Hi Lo Wx Hi Lo Wx

56 40 s 53 36 s

53 36 s 33 21 sn

45 32 mc 28 18 sn 56 45 s 51 34 s

Thursday

46 32 mc

43 29 mc 43 28 mc 43 28 mc

44 29 mc

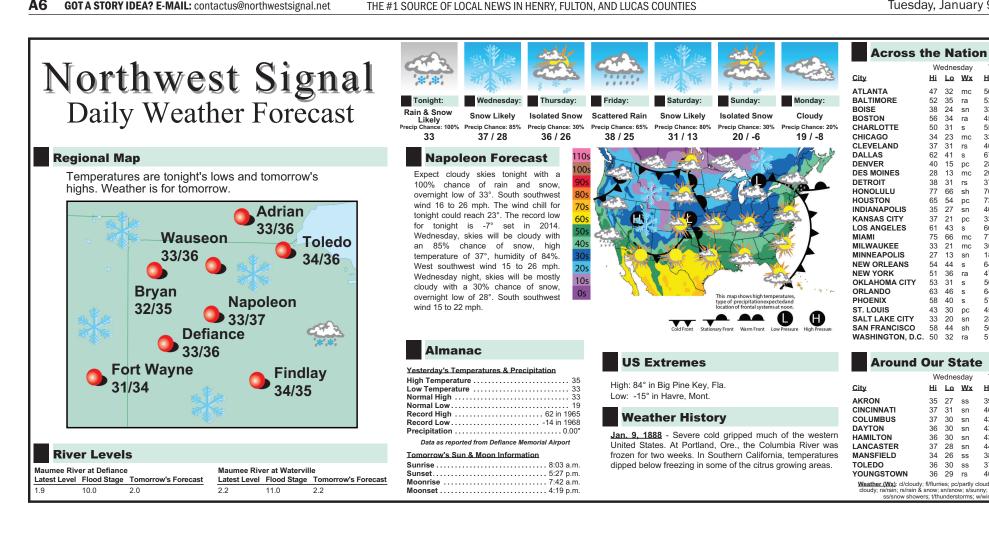
40 26 rs

38 31 rs 77 66 sh 65 54 pc 35 27 sn

31

37 30 sn 36 30 sn 36 30 sn 37 28 sn

36 30 ss 36 29 rs



Lucas SWCD announces 2023 Conservation Award winners

OREGON — Lucas its, businesses, and Ottawa Hills Elementa-

community who go sponsibilities. mental stewardship.

lage of Berkey.

na and wetland on his Agency.

coordinator and grants ters Tenmile Creek. manager for the Ohio tion Agency (EPA).

Soil and Water Conser- citizens to restore and ry School. vation District recent- maintain the health ly announced its 2023 of the Maumee AOC Lucas SWCD into her award winners at the and has been doing so classroom on a regu-The awards are giv- 2016, Blair added grant ming, Genzman and en to members of the management to her re- her students are annuabove and beyond with then she has written, TMACOG Student Warespect to conservation received, and directly tershed Watch (SWW) education and environ- managed approximately and Student Watershed The 2023 Conserva- and assisted communi- SWW, she partners with tion Reserve Program ty partners with nearly The Nature Conservan-Award was given to Pe- \$50 million in projects cy to remove invasive ter E. Durbin of the Vil- to acquire, design, and species and discusses Durbin enrolled in and waterways within overall health of our the Conservation Re- the Maumee AOC. Blair watershed with her stuserve Program through played a pivotal role in dents. When asked why the United States De- supporting the Lucas she does what she does, partment of Agricul- SWCD by offering her Genzman said, "I love ture (USDA) Natural expertise in the appli- establishing partner-Resource Conservation cation and administra- ships with local groups Service (NRCS) three tion processes associ- to help my students see decades ago and has ated with a \$560,000 connections in the envisince created and main- grant from the U.S. En- ronment and their own Schoen (right). tained an oak savan- vironmental Protection backyard." property that runs adja- This grant is ear- of the Year was award-

cent to Tenmile Creek. marked for the funding ed to the Bench Fami-The 2023 Communi- of a river restoration ly Farms of Jerusalem ty Partner of the Year project aimed at en- Township. For decades, Award was given to hancing the ecological the Bench Family has Cherie Blair, Maumee health and bank stabi- been sharing their love Area of Concern (AOC) lization of the Headwa- of the land, food, and

The 2023 Conser-Environmental Protec- vation Educator of the always been family fo-

Year was awarded to Li-cused, with the fourth Blair works with anne Genzman, a fifth generation now helpgovernment, nonprof- grade science teacher at ing out on the farm and at the roadside market on Route 2. David and Cindy Bench have owned and operated the Bench Farms State Route 2 Greenhouse & Roadside Produce Market for nearly 30 years, offering a plethora of flowers, vegetables, and herbs for sale each year. Each of their children grew up learning the business and a love for the land. As a result, they have continued to build the family's farm- doing right by the land Lucas County residents SWCD wanted to recing legacy by venturing and their community since December 2002, ognize Wozniak for her into various branches of by participating in the though she began her many years of service agricultural business, H2Ohio including community Reduction Program. supported agriculture, organic farming and ary Community Ser- the District 5 represen- community sustainabilsons, Arik Bench and given to Lucas Coun- her retirement at the his wife, Beth, have ty Commissioner Tina end of 2023, prior to ted by Lucas Soil and

Apart from inviting since January 1996. In lar basis for program-Since al participants in the \$22 million in grants, Summit. Through the restore natural areas ways to improve the

The 2023 Cooperator farming.

Their operation has bee-keeping. One of the vice Legacy Award was tative. She announced ity. acy and commitment to



Photo submitted by Lucas SWCD

Pete Durbin (middle) accepts the Conservation Reserve Program Award in his home from Lucas Soil and Water Conservation Board supervisors, Steve Loeffler (left) and Tom



Pete Durbin is pictured on the edge of his wetland that was put in through the USDA NRCS Conservation Reserve Program in Berkey, Ohio.

Wozniak has served current term. Lucas District.)

Phosphorus public service career in to the citizens of Lucas 1997 when she joined County and especially The 2023 Honor- Toledo City Council as her initiatives toward the completion of her Water

(Information submit-Conservation



Photo submitted by Lucas SWCD Cherie Blair accepts a community partner award from Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District Manager Joey also continued this leg- Skeldon Wozniak. Warner.