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THE ENQUIRER

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Prosecutors thanked for role in drug-ring bust

Good Things Happening

Butler County Prosecutor Robin Piper and Assistant Prosecutor Dan Eichel have received recognition for their part in successfully prosecuting several members of a multimillion-dollar drug enterprise.

Piper and Eichel received plaques from Commander John Burke of the Warren County Drug Task Force, which worked with the prosecutor's office, the FBI, and the U.S. Attorney's office in the investigation..

The two-year investigation resulted in the arrests of 15 men here and in Texas, most of them charged with trafficking in crystal methamphetamine, cocaine and other drugs.

Authorities said the drug ring put \$50 million to \$100 million a year in illicit drugs from Mexico into Butler and Warren counties.

Accepting the honor and acknowledging the appreciation, Piper said they caught the little guys all the way up to the "big fish."

"The depth involved in this investigation was immense and I am proud to have worked with so many law enforcement officers of such a high caliber," Piper said. "Many law enforcement officers were working behind the scenes to put the pieces of this puzzle together."

FORECLOSURE CATS ART

The Foreclosure Cats, that group of felines rescued last year, are back in the spotlight again.

The art project that raised funds for the cats will give a reception from 6-10 p.m. today at the Loveland Art Studios on Main Street in Loveland.

The reception starts an exhibit that will run through January.

The Foreclosure Cat Project gained national attention when their story was featured in Business Week. They were discovered in May when an evicted man left them in a house in the East End without food and water.

Cincinnati artist Robin Moro, who took two of the cats, launched the Foreclosure Cat Project by inviting artists around the country to contribute original art in the form of portraits of each cat for a fund-raiser.

The art will be celebrated today at the opening reception and will be made available nationally by auction on eBay.

The reception is open to the public.

The artists include painters, children's book illustrators, and greeting-card, textile and glass artists.

"We don't think anything quite like this has been done, certainly not by any small, local rescue project like us," said Moro. "Artists as far west as California, east to Rhode Island and south to Florida were inspired by the plight of these cats and kittens."

Several of the foreclosure cats and kittens that have not been adopted will be at the reception. All have been spayed or neutered, vaccinated, tested and microchipped.

More information and directions to the gallery at 529 Main St. are at www.ForeclosureCats.org

BENEFIT FOR SAVANA

A benefit for Savana Coffman, 15, who had a heart transplant in November, will begin at 10 a.m. today at Fox Hollow Stables, 1909 E. Ohio 73, Waynesville.

The event will include 50 auction items, including antiques, autographed sports memorabilia and tickets.

Savana is a freshman at Clinton Massie High School, Clarksville. She underwent a heart transplant Nov. 14 and is recuperating at home. All proceeds will help cover Savana's medical bills.

For more information, visit: www.savanasmiles.com or contact Lora Allen, 937-848-6255 ext. 225

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