other in basketball...the boys on Dec. 5...the girls on Jan. 3...approximately 2100 hits were recorded EACH day. We have also heard from various county residents who were away last month but were able to "stay connected" and listened to games, etc. on the site. With Classic In The Country coming in two weeks, we will be starting our extended coverage of the events THIS week. Watch in the next day or so for information

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in regard to an entire section devoted to this event which brings in many visitors and a LOT of revenue to the county.

### **Wednesday, December 24, 2008**

**Peace Be With You:** I always find the most joy in celebrating Christmas today...on Christmas Eve. The air of anticipation...the goodwill and wishes that abound...that last moment before Christmas arrives to shake hands and exchange hugs and let someone know how much you enjoy them as friends, associates, loved ones and clients. Tomorrow, everyone will take time out of their busy lives and schedules to spend a special day with family, observe traditions, and remember what Christmas Day is really all about. I hope you will have such moments today and tomorrow and I hope you will savor each one of them. Regardless of how many Christmases you have experienced, every one is new and different and every one is special. This year, more than any other, I have come to realize how fortunate I am. Thanks to everyone who has helped us launch this endeavor and may everyone enjoy a safe, blessed, and peaceful Christmas with family and friends from all of us at The Voice.....and to all....a good night!

### **Saturday, December 13, 2008**

**Today Is The Day:** Today, the greatest Christmas project anywhere, Share A Christmas, will once again deliver to families in need. It is a joyous day for the community. Not just for those who are receiving, but for the many residents and businesses who gave to make it possible. The program is a symbol of what Holmes County is all about and what is important to its people. It shows that there still is a place where it is better to give than to receive....a place where economic hardship for some is shared by many.....a place where people still care for and look out for other people, even those they may not know personally. The completion of the Share A Christmas project and process is ...sharing. That is what is happening today. You many never see the faces of those receiving. You may never meet them. But, today, in a time when many people question if they can still make a difference, you ARE making a difference. You ARE touching lives. You ARE

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living the mission. You ARE making it possible. I hope it never becomes “old hat.” It is a fantastic act of human kindness, generosity and caring. It is not something that happens in many communities, let alone at the level it does here. Over \$100,000 in donations of cash, food, clothing, foods and many other items are being given today to those who need them most. And...it is only happening because this county refuses to have it any other way. It would be easy to see a drop in these donations in economic times like these. But not here. If you know me, you know how much this project means to me and my feelings about it. And....about you. I never cease to be amazed at the outpouring of fellowship and support by the folks in Holmes County. If all this makes you feel a little bit proud to have been a part of it.....good.....it should. You walk the walk when it comes to digging down to help others, even when it may not be the best of times for you. As I said, it is what Holmes County is all about. To the Share A Christmas Committee and the army of citizens, businesses, service clubs, churches, school children, teachers and others who made this miracle possible....again.....thank you.

#### **Thursday, December 4, 2008**

**Technical Difficulites:** For those that tried to access the game between Hiland and Malvern on cell phone Wednesday night, it was not available due to technical difficulties with our Verizon connection. Verizon has changed some calling procedures that are key to our ability to provide cell phone coverage. We were not able to get the new procedure nor the former one to work. We are working to resolve that problem as quickly as possible. Having said that, it should be noted that when we are using land lines, cell phone coverage may not be available. That may be the case for tonight’s West Holmes-River View game. We will not know until game time whether or not we will have cell capability. However, this is a problem that will not exist the majority of the time as evidenced by the fact that we never had cell outages during any of the 10 football games.

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Simply said, we are wrestling, at times, with technology and we are doing our best to try and pin the gremlins. We appreciate your patience.

### **Wednesday, December 3, 2008**

Here's hoping you and your family had a safe and Happy Thanksgiving with more good wishes for the upcoming holidays as well. **Recipes:** We've had a couple of folks get involved in sending in their family's holiday favorites....We hope you will, too. We will post them as we get them but the quicker you submit them, the quicker we all can try them! Here are the recipes received so far:

<http://thevoiceofholmescounty.com/docs/Recipes/HolidayRecipes.pdf>.

### **Thursday, November 20, 2008**

**Recipes:** Ok, we all know what we really enjoy about the holiday season—EATING ☺! And, who has better folks in the kitchen than Holmes County? So...we like to invite you to submit your favorite holiday recipes for desserts, snacks, treats—whatever you and your family traditionally enjoy during the holiday season. We'll credit you, post them and let everyone share in the fun! Send your recipes to [mark@thevoiceofholmescounty.com](mailto:mark@thevoiceofholmescounty.com). We're looking forward to hearing from you and you'll be seeing them soon. Watch The Voice Ticker on the front page and here for a link. Send them soon!

### **Monday November 17, 2008**

**New Additions:** We have added an information ticker at the top of the main page that we will be using for a variety of things. Check it out!!! **Bargain Hunter Story:** We are featured this week in the Marketplace section of The Bargain Hunter. Make sure not to miss it! **New Contributors:** We want to welcome two new contributors to the site this week. USDA Undersecretary Gary Mast of Berlin and Holmes Co. Sheriff Tim Zimmerly. Mast will debut on Wednesday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, Sheriff Zimmerly on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. We have some other folks who will be coming on in the near future as well so keep

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checking in! The voices of Holmes County will continue to be added to The Voice Of Holmes County! Watch the video website update now on page 1 for more information on other things we'll be doing over the next couple of weeks. **Black Friday:** We have several short interviews with area businesses going up on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> that will be available all week that week. You'll hear their plans for the big shopping weekend and other plans for the holiday season. JW Promotions will also be promoting their upcoming home show.

### **Monday, November 10, 2008**

**Congratulations:** We sincerely congratulate this year's major award winners of the Holmes County Chamber of Commerce. All are very deserving and you can find stories from Chamber Director Shasta Mast on each on our website. The final report on this year's award winners will be posted by Shasta on Tuesday, Nov. 11. Winners were: Small Business of the Year—Millersburg Electric. Medium Business of the Year—Denco Marketing. Large Business of the Year—Dutchman Hospitality Corp. Community Service Award—Rainbow of Hope. Lifetime Achievement Award—Roscoe Miller. **Basketball coming soon!:** We are finalizing our 2008-09 High School Basketball broadcast schedule and will be posting it soon. A reminder that if you wish to catch the game on your cell phone, you can do so by following these steps: **Dial 724-444-7444. When asked for the call ID number enter 21903 followed by the pound sign. When asked for your pin number, enter the number 1 followed by the pound sign.** We have an extensive broadcast schedule planned and we will feature coaches interviews with Mark and Dave Schlabach of Hiland as well as Kelly Seboe and Lisa Patterson of West Holmes, the week of November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our first broadcast will be Saturday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> when Tri Valley visits West Holmes in girls basketball. **Shop At Home:** It's no secret that fuel costs and other things have strapped many of us this year. It's a good year to support the local economy and shop at home during the holiday season. Holmes County offers a plethora of businesses that have great gift ideas and plenty of helpful staff to assist you. Take time to see what's right down the street before you assume it's

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not available locally. Black Friday (the day after Thanksgiving) is the traditional start of the holiday shopping season. We will have interviews with several area merchants detailing what they will be doing for that weekend as well as the holiday season. Those interviews will be posted on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Plan to shop at home and save time, gas and money while supporting the businesses who support the community! **One-Two Punch:** With the election of Dave Hall to the Ohio House and Bob Gibbs to the State Senate, Holmes County is well represented in state government. Congrats to both and good luck in the new term. Reports from both Representative-Elect Hall and Senator-Elect Gibbs will be featured on our site regularly in the near future to keep you up to date on legislative activities that affect you so stay tuned. **Sheriff Zimmerly to Join The Voice:** Sheriff Tim Zimmerly will be joining as a regular contributor to The Voice Of Holmes County.com in the very near future. We are working out final arrangements with him this week and have several other potential contributors that we are speaking with, as well, that will be coming on board in the next few weeks and providing useful information on a variety of topics. If there is a topic you'd like us to feature regularly, email me at [mark@thevoiceofholmescounty.com](mailto:mark@thevoiceofholmescounty.com) and we'll do our best to arrange it. **Community Calendar:** It is obviously a season with many activities and if you'd like yours posted on our community calendar, just email it and we'll put it up for you. Our policy is listed on the community calendar page. Remember...The Voice Of Holmes County.com is YOUR voice and this is one more way that you can be heard!

### **Tuesday, October 28, 2008**

**Your Website:** As we continue to build the site, we remind you that the Voice Of Holmes County.com is YOUR voice. That's why we have the interactive feature of using the information you think is important. The Community Calendar is your way of making your event or activity known. Schools can make use of the new West Holmes and Hiland School news. We hope you'll become involved and send us your information, as well as feature and story ideas, etc. **Thanks!:** Our first football season on The Voice has come to an end and we want to thank the athletic directors at all the schools we visited for

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working with us. We do appreciate renewing those friendships and the way you helped us this year. We especially want to thank West Holmes AD Aaron Kaufman and Head Coach Tom Eastep for all for all of their help and support. We had a great time and are looking forward to basketball at both West Holmes and Hiland (which will be here before we know it ☺!)

#### **Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008**

**See you at the Symposium!** We will have a booth at the Killbuck Savings Bank Fall Symposium Tuesday from 4 to 7 p.m. The event will be held at the West Fork Community and Senior Center and Fuzz and I will be there to answer any questions you may have about the website and to visit with you. Stop by and see us!

#### **Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008**

**NEW FEATURE ACTIVATED!** We have activated a new feature on the site. The logos for West Holmes and Hiland are now active links. When you click on them, you will be taken to a page with announcements and news items of interest for each school.

#### **Monday October 13, 2008**

**Congrats to the 4-H Community:** Thursday night, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, the annual 4-H Volunteer Recognition Banquet was held and the turnout was incredible. It shows the sheer strength of the 4-H program in Holmes County and the strong commitment to the youth. Being one of the few fairs left in which 4-H remains the focus as opposed to an open format, means the organization and its supporters need a strong showing to draw folks to the event. Not a problem here. Projects brought to the fair totaled 934. Congratulations to the 4-H'ers, their advisors, the fair board and all who make 4-H such a positive and dynamic force in the county. **Latest Website Contributors:** Our list of contributors continues to grow. We'd like to welcome Pat Lang, executive director of the Holmes County Chapter of the American Red Cross as well as Arlene Radden, director of the Holmes County District Public Library. We also recently welcomed Holmes County

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Health Commissioner Dr. D.J. McFadden and will soon be adding a weekly contribution from Sheriff Tim Zimmerly. Arlene Radden's weekly report goes up each Monday, Shasta Mast, executive director of the Holmes County Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday; Holmes County Extension Educator Kate Shumaker on Wednesday; Pat Lang on Thursday and Dr. McFadden on Friday. We thank them for their time and their programs. **Thanks to Brent and Bob:** We'd also like to take a moment to thank Brent Smith and Bob Reining for providing photos to the site. It's a pleasure to work with them and they do a great job. The Voice Of Holmes County.com looks forward to a long and productive relationship with Brent and Bob. Thanks, guys! **Photos & Recipies:** We continue to ask you to send in your photos from the winter storm of 2004 and the wind storm of 2008 as well as your favorite holiday recipes. We hope you will take time to do so that we might share them. Send them to [mark@thevoiceofholmescounty.com](mailto:mark@thevoiceofholmescounty.com). **Enjoy it while it lasts:** Sometimes, it's easy to forget to notice how beautiful our area can be at this time of year. Folks travel here from all over to view our fall foliage and the natural beauty of the scenery. Take time to enjoy it yourself...it's a pretty place to be!

### **Monday September 29, 2008**

**Where To Find It:** As we add more and more stories and features more quickly to the site, the front page listing for a particular story or feature may only be up a day or two. It then moves to the FEATURES link and from there to ARCHIVE. Make sure you check the front page, features link and archive for the month so that you don't miss anything! For example, the story regarding the sale and moving of Holmes County's Amish Flea Market went up Friday morning (Sept. 26) but has already moved to the Features page. **RECIPIES:** In addition to seeking pictures of the Ice Storm of 2004 and the Wind Storm of 2008, we are also asking that you share your favorite Holiday Recipes with us! We are hoping to compile enough from area families to post them prior to Thanksgiving. We think it will be a fun way to give others a chance to enjoy the good things you and

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your family enjoy and let others experiment with different, delicious ideas for the holidays. Just email your pictures and favorite holiday recipes to [mark@thevoiceofholmescounty.com](mailto:mark@thevoiceofholmescounty.com).

### **Monday September 22, 2008**

**Welcome Back!** Just wanted to say welcome back to all those who have been without power this past week. We missed you and are glad you are back to or getting back to normal. Once again, just when you think you've seen it all weather wise in Holmes County, we quickly learn there is a new trick in Mother Nature's repertoire. Lots of folks worked to help out lots of others and that is a trademark of Holmes County. As bad as things can be, they could always be worse without the rallying of community that we enjoy here. **PICTURES WANTED:** Last week, I mentioned that we were looking for pictures of the Ice Storm of 2004....and we still are....but we are also looking for pictures from the Wind Storm of 2008....if you have pictures showing effects of the storm you'd like to submit, email them to me here at the site. **New Contributors:** In addition to Holmes County Extension Educator Kate Shumaker and Holmes Co. Chamber Executive Director Shasta Mast, several others have agreed to become contributors to the site. They include Health Commissioner Dr. D.J. McFadden, Sheriff Tim Zimmerly, Red Cross Director Patricia Lang and Library Director Arlene McFadden. We look forward to incorporating their reports into the website over the coming weeks.

### **Monday September 15, 2008**

**Congratulations to the royalty:** Homecoming was observed this past weekend at West Holmes and Hiland. At West Holmes, congrats to Queen Kayla Glassford and her court—Senior attendants Kayla Rodhe and Emily White; Junior attendant Jenny Allison; Sophomore attendant Lauren Evans; Freshman attendant Lacey Mays and Career Center attendant Raleigha Johnson. At Hiland, congrats are in order for King Colton Troyer and Queen Eva Stutzman as well as senior attendants Stephanie Mast, Kyle

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Miller, Jena Raber and Courtney Miller; Junior attendants Kendra Mast and Danny Beachy; Sophomore attendants Karla Yoder and Braden Conn; and Freshman attendants Hannah Anderson and BJ Miller. **PICTURES WANTED:** We are currently seeking pictures of the December Ice Storm from 2004 as well as the flooding that followed the storm in January, 2005. We are also seeking your photos of wind damage from “Ike” this past weekend. Anyone with pictures to submit can send them to [mark@thevoiceofholmescounty.com](mailto:mark@thevoiceofholmescounty.com). **Community Calendar:** Don’t forget to send in your events and activities for the community calendar to [communitycalendar@thevoiceofholmescounty.com](mailto:communitycalendar@thevoiceofholmescounty.com). The policy is on the Community Calendar page and we’re looking forward to posting yours!

### **Monday September 8**

**Email for Fuzz:** Wanted to let everyone know that Fuzz Mackey now has an email address at the website. Send your emails to Fuzz at [fuzz@thevoiceofholmescounty.com](mailto:fuzz@thevoiceofholmescounty.com).  
**Great Game:** Friday’s West Holmes-Coshocton game was an extremely interesting contest. It was a fun game to call and watch as most games are when these two get together. The Redskins were tested much more than they had been and the Knights learned they can hang with a great club. Both teams benefited from this one. **Great Hospitality:** Two of the first three weeks this season we’ve been on the road at Triway and Coshocton. Many thanks to the AD’s--Sean Carmichael at Triway and Marty Arganbright at Coshocton. Both sites were a pleasure to work at, as always. Sean always goes out of his way for us and Marty had his wife, Dawn, in charge at Coshocton. She got the press box job on short notice and was great. Thanks again to both schools.  
**Harvest Fest a winner!:** The Harvest Fest event in Berlin this past weekend went off without a hitch, according to Holmes County Chamber Executive Director Shasta Mast. Great food, great turnout, great parade, great weather. It all adds up to a winner for the county. **Kate Shumaker arrives:** Holmes County Extension Educator Kate Shumaker will start her weekly program on The Voice Of Holmes County.com Wednesday. Other contributors are coming soon, so stay connected!



### Monday, September 1

**Hello to everyone!** Hope your Labor Day weekend break has been a good one. We have enjoyed it at The Voice Of Holmes County.com and are looking forward to digging back into continuing our work on the website. If you have feature suggestions, drop us a line! All of our email addresses are located on the contact page. I'll be adding thoughts and notes to this little addition from time to time so I hope you'll check back often. **Kudos to Kaufman:** West Holmes Athletic Director Aaron Kaufman did a masterful job of taking all the right precautions during Friday night's weather concerns midway through the WH-River View game. Emptying a stadium filled with metal bleachers as quickly and efficiently as was done is no small feat. Kaufman and RV Athletic Director Ron Tisko did a great job of assessing the situation, taking the right precautions and getting the game in without putting anyone in danger. These are the kinds of things these guys do all the time very well but never really get noticed. Both are very good AD's and this was just one example.

Sincerely,

Mark Lonsinger

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