# **US launches mass expulsion of Haitian migrants**

# More than 12,000 people camping in Texas border town

### Juan A. Lozano, Eric Gay, Elliot Spagat and Evens Sanon ASSOCIATED PRESS

DEL RIO, Texas – The U.S. is flying Haitians camped in a Texas border town back to their homeland and blocking others from crossing the border from Mexico in a massive show of force that signals the beginning of what could be one of America's swiftest, large-scale expulsions of migrants or refugees in decades.

More than 320 migrants arrived in Port-au-Prince on three flights Sunday, and Haiti said six flights were expected Tuesday. In all, U.S. authorities moved to expel many of the more than 12,000 migrants camped around a bridge in Del Rio, Texas, after crossing from Ciudad Acuña, Mexico.

Mexico also said it would deport Haitian migrants, and began busing them from Ciudad Acuña Sunday evening, according to Luis Angel Urraza, president of the local chamber of commerce. He said he saw the first two buses leave from in front of his restaurant with about 90 people aboard.

"There isn't room for them in the city anymore; we can't help them anymore," he said.

Mexico's immigration agency did not immediately respond to a request for comment. But a federal official told The Associated Press on Sunday that the plan was to take the migrants to Monterrey, in northern Mexico, and Tapachula, in the south, with flights to Haiti from those cities to begin in coming days.

The U.S. plans to begin seven expulsion flights daily on Wednesday, four to Port-au-Prince and three to Cap-Haitien, according to a U.S. official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly. Flights will continue to depart from San Antonio but authorities may add El Paso, the official said.

The only obvious parallel for such an expulsion without an opportunity to seek asylum was in 1992 when the Coast Guard intercepted Haitian refugees at sea, said Yael Schacher, senior U.S. advocate at Refugees International whose doctoral studies focused on the history of U.S. asylum law.

Similarly large numbers of Mexicans have been sent home during peak years of immigration but over land and not so suddenly.

Haitians have been migrating to the U.S. in large numbers from South America for several years, many having left their Caribbean nation after a devastating 2010 earthquake. After jobs dried up from the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, many made the dangerous trek by foot, bus and car to the U.S. border.

Some of the migrants at the Del Rio camp said the recent devastating earthquake in Haiti and the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse make them afraid to return to a country that seems more unstable than when they left.

"In Haiti, there is no security," said Fabricio Jean, a 38-year-old Haitian who arrived in Texas with his wife and two daughters. "The country is in a political crisis."

Since Friday, 3,300 migrants have already been removed from the Del Rio camp to planes or detention centers, Border Patrol Chief Raul L. Ortiz said Sunday. He expected to have 3,000 of the approximately 12,600 remaining migrants moved within a day, and aimed for the rest to be gone within the week.

"We are working around the clock to expeditiously move migrants out of the heat, elements and from un-



Haitian migrants wade across the Rio Grande from Del Rio, Texas, to return to Ciudad Acuña, Mexico, on Sunday to avoid deportation to Haiti from the U.S. FELIX MARQUEZ/AP

derneath this bridge to our processing facilities in order to quickly process and remove individuals from the United States consistent with our laws and our policies," Ortiz said at news conference at the Del Rio bridge. The Texas city of about 35,000 people sits roughly 145 miles west of San Antonio.

Six flights were scheduled in Haiti on Tuesday – three in Port-au-Prince and three in the northern city of Cap-Haitien, said Jean Négot Bonheur Delva, Haiti's migration director.

The rapid expulsions were made possible by a pandemic-related authority adopted by former President Donald Trump in March 2020 that allows for migrants to be immediately removed from the country without an opportunity to seek asylum. President Joe Biden exempted unaccompanied children from the order but let the rest stand.

Any Haitians not expelled are subject to immigra-

tion laws, which include rights to seek asylum and other forms of humanitarian protection. Families are quickly released in the U.S. because the government cannot generally hold children.

Some people arriving on the first flight covered their heads as they walked into a large bus parked next to the plane. Dozens lined up to receive a plate of rice, beans, chicken and plantains as they wondered where they would sleep and how they would make money to support their families.

All were given \$100 and tested for COVID-19, though authorities were not planning to put them into quarantine, said Marie-Lourde Jean-Charles with the Office of National Migration.

Gary Monplaisir, 26, said his parents and sister live in Port-au-Prince, but he wasn't sure if he would stay with them because to reach their house he, his wife and their 5-year-old daughter would cross a gang-controlled area called Martissant where killings are routine.

"I'm scared," he said. "I don't have a plan."

He moved to Chile in 2017, just as he was about to earn an accounting degree, to work as a tow truck driver. He later paid for his wife and daughter to join him. They tried to reach the U.S. because he thought he could get a better-paying job and help his family in Haiti.

"We're always looking for better opportunities," he said.

Some migrants said they were planning to leave Haiti again as soon as possible. Valeria Ternission, 29, said she and her husband want to travel with their 4year-old son back to Chile, where she worked as a bakery's cashier.

"I am truly worried, especially for the child," she said. "I can't do anything here."

# Notice of Application by Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Increase Rates and Charges for its Gas Distribution Service, For Approval of an Alternative Form of Regulation, to Continue its Demand Side Management Program, and For Approval of a Change in Accounting Methods

PUCO Case Nos. 21-637-GA-AIR, 21-638-GA-ALT, 21-639-GA-UNC, 21-640-GA-AAM

Pursuant to R.C. 4909.19, Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. ("Columbia") gives notice that it filed an Application with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("Commission") on June 30, 2021, requesting authority to amend its filed tariffs to modify its rate structure; to increase the rates and charges for its natural gas distribution and transportation services; to amend its tariff to make various changes to how Columbia provides distribution and transportation services to customers; to incorporate various minor formatting and stylistic changes into its tariff; and to modify its accounting methods as necessary to effectuate its Application. Columbia also applied, under R.C. Chapter 4929, for approval of an alternative rate plan, which includes its existing Infrastructure Replacement Program ("IRP") and Capital Expenditure Program ("CEP") and their associated riders, and a request to implement a new Federally Mandated Investment ("FMI") Rider, described below. Additionally, Columbia applied for authority to continue offering its Demand Side Management ("DSM") Program. The Application affects rates and charges and terms and conditions for natural gas service for all Columbia customers in each of the 61 Ohio counties where Columbia offers service.

This notice summarizes the substance of Columbia's Application. Anyone seeking more detailed information regarding Columbia's Application may inspect a copy of the Application, including its supporting schedules and Columbia's current and proposed rate sheets, by any of the following methods:

- visiting the offices of the Public Utilities Commission, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793;
- visiting the Commission's website at http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/, inputting 21-637 into the Case Lookup box, and
- selecting the application filed on June 30, 2021;
  visiting Columbia's business office, 290 W. Nationwide Boulevard, Columbus, Ohio 43215, during normal business hours;
- visiting Columbia's website at https://www.columbiagasohio.com/our-company/about-us/regulatory-information.

The Staff of the Commission and any interested parties that intervene in the proceeding may make recommendations that differ from the Application, and the Commission may adopt those recommendations.

Columbia has not filed an application to increase its base rates since 2008. Columbia's Application proposes various changes to its rate structure, including:

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

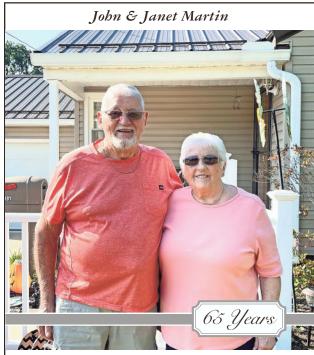
Licking Metropolitan Housing Authority (740) 349-8069

# WAITLIST OPENING FOR THE SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

Applications will be accepted **ONLINE** at: https://www.waitlistcheck.com/OH1879

10:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 29, 2021 until 7:00 a.m. Monday, October 4, 2021 (You may apply 24 hours/day until the closing deadline)





**Mr. and Mrs. James Martin** of Newark, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary Sept. 21, 2021 Verla Redman and James Martin were married Sept. 21, 1956, at the home of the bride's parents. They are the parents of (Jeff) and Cristy Martin, John and (Janet) Martin, and Jill Martin, all of Newark. They also have two grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and one great great grandchild, of Newark. One grandchild and three great grandchildren of Yokosuka Kanazawa Prefecture, Japan. Mr. Martin retired from Newark Processing.

Mrs. Martin retired from Newark City Schools. The couple celebrated with a family dinner, hosted by their children.

### 5

- Increasing the volumetric breakpoint between its SGS / SGTS / FRSGTS rate classes and its GS / GTS / FRGTS rate classes, from 300 Mcf/year to 600 Mcf/year;
- Removing the seasonal load factor requirement for the LGS / LGTS / FRLGTS rate classes;
- Incorporating the IRP and CEP Riders into base rates;
- Establishing a Monthly Delivery Charge for the FRCTS rate class;
- Adding new LGS/LGTS/FRLGTS Schools Services, for primary and secondary school customer accounts consuming at least 18,000 Mcf per year; and
- Eliminating the Mainline Delivery Charge in the LGTS tariff.

Columbia also seeks to recover historical expenses that the Commission had authorized Columbia to defer, and to defer new expenses related to a leak detection pilot program.

Columbia's current base rates were determined in a rate filing that became effective December 3, 2008. Columbia's Application states that the current rates and charges do not provide a just and reasonable rate of return on Columbia's used and useful property as of March 31, 2021 (the date certain in this case). The Application further states that Columbia requires a revenue increase to provide Columbia an opportunity to earn a fair return on its assets and recover its costs of operation. For purposes of Columbia's Application, Columbia's revenues and expenses reflect its actual and projected costs of rendering natural gas service during calendar year 2021, with adjustments as described in the Application and supporting schedules. Columbia has requested the following increases in operating revenue for its rate classes:

Rate Classes	Requested Increase in Operating Revenue
Small General Service (SGS)	
Small General Transportation Service (SGTS)	31.4%
Full Requirements Small General Transportation Service (FRSGTS)	
General Service (GS)	
General Transportation Service (GTS)	11.4%
Full Requirements General Transportation Service (FRGTS)	
Large General Service (LGS)	
Large General Transportation Service (LGTS)	15.1%
Full Requirements Large General Transportation Service (FRLGTS)	
Full Requirements Cooperative Transportation Service (FRCTS)	12.6%

These increases in proposed operating revenue do not necessarily equal the increases in total expected monthly charges for any customer. For example, if the Commission approves Columbia's Application, a SGS customer using 10 Mcf of gas from Columbia Gas would see a total monthly bill increase from \$93.53 to \$105.70, an increase of approximately 13.0% (including gas costs). Pursuant to R.C. 4909.19, any person, firm, corporation, or association may file an objection to the increased rates that Columbia has proposed by alleging that Columbia's proposals are unjust and discriminatory or unreasonable.

Columbia is also seeking authority to implement an alternative rate plan, which would consist of its existing IRP and CEP (and their associated riders) and a new proposed FMI Rider. Columbia seeks Commission approval to continue the IRP and Rider IRP, with minor changes, from 2021 through 2026. Changes to the IRP include shifting capital projects in which less than 50% of the retired pipe is priority pipe to the CEP and eliminating the 5% limit on plastic pipe replacement for priority pipe-replacement projects under Columbia's Accelerated Mains Replacement Program ("AMRP"). Columbia would continue its CEP and CEP Rider through 2026, with updated caps for the CEP Rider charge for 2021 through 2027. The new FMI Rider would be a monthly charge for customers in all rate classes to allow Columbia to recover incremental costs associated with federally and state-mandated safety investments.

# LOCAL SCOREBOARD

# **AREA BOWLING**

# **Redskin Lanes**

Dick Alley Memorial (Aug. 26): Reaper Valley Technical 1,220; Redskin Lanes 3,393; Roger L. Adams 300—825; Trent Speer 737; Bryan French 716; Scott Christian 703; Ron Guinsler 697; Todd Black 693; Bob Jones 680; Roger Adams 674; Mike Byers 642; Dave Finkes 640; Craig Peck 634; Blake French 629; Jeff Balka 625; Dougie Guilliams 616; Tom Booher 609; Travis Speer 607; Rob Engle 604; Matt Engle 601; Larry Snider 601.

**Monday 4x4 (Aug. 30):** Redskin Lanes 977; Simmons Farm Toys 3,574; Tyler Willey 297—973; Jerrica Blake 225—826; Jeff Balka 959; Tom Booher Jr. 949; Trent Speer 927; Bryan French 925; Mike Byers 918; Nate Bartley 917; Dwight Ryan 916; Matt Speer 898; Roger Lamp 889; Dennis Whisner 862; C.J. Tilley 860; Mitch Drumm 858; Blake French 815.

Dick Alley Memorial (Sept. 2): Hilltop Quilter 1,235; Rivers Edge Grill 3,606; Roger L. Adams 290—817; Brandy Warthman 214—635; Bob Jones 771; Thomas Melrose 747; Dave Finkes 698; Jeff Balka 696; Rob Engle 681; Tom Booher Jr. 677; Craig Peck 673; Mike Engle 670; Chris Engle 666; Roger Adams 662; Chuck Dunlap 660; Bryan French 639; Todd Black 635; Dougie Guillliams 625; Matt Speer 623; Mike Byers 605.

**Monday 4x4 (Sept. 7):** Redskin Lanes 1,001–3,748; Blake French 299–1,015; Matt Speer 299–934; Jerrica Blake 216–777; Dennis Whisner 966; Bryan French 922; Jeff Balka 921; Mike Byers 916; Trent Speer 906; Dwight Ryan 905; Mitch Drumm 876; Tom Booher Jr. 861; Josh Love 846; Chris Lambert 838; Dave Finkes 826; Craig Peck 823.

**Eagleston-Ashbrook Memorial (Sept. 8):** Team #5 879; Steven Sayre 239—629; MacKenzie Pankuch 198—479. **Dick Alley Memorial (Sept. 9):** Giddy Up Go 1,303; Adkins Disposal 3,701; Mike Byers 279—709; Roger L. Adams 791; Jerrica Blake 218—630; Jeff Balka 733; Josh Love 701; Trent Speer 697; Bryan French 696; Bruce Weekly 682; Bob Jones 681; Rob Engle 680; Chuck Dunlap 675; Roger Adams 665; Dave Finkes 656; Matt Speer 652; Chris Engle 651; Dave Harden 634; Mike Engle 632; Walt Nickells 618; Blake French 615; Ashton Booher 606; Todd Black 604; George Kost 603; Thomas Melrose 602; Travis Speer 600.

Friday Nite Mixed (Sept. 10): Wrecking Ball 947—2,669; Dave Harden 278—731; Jerrica Blake 212—616; Jeff Balka 719; Jared Shaw 651; Larry Adams 648; Trent Speer 647; Gary Wolfe 628; Craig Peck 622; Dave Finkes 622; Sherry Peck 616.

Sunday Nite Mixed (Sept. 12): Team #3 900; Team #5 2,641; Joe DeJesus 217; Donnie Rodeniser 570; Kassidy Offenbaker 184—531.

Monday 4x4 (Sept. 13): Nick's Pizza 1,062; McDonald's 3,730; Trent Speer 300—1,002; Brandy Warthman 256— 845; Matt Speer 939; Mike Byers 929; Dwight Ryan 926; Tom Booher Jr. 909; Jared Shaw 880; Nate Bartley 862; Blake French 850; Dennis Whisner 825; C.J. Tilley 814. Eagleston-Ashbrook Memorial (Sept. 15): Free Bird 931—2,619; Steven Sayre 253—717; Judy Peters 196; Liz

Lobdell 439. Dick Alley Memorial (Sept. 16): Hilltop Quilter 1,293— 3,490; Frank Barrett 279—730; Mike Byers 736; Jerrica Blake 246—631; Nate Bartley 725; Bob Jones 697; Trent Speer 693; Jeff Balka 689; Roger Adams 675; Tom Booher Jr. 674; Ron Guinsler 667; Todd Black 660; Scott Christian 648; Roger Adams 646; Rob Engle 642; Craig Peck 632; Josh Love 632; Tom Booher 627; Chuck Dunlap 627.

**Friday Night Mixed (Sept. 17):** Mom's Gang 958–2,641; Trent Speer 269–726; Lois Speer 209–505; Jerrica Blake 532; Dave Finkes 698; Gary Wolfe 624; Dave Harden 614; Craig Peck 601; Sherry Peck 515.

# IN BRIEF

# Chiefs' Reid released from hospital, plans to see team soon

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Chiefs coach Andy Reid was released from the hospital Monday after he felt ill and was taken by ambulance to be treated for dehydration following their 30-24 loss to the Los Angeles Chargers the previous day.

Chiefs spokesman Ted Crews said that Reid was "in great spirits" and that he planned to visit the practice facility later in the day or Tuesday. In the meantime, the Chiefs spent the day breaking down film and going through their normal Monday meetings with coordinators Steve Spagnuolo, Eric Bieniemy and Dave Toub in charge.

"He's doing well," Crews said. "You guys know him almost as well as me and he's chomping at the bit."

Reid coached the duration of the game Sunday, which was played in unseasonably warm temperatures that topped 90 degrees. He also addressed the team in the locker room afterward, then was examined by the Chiefs medical staff before the decision was made to send him to The University of Kansas Hospital for testing and observation.

The 63-year-old Reid is expected to coach Sunday when the Chiefs visit Philadelphia.

The Chiefs did not provide any details about Reid's illness, but quarterback Patrick Mahomes said his coach "seemed fine on the sideline" and that he "came in and talked to us and seemed fine" after the game.

# Jaguars trade CB Henderson for Carolina TE Arnold

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The Jacksonville Jaguars are sending cornerback CJ Henderson, the ninth overall pick in the 2020 NFL draft, to the Carolina Panthers in exchange for tight end Dan Arnold.

The deal Monday also includes a swap of draft

picks in 2022: Jacksonville gets Carolina's thirdrounder, the Panthers get a fifth-rounder in return from the Jaguars.

Trading Henderson fills a need for Carolina (3-0) and unloads a headache for the Jaguars (0-3).

Panthers first-round pick Jaycee Horn broke a bone in his right foot against Houston on Thursday night and could miss the rest of the season. Henderson had become Jacksonville's latest first-round flop.

Henderson injured a shoulder early in his rookie season and hasn't been the same since. He struggled physically – and mentally – to deal with the setback and then landed on injured reserve in mid-November because of a strained groin. He missed half the year and needed labrum surgery in the offseason.

His state of mind was a topic of discussion again during training camp. Henderson tested positive for COVID-19 when he reported to camp in July and sat out 10 days. He returned briefly before missing a scrimmage for "personal reasons."

# NFL Holt brothers' firm to build North Carolina Freedom Park

RALEIGH, N.C. – A construction company founded by former NFL players and brothers Torry and Terrence Holt will build the project designed to honor the contributions of African Americans in North Carolina.

Leaders of the North Carolina Freedom Park initiative announced on Monday that the Black-owned Holt Brothers Construction has been awarded the contract to complete the \$5.4 million project in Raleigh.

The park, to be located between the Executive Mansion and the Legislative Building. will be anchored by the Beacon of Freedom, a piece of public art that will be illuminated at night.

– Wire reports

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Monday 4x4 (Sept. 20): Nick's Pizza 1,002—3,766; Jeff Balka 279—815; Nate Bartley 969; Jerrica Blake 276— 944; Matt Speer 954; Blake French 899; Bryan French 899; Dwight Ryan 878; Dennis Whisner 847; Roger Lamp 845; Jared Shaw 843; Tyler Willey 841; Tom Booher Jr. 836; Josh Love 834; Cliff Lucas 821; Mike Byers 816; Jack McDonald 801; Brandy Warthman 897.

**Eagleston-Ashbrook Memorial (Sept. 22):** Derek Edwards 257—692; Liz Lobdell 181—518; Randy Ashbrook 635; Kyle Barr 606.

Dick Alley Memorial (Sept. 23): Hilltop Quilter 1,274– 3,716; Jim Hopewell 289; Bob Jones 738; Jerrica Blake 237–680; Roger Adams 709; Dave Finkes 707; Trent Speer 703; Frank Barrett 694; Matt Speer 671; Don Jones 671; Jared Shaw 669; Ed Smith 665; Todd Black 663; Tom Booher 647; Mike Byers 640; Roger Adams 640; Josh Love 639; Jeff Balka 638; Blake French 636; Chuck Dunlap 636; Scott Christian 628; George Kost 624; Chris Engle 619; Joe Humbert 619; Rob Engle 618; Jack McDonald 611; Matt Engle 600; Jenny Bricker 582.

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- Increasing the volumetric breakpoint between its SGS / SGTS / FRSGTS rate classes and its GS / GTS / FRGTS rate classes, from 300 Mcf/year to 600 Mcf/year;
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# How to make a complaint



**Hints From Heloise** Heloise

Dear Heloise: Speaking as someone whose been in business for over 57 years, I have a suggestion if you have a problem with the product or service you received from a small business.

First of all, don't take it out on the person who answers the phone. Calmly ask for the manager or owner. If it's a problem with the product, remember the store didn't manufacture it. Say something like, "I realize it's not your fault, but ..."

If it is a problem with the service or installation, say something like, "I'm sure you didn't mean to, however ..." Remember, you can catch more flies with honey than vinegar. The nicer you are, the more likely your problem will be resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

- Sally Rice

Sally, this advice is spot-on. Have all of your infor-

# **TV'S BEST BETS**

### **Mike Hughes**

Special to Mansfield News Journal USA TODAY NETWORK

"FBI" trilogy, 8-11 p.m., CBS. Sprawling across three shows and two continents, this is an epic way to launch a new series. At 8, the "FBI" season-opener has the slaying of a woman who was at a yacht party with some rich creeps; two "FBI: Most Wanted" guys, Crosby and LaCroix, are soon involved. Then the "Most Wanted" opener, at 9, points to the debut of "FBI International" at 10. Zadan (from "FBI") rushes to the Budapest bureau, to pursue a Jeffrey Epstein-type villain and his hostage.

"Our Kind of People" debut, 9 p.m., Fox. Even at its best, Lee Daniels' "Empire" had some soapy excess at its core; it compensated with great music and the bravado performances of Taraji Henson and Terrence Howard. Now comes Daniels' new show – no Henson, no Howard, no music but huge waves of soap suds. A woman arrives at a rich Black enclave on Martha's Vineyard, with her aunt, her teen daughter and some secrets. Well, everyone has secrets here, as the story quickly hits high-decibel.

"The Voice" opener, 8-10 p.m., NBC. It's changeover time for the reality shows. One show ("Voice") arrives and another ("The Ultimate Surfer," 10 p.m., ABC) concludes, picking its winner. And "Bachelor in "Paradise" continues; it ends Oct. 12, with "Bachelorette" then taking over.

"New Amsterdam" season-opener, 10 p.m., NBC. After some hectic times, Mac is talking about giving his hospital — and his life — a sense of joy. He had new paint for the walls and a hot romance and ... well, then there are spectacular troubles, as usual. This opener packs way too much into the hour, then has a confusmation at hand – bills, receipts or emails – about the problem you are having. Discuss the issue calmly to work it out and get the result you want.

Heloise

Dear Readers: If you use a curling iron, it's likely that hairspray will accumulate on it. Here's how to remove that sticky spray. First, after using the curling iron, unplug it and allow it to cool. Then use one of these two ways to get the spray off:

1. Pour a couple of drops of rubbing alcohol on an old washcloth or terry-cloth towel. Wipe over the surface of the iron. Then clean off with a water-dampened cloth.

2. Make a paste of equal parts baking soda and water. Rub this mixture over the surface and wipe off with a slightly wet cloth.

Baking soda is so useful around your home, and it saves you money. For more helpful hints about baking soda, order my six-page "Baking Soda Hints and Recipes" pamphlet by sending \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (75 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Baking Soda, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. FYI: Sprinkle a bit of baking soda onto your pet's bedding to keep it smelling fresh in between washings! – Heloise

Dear Heloise: While on my honeymoon in Hawaii, we had a two-hour layover before boarding our plane. We decided to take a walk on the beach. We put our luggage and valuables in the trunk. Everything was stolen. While making a police report, the policeman informed us that the trunk is much easier to break into than the interior of the car. I now carry a towel the color of my floor mats. I place my valuables on the floor of the passenger side and cover them with the towel. Live and learn.

– Judy Feldmeth, via email

Dear Readers: When you are going to boil hot water for pasta and you don't want it to boil over, here's what to do. Rub a bit of vegetable oil or butter around the inside top inch or two of the pot before you add the water. And here's another hint passed down by our grandmothers. Put a wooden spoon across the pot to stop it from boiling over. But always pay close attention to a boiling pot.

- Heloise

Dear Heloise: When packing items for disaster relief donation, please put clothing in waterproof, sealed bags, or sealed bags inside of boxes. Volunteers will be handling these donations in not always ideal conditions. Put items in a sealed bag and then test drop it. Imagine that a volunteer will be putting this onto a truck, in the rain. Will the packing hold up under these conditions? Put a label on the box or bag, and then put clear packing tape over the label. If you use contractor bags, you can twist the top and knot it. Be sure to label the outside with tape about the contents. Thank you! - Natalie Zanin, via email

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ing ending. It does, however, hold our interest through some emotional peaks.

ALSO: "The Resident" opens its season at 8 p.m., with the hospital facing a cyber attack. Also, three gems show up tonight: There are two great biographies, one scripted ("Patton," 1970, 8 p.m., Turner Classic Movies) and one not ("Muhammad Ali," 8 p.m., PBS, rerunning at 10, setting up Wednesday's finale). And the third chapter of "Impeachment" (10 p.m. FX) finds Paula Jones - wonderfully played by Annaleigh Ashford - overwhelmed by domineering forces on both sides.



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Hints From Heloise

# Tips for removing a ballpoint pen mark

**Dear Heloise:** I hope you can help me. How do you remove a ballpoint pen mark from a colored shirt? I have tried several things but have not been successful. Any help you could give me would be greatly appreciated. Thank you so much. I read your column every day in the paper and appreciate all your excellent help. You have super suggestions.

– Betty De Witz, via email

**Dear Betty:** This is a common problem. For dried stains, gently rub isopropyl alcohol until the stain comes out. But do not apply this to highly colored material.

For spot removing, sponge the area around the stain with a commercial dry-cleaning fluid. Then place the stain face down on several layers of clean paper towels. Apply the dry-cleaning fluid to the back of the stain. Rinse with water and launder as usual.

# – Heloise

**Dear Heloise:** Love your column. Here's my hint: When my decorative liquid soap dispensers in my kitchen and bath need filling, I go to a dollar store and get a large container of body wash. (I look for one made in the USA!) Hey, hands are part of your body, right?

– Shirley P., The Villages, Florida

Shirley, that's a practical and good money-saving hint.

– Heloise

**Dear Readers:** I get many letters about this common household problem. The refrigerator is one of the most used appliances in our homes. We go to it daily and keep it well stocked with our favorite foods. And we often shove containers to the back of the fridge when we put newer items inside. When it stinks or is crammed too full, it's time to clean it out.

Toss out old items. Always put leftovers in zip-top bags or sealed containers. And label them with dates! Wipe down shelves with soapy water to remove spills. And finally, wipe the walls with white vinegar. To control smells, pour baking soda into one or two plastic margarine tubs, poke holes in the lid and place inside the refrigerator. Replace every three months.

Baking soda is indispensable around the home. For more helpful hints about baking soda, order my six-page Heloise's Baking Soda Hints and Recipes pamphlet by sending \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (75 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Baking Soda, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. FYI: If the trunk of your car smells, sprinkle baking soda over the carpeting. Let remain on for several days and then vacuum.

– Heloise

**Dear Heloise:** I like to garden, but I always used to end up with dirt under my fingernails, even when I wore gloves. Now I scratch a bar of soap with my "digging fingers" before putting on my gloves. When I am finished with the gardening, one swish with a fingernail brush and my nails are clean.

– Elaine Linhoff, Newport Beach, California

# Trending kitchen sink colors are naturally beautiful

### Ed Del Grande TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**Q:** Dear Ed, I'm planning my dream kitchen for our remodeling project this fall. I'm going with a cast-iron kitchen sink because of all the color choices. I want to be up to date, so what trending cast-iron color choices do you suggest I look at?

– Tina, Tennessee

**A:** Aside from the large selection of colors, cast iron is a good material choice for a kitchen sink. It's strong, durable, quiet and utilizes recycled materials.

Like the fashion world, trending cast-iron sink colors often change. From what I've seen, natural and earthy colors seem to be popular.

Here are some of my favorites:

**Light tones:** White (always in), Sea Salt (speckled white), Biscuit (off-white)

**Medium tones:** Ice Gray (lighter gray), Cashmere (brown-gray), Almond (beige-type)

**Dark tones:** Indigo Blue (deep blue), Thunder Gray (dark grey), Black Plum (purple/black).

Note that lighter tones tend to hide water and soap spots better than darker tones. Also, choose a color that is not a flash in the pan – you'll want your new kitchen sink to stay in style for a while.

Master Contractor/Plumber Ed Del Grande is known internationally as the author of the book "Ed Del Grande's House Call," the host of TV and Internet shows, and a LEED green associate. Visit eddelgran-



While thinking about cast-iron kitchen sink color options, keep in mind that lighter tones tend to hide water and soap spots better than darker tones. KOHLER

de.com or write eadelg@cs.com. Always consult local contractors and codes.

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**Elaine:** This is the best way to get rid of all that dirt, but continue to wear gloves. That will help cut down on the amount of dirt that gets under your nails. – Heloise

# **TV'S BEST BETS**

## **Mike Hughes**

Special to Mansfield News Journal USA TODAY NETWORK

**"The Resident," 8 p.m., Fox.** This strong hour starts with one crisis and ends with another. As last week's season-opener ended, a blind man wandered into a room that had a gas leak, then collapsed; Devon found him there, at the end of his shift, then also collapsed. That's where we start this hour — which ends by introducing a fresh jolt. In between is a so-so story about Billie's secret past.

**"La Brea" debut, 9 p.m., NBC, rerunning at 8 p.m. Saturday.** Like "Lost," our characters are plunged into a strange, new world. This time, however, it happens instantly. The ground opens up, buildings crumble, people plunge into a netherworld. They deal with mysteries and creatures ... while their friends and family are topside, surrounded by soldiers with secrets. It's a fascinating start ... clouded by NBC's tradition of canceling sci-fi shows before they can be resolved.

**"American Experience: Citizen Hearst" conclusion, 9-11 p.m., PBS**. In the first half of this terrific documentary, William Randolph Hearst used family money to build a string of big-city newspapers and more. Now we see him revel in fame and power ... until outside events intervene: The Depression shattered his big-spending style; World War II partly salvages it.

**"Our Kind of People," 9 p.m., Fox.** Brash, soap-opera moments quickly consume this hour. Angela tries to get an incubator grant for her salon ... and tries to get a place in upper-crust society. Leah tries to overthrow her father as head of the company. Then, of course, soapy secrets emerge. One of the few reasonable souls is Raymond — Leah's husband and the head of the grant program. He's played by Morris Chestnut, who left a good show ("Resident") to be in a super-soapy one.

**"FBI International," 9 p.m., CBS.** Last week's series debut was at 10 p.m., to wrap up a three-show story. Now "International" moves to its regular spot, but does borrow Jeremy Sisto from "FBI" as a guest star. The story involves a young mom who loses a custody case in the U.S., then flees with her son to Hungary ... where there's a fresh complication.

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# Prevention is the key to fighting plant disease



Sue La Fountaine News-Messenger/News Herald USA TODAY NETWORK

Now that the growing season is coming to an end and the harvesting is in full swing, look back to correct some of the disease problems in your garden because nothing is more frustrating (for you as a vegetable gardener) than to see the fruits of your labor lost to disease.

Diseases occur when environmental conditions are suitable for pathogens to develop on susceptible hosts. Some pathogens can attack all plant parts, whereas others attack only selected area tissues.

Many types of organisms cause infectious diseases of plants, but the five major groups of plant pathogens are fungi, water molds, bacteria, viruses, and nematodes.

Adverse conditions such as improper soil pH, nutrient deficiencies and toxicities, soil compaction, excess water, herbicide damage and more will affect the plant.



Powdery mildew symptoms on chokecherry leaves in Colfax County, New Mexico. BOE LOPEZ

The plants weakened by these adverse conditions may be further predisposed to attack by pathogens.

Prevention is the key to disease management in the home garden. Although many foliar diseases such as leaf spots and mildews, are generally manageable once they are observed, root diseases generally are not. You might take pictures and keep a journal so next year you can correct the situation. The best method is prevention by choosing resistant varieties and keeping the garden clear of weeds and infected debris. You can contact your extension office for approved pesticides for your vegetable plants.

Good gardening habits and effective treatment help prevent, stop, and control disease.

Test the soil

• Plant healthy stock, resistant varieties; disease-free seed and transplants

- Follow proper crop rotation
- · Use organic mulches and amendments
- Void overhead watering
- Water early in the day
- Don't crowd plants
- Don't work a wet garden
- Treat with a trusted, proven fungicide
- Keep a journal

Sue La Fountaine is a Master Gardener with the Sandusky and Ottawa Counties Extension Offices.

# Here's a look at how area members of Congress voted

Fremont News-Messenger USA TODAY NETWORK

WASHINGTON — Here's a look at how area members of Congress voted from Sept. 10 to Sept. 16.

There were no key votes in the House this week.

# Senate

# Senate Vote 1:

**EDUCATION OFFICIAL:** The Senate has confirmed the nomination of James Kvaal to serve as the Education Department's under secretary. Kvaal, a staffer in both the Clinton and Obama administrations, was president of the Institute for College Access and Success starting in 2018. A supporter, Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., said "Kvaal's background reflects a deep commitment to our nation's students and the experience needed to hit the ground running on day one." The vote, on Sept. 14, was 58 yeas to 37 nays.

YEAS: Sen. Sherrod Brown D-OH

- NAYS: Sen. Rob Portman R-OH
- Senate Vote 2:

WASHINGTON JUDGE: The Senate has confirmed the nomination of David Estudillo to serve as a judge on the U.S. district court for the western district of Washington. Estudillo has been a superior court judge in Grant County, Wash., since 2015; previously, he was a private practice lawyer specializing in immigration law. A supporter, Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., said "his strong character and respect for the rule of law, a sense of justice, fairness, humility, empathy, and capacity for compassion and understanding would be a benefit to the court and all the parties concerned." The vote, on Sept. 14, was 54 yeas to 41 nays.

YEAS: Brown D-OH

# NAYS: Portman R-OH Senate Vote 3:

**MASSACHUSETTS JUDGE:** The Senate has confirmed the nomination of Angel Kelley to serve as a judge on the U.S. district court for Massachusetts. Kelley has been a judge on the Massachusetts district and then superior courts since 2009. A supporter, Sen. Edward Markey, D-Mass., said that Kelley "has throughout her career demonstrated one thing above all else, and that is an abiding commitment to our nation's promise of equal justice under the law." The vote, on Sept. 14, was 52 yeas to 44 nays.

YEAS: Brown D-OH NAYS: Portman R-OH

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# Stange Road closed through Oct. 29

OAK HARBOR — The bridge replacement project on Stange Road over Turtle Creek was scheduled to be completed by Wednesday. Due to various delays, the work is not scheduled to continue through Oct. 29.

This requires the continued full closure of Stange Road between Walbridge East Road and Trowbridge Road. For more information call the Ottawa County Engineer's Office at 419-734-6777.

# Genoa school board to meet Tuesday

GENOA — The Genoa Area Local Schools Board will met at 6 p.m. Tuesday for a regular board meeting at the high school auditorium, 2980 N. Genoa-Clay Center Road.

An ARP Idea public meeting will be held at 5:45 p.m. before the board meeting.

# Apple festival coming Oct. 9, 10

OAK HARBOR — The Oak Harbor Apple Festival is held in downtown Oak Harbor the second full weekend in October annually.

This year's dates are Oct. 9-10. Activities are located within a two-block walking area.

The crowning of the Royalty Court will be 9:30 a.m. Oct. 9, followed by baby contest, the Grand Parade at 2 p.m., cornhole tournament, talent show and "The Junk" in the beer tent to round out the day's entertainment.

Sunday hosts the Classic Car Show, 5K Run, Kids 1 Mile Fun Run, and local performers. There are mechanical rides, over 130 vendors and many other activities. There is no admission fees. Ride the \$1shuttle from the high school parking lot.

Visit OakHarborAppleFestival.com for more details.



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# **Consider options in dealing with leaves**



Joe Johnson Special to Fremont News-Messenger USA TODAY NETWORK

Overall, having trees in a yard is a big plus for a homeowner. They look great, increase the value of a home and provide shade for the grass and flowers. But in the fall in Northwest Ohio a harsh reality sets in as autumn leaves start to fall all over.

As the days become shorter and the temperatures become cooler leaves lose their ability to produce energy, which causes a chemical reaction.

As this occurs the chlorophyll in the leaves starts to break down and the green color begins to disappear as the yellows, oranges and reds become more visible. We all enjoy these fall colors until the trees decide to release the leaves due to decline in energy production.

Since a layer of leaves can damage lawns, flower beds and shrubs a strategy is needed to remove them. Let's look at some of the options.

# Strategies to prevent lawn damage

One of the easiest options is to do nothing. Decide when to stop mowing the grass and just let the leaves fall is a plan. Whatever happens to the leaves and the lawn will be determined by Mother Nature and you will deal with it in the spring

Leaves are not going to ruin your plan of watching football games all weekend. In some neighborhoods this may be a problem. But hey, this is America and it is your yard. If this is the strategy of choice, stop reading this article and move on to the crossword puzzle.

If you are still reading this article, another option is to "mow and leave." This plan is to shred the leaves with a mower and allow them to settle in the grass where microbes in the ground will start the decomposition process. To accomplish this goal, raise the blade, mow only in dry conditions, and mow more often (don't wait till all the leaves have fallen).

Keep in mind you are not mowing the grass so a pattern is not necessary. The rule of thumb here is that one should be able to see the grass when finished. Depending on the number of trees it may be necessary to remove the excess leaves in some way. The shredded leaves will be beneficial to the grass by amending the soil, preventing weeds and retaining moisture.

# Traditional 'rake and remove' and compost

There is and always will be the traditional "rake and remove" method. This is the approach of raking

# **NEWS BRIEFS**

# Columbia Gas to begin gas line project in Woodville

WOODVILLE - Columbia Gas is set to begin a project in Woodville to replace aging gas lines with newer, state-of-the-art plastic pipe. Crews plan to install roughly 7,000 feet of the pipe serving about 100 residences south of town in the area generally bounded by Fort Findlay (north), South (south), Borcherding (west) and Grand (east).

Preconstruction camera work is underway and residents should expect excavation to begin within the next week or two. Columbia Gas and its contractor, Mid-Ohio Pipeline, will start by installing the new main line and then proceed to service lines for individual properties. Inside gas meters will be relocated outside as well.

leaves to the road or street and letting the township or city pick them up. Go online or call to find out the procedures and pickup schedules for your address. To accomplish this using a rake is not really necessary.

Try a leaf blower or better yet a leaf vacuum (this works great removing leaves from flower beds and shrubs). Also keep in mind that a little leaf litter is not harmful to a yard. It can even be beneficial as a lawn without leaves reduces habitats for many insects (i.e. butterflies).

Composting the leaves is a great idea. In composting leaves simply shred them and add them to a compost pile. To accomplish this bag the leaves as you mow or gather them up later in a tarp or bag. In composting, the ratio of "greens" to "browns" must be a consideration.

Leaves are considered "brown" and are high in carbon and therefore must be balanced with a nitrogenrich "green" (grass clippings). There are a lot of opinions on the best carbon(c) to nitrogen (n) ratio. A 30:1 ratio is considered the most beneficial and productive. That would be thirty parts of carbon (leaves) to one part of nitrogen (grass) by weight.

However, there are disadvantages to composting leaves. If not shredded, the leaves will tend to mat. They also take a long time to break down and contain lignin which is resistant to decomposing.

# Know your good leaves and bad leaves

There also are "good" leaves and "bad leaves. Maple, poplar, willow and fruit tree leaves are okay because they are lower in lignin and higher in calcium and nitrogen. "Bad" leaves are beech, oak and holly and never use walnut leaves in a compost pile. It is also recommended to wait a year before using the composted leaves.

If you don't compost and just want to deal with the

leaves try "leaf molding". It is the opposite of composting. Composting uses heat and bacteria to break down organic materials while leaf molding is a cooler process that uses fungi.

Leaf mold is an excellent additive to the soil. It moderates soil temperatures, holds moisture, helps soil structure, and improves the general health of a plant by increasing its resistance to disease. In order to develop leaf mold shred the leaves and collect them to create a separate pile of just leaves.

Like composting, water and turn frequently and wait a year to use. When adding this mulch to the garden or flower beds the rule of thumb is one should be able to see the plant. One-inch cover is enough but adding more will not hurt. This can either be applied on the top of the soil or mix it into the soil. Leaf mold also is slightly acidic so add some ground limestone when using around azaleas and gardenias.

# And then there is always the hiring option

If you do not like any of these options try the "hire it done" plan. A professional lawn care person will remove the leaves which will free you up to do something more pleasant. Prices will vary depending on what is done. Remember to call early in the fall for these services and make sure the person has liability insurance.

All these options depend on the size of the yard, the number of trees, whether or not the children or grandchildren are around to help, your age, and whether or not your football team is having a winning season.

Leaves make great organic mulch no matter how they are used and they are free. Removing leaves also increases sunlight to the grass, decreases possible diseases, increases curb appeal and decreases pressure from the neighbors. As always, it is your time and money.

Joe Johnson is a Master Gardener with the Extension Offices in Sandusky and Ottawa Counties.

Notice of Application by Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Increase Rates and Charges for its Gas Distribution Service, For Approval of an Alternative Form of Regulation, to Continue its Demand Side Management Program, and For Approval of a Change in Accounting Methods

PUCO Case Nos. 21-637-GA-AIR, 21-638-GA-ALT, 21-639-GA-UNC, 21-640-GA-AAM

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The Staff of the Commission and any interested parties that intervene in the proceeding may make recommendations that differ from the Application, and the Commission may adopt those recommendations.

Columbia has not filed an application to increase its base rates since 2008. Columbia's Application proposes various changes to its rate structure, including:

The project requires only a short interruption to natural gas service.

information, visit For more ColumbiaGasOhio.com/Replacement.

# **Catawba Museum closing for season**

PORT CLINTON — The Catawba Island Historical Society's Union Chapel Museum will soon close for its five-month season. The last day of operation will be Oct. 9. Until then, guests are welcome to visit 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

Jane Spriestersbach, the museum's curator, said attendance bounced back significantly after being adversely impacted by the COVID pandemic in 2020. "With two weeks remaining before our October-to-May break," she said, "We expect to welcome nearly 800 people That is up over 50% from last year."

Over the winter the museum trustees and staff will make modifications to current exhibits in the facility's Timeline Tale of Catawba story which began 400 million years ago. Some totally new displays are also being contemplated to help keep the experience fresh for return patrons.

# Park district highlights 'Food of the Forties'

LINDSEY - "Foods of the Forties" will be presented 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday Sept. 30 at Creek Bend Farm Homestead House, 654 S. Main St. Enjoy an evening learning about life in the 1940s at Creek Bend Farm. Patrons will sample foods made popular in the 1940s. For ages 14 and up. There is a \$5 program fee. Registration is required by calling 419-334-4495 or at lovemyparks.com.



- Increasing the volumetric breakpoint between its SGS / SGTS / FRSGTS rate classes and its GS / GTS / FRGTS rate classes, from 300 Mcf/year to 600 Mcf/year;
- Removing the seasonal load factor requirement for the LGS / LGTS / FRLGTS rate classes;
- Incorporating the IRP and CEP Riders into base rates;
- Establishing a Monthly Delivery Charge for the FRCTS rate class;
- Adding new LGS/LGTS/FRLGTS Schools Services, for primary and secondary school customer accounts consuming at least 18,000 Mcf per year; and
- Eliminating the Mainline Delivery Charge in the LGTS tariff.

Columbia also seeks to recover historical expenses that the Commission had authorized Columbia to defer, and to defer new expenses related to a leak detection pilot program.

Columbia's current base rates were determined in a rate filing that became effective December 3, 2008. Columbia's Application states that the current rates and charges do not provide a just and reasonable rate of return on Columbia's used and useful property as of March 31, 2021 (the date certain in this case). The Application further states that Columbia requires a revenue increase to provide Columbia an opportunity to earn a fair return on its assets and recover its costs of operation. For purposes of Columbia's Application, Columbia's revenues and expenses reflect its actual and projected costs of rendering natural gas service during calendar year 2021, with adjustments as described in the Application and supporting schedules. Columbia has requested the following increases in operating revenue for its rate classes:

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Small General Service (SGS)	
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Large General Transportation Service (LGTS)	15.1%
Full Requirements Large General Transportation Service (FRLGTS)	
Full Requirements Cooperative Transportation Service (FRCTS)	12.6%

These increases in proposed operating revenue do not necessarily equal the increases in total expected monthly charges for any customer. For example, if the Commission approves Columbia's Application, a SGS customer using 10 Mcf of gas from Columbia Gas would see a total monthly bill increase from \$93.53 to \$105.70, an increase of approximately 13.0% (including gas costs). Pursuant to R.C. 4909.19, any person, firm, corporation, or association may file an objection to the increased rates that Columbia has proposed by alleging that Columbia's proposals are unjust and discriminatory or unreasonable.

Columbia is also seeking authority to implement an alternative rate plan, which would consist of its existing IRP and CEP (and their associated riders) and a new proposed FMI Rider. Columbia seeks Commission approval to continue the IRP and Rider IRP, with minor changes, from 2021 through 2026. Changes to the IRP include shifting capital projects in which less than 50% of the retired pipe is priority pipe to the CEP and eliminating the 5% limit on plastic pipe replacement for priority pipe-replacement projects under Columbia's Accelerated Mains Replacement Program ("AMRP"). Columbia would continue its CEP and CEP Rider through 2026, with updated caps for the CEP Rider charge for 2021 through 2027. The new FMI Rider would be a monthly charge for customers in all rate classes to allow Columbia to recover incremental costs associated with federally and state-mandated safety investments.

# Peak time for deer hunting just ahead

It goes without saying that every archer reading this column knows at least something about deer hunting. Some know a LOT, some just a little, but there are refinements to this sport that can up your chances of putting venison in the freezer. Especially now, with the rut soon to begin, and the peak time for deer hunting just ahead. One thing the average hunter should understand well is rubs.

Rubs are saplings that have been "attacked" by bucks, and some of their bark and leaves knocked off as the animal slams into it with its antlers in a mock battle. Experts believe part of the reason that bucks show this behavior is to get rid of velvet on the antlers and part just an excess of tesosterone and aggression as the animal burns off excess sexual tension. Some hunters get pretty excited at seeing a rub or two and might build a tree stand there thinking the animal or animals are frequenting that thicket and will return. Usually that's not so. Building a blind near a couple of rubs is most often pointless since the animal will move on and make other

rubs, then move on again. Then there are scrapes. These can be found along



any deer trail soon, small ones, medium, or large. Usually, they're somewhere along a main trail, typically near an intersection of two trails, and nearly every scrape will have a scent bearing twig or branch directly above, usually broken. If the twig isn't there it's likely a false scrape, maybe made by a little forky or six point just practicing.

To make the scrape a buck will paw away leaves and debris, then stand with his hind legs in its center, and pee gently on his tarsal glands located just inside the back legs. The urine and scent from the glands leaves an odor that tells every doe around he's ready to mate and every buck he's ready to fight if necessary. The overhanging twig will often be licked and rubbed with frontal glands located in the forehead, another message for passing bucks and does.

Bucks will often make dozens of scrapes around their area, and a nice big one is a prime place to put



It was a beautiful weekend and this fisherman takes advantage Saturday afternoon at Veterans Memorial Lake Park.

your tree or ground stand, usually 20-30 yards away. The ground stand works best for crossbowmen who need to move little to make their shot, and can change positions according to wind direction. The tree stand is better for those with compound bows and the higher the better. Even then if a buck approaches, don't move until he's nearly below. Bouncing around to get ready for a shot is a poor move anytime.

Scent is important to any archer. Experts usually

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recommend wearing rubber boots when walking in to a stand since they give off little odor, and hunters should do their best to avoid brushing against bushes or walking through tall grass. A deer has a nose as good as any beagle and spreading scent as you go can cost dearly. Even climbing into a tree stand, if it's a ladder type, should be done with gloves on. Remember too that it pays to have several stands to take advantage of various wind directions. Here's a final thought about scrapes. If tracks there are 2 inches or so, it's a fairly small deer. If 3 or 4 it's a dandy, and longer than 4 is a real wall hanger Something to remember when you're deciding which scrape to hunt.

One more thought? Many hunters like to guess how much their animal weighs and they usually overestimate. Measure the chest girth in inches, and you won't go far wrong. If it's about 25 inches the animals live weight is about 60 pounds. Thirty inches will make it 90 pounds, 40 about 182 pounds live weight and 45 means your animal is at least 265. That's bragging size anywhere.

# Hooks & Bullets:

According to a research team at Outforia, outdoor sports are still a bit dangerous for those who pursue them. The study showed that Texas is the most dangerous in the nation with 520 deaths between 1999 and 2019. California was second with 299 outdoor folk killed, and Florida ranked third with 247 deaths. Ohio? We were sixth in the nation with 161 fatalities. The most dangerous animals were brown bears, unpredictable creatures who have killed 70 people in the past 50 years. Sharks were second being responsible for 57 human deaths, followed by snakes (57), black bears (54), alligators (33), and cougars (16)

Fishing continues good around the state, according to the Ohio Outdoor News Fishing Report. Slowly cooling waters along Lake Erie has stimulated action on walleye and yellow perch in both the Western and Central Basins, and catfish are being caught in plenty both on the Big Lake and inland waters. Cut bait (pieces of fish) are producing most of the catches of catfish. Green Island and Niagara Reef have been good producers of yellow perch, and walleye are hitting well northeast of Kelleye Island.

Dick Martin, a freelance writer from Shelby, is a retired biology teacher who has been writing outdoor columns for more than 30 years. Reach him at richmart@neo.com. You also can visit his blog at outdoorswithmartin.com.

various changes to its rate structure, including:

- Increasing the volumetric breakpoint between its SGS / SGTS / FRSGTS rate classes and its GS / GTS / FRGTS rate classes, from 300 Mcf/year to 600 Mcf/year;
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Additionally, Columbia is seeking Commission authority to continue its DSM Program and its associated DSM Rider from 2023 through 2027. Columbia's DSM Program offers cost-effective energy efficiency programs and rebates to help customers save energy and lower utility bills. Projected budgets for the DSM Program (excluding WarmChoice® funding included in base rates) range from approximately \$29.8 million in 2023 to approximately \$31.9 million in 2027.



Provided photo

Llamas in a field.

# **Garden clubs fall** meeting Nov. 6

# **By PEGGY CASE**

fall meeting, Nov. 6.

Nov. 6.

Special to the Reflector FREMONT

The Ohio Association of

Garden Clubs it holding its

Margetiak and Chris Michael.

 Cost: \$20 for breakfast, lunch and all programs. \$10 for morning programs only.

Fall flower show featuring specimens and designs. Email Chris Michael, cmichael4342045 am.).

OAGC members and clubs may have a sales table free. All others, \$10. Contact

Helen Duquette, 4335 Oak Harbor Road, Fremont, Ohio 43420 or call 567-201-7825 or email duquette1234@ gmail.com

Reservation deadline is Oct. 30. Send names, address, phone, email and \$20 to OAGC Region 6 Helen Duquette, 4335 Oak Harbor Road, Fremont, Ohio 43420.

Peggy Case is a Huron County Master Gardener, and works with Ohio Association of Garden Clubs as an instructor, flower judge and is a past president. She has a small apple orchard and sells cider.



9:45. • Where: Terra Neeley Center, Terra Tech State Community College, 2830 Napoleon Road, Fremont, Ohio, 43420

• For whom: All Region 6 members and their guests. The public is also invited.

• Program: 9 a.m. "Loving Llamas," presented by Deb Yeagle, a Lama lover.

• Lunch: Noon — entree with salad and dessert.

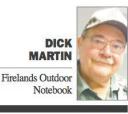
• Afternoon program: 1 p.m. -- Amazing Arrangements from Region 6 designers Donna Allen, Peggy Case, Helen Duquette, Carolyn Johnson, Charlene

# **Outdoors** A wonderful time to bag a nice buck or doe

The 2021 Ohio deer archery season opened on Sept. 25, a long awaited event for area bow and crossbow hunters. It's a wonderful time to hunt, with cool, pleasant days, leaves turning into a riot of red and gold, blue skies, and that hint of fox grapes on a gentle wind. But not a wonderful time to bag a nice buck or doe.

The problem is that whitetails are basically nocturnal animals. They're primarily out at night, feeding and moving around, and with the weather so great, they'll often not move until dusk or later, feed leisurely, and be back at their bedding grounds at first light. Which gives tree standers and ground blind hunters a very short time (or none) at dawn and dusk to see something come past.

Morning is the toughest time. You'll be blundering through the darkness with a flashlight to reach your tree stand before dawn, walking noisily at a time when the deer are also moving, listening, and scenting. The afternoon is better, simply because you can ease in, climb high, and be waiting when they leave their beds,



hopefully before it's too dark to shoot.

I've taken deer more than once in October, but very rarely on those pleasant, comfortable, sunny days. In fact, I've seen animals so seldom on such days that I long since gave up hunting in nice weather. You might see an animal then, one chased out by questing dogs or squirrel hunters, but it's usually a waste of time.

The best autumn weather for deer hunting is bad weather, and for several reasons. An ideal day is one when the night before was stormy, rainy, and windy, because deer are nervous and spooky then, feeding only sporadically. They'll often still be trying to fill their bellies when dawn arrives and you're sitting up there waiting. I've had animals come by as late as 9 a.m. after such nights.



It's that time of the year again to bag a nice deer.

The same situation occurs when the day is nasty, hopefully with chill winds and a little sleet to rattle against your poncho. They'll frequently start moving a couple of hours before dark, worried perhaps about getting a meal before the weather goes completely into turmoil. I arrowed the first big buck I ever killed on

just such a day, one so bad I almost decided not to go.

This doesn't mean you should hunt in heavy rain or driving snow, because they'll usually hole up, often in thick pines, during such weather. But a little mist doesn't hurt, nor does some wind and grey clouds scudding across the sky. Bad weather is good weather.

If time is limited and you simply must hunt occasionally on nice days, there are still productive ways to go, and one is to drive the animals. Gather up some friends, hopefully at least six or seven, head for thick woodlots or brushy areas where you have permission, and stage a drive. The drivers should always go in with the wind at their back, if possible, and move slowly and quietly. The deer will know you're there, of course, and ghost out ahead toward waiting standers. Go through noisy with lots of shouting and they'll leave at top speed making poor targets for standers.

Here's a final thought. When driving, don't ignore weed fields. Whitetails seem to love patches of goldenrod, Queen Anne's lace, and tall grasses, and will often spend their day sleeping there. Many a time I've crossed a hip high field and had a nice buck or several does bounce out. Always check them out.

Dick Martin is a retired biology teacher who has been writing outdoor columns for more than 30 years. You can reach him at richmart@neo.rr.com.

# **Hooks & Bullets:**

• Do you think you're a good shot? Test your skill at the Cardinal Center in Marengo for the 2921 Sporting Clays Invitational on Saturday, October 23. Proceed benefit the Sportsmen's Alliance, the nation's premier hunting, fishing, and trapping organization. The event will feature 100 targets, on-course games, raffles, prizes and a silent auction. Registration starts at 11 a.m. with costs at \$100 per shooter. For more information call Joel Renalds at 614-205-1027. The Center lies just west of I-71 at the Ohio 61 Exit

• The Ohio Department of Natural Resources invites the public to enjoy a fall season celebration at Conkles Hollow State Nature Preserve. This open house event runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 23 and 24 The weekend will include a period encampment with 18th century historical interpreters, demonstrations of various 18th century trades, and life styles common to those who first explored this part of Ohio. Naturalists will be on the hiking trails to interpret nature for hikers.

# A breezy week at the railpark Railfan travels from Duluth to watch trains in Fostoria

# **By SCOTT COTTOS**

scottcottos@reviewtimes.com Joel Manns says Fostoria has become like a second home to him.

Manns, 72, has been making the 800-mile drive to the city from his home in Duluth, Minnesota, since 2015. He spends a week in town, mainly at the Iron Triangle Railpark, and indulges in his hobby

of train-watching. And, having finally made it work into his schedule, Manns today will be able to take in the Fostoria Rail Festival, hosted by the Fostoria Rail Manns

something, sit and read books and it's kind of like being on a boat fishing, except I don't have to clean anything.

"It's a break for me from my wife and a break for my wife from me. And it's traditional for guys up in Minnesota, where they've got two weeks where they may go away hunting or two weeks to go away fishing. Mine happens

> to be a train time here. It's relaxing. Like I said, I sit in my lawn chair - when it's warmer and I listen to books on tape, read books, watch the clouds go by. "And I love little

towns. I grew up in

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Preservation Society at Fostoria Junior/Senior High School.

"I'm very much looking forward to it," he said of the event, where model railroads will be on display and visitors from a number of states will check out those and other railroad memorabilia.

The festival will be open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The day will also include a swap meet at the railpark.

Manns found out through the internet about Fostoria and the 60-plus trains that venture through the city daily. Though he and his wife of nearly 27 years, Donna, are on good terms, they each take a week separately during the course of a year to do whatever each of them wants.

Joel comes to Fostoria and stays at the Best Western Inn and Suites.

He ended up having to endure a pair of cold, rainy days in the middle of this past week, but he's continued to watch the trains at the railpark, taken a drive to Deshler, which is another well-known haven for trainwatchers, and enjoyed other parts of Fostoria with which he's become familiar over the years.

"I'm a railfan and this is a nice location to sit and watch trains in a place I feel safe and, at my age, has a bathroom,' Manns said with a smile. "I looked at various, different places to go. Rochelle, Illinois, has a similar (railpark), but I don't like driving anywhere near Chicago. I'm an ex-Michigander, so the trip through Michigan, I enjoy. It's part of my enjoyment of coming here.

"So, I do a week. I call it my fishing trip.' Up in Minnesota, I tell my friends, 'I'm going to go look at trains.' And they kind of say, 'You're going to what?' So, I just tell them I'm going on my fishing trip. I sit out in my lawn chair and enjoy the sun, have a cooler with some pop and iced tea or

Detroit, Michigan. I'd never go back there again and will not feel a bit of remorse. I enjoy the low pace here. I love going to Dell's to get the ribs and get my biscuits and gravy in the morning, and to get Flippin' Jimmy's. It's all part of the experience for me."

Manns said he took an interest in trains at a young age and it's stayed with him to some degree through most of his life.

"I found a picture," he said. "I'd say I was 4 years old, standing in front of a layout my dad made for me. Ever since then, it's just been an interest.

"There was a gap in the schooling when I discovered girls that I kind of got away, but I'd say 15 years ago I started regaining interest, and during that time I became associated with the small tourist railroad in Duluth," he said, referring to the Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad Company. "I got to learn more about trains and railroading. I got into that railroad and somehow, now, I'm the president of it.

"I've been learning federal rules and procedures and all of that. It's just kind of built up, and the more I know, the more interested I get. It's still fun, but I'm trying to run an organization that's a volunteer organization. We have a lot of great people, but volunteers are not like employees."

Saturday's festival will mark the finale of this year's visit to the area for Manns.

"I had the opportunity to go to the train show in Greenville (last) Sunday," he said. "It was kind of fun to visit that. I've gone to a few in Minnesota and — eh, they were OK. I'm thrilled to be able to catch (the local festival) and may keep this on my schedule. I've got to be careful because our wedding anniversary's on the 30th of September. So, I've got to be back. And her birthday's on the 9th (of October). So, I've got a window here."

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- Incorporating the IRP and CEP Riders into base rates;
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Columbia also seeks to recover historical expenses that the Commission had authorized Columbia to defer, and to defer new expenses related to a leak detection pilot program.

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# ummer from an FFA member's view

**BY KAYLEE ANDERSON** PERRY COUNTY TRIBUNE FFA REPORTER

NEW LEXINGTON -This summer was a busy one for the New Lex FFA chapter. We started off the summer by planting test plots in the crop fields at the school farm with the help from Beck's Hybrids. Members got the opportunity to learn how to drive a tractor and use a six-row planter to plant corn and soybean trials.

This year we are experimenting with full tillage and no-till systems in corn and beans, as well as a hybrid corn plot. We also planted giant sunflowers and several types of popcorn along with Indian corn. For a lot of members this was something new that they've never done before.

We also planted a prairie pollinator habitat with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on about 35 acres at the school farm.

Another exciting event that occurred was planting our annual sunflower patch, planting a mixture of giant and black oil sunflowers this year.

Students who attended learned how to use a cone planter and tractor operation. The sunflower patch is a big hit with the community and popular spot for photography sessions. Our patch is no longer in bloom but it was a huge hit this summer that we will be continuing the next season.

Along with planting sunflowers, we also planted a variety of pumpkins and gourds that will be ready to harvest here in the near future for our second annual fall sale which will take place on Sept. 30 from 4-7 p.m. at the school FFA farm.

Our biggest event of this summer was the 2021 Perry County Fair. We had many members at the fair exhibiting animals, entering shop projects, and just enjoying the fair's atmosphere. One of the highlights of the fair for New Lexington FFA was seeing 16 of the pigs that were bred and farrowed at the school farm being shown at the fair. Most were shown in the market class and several in breeding classes. Member Cody Fout

pulled in the Thursday night antique tractor tug pull. Cody pulled in the 9,000-pound class with Mike Sullivan's tractor, a Farmall 560, which was graciously donated by Tammy Sullivan in memory of Mike. Cody made everyone very proud by placing fourth in his class.

The fair was a huge success for fourth-year member Zane Ortman, as he was elected Perry County Fair King, won the Showman of Showmen contest, and had the Champion Pen of Layers. He then advanced to the state fair and had Champion Continental for Poultry, and had the Grand Champion Market Pen of Chicken.

Third-year member Emma Givens was first in the Senior Swine Skillathon, and placed fourth in the Senior Dairy Feeder Showmanship.

Fourth-year member Nevaeh Ogle had a successful week as well, placing first in Senior Beef Skillathon and second in Senior Swine Skillathon. Nevaeh competed in the Livestock



KAYLEE ANDERSON/THE PERRY COUNTY TRIBUNE

From left, calf scramble participants freshman Johnny Groves, junior Andrea Groves, junior Kaylee Anderson, and freshman Bethany Baily.

Judging Contest placing 10th individually.

Member Shauna Littleton purchased a hog this spring off of the FFA and placed fifth in her market class. Senior and fifth-year member Laura Scholl had Class Champion Market Lamb, and was the Outstanding Lamb Market Exhibitor; way to go Laura! Fourthyear member Kaylee Anderson was elected the First Attendant. Kaylee also placed first in Ag Mechanics Best of Show, and first in Fresh Cut Flowers Best of Show.

Second-year member Novalye Christian had the Grand Champion Market Turkey, was the Outstanding Market Turkey Exhibitor, and placed second in the Junior Poultry Showmanship.

Second-year member Svdney Middaugh had the Grand Champion Dairy Feeder and had a brown Swiss named Walter that took secnd in their class; congratulations Sydney!

Second-year member Emily Anderson exhibited a market turkey.

Fourth-year member Sydney Burgess showed a market hog and got third in her caress class. Fourth-year member Brody Agriesti exhibited his hog in a market class. Second-year member Nickolas Finley, showed market and breeding goats. Second-year member Karen McGlothlin exhibited market goats. Third-year member Jacob McGlothlin showed market rabbits. Fourthyear member Cody Fout bred and raised his own hogs this year with the help of his dad. Secondyear member Cooper Talbot exhibited a dairy feeder, placing fifth in market class. Fifth-year member Braya Jones showed two of the hogs that were bred at the FFA farm and got fifth in her market class. Fourth-vear member Kelly Gordan exhibited two of the hogs that were bred at the FFA farm. Third-year member Trinity Cook, showed two market hogs, placing fifth in her market class, third in her showmanship class and sixth in her final drive market class. Fifth-year member Grace Baker exhibited market chickens, placing third overall in her market class. Fifth-year member Emma Arbams, showed two market hogs, and got fifth in her market class. Fifth-year

Perry County Fair Queen member Maylynn Finely, exhibited two market goats, two breeding goats and a dairy feeder. She placed third and fifth in her goat breeding class, and fourth in her dairy feeder market class.

> Second-year member Kord Shiner exhibited one market hog. Fourthyear member Shauna Littleton showed one of the FFA Market hogs and placed fifth in her market class. Third-vear member Makina Wood exhibited one of the FFA hogs. Fourth-year member Andrea Groves showed a market heifer and market chickens.

Members and future members, consisting of Drew Anderson, Kaylee Anderson, Emma Givens, and Nevaeh Ogle, competed in the Livestock Judging Contest as a team and placed second. Seniors Laura Scholl and Alexis McCord also competed in the Livestock Judging Contest. Member Kaylee Anderson placed second individually, and future FFA member Drew Anderson placed fourth individually in the senior division.

Andrea Groves, Johnny Groves, Bethany Bailey and Kaylee Anderson participated in the Senior Calf Scramble Contest, where participants are given a calf halter and sent into a muddy ring to catch and halter a calf and walk it to the center of the ring. Andrea Groves came out successful and caught a calf for the 2022 Perry County Fair; congratulations Andrea. We would also like to give a huge shout-out to all the sponsors of the calf scramble and the committee for working hard to make this possible for our members. We appreciate you making this event possible and giving kids the opportunity. Overall New Lex FFA was very profitable this year at the fair. The New Lex FFA would like to thank all of the people who supported members at the sale this year. We truly appreciate everything you do for our kids.

# Notice of Application by Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Increase Rates and Charges for its Gas Distribution Service, For Approval of an Alternative Form of Regulation, to Continue its Demand Side Management Program, and For Approval of a Change in Accounting Methods PUCO Case Nos. 21-637-GA-AIR, 21-638-GA-ALT, 21-639-GA-UNC, 21-640-GA-AAM

Pursuant to R.C. 4909.19, Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. ("Columbia") gives notice that it filed an Application with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("Commission") on June 30, 2021, requesting authority to amend its filed tariffs to modify its rate structure; to increase the rates and charges for its natural gas distribution and transportation services; to amend its tariff to make various changes to how Columbia provides distribution and transportation services to customers; to incorporate various minor formatting and stylistic changes into its tariff; and to modify its accounting methods as necessary to effectuate its Application. Columbia also applied, under R.C. Chapter 4929, for approval of an alternative rate plan, which includes its existing Infrastructure Replacement Program ("IRP") and Capital Expenditure Program ("CEP") and their associated riders, and a request to implement a new Federally Mandated Investment ("FMI") Rider, described below. Additionally, Columbia applied for authority to continue offering its Demand Side Management ("DSM") Program. The Application affects rates and charges and terms and conditions for natural gas service for all Columbia customers in each of the 61 Ohio counties where Columbia offers service.

This notice summarizes the substance of Columbia's Application. Anyone seeking more detailed information regarding Columbia's Application may inspect a copy of the Application, including its supporting schedules and Columbia's current and proposed rate sheets, by any of the following methods:

- visiting the offices of the Public Utilities Commission, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793;
- visiting the Commission's website at http://dis.puc.state.oh.us/, inputting 21-637 into the Case Lookup box, and selecting the application filed on June 30, 2021;
- visiting Columbia's business office, 290 W. Nationwide Boulevard, Columbus, Ohio 43215, during normal business hours:
- visiting Columbia's website at https://www.columbiagasohio.com/our-company/about-us/regulatory-information.

The Staff of the Commission and any interested parties that intervene in the proceeding may make recommendations that differ from the Application, and the Commission may adopt those recommendations.

Columbia has not filed an application to increase its base rates since 2008. Columbia's Application proposes

various changes to its rate structure, including:

- Increasing the volumetric breakpoint between its SGS / SGTS / FRSGTS rate classes and its GS / GTS / FRGTS rate classes, from 300 Mcf/year to 600 Mcf/year;
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Additionally, Columbia is seeking Commission authority to continue its DSM Program and its associated DSM Rider from 2023 through 2027. Columbia's DSM Program offers cost-effective energy efficiency programs and rebates to help customers save energy and lower utility bills. Projected budgets for the DSM Program (excluding WarmChoice® funding included in base rates) range from approximately \$29.8 million in 2023 to approximately \$31.9 million in 2027.

# Stewart announces \$1.4 Million for Logan Elm Local School District

COLUMBUS - On Monday, Ohio state Rep. Brian Stewart (R-Ashville) announced that the State Controlling Board has approved the release of \$1,429,042 in state support for improvements to the Logan Elm Local School District in Pickaway County.

"I appreciate the State Controlling Board and the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission for their support on this local project," Stewart said in a news release. "Ensuring that our students and teachers have adequate classrooms and space is important to promoting the best education pos-

sible. I'm looking forward to seeing the positive impact this project will have on our students."

The board approved over \$1.4 million from the School Building Program Assistance fund for a Master Facility Plan Amendment in F.Y. 2022.

This amendment is for the school district's participation in the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program (CFAP). The project budget will primarily be used for the design and construction required to build one new ES/MS/HS to house grades PK-12 meeting the minimum Ohio Design Manual Standards.

# **New Lexington School District to** receive free hotspots, internet service



SUBMITTED

New Lexington High sophomore Braiden Hammond, who is receiving one of the hotspots, with school officials.

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NEW LEXINGTON

- AT&T announced Thursday that the New Lexington School District will receive more than 500 free hotspots as well as free internet connectivity for one year. They are part of more than 100 organizations and school districts selected by leading nonprofit Connected Nation that will benefit from a \$10 million commitment first announced last year to provide free internet subscriptions and wireless hotspots to 35,000 vulnerable students across the country. (Selected recipients are required to agree to certain terms before receiving Internet subscriptions and wireless hotspots.)

Millions of students nationwide currently lack access to the connectivity and devices required for successful online learning, according to a news release. While this homework gap is not new, the pandemic has heightened the challenges most acutely in rural and under-resourced neighborhoods, where the effects disproportionately impact one in three students of color, as well as students with disabilities, and roughly 10 percent of all public school teachers.

Whether students are learning remotely or in the classroom, having access to affordable highspeed internet and devices is a non-negotiable for successful learning outcomes.

"I am grateful for this investment that will undoubtedly provide much needed support for students, families and educators in the New Lexington School District," said Ohio state Sen. Jay Hottinger. "Broadband access was brought to the forefront in the past year, as students across Ohio were forced to learn from home. While much more work is still needed, I am grateful to AT&T

ed."

Hotspots and lines of data will be used by New Lexington students who do not have access to the internet at home. "This is a huge relief both financially and educationally to our families who simply either cannot get internet or cannot afford to have internet at home," said New Lexington School District Director of Technology Tim Householder. "This goes a long way in leveling the playing field for our students across the New Lexington district."

"What makes this program so critical is that it seeks to help students who have been disproportionately disconnected from formal learning opportunities due to COVID-19," said Tom Ferree, Chairman & CEO, Connected Nation. "The investment being made through the AT&T K-12 homework gap program will not only allow these kids to fully participate in remote learning if it's needed, but also to catch up on learning lost during the pandemic. We must all work together to minimize and mitigate the impact that the pandemic has had on our must vulnerable youth."

"The New Lexington Schools are focused on the critical task of serving and supporting hundreds of students in Southeast Ohio," said AT&T Ohio Director of External Affairs B.J. Smith. "By helping to expand connectivity for the students they serve, we can play a role in narrowing the homework gap."

In addition to contributions to organizations like the New Lexington School District, AT&T is expanding wireless affordability and flexibility for all schools in its service area with unlimited wireless data plans that include content filtering services to support online safety protocols.

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and Connected Nation for their help in keeping these students connect-

Learn more about the offer aat www.att.com/ closethegap.

# **DON'T MISS** BREAKING **NEWS**



# **BISHOP ANTHONY M. PILLA**

# Clevelander who guided area Catholics for 25 years dies at 88

### **Continues from A1**

"An incredible source of wisdom and counsel," Perez said Tuesday of Pilla. "And really a great example of what it means to be a bishop. And the love that the people of Cleveland and the priests of Cleveland had for him was just amazing. Amazing to see."

His tenure was filled with the promise of growing lay participation, but clouded by a sex-abuse scandal.

One of his first official acts as bishop was to welcome home an area nun slain in El Salvador, and it made a powerful impact on an episcopal ministry that often lifted up the needs of the poor. His Church in the City initiative became a national model for challenging communities to recognize the human costs of suburban sprawl.

Unlike in other major cities such as Detroit, New York, Chicago and Philadelphia, Pilla did not order widespread closings of urban parishes as Catholic flocks moved east, west and south. He said active worshiping communities were a vital part of city neighborhoods, and only a dozen city parishes shut down in the first quarter of Pilla's tenure.

But in so doing he transferred the burden of keeping parishes open to an ever-decreasing number of priests. In their place, however, were an explosion in lay ministries, from parish administrators to altar girls to extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist.

On a national level, Pilla became only the second prelate under the rank of archbishop to rise to the presidency of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. He was praised as a moderate leader who sought to build consensus among liberal and conservative bishops and to improve relations between the Vatican and the church in the United States.

Locally, he also allowed wide latitude of Catholic expression in the diocese, where Latin Masses were permitted along with programs by activist groups such as Future-Church, which has its national headquarters in a Cleveland parish.

His greatest trials came in his final years as bishop, when poor health and a clergy sex-abuse scandal sapped much of his energy and damaged his reputation.

During his tenure, the diocese transferred abusive priests to other positions and dioceses, ignored cries for compassion from many victims, and in the courtroom turned on Catholics who were abused as children with an aggressiveness that left many victims feeling they had been abused a second time by their church.

As the extent of the scandal became known, Pilla removed several abusive priests from active ministry, and promised that any priest who had committed even one act of sexual abuse of a minor would not be returned to parish work.

He also appointed a lay review board, and set up comprehensive reporting procedures and training programs to spot and prevent abuse. In an emotional Holy Thursday ceremony, he washed the feet of a woman molested by a priest as a child.

Some people close to the bishop said Pilla was gripped by a great sadness as he became more aware of the suffering created by the scandal.

In January 2006, shortly before he celebrated his 25th anniversary as the ninth bishop of Cleveland, Pilla announced he had sent a letter to the Vatican offering his resignation before the mandatory retirement age of 75. Pilla retired in May 2006. Pilla did not give reasons for offering his resignation early, but said it would be a good time for the diocese to have a new spiritual leader.

Yet the city's first native Catholic leader never gave up, spending much of the final years of his ministry trying to implement a Vibrant Parish Life program encouraging churches to share resources and services with one another.



Bishop Anthony Pilla, here in 2009 when serving as Bishop Emeritus, lays hands on Jonathan Lightfoot during the Rite of Confirmation at Historic St. Peter Church. *Plain Dealer files* 

annual celebration at St. John Cathedral for couples married 50 years or more. "The love is tangible in that cathedral," Pilla said.

Among his more dramatic moments of his time as bishop was a Mass he said inside the Cuyahoga County Jail in the summer of 2000. "What I'm absolutely certain about is that God loves you," Pilla told the prisoners in his homily.

"What have been the happiest times of my ministry?" Pilla asked in a 2005 book celebrating his silver anniversary as bishop. "I can answer without hesitation: the times when I have been nearest to the people — when I could bring them the beauty and richness of Christ's Word and the healing power of his sacraments; when I could share their joys and sorrows; when I could give them assurance that — notwithstanding all our shortcomings and failures — we are important in the Lord's eyes." On the national scene, Pilla guided the U.S. bishops' conference from 1995 to 1998, winning praise for a leadership style that used listening over arm twisting.

It was also then Pilla experienced serious brushes with his own mortality. Less than a week after presiding at the bishops' November 1977 meeting, he checked into the hospital for a quadruple bypass operation. The next month, he learned of a life-threatening staph infection that would sideline him for three months. In the fall of 1999, he had prostate surgery.

What he learned in the long loneliness that accompanied his recovery from his earlier health problems, Pilla said, was that even when it seems no one else understands or really cares, "I know God cares." In that knowledge he found peace and new perspective on life and ministry.

"Each day is a gift," Pilla said. "You just do your best."

But revelations of massive wrongdoing by priests sexually abusing children — and the failure of churches to deal with the problem — swept through the Cleveland Diocese and the nation in 2002.

The Cleveland diocese reported there were allegations against 118 priests since 1950. More poignant were the stories of several victims who said they had been rebuffed or attacked by the church when they came forward.

Pilla apologized, but the scandal was the most painful time of his episcopal ministry.

The bishop could take some comfort in his own sermons, which often touched on the theme of God as a merciful parent who offers forgiveness for individuals who are remorseful and repent of sin.

"Jesus most of all," Pilla said, "was someone who cared about people and was willing to forgive anyone."

David Briggs is a former religion writer for The Plain Dealer. Cleveland.com/The Plain Dealer reporter Cameron Fields contributed to this story.

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"You don't worry about what other people think," he said in an interview. "You're only worried about what God thinks."

The son of Italian immigrants, Pilla grew up in Cleveland in the 1940s, a time of racial turmoil as Black residents moved in alongside white families on the East Side.

Pilla remembered race riots while he was attending Patrick Henry Junior High School, and it was his sense of helplessness at the suffering of his Black friends that was influential in his later decision to become a priest.

"I remember thinking it shouldn't be this way," Pilla said in an interview. "You want to make things better."

In his freshman year at Cathedral Latin High School, a brother pulled him over after football practice and asked him to consider becoming a cleric. A year later, he decided to go to the seminary.

Pilla was ordained to the priesthood in May 1959 and served a short stint in a parish before becoming a teacher at Borromeo Seminary High School in Wickliffe. He was named rector-president of the high school in 1972, secretary for services to clergy and religious in 1975 and auxiliary bishop in 1979. He was installed as the ninth bishop of Cleveland on Jan. 6, 1981.

Some Cleveland bishops would go on to don cardinal's robes or become archbishops, but Pilla, a devoted son to his widowed mother and his diocese, always made it clear he was happy to be in Cleveland.

In a 2001 interview on his 20th anniversary as bishop, Pilla put his hand to his heart and smiled: "It's my town. It's my city and I love it."

His first days as bishop were a baptism of fire, as he welcomed home the body of Sister Dorothy Kazel, one of the members of the Cleveland Diocesan Mission Team found murdered in El Salvador in December 1980. Pilla said the sobering realization of the cost of a life devoted to service to God was one of the defining moments of his time as bishop.

"When you stand up for Gospel values, it costs you," Pilla said.

In his first year, Pilla issued pastoral letters calling for an end to the nuclear arms race and encouraging Catholics to promote economic justice. The social justice program Pilla is best known for is his Church in the City initiative encouraging urban, suburban and rural residents, officials and businesses to work in partnership with one another.

The initiative contributed to a national dialogue on issues of urban sprawl and the responsibility of suburbs for the common good of the region.

There were some moments of controversy in his early tenure. In 1988, the bishop dismissed all four reporters of the money-losing Catholic Universe Bulletin. Pilla called the firings "a reorganization," but the Cleveland Newspaper Guild called it "union busting."

But for most of his time, the quiet, soft-spoken bishop allowed great freedom to both conservative and liberal voices in the community, and avoided confrontation in areas from parish closings to priest discipline. When the controversy arose over bishops denying Communion to politicians supporting legalized abortion, Pilla said he would leave it up to the officeholders' consciences.

Some of the moments Pilla said were his most memorable came at services for people with disabilities or the Columbia has not filed an application to increase its base rates since 2008. Columbia's Application proposes various changes to its rate structure, including:

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ΟΗΙΟ

# Lawmakers seek to reduce number of State Board of Education members

A bipartisan proposal to cut non-elected members passes after an anti-racism and equity resolution

Laura Hancock lhancock@cleveland.com

COLUMBUS — A bill in the Ohio House seeks to eliminate the eight members of the State Board of Education who are appointed by the governor, leaving 11 members who are elected.

House Bill 298 has Republican and Democratic sponsors who say the legislation is needed to create a board that is accountable to the voters who elect them, and to end political influence on education by the governor's office.

However, the bill comes a year after the board passed an anti-racism and equity resolution that remains controversial, especially among some elected board members.

"This environment changes from president to president, and in July of 2020 the state board of education was able to pass a very important resolution condemning hate and racism and advancing equity and opportunity for children, especially children of color," said Meryl Johnson, an elected school board member from Cleveland. "It was the appointed members who helped pass that by a



State Board of Education member Meryl Johnson says a proposed bill to cut eight members from the board is the result of the board passing an anti-racism and equity resolution in July 2020. *The Plain Dealer* 

vote of 12 to 5, with one abstention. I truly believe if we had not presented that resolution, this issue would not be circulating in the legislature right now."

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### **GOVERNOR'S INFLUENCE?**

However, Rep. Joe Miller, an Amherst Democrat, said that he is sponsoring the bill because he believes some former governors have had too much influence over the board through their appointees.

For example, Miller said John Kasich, the former GOP governor, favored moving money to charter schools, including the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow, a now-shuttered e-charter school that owes tens of millions of dollars to the state for allegedly not properly educating its students.

Miller noted it's the state school board, not the governor or legislature, that chooses the superintendent of public instruction in Ohio. And many governors try to influence who becomes state superintendent by influencing who gets on the board, he said.

In recent years, the elected members of the State Board of Education have been further to the right than the appointed members. For instance, elected board member Kirsten Hill, who has repeated the false narrative that there was significant fraud in the 2020 presidential election, attended the Jan. 6 protests at the U.S. Capitol and is listed as an organizer of a bus from Lorain County to Washington to participate in the protests. She says she remained outside the building.

Nevertheless, Miller said that it's best if people are elected to the board. When 42% of the board is appointed, it's hard to attract school board candidates to run for election, he said.

"We need to go ahead and support good candidates," he said. "I think we have kind of failed to do that — we as Ohioans, we as public educators, education supporters. And I think that's partly because not many people are going to sign up for a job that they feel they have no influence to do."

Miller said he'd be willing to increase the number of elected members, if his colleagues in the legislature want a larger elected board.

# 'NOT ABOUT POLITICS'

Under HB 298, seats will be eliminated when a current appointee's term is up, said Rep. Adam Bird, a Republican from Southwestern Ohio, who noted in testimony to a committee that the bill has 41 bipartisan co-sponsors.

A 1953 constitutional amendment created the State Board of Education, and at the time, all the members were elected. In 1995, a provision in a state budget bill allowed former Gov. George Voinovich to appoint eight members.

Lawmakers in 2000 passed separate legislation allowing the appointed members. Bird said they were concerned lawsuits over the appointments being enabled by a budget bill might oust those board members.

"This bill is not about partisanship, it is not about politics, it is not personal — it is entirely about principle and upholding the people's right to vote for fair representation when it comes to the Board that makes the decisions about Ohio's education policy," Bird said. "This is about ensuring that the voice of our citizenry is heard, loud and clear."

Eric Poklar, an appointed member of the board whose second term expires in 2024, said he doesn't want to attribute motive to the bill. But he said he doesn't see a difference between the dedication to education that appointed members have, versus elected members. "The makeup of the Board of Education is set in statute and it is the right and responsibility of the legislature to review that statute if they so choose," he said. Gov. Mike DeWine, the Ohio Teachers Federation and the Ohio Education Association have not taken formal positions on the bill. They each continue to monitor it.

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Additionally, Columbia is seeking Commission authority to continue its DSM Program and its associated DSM Rider from 2023 through 2027. Columbia's DSM Program offers cost-effective energy efficiency programs and rebates to help customers save energy and lower utility bills. Projected budgets for the DSM Program (excluding WarmChoice<sup>®</sup> funding included in base rates) range from approximately \$29.8 million in 2023 to approximately \$31.9 million in 2027.

# **RESOLUTION CONTINUES TO DRAW CRITICISM**

The anti-racism and equity resolution continues to bother conservative members of the board.

The three-page resolution, passed after the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer, has numerous provisions:

- > That Ohio's education has not been immune to racism and inequality issues that the entire nation is grappling with; that racism, hate and bigotry have no place in schools.
- > That the State Board of Education offer implicit bias training for Ohio Department of Education employees and contractors.
- > That department employees make recommendations to the state board to eliminate bias and racism in the state's academic standards and model curricula.
- > That the department support school districts' reflection and examination of unequal treatment in hiring, staff development, student discipline and other operations; among other guidelines.

Recently, some school board members asked Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, a Republican, to rule on whether the resolution conforms with state and federal law and whether the board had the authority to pass it. They also said that parts of the resolution are similar to critical race theory.

Critical race theory, which is studied at the university level but not in K-12 schools, looks at racism as a systematic problem — rather than the actions of a few individuals — that began centuries ago and continues in many forms today.

Some Republicans dismiss it as divisive, unfair and untrue. The theory has divided communities in Ohio and across the country.

Yost's legal analysis didn't object to most of the anti-racism and equity resolution, except for the requirement that Ohio Department of Education contractors undergo implicit bias training. He said that educational standards based on critical race theory would be illegal.

Meryl Johnson, the Cleveland school board member who believes HB 298 is about the anti-racism and equity resolution, said that before her time on the state school board, she believed school boards should be elected. But now she's grateful for the appointed members.

"I've been on the board for four years, and that's never come up," she said. "It didn't come up until after we passed that resolution."

# LOCAL



# Alzheimer's Walk Press Release from Otterbein SeniorLife

Otterbein SeniorLife hosted its 2021 Alzheimer's Walk on Sept. 17. Joining more than 600 communities nationwide to raise funds for support, research and Alzheimer's care, Otterbein hosted a variety of fundraising events on campus this year, ending with the 2021 Alzheimer's Walk. Residents and staff took to the streets, walking the planned route or driving in the Golf Cart Parade, which ended at the Promise Garden, where they could plant their colored flower, honoring those that have dealt with this diagnosis. This annual walk brings awareness to Alzheimer's and raises funds for a cure. CONTRIBUTED

# WARREN COUNTY

# Lebanon school board hires new treasurer

# By Ed Richter Staff Writer

Lebanon schools didn't

have to look far for their new treasurer. Karen R. Ervin stepped

down as Monroe's finance directorlast week and accepted \_\_\_\_\_\_ a nearly

three-year

as the trea-

surer/chief

officer of

the Leba-

financial

contract



Karen Ervin

non Board of Education. The school board unanimously approved the contract, effective Oct. 1.

Ervin replaces Eric Sotzing, who recently retired as treasurer. ing process from K-12 Business Consulting and the Ohio Association of School Business Officials.

"We are impressed with Karen's background in government finance and her ability to communicate. In her past and current positions, she has provided financial leadership to the cities she served," said Ryan Patterson, board president. "We are confident she has the skills to help lead our district forward in a variety of ways. We are excited to have Karen join our administrative team."

Superintendent Isaac Seevers said, "We listened to our staff and community members in seeking an individual with successful governmental finance experience and who is a skilled leader and communicator. I feel confident that Karen will be a great fit here and look forward to working with her to move the district forward." Ervin said, "I am very pleased and honored to have been selected as the districts' next Treasurer/CFO. I want to thank the Board of Education and Superintendent Seevers for the trust they have placed in me." She and her husband Brian have lived in Lebanon since 2013 and have a 4-year-old daughter. "Lebanon has always appealed to us due to the community support and hometown feel here. I love public education, and it is a chance for me to help kids succeed and improve our overall community," Ervin said. "I look forward to being a Lebanon Warrior for many years and to serving the board of education, students and parents of the Lebanon City School District."

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Her contract expires July 31, 2024, and she will be paid \$127,500 a year and will receive pay increases of 2.5% each year of the contract. She will also receive a \$50 a month cellphone stipend and a car allowance of \$4,200 a year.

Ervin will oversee the financial operations of the district, which includes myriad responsibilities, including the accuracy and timeliness of all state and federal reporting, the development of the annual district budget and the district's Five-Year Forecast.

She has 11 years of experience in Ohio governmental finances and accounting, including holding the position of finance director for the cities of Monroe and Franklin, and working with the Ohio Auditor of State's Office. Prior to her career in government finances, Ervin was a staff auditor for First Federal Bank of Ohio. She received dual bachelor's degrees in English and psychology from Ohio State University and a master's degree in accounting from the University of Phoenix.

The Lebanon school board received assistance in the hir-

Contact this reporter at 513-594-5067 or email Ed.Richter@coxinc.com.



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# LOCAL

# **DIGGING DEEPER**

# Area lawmakers split on child care funding

Businesses struggle to find workers, lack of child care is key reason.

### By Lynn Hulsey Staff Writer

Boosting government funding to solve the child care crisis garnered mixed support from Dayton region legislators responding to questions about an issue that is hammering families and hindering businesses looking for workers.

Seven of the Dayton region's 27 members of Congress and the Ohio Legislature responded to this newspaper's questions about growing calls for reforms, including additional funding, to resolve the child care crisis and expand preschool options.

A Dayton Daily News investigation published Sept. 12 found wide support among parents, child care providers, advocates, educators and business leaders for increased funding for child care and preschool. Among the findings:

■ There is broad consensus that the lack of access to affordable, quality child care and preschool is hurting families and the economy.

■ High-quality, yeararound child care for one child costs \$10,000 to \$15,000 annually, too expensive for many families.

Expanded preschool is needed to prepare more children for kindergarten and set them up for success in school and work.

Businesses are struggling to find employees, and lack of child care is a key reason.

■ The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing problems and fueled an exodus of women from the workforce.

"The idea that the market can take care of this challenge is just a fallacy. We know this is a broken market," said Warren County Commissioner Shannon Jones, a Republican former state legislator who is president and CEO of



Students at a Miami Valley Child Development Centers preschool work on a craft activity with their teacher. JEREMY P. KELLEY / STAFF

children annually, including have time to comment. 324,377 in Ohio, in the U.S

Blackshear supports expanding funding and once it is fully implemented, according to an analysis by access to child care and preschool, saying those investments will help families, businesses and the community. "I believe one of the solu-

tions is that we guarantee

child care assistance to low income and middle class families on a sliding scale," Blackshear said.

Young said he's promoted early learning for years and that the benefits of broad access to quality child care and preschool

are well known.

"It has to be a priority," Young said. "Secondly, it's an economic necessity, an economic engine. It will pay its dividends. Should it be a partnership between public and private?"

White didn't directly address funding, but said she supports incentivizing people who would be good teachers to become educators and also requiring quality standards for providers.

"I care very deeply about helping children have quality early learning experiences and safe, nurturing environments so they can be ready for kindergarten and thrive to their fullest potentials," said White in an email. "The child care crisis exacerbated by the pandemic is a current workforce issue for parents who need child care and a future workforce issue for employers as studies prove that children who enter kindergarten behind are very often still behind in third-grade reading, eighth-grade math and throughout their high school years." Antani said there is a child

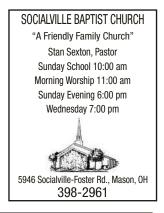
care crisis, and he advocated more competition to drive down the cost of child care. He opposes funding universal pre-K.

"Government can't pay for everyone to have child care," Antani said.

Lampton did not directly address the child care problem, but said businesses are struggling to find workers.

"I believe the solution is simple, stop funding ablebody workers to stay home, let's get every able-bodied person back to work," Lampton said in a statement emailed from his office.

He declined to clarify what funding he was referring to.



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Groundwork Ohio, a Columbus-based nonprofit child advocacy group. "I understand that there are not unlimited resources and we have to be able to make choices. But we know that quality child care has some of the highest return on public investment."

The most prominent source of possible new funding is the federal government after President Ioe Biden released his Build Back Better plan that includes a broad range of "human infrastructure" proposals, addressing child care and early learning, education and workforce development, elder care, health care, housing and climate change.

**Congressional Democrats** are fleshing out the details of that \$3.5 trillion budget reconciliation bill that includes about \$450 billion in spending over multiple years on universal preschool and expanded assistance to families for child care costs. The plan also includes measures that would raise the pay of child care workers and preschool teachers and institute new quality standards.

A 10-year federal investment of \$450 billion would serve 8.27 million young to pre-K and boost wages for child care workers. Both of those bills are in committee.

the National Women's Law

those served without expan-

sion," according to a law

Biden has proposed pay-

"By providing assis-

tance to families – like the

expanded Child Tax Credit I

helped to get included in the

American Rescue Plan - we

are finally recognizing that

caregiving is the work that

makes all other work pos-

sible," said U.S. Sen. Sher-

rod Brown, D-Ohio. "But we

know we need to do more.

We must also establish child

care and early learning infra-

structure that ensures par-

ents have a safe, affordable

place for their child to learn

Brown supports Biden's

proposal and earlier this

vear introduced a bill pro-

viding grants to improve

child care supply, quality

and access. Brown also

co-sponsored a separate

bill that would create a fed-

eral state partnership pro-

viding financial assistance for child care, expand access

and grow."

ing for the plan using tax increases for large wealthy

center fact sheet.

corporations.

"That's 11 times more than

Center.

Congressional Republicans, including U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, oppose Biden's proposal.

Senator Portman believes that child care is too expensive and is limited in many parts of the country. He also recognizes the incredible challenges that parents have had to endure through the pandemic with at-home learning, child care and school closures," said Emmalee Cioffi, deputy communications director. "Rob worked with both parties to provide an additional \$13.5 billion in child care funding to support low-income parents through bipartisan legislation since the pandemic began."

She called Biden's plan a "tax and spending spree that will cost jobs and hurt our economy."

Responses also came from State Representatives Willis Blackshear Jr., D-Dayton, Tom Young, R-Washington Twp., Andrea White, R-Kettering and Brian Lampton, R-Beavercreek, and State Sen. Niraj Antani, R-Miamisburg. A spokesman for State Sen. Steve Wilson, R-Maineville, said he didn't

# **INCREASED CHILD CARE FUNDING BY THE NUMBERS**

87% support giving tax credits to businesses that help employees access affordable, quality child care.

86% support funding to pay some or all of the cost of quality child care for working families.

84% support providing preschool at no cost to all three- and four-year-olds whose parents want to send them to preschool.

80% support increased federal funding to build new child care facilities.

SOURCE: 2021 national poll by Hart Research/New Bridge Strategy commissioned by First Five Years Fund, a Washington D.C.-based bipartisan early learning and child care advocacy group.

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# **Doctor**

Continued from Page 1A

practice in March by U.S. marshals and charged with one count of attempted murder, a first-degree felony, and two counts of felonious assault, both second-degree felonies.

Alhallaq admitted to poisoning Ely's food with the abortion medication mifepristone in an attempt to end her pregnancy against her will or knowledge in 2014 and 2015.

Alhallaq agreed to plead guilty to one count of attempted murder, and two counts of felonious assault, with count two of the felonious assault merged into the attempted murder charge for sentencing purposes.

Judge Natalie Haupt accepted his guilty pleas and the agreed upon sentence. Alhallaq received four years for counts one and two, attempted murder and felonious assault, and an additional four years to be served concurrently for count three, felonious assault.

# Prosecutor's office, Judge Natalie Haupt under fire

Ely told the court that Alhallaq wanted to be an engineer, but became a physician only because he saw it as a way to get out of Jordan.

According to Ely, Alhallaq didn't want to be a father when he discovered her pregnancy,

"Yousif has now taken his medical license and used it for pure evil. This was reckless, destructive, malicious, and methodical," Ely told Haupt during victim impact statements prior to sentencing.

Ely turned to Alhallaq and said: "Go back to Jordan, nobody wants you here. You harmed my son. What you did will never be forgiven."

Ely begged the court to impose a longer sentence.

"This court has the opportunity to provide justice for my son, and I cannot stress this enough that four years is not enough time all because that man did not want to be a father," Ely told Haupt.

Haupt told Ely the court recognized the difficulties of this case, but were there because Alhallaq had taken responsibility."

"Mr. Alhallaq, it is difficult to comprehend how someone who was devoted his life to help others, taken an oath to save lives, has purposely committed these crimes ... and the harm is apparent," Haupt remarked.

The judge, before imposing the sentence, admitted that four years was not enough time, but added she wasn't sure if any amount of time would be enough.

Prosecutor Dennis Barr exited the courthouse after briefly speaking with the victim.

The Canton Repository asked why the plea deal went forward when the victim in the case was firmly against it. The prosecutor's office has not provided comment at this time.

# Why was Alhallaq arrested six years later?

Jackson Township police responded to a possible domestic situation on March 13.

Officers arrived at the Nettlecreek Avenue residence and spoke with a woman, who said she believed her husband "drugged" her while she was pregnant with her child approximately six years earlier.

The report listed the weapon used as "drugs/narcotics/sleeping pills."

Ely told the court that in March, Alhallaq told her that he wanted to have more children.

Ely said she didn't want to have more children, because she feared that her body couldn't handle a preg-

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Yousif Alhallaq pleads guilty Monday before Judge Natalie Haupt to one count of attempted murder and 2 counts felonious assault for trying to kill his wife's unborn child six years ago by drugging her. JULIE VENNITTI BOTOS/THE CANTON REPOSITORY

nancy, thinking it was her body that had caused her son's severe disabilities the first time.

Alhallaq then proceeded to tell Ely the same difficulties would not happen again, and admitted he the crushed abortion medication mifepristone, and put it into her food, causing her to hemorrhage and nearly lose their child.

The child survived, but with numerous complications and multiple, permanent disabilities.

After Alhallaq's admission, Jackson Township police were called.

Ely filed for divorce on April 5, and was set to appear in family court on Sept. 27.

# Did Alhallaq lose his medical license?

According State Medical Board of Ohio records, Alhallaq's medical license was suspended in April, based on the board's determination that there was clear and convincing evidence that the doctor was in violation of Ohio Revised Code, and that his continued practice presented a danger of immediate and serious harm to the public.

The suspension went into effect April 14 and remains in place, although the license itself expired in July.

He had been a licensed physician in Ohio since 2009.

Ely told the Canton Repository that the medical board is looking into how Alhallaq obtained the medicine mifepristone, which he did not have access to.

"As of right now, it looks like he got it from out of the country, or from another health care professional who ordered it for him, or another health care professional stole it for him," Ely said.

It's unknown whether the board will permanently revoke Alhallaq's license. The Canton Repository reached out to the State Medical Board for comment.

Reach Cassandra at cnist@gannett.com; Twitter @Cassienist

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\* Discounts vary by merchant, location and offer; subject to availability. Offers may change without notice. Total savings vary based on the number of discounts and coupons redeemed and value of offers.

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# School

# Continued from Page 1A

low-income college students.

"We haven't done anything like that in my memory," said Jessica Thompson, associate vice president of the Institute for College Access and Success, an education nonprofit. "It's the dream."

Congress is working to meet Monday's self-imposed deadlines, and Biden's broader proposal could come before the House later in the week. But Democrats must first overcome divisions within their own ranks over the scope of the plan. The \$3.5 trillion proposal reaches nearly every aspect of American life, from health care and taxes to the climate and housing, largely paid for by raising taxes on corporations and the wealthy.

The price tag will likely drop and ambitions scaled back to appease more centrist lawmakers wary of big spending. But the cuts are drawing concerns from progressives and others who say they have already compromised enough.

Funding for historically Black colleges and universities, for example, has been slashed from Biden's earlier plans. As lawmakers eye other possible cost-saving moves, money to repair aging school buildings could lose out.

At a recent House committee hearing, Rep. Frederica Wilson, D-Florida, argued that any more cuts could jeopardize the success of its education programs.

"Even with the robust investments proposed here, we are still shortchanging vital programs," she said.

Democrats are pushing ahead on their own because Republicans decry the proposal as a step toward socialism that will worsen inflation and strain the economy. They argue that free community college will benefit \$761 billion in education investments make up one-fifth of Biden's total package. They're intended to provide a stronger academic start for children, especially those from low-income families. The higher education plans aim to get more adults into college and help them graduate with degrees that will lead to higher-paying jobs.

Taken together, the

Even if the package is approved over solid GOP opposition, some of the marquee education proposals would face a big hurdle: getting buy-in from states.

For example, the community college and preschool plans would apply only in states that opt in and cover a portion of the cost. Supporters worry that some states will reject the programs over political grounds or to avoid the cost.

Democrats' proposal for universal preschool – one of Biden's campaign promises – would create new partnerships with states to offer free prekindergarten for all 3- and 4year-olds. The federal government would cover the entire cost for the first three years before scaling back until states are paying 40%. After seven years, it would end or need to be renewed.

A separate provision would expand child care benefits to a wider swath of families, and cost for families would be capped at no more than 7% of their earnings. Unlike other aspects of the agenda, it wouldn't require state participation – cities or counties could opt in even if their states don't.

With free community college, Biden hopes to deliver a benefit that he's been pushing since the Obama administration. Under the proposal, anyone in a participating state would be eligible attend two years of community college without paying tuition.

States that opt in would get federal funding through a formula; they eventually would be

### gram.

The plan has been lauded by education advocacy groups, even though many were hoping for a bigger increase to the Pell grant program.

Denise Forte, interim CEO of the Education Trust, said the bill has the potential to open new doors for communities that have long been left behind. But she said the plan's success will largely rest on its acceptance by states.

"Some states may see the barrier as too high, even though there's a significant return," she said. "And some of the states that may not be willing have the highest proportion of students of color who lack access across the range of these issues."

There's also criticism that the bill fails to deliver some of Biden's promises, particularly to Black Americans and other key voting groups that helped deliver him to the White House.



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wealthier students who access the resource, at the expense of those with lower-incomes. And even on child care, which typically brings bipartisan support, Republicans say the plan goes too far.

"We should be focused on ensuring hardworking taxpayers can find the best care for their children rather than blindly throwing money at the problem and calling it a solution," said Rep. Virginia Foxx of North Carolina, the top Republican on the House Education and Labor Committee. asked to cover about 20% of the cost. The bill would provide enough funding to support the program for five years.

Other provisions include a \$500 increase to the maximum Pell grant for low-income college students, new investments in teacher training programs and \$82 billion for school infrastructure. In a move heralded by college affordability advocates, it would also make federal college aid available to students in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals pro-



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Full Requirements Cooperative Transportation Service (FRCTS)	12.6%

These increases in proposed operating revenue do not necessarily equal the increases in total expected monthly charges for any customer. For example, if the Commission approves Columbia's Application, a SGS customer using 10 Mcf of gas from Columbia Gas would see a total monthly bill increase from \$93.53 to \$105.70, an increase of approximately 13.0% (including gas costs). Pursuant to R.C. 4909.19, any person, firm, corporation, or association may file an objection to the increased rates that Columbia has proposed by alleging that Columbia's proposals are unjust and discriminatory or unreasonable.

Columbia is also seeking authority to implement an alternative rate plan, which would consist of its existing IRP and CEP (and their associated riders) and a new proposed FMI Rider. Columbia seeks Commission approval to continue the IRP and Rider IRP, with minor changes, from 2021 through 2026. Changes to the IRP include shifting capital projects in which less than 50% of the retired pipe is priority pipe to the CEP and eliminating the 5% limit on plastic pipe replacement for priority pipe-replacement projects under Columbia's Accelerated Mains Replacement Program ("AMRP"). Columbia would continue its CEP and CEP Rider through 2026, with updated caps for the CEP Rider charge for 2021 through 2027. The new FMI Rider would be a monthly charge for customers in all rate classes to allow Columbia to recover incremental costs associated with federally and state-mandated safety investments.

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