

policeblotter

The blotter reflects the time, nature of the complaint and location. If a person is charged by police, the blotter lists the time, approximate location of the incident and the person's name, age and home address as given to the arresting officer. Offenses listed are charges and citations; guilt or innocence has not been determined in court. Upon request of the person charged, upon a judgment of not guilty or dismissal of the charges, the Register will print the disposition of the case.

SANDUSKY POLICE

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 19**  
**12:26 a.m. — 400 block Meigs St.,** car hits two parked vehicles and drives away.  
**12:50 a.m. — 500 block Fulton St.,** woman complains about neighbors talking too loudly.  
**12:50 a.m. — 1300 block Stone St.,** loud music in parked car.  
**1:09 a.m. — Camp and Monroe streets,** Anthony J. Wilson, 33, 800 block Third St., sound amplification violation.  
**1:22 a.m. — Barker and Clinton streets,** Paris S. Hunter, 25, no address listed, open container in moving vehicle, sound amplification violation.  
**2:31 a.m. — 500 block Madison St.,** vehicle backs into two cars and leaves the scene.  
**3:46 a.m — Meigs and Jefferson streets,** man and woman have loud argument, the two separate for the night.  
**3:59 a.m. — 1300 block Milan Road (U.S. 250),** car sideswipes vehicle and leaves the scene.  
**7:39 a.m. — 1500 block W. Madison St.,** parking ticket issued.  
**8:14 a.m — 1600 block Prospect St.,** parking ticket issued.  
**10:21 a.m. — 800 block Seavers Way,** man says woman is harassing him in attempt to get his bond revoked, woman says she wants her license plates back.  
**11:04 a.m. — 100 block E. Shoreline Drive,** marina employees report people climbing over property fence and stealing things from docked boats.  
**2:30 p.m. — 1600 block Central Ave.,** woman reports seeing man attempting to break into her residence.  
**7:17 p.m. — First block Cedar Point Drive,** two women fight over custody of a toddler.  
**7:46 p.m. — Neil Street and Columbus Avenue,** Michael T. Coleman, 56, no address listed, warrant, driving under suspension.  
**8:13 p.m. — 100 block Neil St.,** Jason S. Hicks, 40, no address listed, sound amplification violation.  
**8:40 p.m. — 600 block Rockwell St.,** man loses smartphone.  
**9:12 p.m. — 2000 block Fox Run Trail,** Sarah B. McGinnis,

40, same address, warrant.  
**11:52 p.m. — 900 block Force Ave.,** intoxicated man convinced someone is inside his home, no one found inside.  
**11:58 p.m. — 1100 block Tyler St.,** driver hits a tree and a parked car and is ejected from vehicle.  
**MONDAY, SEPT. 20**  
**12:18 a.m. — 2000 block Foxborough Circle,** caller reports gunshots, nothing found.  
**12:37 a.m. — 600 block E. Washington St.,** parking ticket issued for expired plates.

PERKINS POLICE

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 19**  
**12:57 a.m. — 4600 block Milan Road (U.S. 250),** argument at resort, woman leave the resort.  
**2:24 a.m. — 4000 block Milan Road (U.S. 250),** Crystal L. Gerard, 38, Toledo, OVI, open container, speed.  
**2:58 a.m. — 1000 block Fun Dr.,** woman returns dog to owner twice in one day.  
**4:53 a.m. — 5900 block Milan Road (U.S. 250),** woman reports being punched by man during argument, man had left the area.  
**8:48 a.m. — 900 block W. Perkins Ave.,** Matthew E. Stookey, 52, 1300 block Taylor St., driving under suspension.  
**9:17 a.m. — 2200 block Hunters Way,** bag found near residence.  
**12:36 p.m. — 4900 block Milan Road (U.S. 250),** officer assists with vehicle lockout.  
**5:47 p.m. — Ohio 2 and Milan Road (U.S. 250),** Paul E. Knaggs, 73, Bay Village, failure to obey traffic control device.  
**6:17 p.m. — 4700 block Kingsley Circle,** Anna M. Gomez, 33, same address, menacing.  
**7:45 p.m. — 100 block Randall Drive,** woman reports suspicious people knocking on her windows and doors.  
**7:46 p.m. — 1000 block E. Perkins Ave.,** Donald L. Dawson, 20, Columbus, failure to obey traffic device, no operators license.  
**9:58 p.m. — 2800 block Milan Road (U.S. 250),** Anthony M. Studans, 23, Huron, theft, disorderly conduct while intoxicated, open container.

ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 18**  
**1:01 a.m. — Lawrence Avenue and Hull Road, Huron,** Madalyn R. Fullard, 20, Willard, driving under suspension.  
**1:25 a.m. — 4500 block Ohio 101, Sandusky,** Ashlei D. Palmer, 31, OVI, driving under suspension.  
**1:49 a.m. — Ohio 2 and Rye Beach Road, Huron,** car rear-

ended vehicle.  
**3:18 p.m — 4100 block Portside Drive, Vermilion,** woman reports seeing husband's ex-wife driving suspiciously around her residence.  
**3:31 p.m. — 3200 block Country Club Lane, Huron,** man reports \$6 missing from his truck.  
**5:45 p.m. — 2100 block Cleveland Road (U.S. 6), Huron,** man argues with hotel manager about his room.  
**7:15 p.m. — 4700 block Harris Road, Sandusky,** man reports his tire missing from trailer.  
**9:58 p.m. — 2600 block Ohio 113, Milan,** 16-year-olds charged with underage consumption at school dance.  
**10:38 p.m. — 3900 block Galloway Road, Sandusky,** domestic argument.  
**10:56 p.m. — 6000 block W. Bogart Road, Castalia,** man receives scam phone call from someone pretending to be from phone company.  
**10:57 p.m. — Ohio 113 and Andress Road, Berlin Heights,** Robert M. Jackson, 46, Wakeman, OVI.  
**SUNDAY, SEPT. 19**  
**12:02 a.m. — Ohio 113 and Wright Road, Berlin Heights,** Brian L. Vanlerah, 46, Huron, OVI.  
**1:52 a.m. — 1000 Main Road, Berlin Heights,** Joseph A. Strippoli, 30, Berlin Heights, OVI.  
**12:15 p.m. — U.S. 250 and Scheid Road, Milan,** Meredith Boyd, 40, Pennsylvania, OVI.  
**2:43 p.m. — U.S. 250 and U.S. 90, Milan Township,** driver strikes guardrail and continues driving.

NORWALK FIRE

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 19**  
**10:49 a.m. — U.S. 20,** semi-trailer's front wheels on fire. The fire is extinguished and truck calls for service.  
**4:44 p.m. — First block W. Willard Ave.,** grill catches fire, fire extinguished, no serious damage reported.  
**7:35 p.m. — 200 block Jefferson St.,** campfire in backyard, no issues found.

HURON COUNTY SHERIFF

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 19**  
**12:01 a.m. — 4700 block Butler N. Road, Wakeman,** suspicious person reported.  
**12:57 a.m. — 5100 block U.S. 250, Norwalk,** disturbance reported.  
**1:42 a.m. — 4200 block Ohio 61, Plymouth,** Jered M. Hale, 34, Willard, warrant.

WILLARD POLICE

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 19**  
**12:45 p.m. — 100 block W. Pearl St.,** welfare check.  
**12:49 p.m. — First block Woodland Ave.,** stray dog loose.  
**12:55 p.m. — 600 block Park St.,** loose dog returned home.  
**2:56 p.m. — 100 block W. Pearl St.,** suspicious person reported.  
**3:37 p.m. — 400 block W. Pearl St.,** information.  
**5:16 p.m. — First block N. Main St.,** welfare check.  
**5:49 p.m. — 100 block Crestwood Drive,** animal at large.  
**6:20 p.m. — First block Front St.,** disturbance reported.  
**7:30 p.m. — 100 block Main St.,** service requested.  
**8:24 p.m. — 2900 block Ohio 61,** officer assists with vehicle lockout.  
**8:29 p.m. — 200 block Rea Court,** phone harassment.  
**9:00 p.m. — 600 block Park St.,** loose dog reported.  
**9:15 p.m. — 200 block Spring St.,** disturbance reported.  
**11:12 p.m. — 700 block Park St.,** officer assists with vehicle lockout.

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 20**  
**8:42 a.m. — 300 block W. Pearl St.,** officers assist with fire call.  
**10:37 a.m. — 100 block W. Walton St.,** officer assists with vehicle lockout.

BELLEVUE POLICE

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 19**  
**6:42 a.m. — 100 block High St.,** EMS call.  
**11:17 a.m. — 1400 block W. Main St.,** 911 call hangup.  
**3:17 p.m. — 100 block Harkness St.,** littering.  
**4:53 p.m. — 1300 block E. Main St.,** suspicious person.  
**7:58 p.m. — West Main and Northwest streets,** traffic stop.  
**8:17 p.m. — 100 block Attwood Terrace,** civil matter.  
**10:25 p.m. — 400 block High St.,** vandalism.  
**10:33 p.m. — 400 block Gardner St.,** overdose.  
**MONDAY, SEPT. 20**  
**1:20 a.m. — 1100 block Castalia St.,** information.

StubHub forced to issue refunds

From staff reports

**COLUMBUS**

An investigation into a ticket resale company has led to refunds for thousands of Ohioans.

StubHub has agreed to provide refunds for customers who bought tickets to events that were later canceled due to COVID-19, according to a news release.

"We'd all like a refund from the ride COVID has taken us on," Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost said in the release. "But in this case, there was a written policy not followed."

Ohio and nine other states joined the investigation into StubHub after receiving complaints about the company not upholding their

"FanProtect Guarantee" policy.

The policy states that customers would receive full refunds for events that were canceled. StubHub canceled the policy in March 2020, and customers were told instead of refunds they would receive credits for future purchases.

StubHub settled the complaint filed by Yost. The deal requires StubHub to honor its policies and not change refund policies for purchased tickets unless the consumer consents to the change, according to the release.

The company faces a \$600,000 penalty if refunds are not provided promptly or any other terms of the agreement are violated.

Cleveland mayor's grandson slain

By The Associated Press

**CLEVELAND**

Authorities were seeking a suspect in a shooting that claimed the life of the grandson of Cleveland Mayor Frank G. Jackson, police said.

Police found the body of Frank Q. Jackson, 24, near a public housing project in the city on Sunday night. According to news reports, the mayor visited the shooting scene before leaving.

Police released little information about what happened.

Frank Q. Jackson was free on \$10,000 bond while he awaited a court appearance for a felonious assault charge in which he was accused of dragging a police officer while trying to flee his car in January.

The grandson pleaded guilty in 2019 to misdemeanor assault stemming from a fight with his then-girlfriend. He was sentenced to 18 months probation.

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;
- 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.

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.



policeblotter

The blotter reflects the time, nature of the complaint and location. If a person is charged by police, the blotter lists the time, approximate location of the incident and the person's name, age and home address as given to the arresting officer. Offenses listed are charges and citations; guilt or innocence has not been determined in court. Upon request of the person charged, upon a judgment of not guilty or dismissal of the charges, the Register will print the disposition of the case.

**SANDUSKY POLICE**

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 26**

**11:26 a.m. — 1400 block Clinton St.,** man and his cousin arguing loudly, man apologizes and leaves the area.

**2:42 p.m. — 2200 block First St.,** citizen turns in driver's license found at park, owner contacted but no answer.

**2:13 p.m. — 2100 block 2100 block Milan Road (U.S. 250),** burglary complaint.

**2:48 p.m. — 200 block Meigs St.,** person turns in wallet with ID, owner's phone number is out of service.

**2:54 p.m. — 1400 block E. Farwell St.,** parking ticket issued for car with flat tires parked on street.

**3:59 p.m. — 1600 block Milan Road (U.S. 250),** man from Florida says his mother, who was staying in Sandusky, is missing. The man only provides limited information and police are unable to contact him further.

**7:23 p.m. — First block Cedar Point Drive,** girl, 14, allegedly hits another teen in retaliation. The fight is recorded and the 14-year old is charged with assault.

**7:14 p.m. — 100 block Palmer Drive,** woman reports small safe with cash and pills stolen from her house.

**7:49 p.m. — 900 block First St.,** Autumn R. Loretta, 45, 900 block First St., endangering children, domestic violence.

**MONDAY, SEPT. 27**

**12:28 a.m. — 200 block Washington Court,** man woken up by something being thrown at his window, cracking it, no one is found.

**4:05 a.m. — 100 block W. Madison St.,** Samson Smith, 24, Hancock St., possession of cocaine.

**PERKINS POLICE**

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 26**

**5:37 a.m. — 3700 block Columbus Ave.,** Richard S. Willard, 38, 100 block E. High St., disorderly conduct while intoxicated. Woman allegedly finds a person sleeping in her vehicle.

**11:42 a.m. — 200 block E. Perkins Ave.,** marijuana confiscated from driver during traffic stop.

**12:14 p.m. — 200 block E. Perkins Ave.,** woman who was banned from store on store property.

**1:15 p.m. — 1300 block E. Strub road,** officer gives out of town people a ride to food kitchen.

**3:05 p.m. — 2600 block Columbus Ave.,** key fob found in front of police department.

**3:45 p.m. — 5500 block Milan Road (U.S. 250),** officer assists with vehicle lockout.

**5:08 p.m. — 5600 block Milan Road (U.S. 250),** hotel guests refuse to leave after their checkout.

**5:29 p.m. — 600 block W. Strub,** complaint of patients smoking marijuana at rehab center.

**5:43 p.m. — 300 block W. Perkins Ave.,** man falls asleep in the drive-thru line.

**MONDAY, SEPT. 27**

**6:56 a.m. — 2900 block Milan Road (U.S. 250),** driver is struck by car as they leave a parking lot.

**ERIE COUNTY SHERIFF**

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 26**

**10:43 a.m. — 1000 block Ohio 269, Groton Township,** driver crossed center line, strikes a pole and ends up in a field, minor injuries.

**NORWALK FIRE**

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 26**

**1:06 p.m. — 300 block Westwind Drive,** traffic crash, no injuries reported.

**NORWALK POLICE**

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 26**

**1:45 p.m. — 100 block Whittlesey Ave.,** theft reported at market.

**7:52 a.m. — 200 block E. Main St.,** officer euthanizes injured deer.

**8:50 a.m. — 100 block W. Main St.,** officer assists resident in relocating dead deer from his yard.

**MONDAY, SEPT. 27**

**8:36 a.m. — First block N. Linwood Ave.,** Eric. D. McGee, 54, Michigan, warrant.

**10:13 a.m. — first block N. Linwood Ave.,** Brendyn T. Ebron, 34, first block Milan Ave., warrant.

**HURON COUNTY SHERIFF**

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 24**

**5:37 p.m. — 1100 block Cook Road, New London,** disturbance involving a child custody issue.

**6:12 p.m. — 2700 block Ohio 224, New Haven,** couple creating disturbance at gas station.

**7:32 p.m. — 5500 block Ohio 20, Wakeman,** disturbance at mobile home park, parties separated.

**11:33 p.m. — Ohio 61 and Ohio 224, New Haven,** Thomas Hicks and Heather Sutter, felony narcotics.

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 25**

**2:02 a.m. — First block E. Main St., Greenwich,** assist police with breaking up a fight.

**7:18 a.m. — First block Omega Road, Greenwich,** car hits deer.

**8:09 a.m. — 100 block N. Main St., North Fairfield,** breaking and entering call, nothing stolen, residence is vandalised.

**2:14 p.m. — 5500 block U.S. 20, Wakeman,** disturbance reported.

**2:32 p.m. — 200 block Shady Lane Drive, Norwalk,** civil matter.

**4 p.m. — 1200 block South Norwalk Road, Norwalk,** telephone harassment complaint.

**4:31 p.m. — 3700 block Ohio 224, Greenwich,** three missing juveniles found and returned home.

**9:15 p.m. — 100 block Townsend Ave., Norwalk,** traffic offense.

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 26**

**1:47 a.m. — 100 block Gregory Road, Willard,** disturbance at a bar.

**6:02 a.m. — 3500 block Rome Greenwich Road,** suspicious vehicle.

**WILLARD POLICE**

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 24**

**9:52 a.m. — First block Hayes St.,** EMS call.

**2 p.m. — 1000 block S. Myrtle Ave.,** unruly juvenile.

**2:35 p.m. — 1000 block Maplewood St.,** trespassing complaint.

**5:47 p.m. — Section Line and Willard West roads,** traffic offense.

**7:03 p.m. — 100 block Washington St.,** loose dog reported.

**8:30 p.m. — First block Sandusky St.,** officer assists with vehicle lockout.

**8:56 p.m. — First block Front St.,** suspicious people reported.

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 25**

**10:23 a.m. — 100 block Woodland Ave.,** disturbance heard and observed.

**11:43 a.m. — 500 block W. Sandusky St.,** officer assists with vehicle lockout.

**3:52 p.m. — 200 block Spring St.,** suspicious person reported.

**6:07 p.m. — First block Sandusky St.,** officer assists with vehicle lockout.

**10:13 p.m. — 400 block E. Walton St.,** suspicious person reported.

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 26**

**1:09 a.m. — Maplewood and Long streets,** assist other agency.

**10:27 a.m. — 300 block Woodbine St.,** assist other agency.

**2:59 p.m. — 600 block Myrtle Ave.,** unruly juvenile.

**3:49 p.m. — 400 block Park St.,** civil matter.

**4:15 p.m. — 200 block E. Walton St.,** private property crash.

**4:28 p.m. — 400 block E. Walton St.,** vehicle lock out.

**7:54 p.m. — 200 block Clark St.,** suspicious person reported.

**9:15 p.m. — 200 block Spring Court,** noise disturbance.

**MONDAY, SEPT. 27**

**10:08 a.m. — 300 block W. Emerald St.,** woman causing a disturbance.

**BELLEVUE POLICE**

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 24**

**10:43 p.m. — 300 block Derby Lane,** EMS call.

**11:32 p.m. — 900 block Monroe St.,** noise complaint.

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 25**

**1:52 a.m. — 400 block Lawrence St.,** Intoxicated people arguing, agree to sleep in separate bedrooms.

**4:04 a.m. — 500 block Derby Lane,** woman reports man makes threats towards her and wants him to leave.

**8:28 a.m. — 200 block Oakland Ave.,** lost cellphone reported.

**9:03 a.m. — West Main Street and Yorkshire Place,** traffic stop.

**11:20 a.m. — 900 block Monroe St.,** EMS for difficulty breathing.

**3:11 p.m. — 100 block McDonald Drive,** hazard.

**5:08 p.m. — West Main and Lawrence streets,** property found.

**7:40 p.m. — 100 block Auxiliary Drive,** EMS call.

**9:17 p.m. — 200 block Oakland Ave.,** assist other agency.

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 26**

**12:03 a.m. — 100 block Hickory St.,** Assault.

**2:23 a.m. — 300 block North St.,** disorderly conduct.

**1:14 p.m. — 200 block Southwest St.,** dog in a jeep, windows down and top was off, no issues seen.

**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;
- 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.

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.

# Murder suspect appears in court

By COLLEEN CARROLL  
colleencarroll@tandemnetwork.com

**SANDUSKY**

A suspect charged in connection to the fatal shooting of an 18-year-old Sandusky man appeared in court Monday for a pre-trial hearing.

Jacob Owens, 18, of Penns Grove, New Jersey, is charged with aggravated murder for the death of Tajour Tye, who was shot on Erie Street on June 13.

Owens and two other teens from New Jersey, Timothy W. Hill, 19, and a 16-year old, were arrested for their alleged

involvement in Tye's killing. Hill is indicted with felonious assault, and the 16-year-old was initially charged with complicity to murder.

Owens and Hill are also indicted for tampering with evidence. Sandusky police found what they believe to be the disassembled murder weapon, a 9mm handgun, in a creek in Bellevue.

Owens entered a not guilty plea in July. His trial date has not been scheduled yet.



Owens

# DeWine lobbyist resigns

By JULIE CARR SMYTH  
Associated Press

**COLUMBUS**

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine's top lobbyist, a man linked to an ongoing federal bribery probe but never charged, resigned Friday after three years on the job.

Legislative Director Dan McCarthy cited "the pace and grind" of the job and referred to predecessors who warned him against serving more than two years.

"I know I've run quite a bit over my two-year commitment but I think now

is the right time to resign as your Legislative Director," McCarthy wrote in his letter to the Republican DeWine.

Federal prosecutors charged five individuals last year, including the then-House speaker, with orchestrating a \$60 million bribery scheme to assure the 2019 passage of a bill bailing out two nuclear power plants. Prosecutors say the scheme also involved killing efforts to put a petition on the ballot to overturn the bailout.

Read more of this story at [sanduskyregister.com](http://sanduskyregister.com).



# BGSU Rugby Team is getting recognition

## Club sports now under athletic department

By Drew Terhall  
bgsports@aimmediamidwest.com

The rugby team is moving up within Bowling Green State University. The team, along with all other club sports, is now a part of the Falcon athletic department. BGSU Club Sports Director Bill Switaj said Athletic Director Bob Moosbrugger inherited recreation and wellness on campus about a year

and a half ago, and this included club sports, intramural sports and the recreation center. Switaj said this change helps bring more structure to club sports. The rugby program is viewed as the golden standard for the other club teams. “What they (rugby) have done is what we are trying to use as a template for our other club sports,” Switaj said.

There will still be a division between collegiate sports and recreation and wellness, but club teams will get some benefits from this change. Switaj said club teams will have access to more campus facilities. The department will also hire coaches for some of the club teams, just like how rugby has a coach. For the past couple decades, BGSU has

been home to a rugby dynasty. The team has been the Mid American Conference champions every year since 1982. They also have been a national finalist 16 times in the past 20 years. BGSU won a national championship in 2018, beating St. Joseph’s of Philadelphia 26-7. The team is off to a great start this year. They are 3-0 with wins over Michigan, Ohio and MAC newcomer Pittsburgh. The Falcons were the only MAC team to get a win over a non-conference team this year with their win over Michigan. In that match, BGSU won 47-17. “I guess you could call it a minor victory of sorts for the Wolverines. It was the first time they have scored on us since 2010 — eight games ago,” BG rugby operations manager Roger Mazzarella said. The series between the Falcons and Wolverines has been



Photo by Roger Mazzarella  
Sam Hooper, a Perrysburg High School graduate, runs with the ball.

a one-sided affair. Michigan has only beaten BGSU once since 1983. “I guess we are sort of in a competition with Ohio State,” Mazzarella said, with a chuckle. After not playing last year due to the coronavirus, the team is ranked first in Goff Rugby’s Week 3, all D1 rankings. The team is accomplishing all of this with a very young team, Mazzarella said. A majority of the team is made up of freshmen and sophomores. There are only four seniors on the 60-man roster. Head coach Tony Mazzarella spent most of last year getting the team stocked and ready for this season. “We knew as soon as COVID hit that we needed to shoot towards a fall 2021 restart and all of our efforts went into scouring Ohio to make up the next crew that was going to keep us rolling,” Tony Mazzarella said. Centers Hudson

Tafelski and Cam Huber played at Perrysburg High School. Perrysburg graduate Sam Hooper signed onto the team after a four year stint in the U.S. Marine Corps. Center Griffin Black played at Anthony Wayne. “The number 1 ranking puts a big huge target on our backs and the young players are going to have to get used to everybody coming at us from every direction just so they can hang that Bowling Green hide on their wall,” Tony Mazzarella said. “There aren’t going to be any breather games the rest of the year. It’s going to be a season of bayonet charges and hand-to-hand fighting week after week.” The team plays a game every Saturday. Their home games are played at the College Park Rugby Field on Poe Road, across from the Wood County Airport. Their next game is at home against Western Michigan at 1 p.m.

Penta Career Center is seeking nominations for its Annual Outstanding Alumni Awards.

- Nominees must have completed a High School or Adult Education program at Penta prior to 2011
- Applications are available by calling 419-661-6351 or visit [pentacareercenter.org](http://pentacareercenter.org)
- Completed Applications Due: September 24, 2021

©2021 Penta Career Center

**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;
- 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.

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.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Tennis

Perrysburg split their last two matches leading into the NLL Tournament play. They are now 9-6 and finished with a 5-2 record within the NLL. The Jackets took on Southview High School for their Senior Night last week, winning all five courts. Mona Abdul-Aziz won 6-2 6-0 Emerson Metzger won 6-1 6-1 Abby Effner won 6-4 6-3 Rachel Ward and Lexie O’Connell won 6-0 6-0 Anna Snider and Sam Retting won 6-2 6-0 Perrysburg faced stiff competition against St. Ursula last week. Mona Abdul-Aziz lost 6-0 6-1 Emerson Metzger lost 6-0 6-1 Devika Bhavsar lost 6-1 6-1 Rachel Ward and Brianna Dunham lost 6-3 6-2 Allison Barry and Kora Ziegler lost 4-6 6-3 11-9 in a supertiebreaker.

### Volleyball

In their first home match of the season, the Bowling Green State University volleyball team (4-6) swept Oakland (6-5). This was the final non-conference match of the regular season for the Falcons, who open Mid-American Conference play next weekend at Akron. Set 1: BGSU 25, Oakland 9. The Falcons started with a 4-0 lead and never looked back. After an Oakland kill made the score 8-5 in favor of BGSU, the Falcons went on a 6-0 run. Three of those points came from a Katelyn Meyer kill, with a Katie Kidwell ace capping the run. Another Oakland kill briefly halted the run, but the Falcons responded with four consecutive points. Katie Kidwell clinched the set with a kill, giving the Falcons a 1-0 set lead. Set 2: BGSU 25, Oakland 17. The Falcons once again jumped out to a quick start, taking an early 4-1 lead. The Golden Grizzlies would cut their deficit to one, but a 6-1 Falcon run forced an Oakland timeout. Just like the first set, the score favored BGSU, 11-5, at the break. BG sustained momentum after the timeout, scoring four of the next six points to force another Oakland timeout. A pair of attack errors by the Golden Grizzlies stretched the BGSU lead to 10, then the Falcons would close the set on a 3-0 run to take a commanding 2-0 lead. Set 3: BGSU 25, Oakland 16. Oakland scored the first two points of the third set, but BGSU rallied with a 4-0 run to gain the advantage. They maintained this lead for the duration of the set, with Indrova and Meyer each collecting five kills. Oakland trimmed the Falcon lead to three near the midpoint, but BGSU answered with a 3-0 run. After a BGSU attack error made the score 19-13, BG scored five straight points to reach match point. Although Oakland held off the Falcons and scored three points, Katie Kidwell clinched the set and match with her 11th kill of the day. Falcon stat leaders: Kills: Petra Indrova (12), Katelyn Meyer (12), Katie Kidwell (11) Assists: Hanna Laube (36) Digs: Julia Walz (13) Aces: Julia Walz (2) Blocks: Madelynn Luebcke (4 block assists)



# Indians beat Royals in last home game before name change

By Tom Withers  
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Indians won their last home game before becoming the Guardians, beating the Kansas City Royals 8-3 on Monday to close a run that continued in 1915 and will continue next season with a new identity.

Amed Rosario homered and Cal Quantrill pitched six strong innings to delight a Progressive Field crowd of 13,121 that came to see their team as the Indians play one last time. Rosario finished with four hits and three RBIs.

Cleveland’s Bradley Zimmer homered off his brother, Kansas City reliever Kyle Zimmer, in the eighth.

Salvador Perez drove in two runs for the Royals.

The home finale was the club’s final game in Cleveland as the Indians, ending a 106-year run in a city where the name will forever be attached to those of legendary players like Bob Feller, Larry



Tony Dejak | AP  
Cleveland Indians’ Amed Rosario hits an RBI-single in the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals on Monday in Cleveland.

Doby and Jim Thome. But now the Indians are a memory, just not yet faded or distant.

The team announced the name change earlier this year in the wake of a nationwide reckoning over racist names and symbols. For some, the change was overdue. Others still aren’t ready.

When “Take Me Out to The Ballgame” was played during the seventh-inning stretch, Cleveland fans shouted “root, root, root for the Indians!” as if to send a

message. And in the ninth inning, fans chanted “Let’s Go Indians!”

Cleveland won two World Series (1920 and 1948) as the Indians, and came close to winning it all in 1995, 1997 and 2016 only to twice lose in heartbreaking fashion. Now, baseball’s longest current title drought carries on under a new name.

Monday’s matinee was a makeup from a rainout last week, pushing the Indians’ sendoff to a pre-

viously scheduled off day.

The adjustment allowed fans who wouldn’t have otherwise attended to catch history, and there were lines at the ball-park’s ticket office — an uncommon sight for a team that has struggled with attendance.

Ed Sosinski of Wickliffe, Ohio, nabbed a pair of seats in the upper deck, partly as a birthday present for his wife, Michelle, and to close a chapter.

“I was here for their first exhibition game in 1994, and I thought it was appropriate to come for the last game as Indians,” he said. “I had no excuse not to come.”

Once the Indians play their 2021 finale in Texas on Oct. 3, there will be a transition period before the name officially changes to Guardians, selected from over 1,000 entries submitted during a renaming process.

Cleveland fans have been understandably conflicted — and divided — about the change and expressed their wide-range of feelings as they

prepared to say goodbye to the only name they’ve known.

It’s been a mixture of sadness, resentment toward owner Paul Dolan for making the switch and the anticipation of a new beginning.

Acting Indians manager DeMarlo Hale empathizes with those who might not be ready to see the Indians go.

“Years and years and years,” Hale said. “I know it’s different in a sense when you take on change. But I truly believe that it’s going to be embraced over the years.”

The Indians’ last game led to a late run on merchandise.

On Sunday, prices in the team shop were further slashed as fans bought T-shirts, caps — anything with Indians on it.

“It’s kind of cleared out,” said Gray Cooper, a high school English teacher from Lakewood, Ohio. “I’ve got enough Indians stuff that I probably won’t be wearing

anymore.”

The switch to Guardians has begun.

For Monday’s game, there were 2022 schedules featuring the team’s new scripted logo stacked in the back of the press box.

“It just doesn’t look right,” one member of the TV crew said as he passed by.

Beyond the team’s name change, it’s been a bumpy season for the Indians on several other fronts.

An injury to reigning AL Cy Young Award winner Shane Bieber played a role in the club falling too far back to catch the Chicago White Sox, who clinched their first AL Central title since 2008 last week in Cleveland.

Indians manager Terry Francona had to step away in July to undergo two operations, clouding his future. And, it’s been a little quieter at home games as longtime drummer John Adams wasn’t around due to health reasons.

## Votto helps Reds beat Pirates 13-1 to stay in playoff race

By Gary Schatz  
Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — Joey Votto homered twice and drove in four runs, and the Cincinnati Reds pounded the Pittsburgh Pirates 13-1 on Wednesday to stay alive in the race for the second NL wild card.

Nick Castellanos, rookie Jonathan India and Eugenio Suarez also connected as Cincinnati (82-75) posted its fourth straight victory, clinching a second straight winning season. Castellanos had five RBIs, and India finished with four hits and scored four times.

“I’d be lying if I said Nick and I weren’t competing. Competition is in our nature. When he drives in runs it doesn’t affect me. I still have my chances,” Votto said. “I’m taking more chances and with that comes more outs but I knew I could hit more home runs and drive in more runs.”

The Reds pulled within 5 1/2 games of idle St. Louis for the second wild card. The Cardinals (87-69) need just one more win to secure the spot.

“It is tough to see anything when your overall goal is to make the postseason,” manager David Bell said of the team’s winning record. “Maybe when it’s all over we can enjoy the winning season.”

The 38-year-old Votto made a successful return to the lineup after missing two games with a sore left knee.

The first baseman hit a two-run shot off Connor Overton (0-1) during the Reds’ four-run first inning, and then connected for another two-run drive against Cody Ponce in the fourth. The six-time All-Star has 35 homers and 96 RBIs in his best season since he nearly won a second NL MVP award in 2017.

“I could have hit 50 home runs in my prime but I didn’t think it was as productive for the team,” Votto said. “I wanted to do what Juan Soto is doing, get on

base a lot with a high average.”

Castellanos hit two sacrifice flies before belting his 33rd homer in the sixth, a three-run shot to center.

Reiver Sanmartin pitched 5 2/3 innings of one-run ball for Cincinnati in his big league debut. The 25-year-old left-hander struck out five and walked one in the makeup of a rainout last week.

“I was very impressed with Sanmartin,” Bell said. “It was just like we’ve heard about him. He threw strikes. I’m sure he enjoyed every minute of it.”

Sanmartin was promoted from Triple-A Louisville to step in for Wade Miley, who is on the injured list with a neck strain. Sanmartin became the first Cincinnati pitcher to win his first career start since Amir Garrett in 2017.

“I was pretty emotional all day,” Sanmartin said through a translator. “I wanted to prove to everyone I belong here. There were nerves in the beginning but after that I was able to concentrate.”

Anthony Alford had two hits for last-place Pittsburgh (58-98), including a double. Alford scored the Pirates’ run on Sanmartin’s wild pitch in the fifth.

### About this year

It’s the first winning record for Cincinnati in a 162-game season since it went 90-72 in 2013. The Reds went 31-29 in the 60-game 2020 season.

### Trainer’s room

Reds: RHP Luis Castillo was placed on the family medical emergency list. He is scheduled to make his next start on Friday at Pittsburgh.

### Up next

Reds: Head to Chicago for a two-game series against the AL Central champion White Sox. RHP Riley O’Brien is slated to make his big league debut Tuesday night, and RHP Reynaldo López (3-3, 3.16 ERA) starts for the White Sox.

### 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;
- 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) Full Requirements Small General Transportation Service (FRSGTS)	31.4%
General Service (GS) General Transportation Service (GTS) Full Requirements General Transportation Service (FRGTS)	11.4%
Large General Service (LGS) Large General Transportation Service (LGTS) Full Requirements Large General Transportation Service (FRLGTS)	15.1%
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.

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.







FROM PAGE ONE

WASHINGTON

# Man who shot Reagan to be freed from oversight

By Ben Finley  
Associated Press

A federal judge said Monday that John Hinckley Jr., who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan four decades ago, can be freed from all remaining restrictions next year if he continues to follow those rules and remains mentally stable.

U.S. District Court Judge Paul L. Friedman in Washington said during a 90-minute court hearing that he'll issue his ruling on the plan this week.

Since Hinckley moved to Williamsburg, Virginia, from a Washington hospital in 2016, court-imposed restrictions have required doctors and therapists to oversee his psychiatric medication and therapy. Hinckley has been barred from having a gun. And he can't contact Reagan's children, other victims or their families, or actress Jodie Foster, who he was obsessed with at the time of the 1981 shooting.

Friedman said Hinckley, now 66, has displayed no symptoms of active mental illness, no violent behavior and no interest in weapons since 1983.

"If he hadn't tried to kill the president, he would have been unconditionally released a long, long, long time ago," the judge said. "But everybody is comfortable now after all of the studies, all of the analysis and all of the interviews and all of the experience with Mr. Hinckley."

Friedman said the plan is to release Hinckley from all court supervision in June.

A 2020 violence risk assessment conducted on behalf of



John Hinckley Jr., the man who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan in 1981, will be released from all court supervision in June, a federal judge said Monday. EVAN VUCCI / ASSOCIATED PRESS 2003

Washington's Department of Behavioral Health concluded that Hinckley would not pose a danger if he's unconditionally released.

The U.S. government had previously opposed ending restrictions. But it recently retained an independent expert to examine Hinckley and took a different position Monday, with attorneys saying they would agree to unconditional release if Hinckley follows the rules and shows mental stability for the next nine months.

Kacie Weston, an attorney for the U.S. government, said it wants to make sure Hinckley can adapt to living on his own for the first time in 40 years.

He recently moved out his mother's house in a gated community in Williamsburg. She died in July. Attorneys did not say where Hinckley is currently living.

Another concern is the impending retirement of one of Hinckley's therapists and the looming end to a therapy group, which has provided much support. Weston said Hinckley will likely face challenges finding a similar group in the future.

"All we have to do is wait a few more months and see," Weston said. "And we'll have actual hard data. We'll have information in real time to see how Mr. Hinckley adapts."

Hinckley was 25 when he shot and wounded the 40th U.S. president outside a Washington hotel. The shooting paralyzed Reagan press secretary James Brady, who died in 2014. It also injured Secret Service agent Timothy McCarthy and Washington police officer Thomas Delahanty.

Hinckley did not attend Monday's hearing. But Barry Levine, his attorney, said Hinckley wanted to express his "heartfelt" apologies and "profound regret" to the people he shot and their families.

CHINA

# Outages threaten China economy

Keith Bradsher  
©2021 The New York Times

DONGGUAN, CHINA — Power cuts and even blackouts have slowed or closed factories across China in recent days, adding a new threat to the country's slowing economy and potentially further snarling global supply chains ahead of the Christmas shopping season in the West.

The outages have rippled across most of eastern China, where the bulk of the population lives and works. Some building managers have turned off elevators. Some municipal pumping stations have shut down, prompting one town to urge residents to store extra water for the next several months, although it later withdrew the advice.

There are several reasons that electricity is suddenly in short supply in much of China. More regions of the world are reopening after pandemic-induced lockdowns, greatly increasing demand for China's electricity-hungry export factories.

Export demand for alu-

minum, one of the most energy-intensive products, has been strong. Demand has also been robust for steel and cement, central to China's vast construction programs.

As electricity demand has risen, it has also pushed up the price of coal to generate that electricity. But Chinese regulators have not let utilities raise rates enough to cover the rising cost of coal. So the utilities have been slow to operate their power plants for more hours.

In the city of Dongguan, a major manufacturing hub near Hong Kong, a shoe factory that employs 300 workers rented a generator last week for \$10,000 a month to ensure that work could continue. Between the rental costs and the diesel fuel for powering it, electricity is now twice as expensive as when the factory was simply tapping the grid.

"This year is the worst year since we opened the factory nearly 20 years ago," said Jack Tang, the factory's general manager. Economists predicted

that production interruptions at Chinese factories would make it harder for many stores in the West to restock empty shelves and could contribute to inflation in the coming months.

Three publicly traded Taiwanese electronics companies, including two suppliers to Apple and one to Tesla, issued statements Sunday night warning that their factories were among those affected. Apple had no immediate comment, while Tesla did not respond to a request for comment.

It is not clear how long the power crunch will last. Experts in China predicted that officials would compensate by steering electricity away from energy-intensive heavy industries like steel, cement and aluminum, and said that might fix the problem.

State Grid, the government-run power distributor, said in a statement Monday that it would guarantee supplies "and resolutely maintain the bottom line of people's livelihoods, development and safety."



A woman leaves the Kroger on Wayne Avenue in Dayton on Friday. Inflation has impacted restaurants, causing roller-coaster food prices, and now it's affecting the cost of groceries. JIM NOELKER / STAFF

## Food

continued from A1

June, the inflation rate was 0.9% overall, when the inflation rate for food was 0.8%.

The rising cost of food is also causing the prices of restaurant meals to go up, according to the same statistics. The restaurant purchases CPI increased 0.4% in August and was 4.7% higher than August 2020.

Restaurants are paying higher labor costs, as well as an increase in the price of food, which is causing the amount of money the restaurant charges per plate to rise as well, said John Barker, president and CEO of the Ohio Restaurant Association. Barker said August was the first month in five months that restaurants didn't see an increase in sales.

"Now with COVID and the delta variant, now there's a little bit of pressure on top line sales, again," he said.

Pan said the rise in prices is partly due to the Federal Reserve's large injection of money into the economy. The federal government's stimulus packages and the exceptional stock market boom have also played a role in higher prices, along with bottlenecks in the supply chain and higher labor

costs, she said.

Pan said the costs of food have even affected the way she grocery-shops.

"For the foods that do not show much price increase, I continue to buy as usual," Pan said. "But if a certain food in my weekly shopping list has a much higher price tag, I usually find alternatives to buy."

Milk and dairy prices have increased the least, with some dairy products seeing price decreases, she said.

It's not clear when inflation in food prices may slow down. Michael F. Gorman, a professor at University of Dayton School of Business, said there are several bottlenecks and supply chains issues affecting the price of food.

"Many of the shortages are short term, however, inflation tends to create inflation — meaning if people expect prices to rise, they tend to rise, like a self-fulfilling prophecy," Gorman said. The Federal Reserve could play a role in future food prices.

"When the Federal Reserve tightens up the monetary policy, the economy will begin to cool down a bit, then we will begin to see a slower wage increase and more stabilized food prices," Pan said.

### 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;
- 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) Full Requirements Small General Transportation Service (FRSGTS)	31.4%
General Service (GS) General Transportation Service (GTS) Full Requirements General Transportation Service (FRGTS)	11.4%
Large General Service (LGS) Large General Transportation Service (LGTS) Full Requirements Large General Transportation Service (FRLGTS)	15.1%
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.

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.



WEST NILE ... continued from Page 1

“We don’t want anyone in our community to panic,” explained Caroline Terekedis, Tuscarawas County Health Department’s Environmental Health Director. “We issue this notice to let residents know that West Nile Virus infected mosquitoes are active in the area and to share steps you can take to help prevent exposure.”

West Nile virus (WNV) is the leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in the United States. It is commonly found in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East and was first found in a woman in the West Nile District of Uganda in 1937. Most commonly, it is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. There are no vaccines to prevent the disease in humans.

It is most commonly spread to people by the bite of an infected mosquito. Cases of WNV occur during mosquito season, which starts in the summer and continues through fall. There are no vaccines to prevent or medications to treat WNV in people. Fortunately, most people infected with WNV do not feel sick. About 1 in 5 people who are infected develop a fever and

other symptoms.

Symptoms

Most people (8 out of 10) infected with WNV do not develop any symptoms.

About 1 in 5 people who are infected with WNV will develop a fever with other symptoms such as headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea, or rash. Most people recover completely, but fatigue and weakness can last for weeks or months.

About 1 in 150 who become infected will develop a more serious illness. It can include a high fever, headache, neck stiffness, vision loss, and paralysis. This can also include the patient going into a comatose state. Numbness and paralysis have also been reported. These severe symptoms can last weeks or be permanent. It should be noted that people over the age of 50 who have other health problems like diabetes and high blood pressure are the most at risk.

Prevention

Residents are encouraged to follow these recommendations

from the Ohio Department of Health to avoid mosquito bites: use insect repellent when you go outdoors; when weather permits, wear long sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors. Mosquitoes may bite through thin clothing, so spraying clothes with repellent will provide extra protection. Take extra care during peak mosquito biting hours (dawn and dusk). Repellent containing DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon, Eucalyptus or IR3535 are all recommended.

Be sure to drain all standing water at least once a week - even small amounts of water (one cup or less) can be home to hundreds of mosquito larvae. These places include discarded tires, bird baths, pet water dishes, buckets, flower pots and gutters.

Mosquito proof your home by installing or repairing screens on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes outside. Use your air conditioning, if you have it.

“Taking these steps will help protect against mosquito-borne diseases, including WNV, La Crosse Virus, and Zika Virus,” Terekedis said.

For information on mosquito control activities or for up-to-date mosquito-borne disease information, please visit [www.tchdnow.org](http://www.tchdnow.org) or call 330-343-5550.

# Fritter fryers needed

By Beverly Keller  
*The Budget*

Many hands make light work.

With that thought in mind, the Garaway Athletic Program is looking to the community for willing hands to work during the three days of the Ohio Swiss Festival to making the ever-famous apple fritters. “We need a lot of volunteers to make this work,” explained Garaway Athletic Director Chip Amicone.

Earlier this year the Ohio Swiss Festival entered into an agreement with the First Mennonite Church that allows the Ohio Swiss Festival to operate and eventually own the stand over the next few years. To make sure this steadfast tradition keeps on frittering, the OSF teamed with the Garaway Athletic Department to run the operation. “We see this as a great partnership that supports the children, the future of the Garaway District,” explained Ohio Swiss Festival President Scott



Serving up piping hot fritters is one of the many opportunities to volunteer at this year’s Ohio Swiss Festival.

Gerber. “We are excited to see more energy with this part of the festival, something that everyone enjoys. Knowing that we are going to be able to offer this big part of our event for years to come is a good thing.”

For the first year, members of the church will “coach” the coaches, athletes, parents, and community members on the way it’s done, one apple at a time, from 32 bushels which equates to about 1,536 pounds of apples that are each sliced into approximately 10 pieces. That is a lot of precision and accuracy that needs to be passed down from the veterans of the stand. In order to make the event a success, much organization has been done. There are shifts that can be signed up for online using this url:

<https://bit.ly/3AtG4LX>

There are spots for apple ring makers, batter creators, dishwashers, runners, cashiers, and fryers from 2 p.m. on Thursday afternoon until 11 p.m. on Saturday night. When going to the link, be sure to page through both pages of slot listings, dates, and times.

File photo

**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;
- 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.

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.

**NEO VAN RENTALS®**

**NEOVanRentals.com**  
**330-893-RENT 7368**

**West Virginia ROAD TRIPS TO PARKERSBURG**

**TAKE A SHORT ROAD TRIP TO AMERICA'S FIRST FRONTIER**

The Ohio River was America’s first frontier, our original wild, wild, west. We invite you to visit and learn the amazing stories of the pioneers who braved this western wilderness.

Enjoy unique shopping experiences, enchanting restaurants (including three craft breweries within minutes of each other), and an abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities. **For family fun or an adult escape, we’re your destination.**

**PLAN YOUR VISIT TODAY AT GREATERPARKERSBURG.COM**  
304.428.1130 or 800.752.4982

Do you enjoy  
reading *The Budget*?

Perhaps you would enjoy  
working at *The Budget*!

*The Budget* is seeking a full time individual to work with our scribes and national edition content.

**RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:**

- Scribe Communication
- Letter Proofing
- Letter Editing
- Content Management

In a Family/Team Environment. Benefits available.

Send your resume to:  
[mmiller@thebudgetnewspaper.com](mailto:mmiller@thebudgetnewspaper.com)

Attn.: Milo Miller  
PO Box 249, Sugarcreek, OH 44681

Call Milo at  
330-852-4634  
for more details.



# Agricultural Ivermectin is a don't

By Beverly Keller  
The Budget

It is a drug that was developed to help keep animals parasite-free. Many local farm supply stores have seen a rush of people to purchase it. However, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has a stern warning for people who are opting to self-medicate with Ivermectin as a way to prevent COVID-19.

A conversation with a consumer at a local retailer who was carefully examining the packaging revealed that he believed it was an approved method to prevent COVID-19, pointing to a photo he had saved from social media on his phone that explained how to use the drug. However, the tube in his hand was Ivermectin paste. It is used to treat parasites in animals. It is also used for humans for things like rosacea or head lice. Neither the FDA nor the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have approved the drug for COVID-19.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are about 88,000 new weekly prescriptions for the drug at retail pharmacies, up from 3,600 per week before the pandemic hit. That spike correlates with calls to Poison Control for Ivermectin use in humans that have gone up 3,000 percent since January 2021.

Dr. David Vearrier, a toxicologist who works with the Poison Control Center, noted that so much misinformation on social media has gone viral concerning Ivermectin that the calls have skyrocketed. "When these things become viral, a lot of people jump on the bandwagon," he explained. "Folks are believing that it's somehow possible that this medication will either reduce transmission or reduce the degree of symptoms of COVID-19, neither of which is correct."

Executive Director of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners in Ashland, Fred Gingerich, noted that he uses Ivermectin to treat cattle as well as sheep, pigs, and horses. He noted that there are other formulations of the drug that are used to prevent heartworms in dogs. "There's no evidence that I'm aware of that it has any usefulness for viral infections in cattle," he said. "It's pretty much used as a dewormer."



Right now the FDA is conducting studies to learn more about the drug. However, it has not authorized the use of the drug to prevent or treat COVID-19 in animals or people. It should be noted that taking the drug in large doses is dangerous and the medicine available over the counter for animals is very different from what is dispensed by a pharmacy and prescribed for a certain medical condition. First and foremost, it is developed to treat an animal weighing about 700 pounds. Taking the drug as manufactured for animals can put the person taking it in the hospital. According to the FDA, another big concern are the inactive ingredients of the drug that are approved for animals but not humans. Typical signs of poisoning from Ivermectin include nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Overdose symptoms include confusion, hallucinations, seizures, comas, and death.

The Poison Control Center noted that an adult drank an injection

of Ivermectin meant for a cow as a preventative measure to ensure they would not get COVID-19. The individual was hospitalized with confusion, tremors, drowsiness, and abnormally rapid breathing. The patient recovered but was hospitalized for nine days. In another case, an adult patient took Ivermectin tablets they purchased online. The patient was taking five pills per day and had been doing so for five days. The hospitalized individual was disoriented and unable to follow even basic commands like holding up their left hand or standing on one leg. The patient improved after stopping the consumption of the pills.

The bottom line, according to the CDC, is to know that Ivermectin has not been approved to treat or prevent COVID-19. Do not swallow this drug that is typically meant to be applied to the skin as a lotion, cream, or spray. The only preventative measure approved to date is to be vaccinated.

NEO  
VAN RENTALS®

NEOVanRentals.com  
330-893-RENT  
7368

West Virginia  
ROAD TRIPS  
TO PARKERSBURG

TAKE A SHORT ROAD TRIP TO  
AMERICA'S FIRST FRONTIER

The Ohio River was America's first frontier, our original wild, wild, west. We invite you to visit and learn the amazing stories of the pioneers who braved this western wilderness.

Enjoy unique shopping experiences, enchanting restaurants (including three craft breweries within minutes of each other), and an abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities. **For family fun or an adult escape, we're your destination.**

PLAN YOUR VISIT TODAY AT  
GREATERPARKERSBURG.COM  
304.428.1130 or 800.752.4982

VISIT  
PKB  
GREATER PARKERSBURG

Do you enjoy  
reading *The Budget*?

Perhaps you would enjoy  
working at *The Budget*!

*The Budget* is seeking a full time individual to work with our scribes and national edition content.

RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Scribe Communication
- Letter Proofing
- Letter Editing
- Content Management

In a Family/Team Environment. Benefits available.

Send your resume to:  
mmiller@thebudgetnewspaper.com

THE BUDGET  
Attn.: Milo Miller  
PO Box 249, Sugarcreek,  
OH 44681

Call Milo at  
330-852-4634  
for more details.

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;
- 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.

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.







# Holzer of Gallipolis reports huge spike in COVID-19 inpatients

The Holzer Health System of Gallipolis has released an alarming statement regarding their intake of COVID-19 patients.

Due to the fact that all COVID-19 patients requiring extended hospitalization at Holzer facilities are sent to the Gallipolis Center, the hospital has quickly become overwhelmed by the number of patients requiring medical care due to COVID-19. As of Tuesday, Sept. 27, 86 patients are currently hospitalized to be treated for their COVID-related illnesses; of those patients, only 13 were vaccinated. This also brings the number of total inpatients at the facility who are COVID-19 positive to 46 percent of the entire population.

Many local hospitals have appealed to the public to get vaccinated against the coronavirus and help put a stop to this enormous influx of patients that have stretched strained medical staff thin. In a public COVID-19 update issued

by Gov. Mike DeWine, Suzanne Bennett, M.D., the Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) Program Director of the University of Cincinnati Health, said, “These rising numbers of sick COVID patients places a significant burden on our hospital beds, our medical teams and, worse yet, it creates scenarios that no one wants to think about – where we do not have the space for patients who would otherwise benefit from receiving their care at large academic medical centers. We now need the help of the people in our community more than ever so that no one else needs to die from this disease.”

Approximately 97 percent of patients of all ages in Ohio hospitals today are unvaccinated.

Holzer Healthy Systems urges the public to continue wearing masks, socially distance, wash their hands and, for those that are able, get the COVID-19 vaccine if they have not already.

# Jackson County Senior Citizens Car Show scheduled for October 2<sup>nd</sup>

By Trevor Bailey  
Telegram Staff Writer

The Jackson County Senior Citizens will be hosting a Car Show this upcoming weekend on Saturday, Oct. 2 for anyone to attend.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Car Show will take place at the 25 E. Mound St. in Jackson on the grounds of the Jackson Se-

nior Citizens Center. Those interested in participating must register from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The senior citizens will be placing the winners of the Car Show into the following categories: Favorite Interior, Favorite Engine, Favorite Paint, Favorite G.M., Favorite Ford, Favorite Mopar, Favorite Truck, Favorite ‘90-‘99,

Favorite ‘00-Present, Favorite Convertible, Favorite Corvette, Favorite Unique, Favorite Tractor, and People’s Choice.

Also, a cornhole tournament will take place at 11 a.m., the sign-up for which will be from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Throughout the entire event will be a vendor fair. Additionally, there will be a “BlingO” game, sponsored

by Four Winds, which will occur at 1 p.m. For any children in attendance will be a Scooter Board Relay Race at 2 p.m., which requires two per team.

The menu consists of pulled pork, beans, cornbread, coleslaw, and a dessert and drink for only \$8. For more information, call (740) 286-2909 or (740) 395-6991.

# Oak Hill track to possibly be coated soon

By Trevor Bailey  
Telegram Staff Writer

At the most recent Oak Hill Union Local Schools Board of Education meeting, the state of the track and when it will be coated in rubber and be able to be used by district athletes was addressed.

Prior to the Oaks’ football game on Friday, Sept.

10, all industrial equipment was removed from the grounds to signify the completion of the layer of asphalt needed for the track.

“We’re ahead of schedule,” stated Superintendent Dr. Marci Shepard with excitement.

As of the Wednesday, Sept. 15 Board meeting, crews were expected to

begin work on coating the asphalt with a layer of rubber, but only if the weather cooperated.

According to members of the Bboard, the crew in charge of the track would need to coat the track then allow it to cure for two weeks before painting it with the necessary lines and symbols. If the date was pushed back any fur-

ther, the crew would have to put it off until spring of 2022.

However, the Board remained optimistic despite this news, as the crew previously stated that the asphalt would be laid down later in the springtime as well, but with the asphalt having been put down this past month, expectations were already exceeded.

# Jackson city paving heads into home stretch

By Pete Wilson  
Telegram Editor

The first year of the City of Jackson’s five-year paving program is heading

into the home stretch,

During Monday evening’s meeting of Jackson City Council, Mayor Randy Evans reported that the contractor for the paving program, G&J Paving of Chillicothe, would be back in town this week to pave portions of State and Bridge streets in the city. After that work is finished, Evans reported that half of the remaining unpaved streets in Fairmount Cemetery would be paved. If the weather cooperates, Evans expects all the paving work to be done either this week or next week.

The city’s street paving program is being financed from the proceeds of the

1.5-percent city income tax which was approved by voters in the 2019 General Election. Evans has said the paving program would not be possible without the income tax revenue.

The tax will remain in effect for 5 years and a portion of the money each year will be allocated for street paving. Evans has said the paving work will continue past the 5-year period if the income tax is renewed.

Evans said the city administration is already compiling a priority list of streets for next year and he invited city councilmen to offer their input and suggestions.

## News Briefs

### Vinton County Elections Board to meet Wednesday, Sept. 29

The Vinton County Board of Elections will meet in special session at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 29 at the Elections Office, located at 31935 State Route 93, McArthur. The purpose of the meeting will be to welcome new board members and to prepare for the upcoming General Election.

### City of Wellston announces upcoming road closure on South Maine Avenue

This Thursday, Sept. 30, South Maine Avenue from McGhee Lane to State Route 32 will be closed from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Please seek an alternate route.

### Jackson City School District Board to discuss personnel on Thursday, Sept. 30

The Jackson City School District Board of Education will be holding a special meeting on Thursday, Sept. 30 at 9:30 p.m. at the Jackson City Schools District Office. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss employment of personnel. This meeting will be held in executive session.

### Jackson County Veterans Service Commission to meet Wednesday, Sept. 29

The monthly meeting of the Jackson County Veterans Service Commission has been rescheduled to 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 29. The regularly scheduled September meeting for the same time on Monday, Sept. 27, had to be rescheduled due to the lack of a quorum. Meetings are held at the Jackson County Veterans Service Office at 157 Broadway St. in downtown Jackson.

For more news, head over to  
[www.thetelegramnews.com](http://www.thetelegramnews.com)

## Fantastic Location!



**Reduced \$133,000** 349 Standpipe Rd., Jackson

6686 This home has 3 bedrooms and 2 baths and a nice fireplace. The 25'x25' garage is great for cars and hobbies. An extra 1.6 acres lot allows for more buildings and room to play. A fantastic location featuring the lights of Jackson in the background. A little work will go a long way to make this 3 BR Brick a jewel.

**Appalachia Realty**  
Nea S. Henry, Agent • 740-418-4135 • 580 E. Main St., Jackson

### 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;
- 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.

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.



# Waffles lead to new career

Alison Bowen

Chicago Tribune  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHICAGO – Emily Groden hadn’t thought about waffles in years.

But while pregnant with her first child, she heard a podcast that mentioned the business of frozen waffles. Suddenly, the last few years of her work and life experience, a mix of lawyering and food tinkering, coalesced into an entrepreneurial idea.

Based on advice from parents she knew, she expected she would need to reach for a frozen waffle on some future, hectic morning with a toddler. But having studied food law, she also wondered what went into the ubiquitous discs.

And so her journey began. Groden is founder and CEO of Evergreen, a Chicago-based company that makes frozen waffles sold all over Chicagoland and the United States.

But the story begins when she was a kid.

“I was actually that 10-year-old kid who walked around telling people she wanted to be a corporate lawyer,” she said, “and had no idea what that meant.”

Her father was a lawyer and loved his job. Fast-forward to law school, then the sought-after career that began in 2015. Even then, she was making bread and other homemade recipes, but on the work side, things weren’t going as planned.

Within the first few months of lawyering, Groden realized, “I’m not super excited to jump out of bed in the morning and head to the office to do this work,” she said.

“I had a bit of an identity crisis,” she said. “And here I was, having told people for the last 20 years of my life that I was going to be a corporate lawyer.”

A pivot moment came one day when watching Netflix. The popular “Chef’s Table” show launched its second season with an episode about Alinea, one of the top restaurants in the world located right in her beloved Chicago.

It caught her interest. “I was just so blown away by the story, by the food. It’s beautiful and so creative,” she said.

She opened LinkedIn and found the email of Alinea co-owner Nick Kokonas, asking out of the blue if he needed a lawyer. The frank approach worked: She ended up as general counsel of The Alinea Group.

nea Group.

“For a lawyer who loves food, it was a dream job,” she said. “I was constantly star-struck walking around the office, seeing these chefs who were personal heroes of mine.”

Fast-forward a little more to late 2017. Groden was driving in the car, listening to a podcast. It was about how the frozen breakfast industry was stagnant. She wondered why.

At the same time, she was thinking a lot about becoming a parent. She knew she’d be a working parent, juggling busy mornings. Would frozen waffles be in her future?

“I knew as a working mom that I wasn’t going to be able to make her waffles from scratch every morning,” she said. “I started looking to see what was out there.”

She found many included preservatives or refined sugars; so she started looking in her pantry to see what she could make herself.

At the time, she was surrounded by entrepreneurial minds with the restaurant group, “questioning the status quo and trying to do things differently and better at all times,” Groden said.

“I think that mentality rubbed off on me more than I realized,” she said.

Her pantry tinkering became the backbone for Evergreen’s recipes, which include fruits, vegetables, nuts and spices, and unique concoctions like a zucchini-and-carrot waffle.

After feeling proud of an initial recipe, she walked over to Olivia’s Market in Bucktown, toting a toaster, maple syrup and paper plates. They agreed to sell them; eventually, she applied to Whole Foods and was accepted as a local seller. The waffles sold well enough to expand beyond the Midwest, and in Chicago they are also sold at Mariano’s and stores like Big Apple Finer Foods and Dom’s Kitchen and Market.

A year ago, Groden retired from law completely. She welcomed a second baby in May, and finds her waffle-making gig helps her spend time with her family, too.

It’s not what she thought she’d be doing, but, in retrospect, it all makes sense.

“The writing should have been on the wall a long, long time ago,” she said.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

For the Convenience of CRAWFORD COUNTIANS who are eligible to register to vote, but have not done so, or for those who need to record a CHANGE OF RESIDENCE, and/or CHANGE OF NAME, the CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS announce the hours and dates the permanent office of the Board of Elections at 112 E. Mansfield St., Ste. A, Bucyrus, Ohio will be open prior to the **General Election, November 2, 2021** R.C. 3501.10

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY, Through October 1, 2021 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.  
MONDAY October 4, 2021 8:30 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Regular business hours of deputy registrars at:  
BUCYRUS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
GALION PUBLIC LIBRARY  
CRESTLINE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
NEW WASHINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BUCYRUS CITY HALL  
CRESTLINE VILLAGE HALL  
GALION CITY HALL  
BUCKEYE CENTRAL LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL  
BUCYRUS CITY HIGH SCHOOL  
COLONEL CRAWFORD LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL  
CRESTLINE EXEMPTED VILLAGE HIGH SCHOOL  
GALION CITY HIGH SCHOOL  
WYNFORD LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL  
ANY BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES  
ANY WIC OFFICE  
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE

REGISTRATION AND CHANGE OF RESIDENCE CLOSES: **October 4, 2021**

QUALIFICATIONS FOR REGISTERING - (R.C. 3503.01)

“Every citizen of the United States who is of the age of eighteen years or over and who has been a resident of the state thirty days, AND IS A RESIDENT OF THE COUNTY AND PRECINCT in which he offers to vote, has the qualifications of an elector.”

YOU MUST BE A REGISTERED ELECTOR  
TO VOTE IN CRAWFORD COUNTY

The penalty for election falsification is imprisonment for not more than six months, or a fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1000.00) or both.

The Crawford County Board of Elections suggests that this notice of times and dates and places for REGISTRATION be preserved for future reference, as it will not be published again prior to the closing date for Registration or Change of Residence, **October 4, 2021** R.C. 3503.12

CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

OH-GC0730474-01

Your Source

Public Notices

for the latest...

Public Notices

### DELINQUENT TAXPAYER NOTICE

In compliance with provisions of Sec. 4503.06 O.R.C., there will be published after October 8, 2021 in the Bucyrus Telegraph Forum a list of delinquent mobile home taxes for Crawford County, Ohio.

All persons having an interest of any kind in the mobile home to be advertised will please note the following method of payment provided by law.

Taxes may be paid in full at the Office of the County Treasurer during regular Courthouse hours. Written installment payment agreements can be arranged in accordance with the law.

Payments made under this method will stop all foreclosure or forfeiture proceedings.

Interest charges accrue on delinquent taxes after the closing date for last half taxes.

If payment is made by 4:30 p.m. October 1, 2021, mobile homes will not be advertised.

Joan M. Waite  
Crawford County Auditor  
BTF, Sep13,21/'21#4886576

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS CRAWFORD COUNTY, OHIO  
IN THE MATTER OF THE FORECLOSURE OF THE LIEN FOR DELINQUENT LAND TAXES  
Case No. 21-CV-0154  
CINDY EDWARDS, TREASURER of CRAWFORD COUNTY,  
Plaintiff,

-vs-  
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, EXECUTOR ADMINISTRATORS, AND ASSIGNS OF DWIGHT E. WILFORD (DECEASED), et al.,  
Defendants.

**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**  
Defendants, The Unknown Heirs, Executor, Administrators, and Assigns of Dwight E. Wilford (deceased); The Unknown Heirs, Executor, Administrators, and Assigns of Betty Carol Wilford (deceased); and Chris Wilford, whose addresses are not able to be determined, will please take notice that on the 31st day of August, 2021, Cindy Edwards, Treasurer of Crawford County, Ohio, filed a certain action for foreclosure of the tax liens on a certain parcel known as and being designated as Permanent Tax Parcel No. 15-0003214.000.

The foreclosure proceeding is captioned Cindy Edwards, Treasurer of Crawford County - vs- The Unknown Heirs, Executor, Administrators, and Assigns of Dwight E. Wilford (deceased), et al., is designated as Case Number 21-CV-0154, Court of Common Pleas, Crawford County, Ohio; and is seeking to foreclose the lien of the state against the aforesaid real estate, as well as all interest owned by you, and for court costs.

You are required to answer the complaint within 28 days after three weeks following the date of the first publication of this notice which will be published once each week for three consecutive weeks.  
Janelle Moore, Clerk of Courts  
Common Pleas Court  
Crawford County, Ohio  
DATED: 8/31/2021  
Published in the Bucyrus Telegraph Forum September 7, 14, 21, 2021 (BTF, Sep7,14,21,'21,#4898492)

SELL IT  
BUY IT  
FIND IT

- cars
- garage sales
- tickets
- antiques
- motorcycles
- computers
- boats
- sports equipment
- pets
- instruments
- jewelry
- furniture
- tablets
- auctions
- yard sales
- collectibles
- appliances
- cameras
- coins

Place your  
classified ad today.

## 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;
- 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.

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.



# Turning the tables for autumn

**Katie Laughridge**  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Just as Taylor Swift predicted, August sipped away like a bottle of wine (cabernet sauvignon, to be exact). I can hardly believe it is already September! This has been one hot and humid summer in the Midwest, and I could not be more ready to bundle up in my sweaters and sip my way through cider season. Besides loving the aesthetics, smells and colors of fall, I am excited to host family and friends (safely) at my home this holiday season. Fall represents to me the beginning of dinner party season.

While summer barbecues and pool days are fun, for me nothing beats the cozy comfort of an intimate evening of drinks and dining during these few months (or weeks) of perfect temperatures and cool evening breezes. Besides, what better way to prepare for Thanksgiving than with some practice runs of table decor? We've easily turned our tables from summer chic to festive fall by adding touches of autumn textures and elements to our settings. With a couple classic additions, it is simple and quick to transform your dining room for the new season.

It is no secret that I love to go all out when it comes to a centerpiece for our tables. I adore the drama and flair it brings to a dining space. While spring and summer are all well and good for fresh blooms, fall is the perfect time to start thinking outside the backyard bouquet. People forget that there are so many other decorative items that make for a stunning statement. In fact, before the 1850s, fresh blooms weren't used at all for centerpieces – they were considered unsophisticated and cheap. However, while tradition has changed in that regard, the beauty of using figurines and faux florals and vegetation has stayed constant. This time of year is all about the harvest, so playing with pumpkins, feathers and pampas grass to make an earthy chic display is always a great choice.

If you aren't one for a large central display, textiles are the next place I look to make a big splash. Start switching out your florals for plaids and your summer hues for the colors of a crisp changing autumn. There are so many areas in a well-designed table to introduce fall-inspired fabrics. When I can't find a tablecloth or runner that meets my needs, I go straight to the fabric section. A few yards of your favorite textile can easily be turned into your next favorite table covering. I also love using fall throw blankets on the diagonal for a fun and unexpected twist (plus, they are so easy to throw into the wash after a meal). If you aren't ready for a complete textile makeover, start with place mats and napkins for a simple fall refresh.

These foundational adjustments to your table settings leave a canvas ready for future inspiration as the months go by. You can always add a splash with additional accoutrements like seasonal salt and pepper shakers, fall-inspired table toppers and napkin rings to level up your transitional table. I try to make my same adjustments to our dining room cabinets and hutches so our dining rooms stay consistent and cohesive.

*Adapted from nellhills.com. Katie Laughridge is the owner of Kansas City interior design destination Nell Hill's. For more information, contact Katie at info@nellhills.com.*



## HANDOUT PHOTOS

**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 / FRSCTS 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) Full Requirements Small General Transportation Service (FRSGTS)	31.4%
General Service (GS) General Transportation Service (GTS) Full Requirements General Transportation Service (FRGTS)	11.4%
Large General Service (LGS) Large General Transportation Service (LGTS) Full Requirements Large General Transportation Service (FRLGTS)	15.1%
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.

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.



# COVID has killed about as many Americans as the 1918-19 flu

**By CARLA K. JOHNSON**

AP Medical Writer

COVID-19 has now killed about as many Americans as the 1918-19 Spanish flu pandemic did — approximately 675,000. And like the worldwide scourge of a century ago, the coronavirus may never entirely disappear from our midst.

Instead, scientists hope the virus that causes COVID-19 becomes a mild seasonal bug as human immunity strengthens through vaccination and repeated infection. That would take time.

“We hope it will be like getting a cold, but there’s no guarantee,” said Emory University biologist Ruston Antia, who suggests an optimistic scenario in which this could happen over a few years.

For now, the pandemic still has the United States and other parts of the world firmly in its jaws.

The delta-fueled surge in new infections may have peaked, but U.S. deaths still are running at over 1,900 a day on average, the highest level since early March, and the country’s overall toll stood at close to 674,000 as of Monday morning, according to data collected by Johns Hopkins University, though the real number is believed to be higher.

Winter may bring a new surge, though it will be less deadly than

last year’s, according to one influential model. The University of Washington model projects an additional 100,000 or so Americans will die of COVID-19 by Jan. 1, which would bring the overall U.S. toll to 776,000.

The 1918-19 influenza pandemic killed an estimated 675,000 Americans in a U.S. population one-third the size of what it is today. It struck down 50 million victims globally at a time when the world had one-quarter as many people as it does now. Global deaths from COVID-19 now stand at more than 4.6 million.

The Spanish flu death toll numbers are rough guesses, given the incomplete records of the era and the poor scientific understanding of what caused the illness. The 675,000 figure comes from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The ebbing of COVID-19 could happen if the virus progressively weakens as it mutates and more and more humans’ immune systems learn to attack it. Vaccination and surviving infection are the main ways the immune system improves. Breast-fed infants also gain some immunity from their mothers.

Under that optimistic scenario, schoolchildren would get mild illness that trains their immune

systems. As they grow up, the children would carry the immune response memory, so that when they are old and vulnerable, the coronavirus would be no more dangerous than cold viruses.

The same goes for today’s vaccinated teens: Their immune systems would get stronger through the shots and mild infections.

“We will all get infected,” Antia predicted. “What’s important is whether the infections are severe.”

Something similar happened with the H1N1 flu virus, the culprit in the 1918-19 pandemic. It encountered too many people who were immune, and it also eventually weakened through mutation. H1N1 still circulates today, but human immunity acquired from infection and vaccination has triumphed.

Getting an annual flu shot now protects against H1N1 and several other strains of flu. To be sure, flu kills between 12,000 and 61,000 Americans each year, but on average, it is a seasonal problem and a manageable one.

Before COVID-19, the 1918-19 flu was universally considered the worst pandemic disease in human history. Whether the current scourge ultimately proves deadlier is unclear.

In many ways, the 1918-19 flu — which was wrongly

named Spanish flu because it first received widespread news coverage in Spain — was worse.

Spread by the mobility of World War I, it killed young, healthy adults in vast numbers. No vaccine existed to slow it, and there were no antibiotics to treat secondary bacterial infections. And, of course, the world population was much smaller than it is today.

Yet jet travel and mass migrations threaten to increase the toll of the current pandemic. Much of the world is unvaccinated. And the coronavirus has been full of surprises.

Medical historian Dr. Howard Markel of the University of Michigan said he is continually astounded by the magnitude of the disruption the pandemic has brought to the planet.

“I was gobsmacked by the size of the quarantines” the Chinese government undertook initially, Markel said, “and I’ve since been gob-gob-gob-smacked to the nth degree.” The lagging pace of U.S. vaccinations is the latest source of his astonishment.

“Big pockets of American society — and, worse, their leaders — have thrown this away,” Markel said of the opportunity to vaccinate everyone eligible by now.

Just under 64% of the U.S. population has received at least one dose of the vaccine, with state rates ranging from a high of approximately 77% in Vermont and Massachusetts and lows around 46% to 49% in Idaho, Wyoming, West Virginia and Mississippi.

Globally, about 43% of the population has received at least one dose, according to Our World in Data, with some African countries just beginning to give their first shots.

“We know that all pandemics come to an end,” said Dr. Jeremy Brown, director of emergency care research at the National Institutes of Health, who wrote a book on influenza. “They can do terrible things while they’re raging.”

COVID-19 could have been far less lethal in the U.S. if more people had gotten vaccinated faster, “and we still have an opportunity to turn it around,” Brown said. “We often lose sight of how lucky we are to take these things for granted.”

The current vaccines work extremely well in preventing severe disease and death from the variants of the virus that have emerged so far.

*Read more of this story at advertisertribune.com.*

## GREAT RATES NOW AVAILABLE

Preserve Multi-Year Guaranteed Annuity from  
Guggenheim Life and Annuity Company

- Issue Ages from 0-90
- Peace of Mind
- May Avoid Probate
- Tax-Deferred Growth
- Penalty-Free Withdrawals
- Optional Interest-Only Payments

**1.75%**  
Year 3 Guaranteed

**2.20%**  
Year 5 Guaranteed

**2.75%**  
Year 10 Guaranteed

For more information, contact:

**Barbara Smith**

**419-443-1270 or 513-335-1985**

**424 Wentz St. Tiffin, OH**

This is a solicitation for insurance. Interest rates are effective as of 09/01/2021 and guaranteed for the initial term. Future interest rates are subject to change at the discretion of Guggenheim Life and Annuity Company, subject to the minimum guarantees. IMPORTANT INFORMATION This material is for informational or educational purposes only, and is not a recommendation to buy, sell, hold or rollover any asset. It does not take into account the specific financial circumstances, investment objectives, risk tolerance, or needs of any specific person. You should work with your agent to discuss your specific situation. In providing this information, Guggenheim Life and Annuity Company (d/b/a Guggenheim Life and Annuity Insurance Company in California) (“Guggenheim Life”) is not acting as your fiduciary as defined by the Department of Labor. Neither Guggenheim Life nor its representatives provide legal or tax advice. For legal or tax advice concerning your specific situation, please consult an attorney or tax professional. Guggenheim Life, whose office is located at 401 Pennsylvania Parkway, Suite 300 Indianapolis, Indiana, issues the Preserve Multi-Year Guaranteed Annuity on form number GLA-MYGA-01 or variations of such. The products and/or certain product features may not be available in all states. Guggenheim Life is not licensed in New York. Annuity contracts contain limitations. Please consult the contract for more details regarding these limitations such as, if applicable, varying surrender periods, surrender charges associated with early withdrawals and market value adjustments. Annuity contracts involve investment risk including possible loss of value. Neither Guggenheim Life nor its representatives provide legal or tax advice. For legal or tax advice concerning your specific situation, please consult an attorney or tax professional. Copyright ©2019 Guggenheim Life and Annuity Company. All rights reserved. PYMGA081905

## EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE!

### REGISTER NOW!

**THE DEADLINE FOR REGISTERING TO VOTE IN THE November 2, 2021**

**GENERAL ELECTION IS**

**October 4, 2021**

**THE FOLLOWING PERSONS MUST REGISTER TO BE ELEGIBLE TO VOTE**

Anyone who has never registered in Seneca County

Anyone who has not voted or updated a registration in 5 years

Anyone who has moved or changed his or her name

Ex-service personnel who have been voting armed forces ballots

**SPECIAL REGISTRATION HOURS AT THE SENECA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Regular hours will be extended until 9:00 P.M. on October 4, 2021

**YOU MAY ALSO REGISTER AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:**

- Fostoria City Auditor’s Office
- Any License Bureau in Ohio
- Any Public Library in Ohio
- Public High Schools and Vocational Schools
- Seneca County Treasurer’s Office
- Department of Health (WIC program)
- Department of Human Services
- Ohio Department of Mental Health
- Department of Developmental Disabilities

## SENECA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

71 S. Washington St., Suite 1101,  
Tiffin, OH 44883

**Phone: (419) 447-4424**

Regular Office Hours

8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Monday through Friday

### 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;
- 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.

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.



## NATION

# Hinckley to be freed from oversight

By **BEN FINLEY**

Associated Press

A federal judge said Monday that John Hinckley Jr., who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan four decades ago, can be freed from all remaining restrictions next year if he continues to follow those rules and remains mentally stable.

U.S. District Court Judge Paul L. Friedman in Washington said during a 90-minute court hearing that he'll issue his ruling on the plan this week.

Since Hinckley moved to Williamsburg, Virginia, from a Washington hospital in 2016, court-imposed restrictions have required doctors and therapists to oversee his psychiatric medication and therapy. Hinckley has been barred from having a gun. And he can't contact Reagan's children, other victims or their families, or actress Jodie Foster, who he was obsessed with at the time of the 1981 shooting.

Friedman said Hinckley, now 66, has displayed no symptoms



AP FILE PHOTO

John Hinckley Jr. arrives at U.S. District Court in Washington on Nov. 18, 2003.

of active mental illness, no violent behavior and no interest in weapons since 1983.

"If he hadn't tried to kill the president, he would have been unconditionally released a long, long, long time ago," the judge said. "But everybody is comfortable now after all of the studies, all of the analysis and all of the interviews and all of the experience with Mr. Hinckley."

Friedman said the plan is to release Hinckley from all court supervision in June.

A 2020 violence risk assessment conducted on behalf of Washington's Department of Behavioral Health concluded that Hinckley would not pose a danger if he's unconditionally released.

The U.S. government had previously opposed ending restrictions. But it recently retained an independent expert to examine Hinckley and took a different position Monday, with attorneys saying they would agree to unconditional release if Hinckley follows the rules and shows mental stability

for the next nine months.

Kacie Weston, an attorney for the U.S. government, said it wants to make sure Hinckley can adapt to living on his own for the first time in 40 years.

He recently moved out of his mother's house, which sits along a golf course in a gated community in Williamsburg. She died in July. Attorneys did not say where Hinckley is currently living.

"Mr. Hinckley does have a history of turning inward, and toward isolation," Weston said.

Another concern is the impending retirement of one of Hinckley's therapists and the looming end to a therapy group, which has provided much support and social interaction. Weston said Hinckley will likely face challenges finding a similar group in the future.

"All we have to do is wait a few more months and see," Weston said. "And we'll have actual hard data. We'll have information in real time to see how Mr. Hinckley adapts."



AP PHOTO

President Joe Biden receives a COVID-19 booster shot during an event in the South Court Auditorium on the White House campus on Monday in Washington.

## Biden gets COVID-19 vaccine booster shot

By **ZEKE MILLER**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden received his COVID-19 booster shot on Monday, days after federal regulators recommended a third dose of the Pfizer vaccine for Americans age 65 or older and approved them for others with preexisting medical conditions and high-risk work environments.

"The most important thing we need to do is get more people vaccinated," Biden said before getting the booster, adding that he did not have side effects after his first or second shots.

Biden, 78, got his first shot on Dec. 21 and his second dose three weeks later, on Jan. 11, along with his wife, Jill Biden. Biden said the first lady, who's 70, would also receive the booster dose, but she was teaching on Monday at Northern Virginia Community College, where she is a professor of English.

Speaking on Friday after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration authorized the Pfizer booster, Biden told reporters, "It's hard to

acknowledge I'm over 65, but I'll be getting my booster shot." He repeated the joke about being over 65 on Monday.

Biden emerged as a champion of booster doses in the summer, as the U.S. experienced a sharp rise in coronavirus cases from the more transmissible delta variant. While the vast majority of cases continue to occur among unvaccinated people, regulators pointed to evidence from Israel and early studies in the U.S. showing that protection against so-called breakthrough cases was vastly improved by a third dose of the Pfizer shot.

But the aggressive American push for boosters, before many poorer nations have been able to provide even a modicum of protection for their most vulnerable populations, has drawn the ire of the World Health Organization and some aid groups, which have called on the U.S. to pause third shots to free up supply for the global vaccination effort.

Biden said last week that the U.S. was purchasing another 500 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine to donate to less well off nations.

*"Your Complete Floor Covering Center"*

**25% OFF REMNANTS**



**Richard's**  
**CARPET OUTLET**  
Corner US 224 and SR 18, Tiffin  
448-1375

**Large Selection of IN STOCK Area Rugs**

**Autumnwood Care Center**

419-447-7151 • 670 E. SR 18, Tiffin

VOASeniorLiving.org



*With care choices that include short-term rehabilitation, memory support and long term care, we meet your distinct needs, nurturing your health and independence.*



**GREAT RATES NOW AVAILABLE**

Preserve Multi-Year Guaranteed Annuity from Guggenheim Life and Annuity Company

- Issue Ages from 0-90
- Peace of Mind
- May Avoid Probate
- Tax-Deferred Growth
- Penalty-Free Withdrawals
- Optional Interest-Only Payments

**1.75%**

Year 3 Guaranteed

**2.20%**

Year 5 Guaranteed

**2.75%**

Year 10 Guaranteed

For more information, contact:

**Barbara Smith**

**419-443-1270 or 513-335-1985**

**424 Wentz St. Tiffin, OH**

**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;
- 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.

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.

This is a solicitation for insurance. Interest rates are effective as of 09/01/2021 and guaranteed for the initial term. Future interest rates are subject to change at the discretion of Guggenheim Life and Annuity Company, subject to the minimum guarantees. IMPORTANT INFORMATION This material is for informational or educational purposes only, and is not a recommendation to buy, sell, hold or rollover any asset. It does not take into account the specific financial circumstances, investment objectives, risk tolerance, or needs of any specific person. You should work with your agent to discuss your specific situation. In providing this information, Guggenheim Life and Annuity Company (d/b/a Guggenheim Life and Annuity Insurance Company in California) ("Guggenheim Life") is not acting as your fiduciary as defined by the Department of Labor. Neither Guggenheim Life nor its representatives provide legal or tax advice. For legal or tax advice concerning your specific situation, please consult an attorney or tax professional. Guggenheim Life, whose office is located at 401 Pennsylvania Parkway, Suite 300 Indianapolis, Indiana, issues the Preserve Multi-Year Guaranteed Annuity on form number GLA-MYGA-01 or variations of such. The products and/or certain product features may not be available in all states. Guggenheim Life is not licensed in New York. Annuity contracts contain limitations. Please consult the contract for more details regarding these limitations such as, if applicable, varying surrender periods, surrender charges associated with early withdrawals and market value adjustments. Annuity contracts involve investment risk including possible loss of value. Neither Guggenheim Life nor its representatives provide legal or tax advice. For legal or tax advice concerning your specific situation, please consult an attorney or tax professional. Copyright ©2019 Guggenheim Life and Annuity Company. All rights reserved. PYMGA081905



EXTENDED FORECAST

**TODAY**  
CLOUDY WITH RAIN  
HIGH: 85  
LOW: 67

**WEDNESDAY**  
RAIN  
HIGH: 74  
LOW: 52

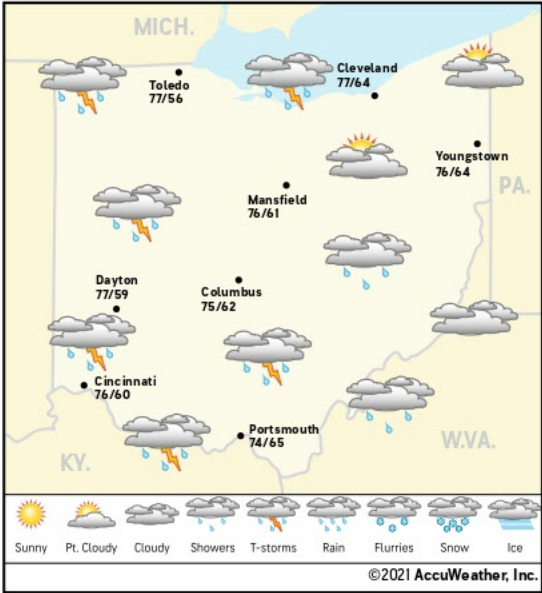
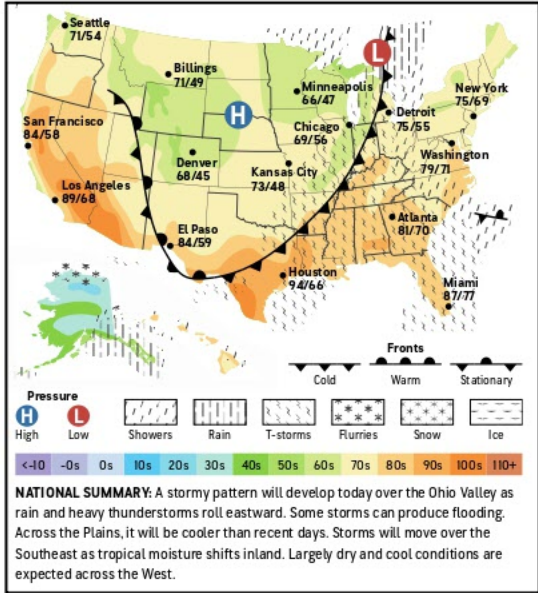
**THURSDAY**  
CLOUDY  
HIGH: 61  
LOW: 47

**FRIDAY**  
SUNNY  
HIGH: 67  
LOW: 49

**SATURDAY**  
MOSTLY CLOUDY  
HIGH: 65  
LOW: 46

**SUNDAY**  
PARTLY CLOUDY  
HIGH: 68  
LOW: 47

LOCALLY: Cloudy with an afternoon shower. High of 77. Low of 67.      PITTSBURGH: Cloudy. High of 77. Low of 67.      COLUMBUS: Rain. High of 78. Low of 61.



**TODAY IN HISTORY**  
By The Associated Press  
Today is Tuesday, Sept. 21, the 264th day of 2021. There are 101 days left in the year.  
Today's Highlights in History: On Sept. 21, 1889, Hurricane Hugo crashed into Charleston, South Carolina. Twenty-one students in Alton, Texas, died when their school bus, hit by a truck, careened into a water-filled pit.  
On this date: In 1792, the French National Convention abolished the monarchy.  
In 1912, magician Harry Houdini first publicly performed his "Water Torture Cell" trick at the Circus Busch in Berlin.

BY THE NUMBERS

Yesterday's high	83	Low today	65	River Reading	12.75 feet
Yesterday's low	65	High tomorrow	72		stationary
Predicted temperatures from the National Weather Service:		Low tomorrow	51	Sunset today	7:21 p.m.
High today	77	Precipitation as of 7 p.m. at Pike Island	none	Sunrise tomorrow	7:11 a.m.
				Length of day	12 hrs. 11 min.

Stocks drop the most since May on worries over China, the Fed

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks on Wall Street closed sharply lower Monday, mirroring losses overseas and handling the S&P 500 index its biggest drop in four months.

Worries about heavily indebted Chinese real estate developers — and the damage they could do to investors worldwide if they default — rippled across markets.

Investors are also concerned that the U.S. Federal Reserve could signal this week that it's planning to pull back some of the support measures it's been giving markets and the economy.

The S&P 500 fell 75.26 points, or 1.7%, to 4,357.73, it's biggest drop since May. At one point, the benchmark index was down 2.9%, the biggest decline since last October. The S&P 500 was coming off two weeks of losses and is on track for its first monthly decline since January. The S&P 500 has gone an unusually long time without a pullback of 5% or more.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 614.41 points, or 1.8%, to 33,970.47. The blue-chip index was briefly down 971 points. The Nasdaq fell 330.06 points, or 2.2%, to 14,713.90.

The Hang Seng, Hong Kong's main index, dropped 3.3% for its biggest loss since July. European markets fell about 2%.

"What's happened here is that the list of risks has finally become too big to ignore," said Michael Arone, chief investment strategist at State Street Global Advisors. "There's just a lot of uncertainty at a seasonally challenging time for markets."

The worries over Chinese property developers and debt have recently centered on Evergrande, one of China's biggest real estate developers, which looks like it may be unable to repay its debts.

The fear is that a potential collapse there could send a chain reaction through the Chinese property-development industry and spill over into the broader financial system, similar to how the failure of Lehman Brothers inflamed the 2008 financial crisis and Great Recession.

Those property companies have been big drivers of the Chinese economy, which is the world's second-largest.

If they fail to make good on their debts, the heavy losses taken by investors who hold their bonds would raise worries about their financial strength.

Those bondholders could also be forced to sell other, unrelated investments to raise cash, which could hurt prices in what are seemingly unrelated markets.

It's a product of how tightly connected global markets have become, and it's a concept many in the financial world call "contagion."

Many analysts say they expect China's government to prevent such a scenario, and that this does not look like a Lehman-type moment.

Nevertheless, any hint of uncertainty may be enough to upset Wall Street after the S&P 500 has glided higher in almost uninterrupted fashion since October.

Besides Evergrande, several other worries have been lurking underneath the stock market's mostly calm surface. In addition to the Fed possibly announcing that it's letting off the accelerator on its support for the economy, Congress may opt for a destructive game of chicken before allowing the U.S. Treasury to borrow more money and the COVID-19 pandemic continues to weigh on the global economy.

Regardless of what the biggest cause for Monday's market swoon was, some analysts said such a decline was due. The S&P 500 hasn't had even a 5% drop from a peak since October, and the nearly unstoppable rise has left stocks looking more expensive and with less room for error.

All the concerns have pushed some on Wall Street to predict upcoming drops for stocks. Morgan Stanley strategists said Monday that conditions may be ripening to cause a fall of 20% or more for the S&P 500. They pointed to weakening confidence among shoppers, the potential for higher taxes plus inflation to eat into corporate profits and other signs that the economy's growth may slow sharply.

Even if the economy can avoid that worse-than-expected slowdown, Morgan Stanley's Michael Wilson said stocks could nevertheless drop about 10% as the Fed pares back on its support for markets. The Fed is due to deliver its latest economic and interest policy update Wednesday.

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;
- 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.

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.

# TimesLeaderOnline.com

## Virtual Newsroom

Give us a click, we'll do the rest.  
Submitting news items has never been faster or easier.

Look for the Virtual News "Click to submit your news" button on the right side of the TimesLeaderOnline.com home page.



EXTENDED FORECAST

**TODAY**  
CLOUDY WITH RAIN  
HIGH: 76  
LOW: 48

**WEDNESDAY**  
SUNNY  
HIGH: 72  
LOW: 47

**THURSDAY**  
MOSTLY SUNNY  
HIGH: 71  
LOW: 46

**FRIDAY**  
SUNNY  
HIGH: 70  
LOW: 48

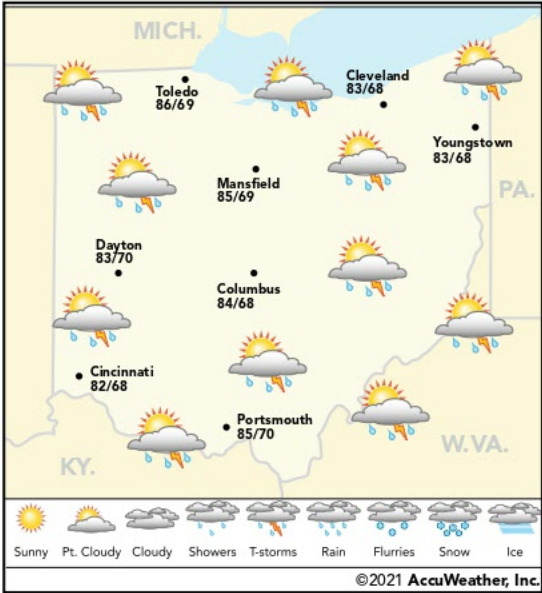
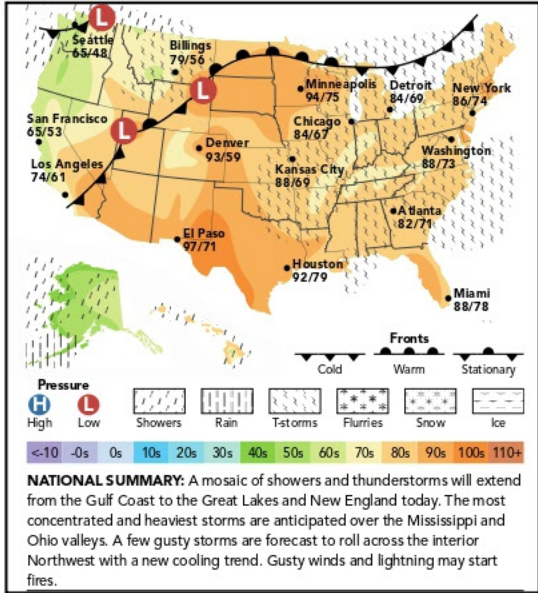
**SATURDAY**  
CLOUDS & SUN  
HIGH: 71  
LOW: 52

**SUNDAY**  
CLOUDS & SUN  
HIGH: 70  
LOW: 52

LOCALLY: Morning showers like-ly. High of 76. Low of 48.

PITTSBURGH: Morning showers then some sun. High of 76. Low of 50.

COLUMBUS: Warm with sun. High of 78. Low of 52.



**TODAY IN HISTORY**

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 28, the 271st day of 2021. There are 94 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 28, 1920, eight members of the Chicago White Sox were indicted for allegedly throwing the 1919 World Series against the Cincinnati Reds. (All were acquitted but banned from the game for life.)

On this date: In 1066, William the Conqueror invaded England to claim the throne.

In 1781, American forces in the Revolutionary War began the siege of Yorktown, Va.

BY THE NUMBERS

Yesterday's high	78	Low today	50	River Reading	13.35 feet
Yesterday's low	61	High tomorrow	73		stationary
Predicted temperatures from the National Weather Service:		Low tomorrow	48	Sunset today	7:10 p.m.
High today	75	Precipitation as of 7 p.m. at Pike Island	none	Sunrise tomorrow	7:18 a.m.
				Length of day	11 hrs. 53 min.

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;
- 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.

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.



AP Photo  
**SENATE MAJORITY** Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., arrives at the Capitol as a consequential week begins for President Joe Biden's agenda and Democratic leaders in Congress who are trying to advance his \$3.5 trillion "Build Back Better" package and pass legislation to avoid a federal shutdown, in Washington on Monday.

What's behind all the drama in Congress?

WASHINGTON (AP) — The drama and deadlines driving action on Capitol Hill right now can be disorienting. Democrats are trying to pass more than \$4 trillion in infrastructure and social programs at the center of President Joe Biden's agenda — and at the same time avert a government shutdown and prevent a federal default that could send financial markets crashing. "The next few days will be a time of intensity," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi wrote in a letter to colleagues over the weekend. That might be an understatement. Adding to the challenges for Democrats are their thin advantages in both chambers, the end of the fiscal year and intraparty disagreements over the size and scope of Biden's signature social spending and climate legislation. Republican leaders have encouraged their members to reject almost all of it, leaving Democrats to go it alone. Biden has been meeting with fellow Democrats as they navigate the political obstacle course. "We've got three things to do: the debt ceiling, the continuing resolution and the two pieces of legislation," Biden said Monday. "If we do that, the country's going to be in great shape."

Averting a government shutdown at midnight on Sept. 30 — the end of the fiscal year — has become an anxiety-inducing ritual in Washington. The current year is no different. The House last week passed a measure to keep the government open and suspend the debt limit by a party-line vote of 220-211. The Senate was to hold a procedural vote on that bill Monday evening, but Republicans were expected to block it after Senate GOP Leader Mitch McConnell said his members wouldn't help raise the debt limit. One possible path to avoiding a shutdown: Democrats could separate government funding from the debt limit. McConnell says Republicans would support that. The stopgap spending legislation includes bipartisan priorities, including \$28.6 billion in disaster relief for Hurricane Ida and other extreme weather events and \$6.3 billion to support Afghanistan evacuees after the end of the 20-year war. Congress has a bit longer to resolve the debt limit issue, as the U.S. is not at risk of defaulting on its accumulated debt load of roughly \$28 trillion for a few weeks. But it is unclear, for now, how Democrats will get around Republican opposition. The U.S. has never defaulted on its debts in the modern era, and historically both parties have voted to raise the limit. Democrats joined the then-Republican Senate majority in doing so several times during Donald Trump's presidency, including a suspension of the debt limit that expired in August. But now that Democrats have unified control of Washington, McConnell has ruled out returning the favor. McConnell has blamed the proposed \$3.5 trillion tax and spending bill and other Democratic priorities for the need to increase the debt limit. But that formula has it backward. Raising the debt limit is needed to make good on past — not future — spending decisions, including the Republicans' \$1.5 trillion, deficit-financed tax overhaul that Trump signed into law in 2017 and additional trillions in coronavirus relief that passed with GOP support. The legislation passed so far by the House would cover borrowing authority through the end of 2022.

**ALL ACCESS**  
The Times Leader  
200 S. Fourth St., Martins Ferry, OH 43935 • 740-633-1131 • [www.timesleaderonline.com](http://www.timesleaderonline.com)

Every device  
Every page  
Every day



LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Library requiring masks

ZANESVILLE — The Muskingum County Library System is now requiring all visitors older than the age of 2 to wear facial coverings in all library buildings, regardless of vaccination status. This is based on recommendations by the Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department, Ohio Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control.

Masks are available at all outlets. One can also take advantage of curbside service and digital content.

The library systems from March to August distributed 211 COVID-19 rapid tests. From Sept. 1

to 17, it has given out 3,625 rapid tests.

Fire department to hold open house

DRESDEN — The Dresden Fire Department is holding a community open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 2 at the station, 21 W. Ninth St. The event will include meet-and-greets, games, touch a truck and more.

Dueling pianos event set

ZANESVILLE — Dueling pianos, a fundraiser for the Muskingum County Community Foundation, will be Oct. 16 at Bryan Place, 49 N. Sixth St. Doors open at 6 p.m. with a pasta buffet and the

show starts at 8 p.m.

Two pianists will be playing two pianos and the audience will be able to make requests

throughout the event through monetary donations. Proceeds from the event will be distributed to community non-prof-

its through the foundation's grant competitions. To order tickets, and for more information, visit [mccf.org](http://mccf.org). Tickets are

\$30 and available online only. Dinner by Bryan Place is an additional charge. Seats are limited. *From staff reports*

58% of public school students under a mask requirement

Jackie Borchardt

Cincinnati Enquirer

USA TODAY NETWORK

In the past week, 32 Ohio school districts have enacted universal masking requirements as the number of COVID-19 cases in schools and hospitalizations among youth continued to rise.

There are now 211 districts with universal mask mandates out of the state's 609 districts, according to Ohio Department of Education data reported Thursday. Those districts educate about 50.9% of all K-12 public school students in the state.

As of Thursday, 354 districts have decided to make masks optional for all students, while 44 districts have required masks for some students but not all. In the past week, four school districts have scrapped their universal masking requirements and made face coverings optional.

Overall, nearly 58% of Ohio students are under a mask mandate, according to Gov. Mike DeWine's office. That's up from 54% earlier this week and 35% on Sept. 1.

"While vaccinations remain the best protection against severe COVID-19 cases, masking will help protect those that can't yet receive the vaccine and adds another layer of protection for those that

have," DeWine said in a statement.

State lawmakers can repeal a state health order, including a mask mandate, under a law that took effect in June. DeWine had vetoed that bill and said this week that he would put a school mask mandate in place now if the legislature wouldn't immediately rescind it.

Instead, DeWine is encouraging school boards and superintendents to require masks, at least while the state faces its latest surge.

In Ohio's schools, 8,524 students and 1,289 staff members were newly diagnosed with COVID-19 during the week ending Sept. 12. That's an increase from 4,446 students and 873 staff members the previous week and 1,241 students and 322 staff the week before. Schools report cases to local health departments, which report them to the state health department once a week.

But only about 43% of the 2,700 schools tracked by the state, including private schools, submitted reports to the state last week.

*Jackie Borchardt is the bureau chief for the USA TODAY Network Ohio Bureau, which serves the Columbus Dispatch, Cincinnati Enquirer, Akron Beacon Journal and 18 other affiliated news organizations across Ohio.*

Chocolate milk recalled by Ohio-based dairy

Beth Harvilla

Columbus Dispatch

USA TODAY NETWORK

Green Field Farms Dairy of Fredericksburg, Ohio, announced a voluntary recall of its whole chocolate milk due to a laboratory test that showed the milk was not effectively pasteurized.

There are 1,242 units of the affected milk that were distributed in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Delaware and Washington D.C. from Sept. 7 through Sept. 16, 2021.

This issue is isolated to whole chocolate milk with an expiration date of Sept. 29.

The issue was discovered during routine product testing conducted by the Ohio Department of Agriculture.

So far, there have been no report of illness from the milk.

However, ODA en-

courages anyone with signs of foodborne illness after drinking the milk should contact their doctor immediately.

From 1993 through 2012, there were 127 outbreaks linked to raw milk or raw milk products like ice cream, soft cheese, or yogurt, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. They resulted in 1,909 illnesses and 144 hospitalizations

When raw milk is not properly pasteurized to kill harmful bacteria, it can contain harmful bacteria including salmonella, E. coli, listeria, Campylobacter, and others that cause foodborne illness, often called "food poisoning."

If you have purchased this product, return the milk to the place of purchase to receive a refund. Consumers with questions may call 330-263-0248.

[bbharvilla@dispatch.com](mailto:bbharvilla@dispatch.com)

[@Beth\\_Harvilla](mailto:@Beth_Harvilla)

**MUSKINGUM COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**  
**VOTER REGISTRATION NOTICE**

**State Law requires a person to be properly registered to vote no later than October 4, 2021 for the General Election to be held on November 2, 2021.**

This deadline includes updates to voter registration as well as any change of an address and/or name.

**Registration forms can be found online at [boe.muskingumcountyoh.gov](http://boe.muskingumcountyoh.gov) or at the Ohio Secretary of State's website - [olvr.ohiosos.gov/](http://olvr.ohiosos.gov/)**

**The following are the hours and places handling registrations:**

**THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS:** 627 Market St., Zanesville, during regular hours Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. On **Monday, October 4th, 2021**, the office will be open from **8:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.**

**THE BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES:** JUNE PARKWAY PLAZA, Zanesville, during regular hours Monday 8:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M., Tuesday through Friday 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., and Saturday 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

**Additional places to register are:**

- At any public high school or vocational school
- At offices of designated agencies which provide public assistance or disability programs
- Public libraries
- County Treasurer's Office

Under Ohio Revised Code 3503.01 every citizen of the United States who is of the age of 18 years or over and who has been a resident of the state 30 days immediately preceding the election at which the citizen offers to vote, may register to vote.

**LAST DAY TO REGISTER or UPDATE VOTER REGISTRATION IS OCTOBER 4th, BY 9:00 P.M. FOR THE NOVEMBER 2nd, 2021, GENERAL ELECTION.**

**EARLY VOTING BEGINS OCTOBER 5th.**  
See our website for hours and voting information - [boe.muskingumcountyoh.gov](http://boe.muskingumcountyoh.gov)

OH-GC10727319-01

**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;
- 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.

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.



# Fairfield carver out to squash the competition on Food Network

**Bebe Hodges** Special to Cincinnati Enquirer  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Every fall, the Food Network celebrates the almighty pumpkin.

The country’s very best pumpkin carvers – there are only a handful of folks who can claim that status – compete yearly now on the Food Network’s “Outrageous Pumpkins.”

Fairfield’s William Wilson is among the most sought after in the field, and he’s part of this year’s “Outrageous” season, which debuts Sunday, Oct. 3, and features seven pumpkin carvers creating spectacular pumpkin creations for a prize of \$25,000. The season includes four episodes, each airing every Sunday of the month at 10 p.m.

Competing on the show was a big deal for Wilson, who isn’t your typical pumpkin carver (if there is any such thing as a typical pumpkin carver). The 46-year-old didn’t start carving seriously until eight years ago and, even now, he only does it part-time. His full-time job is running his restoration company, CRS 1st Response.

He is also one of only a handful of Black carvers in the pumpkin carving community.

As he competed on set – the show was taped last fall – he leaned toward carving cartoons. After all, as a father of five kids, he has watched them on repeat.

He also bore in mind the advice of mentor Jon Michaels: “Be fearless.”

Wilson’s always been an artist. He attended Scarlet Oaks in Sharonville as a junior and senior, where he studied culinary arts. There, his instructors introduced him to ice carving and fruit carving and, in a matter of months, Wilson was the youngest ever to compete – and place – at an ice carving competition sponsored by Sysco. He was a natural.

But his artistic promise would be put on hold.

At 18, Wilson became a father. Carving is a fun talent for chefs to know, he explained, but they don’t get hired for it. So Wilson put those dreams aside to work in restaurants to support his family.

Over the next decade or so, Wilson worked his way up the restaurant hierarchy. He married and had more children. He carved fruits and pumpkins now and then on the side, but it was nothing to make a living from.

Yet.

## The mentor shows up

That is, until, one sweltering summer day in 2011, a truck pulled up to the condo across from Wilson’s home in the Pleasant Run neighborhood. Out of the truck strolled Jon Michaels, scruffy but well built, and around 30, he wore a T-shirt touting ice carving.

Michaels was already considered a master carver of ice, trees, and pumpkins. So talented that he would carve trees in Hamilton and ice for the Super Bowl.

Wilson knew immediately he wanted to know this man.

The two became best buds.

Then, in the fall of 2013, Michaels asked Wilson to pick up a giant pumpkin left over from a fundraising event at a casino. The pair were going to carve it at a tailgate event before a Bengals-Browns game.

After working a while, Michaels started partying with the tailgaters. But Wilson kept going and – with Michaels away from the pumpkin – he started carving the lettering, something he says he always doubted his ability to do.

A carver was born.

Wilson went home and did his first 3-dimensional face on a pumpkin. He was a new man.

Professional pumpkin carving takes place in the fall when pumpkins are available to carve. It’s not the most lucrative profession, and there are only about 300 known carvers nationally.

Over ensuing autumns, Wilson “swept shop” for Michaels and his friends, Dean Murray, Titus Arensberg, and Greg Butauski, master carvers themselves. At competitions, Wilson would clean up, and, in return, he learned the craft. That is, what tools to use, how to properly store a pumpkin, how to finish a pumpkin for presentation.

Wilson also got a taste of professional carving. He assisted Michaels in competitions and earned titles for himself. In 2017, Michaels, his carving friends, and Wilson were hired to carve pumpkins for Halloween at the White House. Michaels and Wilson started dreaming of going on shows together and starting their own company.

## The student steps up

Then the unimaginable happened. Two years ago, at just 36, Michaels died of a heart attack.

There would be no more hangouts in the garage. Or motorcycle rides through the streets. The man his kids called “Uncle” wouldn’t be in anyone’s life anymore.

“Some people, when they die, they leave a greater hole. He was just so many things to so many people. It was, uh, God, it just really hurt,” Wilson said.

Wilson had contemplated quitting pumpkin carving, but now he returned to the carving table with a new mindset: be fearless.

As the pandemic rolled out and the world effectively shut down, Wilson focused on carving faster and scrutinizing less. He worked on becoming a competitor.

And when Wilson got the call last fall, asking him if he would like to compete on “Outrageous Pumpkins,” he was ready.

He says he went there aggressively, creating new concepts on the spot, taking risks, carving fast.

He did it for Jon.

“If anybody watches me carve, I would just want them to say Jon’s name just to know that he’s the one that got me here,” Wilson said. “He’s the one that always had faith in me. He always pushed me. If I could talk to anybody about the experience of being on TV, it would be him.”

Without giving anything away, Wilson is proud of the work that will show up on screen in coming weeks.

“I was like ‘If I go, I’m gonna kill it. I was like, ‘I’m gonna go for Jon Michaels.’ He taught me,” Wilson said. “And I went out there, and I tore it up.”



**William Wilson of Fairfield is one of the contestants on the upcoming Food Network series “Outrageous Pumpkins.” The show debuts Oct. 3 at 10 p.m.** CARA OWSLEY/THE ENQUIRER

## 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;
- 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.

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.



## RESIDENTS FLEE VOLCANO ON SPANISH ISLAND



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lava from a volcano flows on the island of La Palma in the Canaries, Spain, on Tuesday. The lava from the eruption that started Sunday headed toward La Palma’s more densely populated coast on Wednesday, forcing 1,000 people to evacuate late Tuesday from the city of Todoque. That brings the total number of evacuated to more than 6,800.

**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;
- 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) Full Requirements Small General Transportation Service (FRSGTS)	31.4%
General Service (GS) General Transportation Service (GTS) Full Requirements General Transportation Service (FRGTS)	11.4%
Large General Service (LGS) Large General Transportation Service (LGTS) Full Requirements Large General Transportation Service (FRLGTS)	15.1%
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.

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.

# U.S. to double Pfizer virus shots for rest of world

## 70% vaccinated globally is goal

BLADE NEWS SERVICES

WASHINGTON — President Biden announced Wednesday that the United States will double the number of Pfizer coronavirus vaccine doses it is donating to other countries, a step toward the goal of immunizing 70 percent of the world’s 8 billion people within the next year.

Mr. Biden made the pledge as he convened a virtual global summit of world leaders amid criticism that his administration has done too little to help nations with fewer resources.

Organizers said the conference would explore ways that all nations can cooperate to blunt a pandemic that has killed an estimated 4.5 million people and stunted economic growth around the globe.

“We need to go big, and we need to do our part” across governments, the private sector, and charities, Mr. Biden said at the White House.

“This is an all-hands-on-deck crisis. And the good news is, we know how to beat this pandemic: vaccines, public health measures, and collective action.”

Less than 10 percent of the population of poor nations — and less than 4 percent of the African population — has been fully vaccinated. Worldwide, 79 percent of shots that have been administered have been in high and upper-middle-income countries, according to the Our World in Data project at the University of Oxford. COVAX, the World Health Organization-backed international vaccine initiative, is behind schedule in delivering shots to the low and middle-income nations that need them the most.

The United States will buy 500 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine to donate to countries in need as part of what Mr. Biden said is an effort to become “the arsenal of vaccines, as we were the arsenal of democracy during World War II.”

The Biden Administration already purchased 500 million doses of the vaccine in July to be distributed in batches.

The doses would go to poorer countries through COVAX, the initiative led by the World Health Organization, Gavi, and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations.

“This is a monumental com-

mitment by the United States, bringing our total number of donated vaccines to the world to more than 1.1 billion,” White House coronavirus coordinator Jeff Zients and Secretary of State Antony Blinken wrote in an op-ed in the Washington Post on Wednesday. “For every one shot we’ve put in an American arm to date, we are now donating about three shots globally.”

The United States is the world leader in vaccine donations, Mr. Biden said, although he and other leaders of wealthy nations have been criticized for all but cornering markets for vaccines early on. Mr. Biden has also come under fire for welcoming booster shots for Americans while vaccination rates remain in single digits across most of Africa.

“Put another way, for every one shot we have administered to date in America, we have now committed to do three shots to the rest of the world,” Mr. Biden said.

The WHO chief has called for a halt to boosters in rich countries for the rest of the year, to give other nations more chances to catch up.

Neither Mr. Biden nor United Nations Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield addressed critiques of the booster plan in the United States in their opening remarks heard by reporters.

“We can do both, and it’s a false choice,” White House press secretary Jen Psaki said of the suggestion that rich nations should hold back.

The summit, which coincides with this week’s U.N. General Assembly meetings, was broken into four sessions.

Mr. Biden chaired the first session on the need to vaccinate the world, where he called on global leaders to fully vaccinate 70 percent of the world’s population by next September, the Post previously reported.

Participants included U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres, World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the leaders of Britain, Canada, South Africa, and Indonesia, plus a representative from the European Union.

Mr. Biden stressed that the goal is “donating, not selling” vaccines and with no strings attached. That was a dig at China and Russia, which have sold vaccines.

## Boosters

Continued from Page A1

of the Biden Administration’s sweeping plan to give third doses to nearly all American adults to shore up their protection amid the spread of the highly contagious delta variant.

However more regulatory hurdles lie ahead before boosters can be dispensed.

Advisers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention opened a two-day meeting Wednesday to make their own, more specific recommendations about who should get the extra shots and when. And in their first day of discussions, some experts were so perplexed by the questions surrounding the rationale for boosters that they suggested putting off a decision for a month in hopes of more evidence.

The uncertainties were yet another reminder that the science surrounding boosters is more complicated than the Biden Administration suggested when the President and his aides rolled out their plan at the White House last month.

The FDA decision Wednesday was expected after the agency’s own panel of advisers last week overwhelmingly rejected President Biden’s plan. The panel instead recommended boosters only for those most vulnerable to severe virus cases.

FDA acting commissioner

Dr. Janet Woodcock said in a statement that the FDA authorization would allow for boosters in health-care workers, teachers, grocery workers, and those in homeless shelters or prisons.

“As we learn more about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines, including the use of a booster dose, we will continue to evaluate the rapidly changing science and keep the public informed,” Dr. Woodcock said.

Under the FDA authorization, vaccinated Americans are eligible for a third dose six months after receiving their second Pfizer shot. That’s different than the Biden proposal announced in August, which called for boosters after eight months.

The timing of the FDA decision was highly unusual given that the agency typically takes action before the CDC convenes its own experts.

Meanwhile, CDC panelists heard presentations Wednesday on the science on boosters. On one hand, the vaccines continue to offer strong protection against severe illness, hospitalization, and death. On the other hand, there are signs of more low-grade infections among the vaccinated as immunity wanes.

The United States is dispensing around 760,000 vaccinations per day on average, down from a high of 3.4 million a day in mid-April. About 180 million Americans are fully vaccinated, or 64 percent of those eligible.



# NOAA scientist: Don't overlook 'yellow water' Color a sign of hypoxia in Lake Erie

By TOM HENRY  
BLADE STAFF WRITER

Here's another reason to keep phosphorous and nitrogen out of Lake Erie: yellow water.

Granted, it's not nearly as common — at least in the western basin — as the blue-green hue of cyanobacteria that people commonly refer to as algae.

But Craig Stow of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory in Ann Arbor told journalists Wednesday that more water-treatment plant operators should be on the lookout for stuff that's yellow.

Why? Low oxygen in the water column.

Mr. Stow, a NOAA aquatic ecosystem modeling scientist, explained that when so many nutrients float around in a given portion of the lake, it enters a state of hypoxia, a scientific word for oxygen-deprived.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, hypoxic conditions exist in pockets of water in which dissolved oxygen concentration falls to only 2 to 3 milligrams per liter.

NOAA has found that when oxygen concentration falls even further, to about 1 mg/l, it causes lake-bottom soil to release manganese, which turns water yellow and causes distinctive rustlike taste and odors.

Although water-treatment plants can neutralize heavy manganese releases with chemicals such as potassium permanganate, it takes quick action and the right dosage.

Potential manganese releases are now one of the things NOAA is trying to predict more accurately in advance, to give treatment-plant operators more time to react, especially for plants near Cleveland that have had to deal with it at times.

Once considered a problem confined mostly to Lake Erie's central basin, hypoxic — or so-called "dead zone" — areas are now believed to be formed somewhere within the western basin in July, then move along the Ohio shoreline to the central basin.

"September is when the middle of the lake becomes hypoxic," Mr. Stow said during the first day of an annual two-day workshop for Ohio jour-

nalists.

Manganese releases into the water columns are known as upwellings. Problems exist for water-treatment plants when the water column becomes enriched with manganese and is drawn into the plants via intakes.

"If we have a strong, sustained wind, principally out of the northeast, then we'll have upwelling into intakes," Mr. Stow said.

Andrew McClure, Toledo's Collins Park Water Treatment Plant administrator, said he's aware of the phenomenon but hasn't seen it occur this far west.

"We haven't noticed it at the [water-intake] crib," he said.

The same is true a little closer to the central basin in Port Clinton, where Ron Wetzel, the Ottawa County Regional Water Plant superintendent, said he's interested in sampling raw water "probably once a month now to get a baseline for next year."

"I've seen it in well water. It's pretty distinct," Mr. Wetzel said. "I've not smelled it or seen it at the plant."

Also during the workshop's first day, Chris Winslow, the Ohio Sea Grant/Ohio State University Stone Laboratory director, said Lake Erie now has an estimated tourism value of \$15.1 billion a year in eight counties along the shoreline, including Lucas, Ottawa, and Erie counties. That's about a third of Ohio's total \$40 billion tourism impact. Lake-based tourism also provides about \$4 billion in wages, \$1.9 billion in tax revenue, and 127,852 jobs, according to his presentation.

And Lauren Kinsman-Costello, a Kent State University assistant biology professor, said that although wetlands are accurately described by scientists as the "kidneys of the landscape" because of their filtering ability, many people don't realize some wetlands aren't as effective as others. Some actually release more nutrients than they trap, hence the need for site-by-site investigations and more soil tests.

"When you're talking about nutrients, it is way more than acreage volume," she said. "Acreages make a lot of sense for [wildlife] habitat but not for nutrients."

Contact Tom Henry at: [therry@theblade.com](mailto:therry@theblade.com) or on Twitter @ecowriterohio.

# Ohio House votes to water down regulations

By JIM PROVANCE  
BLADE COLUMBUS BUREAU CHIEF

COLUMBUS — The Ohio House of Representatives on Wednesday voted 61-33 for a developer-backed bill that opponents argue would weaken environmental regulation of intermittent streams and undermine efforts to clean up Lake Erie and other waterways.

House Bill 175, sponsored by state Rep. Brett Hudson-Hillyer (R., Uhrichsville), now goes to the Senate.

The dispute pits numerous environmental groups, including the Toledo Metropolitan Council of Governments, Gov. Mike DeWine's administration, and others against developers, mining interests, the Ohio Municipal League, and the Ohio Chamber of Commerce.

"The western United States continues to face droughts and water shortages," said state Rep. Mike Sheehy (D., Oregon), who cast a "no" vote. "We must realize how fortunate we are to have Lake Erie and the Great Lakes in our backyard, the largest group of

## 'Ephemeral streams' at core of feud

freshwater lakes on the face of the Earth, and we're not making one drop more of the stuff.

"We must do everything we can do to prevent pollution from entering our waterways," he said. "... We continue to spend millions of dollars of Ohioans' money on H2Ohio programs and mitigation of nutrient load into the western basin of Lake Erie. House Bill 175 is a major step backwards."

At issue are "ephemeral" soil indentations that are dry much of the year but swell in wet seasons, ultimately joining with streams on their way to Lake Erie and other waterways. They are at the core of a federal dispute over whether they should be regulated as "navigable waters."

State Rep. Don Jones (R., Freeport), who voted "yes," said permits and mitigation requirements hike costs for businesses, including mining interests in his southeast Ohio district.

"We're trying to regulate

mud puddles, so to speak, because there's only water there whenever it rains or the snow melts," Mr. Jones said. "... I am all about clean water. We've spent millions of dollars on H2Ohio every year to try to make sure that we have clean water. ... But we have to understand that there are some rules — and this is one of them — that are not really doing what everybody thinks it's doing.

"I think we just have to understand we've got to stop trying to penalize companies in my district and across the state of Ohio that are trying to do the right thing," he said.

State Rep. Haraz Ghanbari (R., Perrysburg) cast a rare Republican dissenting vote. He said he saw on Saturday the impact of pollutants on Ohio waters at the 25th anniversary of Partners for Clean Streams' Clean Your Streams Day.

"While I understand the intent of the legislation, we must protect our waterways, both drinking and recreational,

now and for all future generations," Mr. Ghanbari said. "My vote today underscores that commitment."

Former President Donald Trump moved last year to undo the tighter regulation from his Democratic predecessor, President Barack Obama. The Trump rewrite of the federal Clean Water Act has been challenged in the courts.

Mr. Hudson-Hillyer said 35 states do not regulate ephemeral streams.

They contend the change would make it easier for development to occur in such areas, boosting job growth and fueling government tax coffers.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that 36,405 of 115,206 miles of Ohio streams are ephemeral. While they may not support fish or other aquatic life, they are at the top of the watershed and could, when rainfall comes, affect water quality downstream, the department says.

Contact Jim Provance at: [jprovance@theblade.com](mailto:jprovance@theblade.com).

## 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;
- 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) Full Requirements Small General Transportation Service (FRSGTS)	31.4%
General Service (GS) General Transportation Service (GTS) Full Requirements General Transportation Service (FRGTS)	11.4%
Large General Service (LGS) Large General Transportation Service (LGTS) Full Requirements Large General Transportation Service (FRLGTS)	15.1%
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.

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.

# Whitmer praises bipartisanship, signs bills to finish Mich. budget

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LANSING, Mich. — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on Wednesday signed off on \$55 billion in spending to complete the state budget, hailing the bipartisan bills as an example of finding common ground with Republicans despite partisan tension during the coronavirus pandemic.

"This budget shows that divided government doesn't have to be dysfunctional government," the Democratic governor said at Lansing Community College.

She emphasized how the laws, which include billions in federal coronavirus relief aid, will expand eligibility for child-care subsidies, provide \$1,000 bonuses to child-care workers, and continue to fund new tuition-free assistance for 167,000 adults ages 25 and up and frontline workers to attend community college.

The funding will repair or replace 100 local bridges, clean up polluted sites, fix aging dams, and replace lead water lines in Benton Harbor.

It will make permanent and slightly raise — to \$2.35 an hour — a wage hike for "direct care" workers in nursing homes and other residential facilities along with in-home caregivers.

The blueprint includes \$53

billion in nonschool aid spending for the fiscal year that starts Friday, and \$2.3 billion in supplemental funding for the current budget year.

Ms. Whitmer had vetoed roughly \$16 million in funding tied to anti-abortion provisions that she said would have promoted the GOP's "political agenda." The sections would have required marketing programs and family planning services to promote alternatives to abortion.

"We know that reproductive health care is critical to women and families," she said.

She also declared unconstitutional or unenforceable various Republican-written "boilerplate" policy provisions, including ones that tried to ban local masks mandates for schools and defund local health departments with coronavirus orders if those orders lack the support of the relevant county commissioners.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Thomas Albert, a Lowell Republican, touted the bills' injection of money into the unemployment benefits trust fund — which was targeted by fraudsters — a \$500 million deposit into savings and new spending to help communities disproportionately affected by the coronavirus.











## Workhorse

From Page A1

through cooperation, not through litigation,” Dauch said. “By withdrawing our protest, we can also better focus our time and resources on initiatives that we expect will be more productive for our company.”

The withdrawal headed off oral arguments that were scheduled last week in the case before the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

In July, lawyers for the government and for Oshkosh filed similar motions asking the court to dismiss Workhorse's claim, arguing the company did not exhaust its administrative remedies with the postal service.

Oshkosh's motion states Workhorse initiated the first step of the appeal process, but when it was determined the award was proper, instead of further appealing the decision, Workhorse “sat idle for three months” before filing the complaint in court.

“Workhorse's failure to complete the administrative appeal process is fatal to its case,” the motion states.

Last month, the Wall Street Journal reported Workhorse was being investigated by the enforcement division of the U.S. Securities and Exchange

Commission. The paper cited a June 30 letter denying a public records request from a self-described short-seller.

In August, Workhorse sold nearly three-quarters of its equity stake in Lordstown Motors when it unloaded 11.9 million shares of the Lordstown-based electric truck startup's Class A common stock July 1 to Aug. 6.

The sale netted Workhorse about \$78.8 million, but the company reported to the SEC it booked a \$52.1 million loss with the sell-off.

Workhorse and Lordstown Motors early on partnered on a three-year license agreement that gives Lordstown Motors access to certain intellectual property in exchange for 10 percent stake in the company, which plans to launch its all-electric pickup truck, the Endurance, in limited production sometime this month.

Both companies were founded by Steve Burns, who abruptly resigned at Lordstown Motors CEO in June. No reason was given for his stepping down, but the move came in tune with an admission by the company that statements regarding preorders for the company's flagship truck, the Endurance, were inaccurate.

*rselak@tribtoday.com*

## Ryan

From Page A1

duties by voting remotely until he can safely return to Washington, D.C.

“What we have learned over the last year and a half is that we are in this together, and I urge all Ohioans to help us crush this pandemic by wearing a mask and getting vaccinated so that we can get back to normal,” he said. “I'd like to extend my deepest thanks to Mercy Health who treated me and health care workers across Ohio who are fighting COVID-19 on the front lines every day. You are the true heroes of this pandemic.”

Ryan, who is running for the U.S. Senate next year, was to have a fundraiser for that campaign Saturday at a private residence in Poland.

The fundraiser will either be rescheduled or held virtually, said Christopher Anderson of Boardman, one of the event's hosts and head of the Ohio Young Democrats.

“Unfortunately, breakthrough cases happen,” he said. “I'm glad Tim's symptoms are mild.”

When the event was going to be in-person, Anderson said, those attending would have been required to be vaccinated, and the hosts were going to follow all guidelines from the U.S. Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention.

Ryan received national attention when he criticized House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy's July 28 complaints about the CDC's recommendations for wearing face masks on the House floor as the delta variant of the virus was spreading. That recommendation led the U.S. Capitol's attending physician, Congress' top doctor, to require House members to again wear masks even though some Republicans refused to comply.

“I just find it absolutely immature and appalling to somehow diminish (COVID-19) to try to score cheap political points and that's exactly what we saw a few minutes ago,” Ryan said on the House floor. “That is beneath a minority leader of one of the major political parties in the United States of America saying we should take no caution.”

He added: “Just stop with this craziness. We're trying to be safe, trying to protect our family members, our kids, our parents, close relatives, and the minority leader mocks that, mocks it and mocks the top doctor.”

Ryan said of masks at the time: “I hate these things. It's terrible having to put this back on. We do it because the top doctor for all of us asks us to.”

*dskolnick@vindy.com*

## Trial

From Page A1

Bennett is no longer employed by the board of developmental disabilities, according to the human resources office.

The trial is expected to take one day, and the state is expected to call six witnesses, including the victim and Austintown police officers who investigated the case, according to assistant Prosecutor Rob Bennett.

Bennett posted a \$4,000 surety bond in March 2020.

*gvogrin@tribtoday.com*

## Taliban fighters attacked by IS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The extremist Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for a series of deadly roadside bombs targeting Taliban fighters in eastern Afghanistan, raising the specter of wider conflict between the country's new Taliban rulers and their long-time rivals.

A string of explosions struck Taliban vehicles in Afghanistan's provincial city of Jalalabad over the weekend, killing eight people, among

them Taliban fighters. On Monday, three more explosions were heard in the city, an IS stronghold, with unconfirmed reports of additional Taliban casualties.

The Taliban are under pressure to contain IS militants, in part to make good on a promise to the international community that they will prevent the staging of terror attacks from Afghan soil. There is also a widely held expectation that the new rulers will at least restore a measure of public safety.

## Spanish flu

From Page A1

For now, the pandemic still has the United States and other parts of the world firmly in its jaws.

While the delta-fueled surge in infections may have peaked, U.S. deaths are running at over 1,900 a day on average, the highest level since early March, and the country's overall toll topped 675,000 Monday, according to the count kept by Johns Hopkins University, though the real number is believed to be higher.

Winter may bring a new surge, with the University of Washington's influential model projecting an additional 100,000 or so Americans will die of COVID-19 by Jan. 1, which would bring the overall U.S. toll to 776,000.

The 1918-19 influenza pandemic killed 50 million victims globally at a time when the world had one-quarter the population it does now. Global deaths from COVID-19 now stand at more than 4.6 million.

The Spanish flu's U.S. death toll is a rough guess, given the incomplete records of the era and the poor scientific understanding of what caused the illness. The 675,000 figure comes from the

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The ebbing of COVID-19 could happen if the virus progressively weakens as it mutates and more and more humans' immune systems learn to attack it. Vaccination and surviving infection are the main ways the immune system improves. Breast-fed infants also gain some immunity from their mothers.

Under that optimistic scenario, schoolchildren would get mild illness that trains their immune systems. As they grow up, the children would carry the immune response memory, so that when they are old and vulnerable, the coronavirus would be no more dangerous than cold viruses.

The same goes for today's vaccinated teens: Their immune systems would get stronger through the shots and mild infections.

“We will all get infected,” Antia predicted. “What's important is whether the infections are severe.”

Something similar happened with the H1N1 flu virus, the culprit in the 1918-19 pandemic. It encountered too many people who were immune, and it also eventually weakened through mutation.

H1N1 still circulates today, but immunity acquired through infection and vaccination has triumphed.

Getting an annual flu shot now protects against H1N1 and several other strains of flu. To be sure, flu kills between 12,000 and 61,000 Americans each year, but on average, it is a seasonal problem and a manageable one.

Before COVID-19, the 1918-19 flu was universally considered the worst pandemic disease in human history. Whether the current scourge ultimately proves deadlier is unclear.

In many ways, the 1918-19 flu — which was wrongly named Spanish flu because it first received widespread news coverage in Spain — was worse.

Spread by the mobility of World War I, it killed young, healthy adults in vast numbers. No vaccine existed to slow it, and there

were no antibiotics to treat secondary bacterial infections. And, of course, the world was much smaller.

Yet jet travel and mass migrations threaten to increase the toll of the current pandemic. Much of the world is unvaccinated. And the coronavirus has been full of surprises.

Markel said he is continually astounded by the magnitude of the disruption the pandemic has brought to the planet.

“I was gobsmacked by the size of the quarantines” the Chinese government undertook initially, Markel said, “and I've since been gob-gob-gob-smacked to the nth degree.”

The lagging pace of U.S. vaccinations is the latest source of his astonishment.

Just under 64% of the U.S. population has received at least one dose of the vaccine.



**Touch-ups** Big or Small

Need to protect your car's wheel wells or touch-up some nicks on your riding mower?

**TP TOOLS & Equipment**

7075 SR 446, Canfield, OH 44406  
330-533-3384 • [tptools.com](http://tptools.com)

**SHOP LOCAL**

### 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 / FRSCTS 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.

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.



# Advocates sue state over newly drawn district maps

**By FARNOUSH AMIRI**  
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS — The newly drawn legislative district maps in Ohio were contested for the third time Monday, when state and national civic groups filed suit alleging the Republican-controlled redistricting process violated voters’ rights.

The newest lawsuit, filed in the Ohio Supreme Court by three advocacy organizations and six individual Ohioans, seeks to block the maps of Ohio House and Senate districts passed Sept. 16 along party lines by the GOP-dominated Ohio Redistricting Commission and require the commission to draw

new districts.

“These maps should not be allowed to exist,” Pierette “Petee” Talley, one of the named plaintiffs, said in a statement. “If the maps remain in place, millions of Ohioans, particularly black Ohioans and other people of color who live in these gerrymandered communities like Toledo, won’t have a voice in any policies impacting their lives that come out of the Columbus statehouse.”

The litigation follows in line with legal action taken by the National Democratic Redistricting Committee’s legal arm and the ACLU on behalf of the League of Women Voters, A. Philip Randolph Institute

and individual voters, each alleging the maps violate Ohio’s constitution.

In addition to Talley, the plaintiffs in the lawsuit include five individual voters, as well as the Council on American-Islamic Relations of Ohio, Ohio Organizing Collaborative and the Ohio Environmental Council. The plaintiffs are represented by the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University’s School of Law and law firm Reed Smith.

The complaint asserts the new maps would maintain the GOP veto-proof supermajorities in both chambers of the Ohio Legislature, in contradiction with the Republicans’ share of

the vote in statewide and federal elections over the past decade of 54 percent.

“Ohio’s general assembly should fully represent Ohio’s black and brown communities, not serve as a power trip for one political party,” Jeniece Brock, policy and advocacy director of the Ohio Organizing Collaborative, said in a statement Monday. “We need a representative and responsive government that hears our communities’ voices on everything from healthcare costs, to student debt, to police accountability.”

Republican Senate President Matt Huffman, who led the Republican map-making effort, has defended the maps as fair and constitutionally compliant — criticizing Democrats and special interest groups for thwarting a bipartisan deal.

John Fortney, a spokesman for Huffman, called the latest legal challenge an example of “another elitist D.C. think tank representing more far left groups attempts to lecture Ohioans about the liberal definition of fairness.”

The Ohio Supreme Court has original and exclusive jurisdiction in deciding the map challenges. Justices face some pressure to act quickly, should they decide to send the maps back to the drawing board. Candidates must register for 2022 elections on Feb. 2.

## Woman reports being robbed at knifepoint

YOUNGSTOWN — A city woman, 61, reported that she was robbed of cash by a man with a knife on Garland Avenue near Verona Avenue.

She said that while walking, a teenager about 6 feet tall wearing baggy jeans and a white tee shirt pulled the knife and demanded money. She gave him money, and he fled on foot, she said.

The attack occurred at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday — four hours before the woman reported it.

A report was not available before Monday because of a shortage of police department clerical employees to provide them Thursday and Friday.

## Lawyers: Man killed no one, seeks to dismiss death penalty possibility

WAVERLY (AP) — Attorneys for an Ohio man charged in eight slayings want the aggravated murder charges and the possibility of a death penalty to be dismissed because they say prosecutors now have information indicating he didn’t kill anyone.

George Wagner IV, his parents and adult brother were charged in the 2016 Rhoden family shootings near Piketon in southern Ohio.

In a court filing Friday in Pike County, lawyers for the 29-year-old Wagner questioned the fairness of proceeding with the capital case when recent information turned over by prosecutors indicates Wagner didn’t kill the victims.

His brother, Edward “Jake” Wagner, pleaded guilty earlier this year and admitted fatally shooting five people. Prosecutors said Jake Wagner gave a full account of what happened and led them to additional evidence.

His mother, Angela Wagner, pleaded guilty this month to helping to plan the slayings, and prosecutors said she gave them new information. In exchange, prosecutors agreed to drop aggravated murder charges against her.

Those plea deals include agreements to testify against the remaining defendants — George Wagner IV and his father, who has pleaded not guilty — if those cases go to trial.

Authorities say the shootings stemmed from a dispute over custody of a child Jake Wagner had with one of the victims.

**Ryan**

From Page A5

and with the dignity that comes from joining a union,” Burga said.

Ryan, a 10-term House member, will face Morgan Harper, an attorney and community organizer who lost a 2020 congressional race, in the Democratic primary in May 2022.

The Republican candidates include Josh Mandel, a former state treasurer; former Ohio Republican Party Chairwoman Jane Timken; businessmen Bernie Moreno, Mike Gibbons and Mark Pukita; J.D. Vance, author and venture capitalist;

and state Sen. Matt Dolan.

The seat is open because incumbent Republican Rob Portman isn’t seeking re-election next year.

A poll conducted by WPA Intelligence of Washington, D.C., and paid for by Mandel’s campaign shows he is leading the field with 37 percent of the vote, followed by Vance with 13 percent, Gibbons with 8 percent and Timken with 6 percent. The poll also lists 26 percent as undecided.

The telephone poll of about 510 registered Republican voters, taken Sept. 20 to last Thursday, has a 4.3 percent margin of error.

*dskolnick@vindy.com*

## Penguin swimming welcomes new high school program to pool

HOWLAND — The Howland Board of Education has approved an agreement with Penguin Swimming to provide services to the high school girls’ swim team.

Superintendent Kevin Spicher said at Monday’s board meeting the swim team has been swimming at the Hubbard schools’ swimming pool and now will be at the pool at Youngstown State University.

He said the swimmers will each pay a \$100 fee for using the YSU pool in addition to a club fee of around \$35 and any parking fees.

Some parents of swimmers have addressed the school board about the swim location.

Nick Mavrogianis, who has a daughter on the swim team, said the Hubbard location has served the swimmers well but the YSU pool offers a college level swimming program and a new location for swimming.

COPY & PRINT SERVICES

Tribune Copyshop

Located inside the Tribune Chronicle  
240 Franklin St. SE Downtown Warren OH

\* Please Call or E-mail in advance \*

COLOR 8.5" X 11"

22¢ PER COPY

BLACK & WHITE

11¢ PER COPY

330.841.1776

weprint@tribcopyshop.com

## Girard

From Page A5

that increase would be effective January 2026 for the start of the next four-year term.

Council President Reynald Paolone said no pay raises can be in-term but can go into effect with the start of the new term.

Councilman-at-Large John Moliterno said council and the council president currently make

\$7,900 per year, which does not qualify for credit toward the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System because the figure is too low.

Being proposed is to increase the pay for council and council president in 2026 to \$8,658. Other increases would be to \$8,811 in 2025, \$8,964 in 2026, \$9,123 in 2027, \$9,287 in 2028, and \$9,443 in 2029. The treasurer would receive \$8,964 in January 2026.

Moliterno said these can’t go

into effect in 2022 since many of the members already have been re-elected last spring or are unopposed in Nov. 2 general election ballot.

Second Ward Councilman Mark Standohar said PERS has established a minimum salary in order to get one year of service credit.

“Currently council does not meet that threshold to get a year’s credit of service, nor will it for the next two years,” he said,

*bcoupland@tribtoday.com*

Visit us online at [www.vindy.com](http://www.vindy.com)

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;
- 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.

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.



# COMMUNITY

## Little Miss Apple Festival display now open

FROM STAFF REPORTS

JACKSON — After a year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Jackson Apple Festival is finally back in action.

Also making a comeback is the outgoing Little Miss Apple Festival exhibit at the Ohio Valley Bank's Jackson Office, which features 2019 title holder Kennedy Knittel.

Due to the cancelation of last year's Apple Festival events, Knittel retained her title in 2020.

Her display, which features some of her favorite dresses worn during her reign, was officially opened with a private ribbon cutting ceremony at the bank. The display also includes a scrapbook and pictures of Knittel representing the Apple Festival at various events, and a photo area with 80th Apple Festival background.

Those interested in seeing the display may do so from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday during lobby hours. The display will remain open through the duration of the festival.

OVB Assistant Vice President and Region



OVB President and Chief Operating Officer Larry Miller is pictured with 2019 Little Miss Apple Festival Kennedy Knittel.

Manager of Jackson County Joe Wyant presented Knittel with a gift to celebrate her two-year reign. Knittel is the daughter of Chad and Brittny Knittel.

In addition to honoring Knittel, Wyant also recognized this year's Little Miss Apple Festival finalists.

This year's finalists are Callie Baisden, daughter of Tyler and Brittany Baisden; Carlie

Baisden, daughter of Tyler and Brittany Baisden; Alivia Brown, daughter of Josh and Tashina Brown; Haylee Brown, daughter of Austin and Brianna Brown; Natalie Har-



2019 Little Miss Apple Festival Kennedy Knittel is pictured with the top 10 finalists.

wood, daughter of Jason and Kylee Harwood; Tyleah Henderson, daughter of Jon and Tina Ison; Hadly House, daughter of Brandon and Katie House; Saydie Newkirk, daughter of Kristin Bierhup and Michael Newkirk; Makayla Simpson, daughter of Joseph and Heather Simpson; and Annabelle Trumble, daughter of Jaimie McCown-Perry and Raymond Perry.

The top 10 contest for the finalists mentioned above is set for Saturday, Sept. 25, at 11 a.m. on the

Bellisio Foods Stage at the Jackson Apple Festival. The crowning will happen at 12:15 p.m.

More information can be found at Ohio Valley Bank's website at [www.ovbc.com](http://www.ovbc.com) or Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/OhioValleyBank](https://www.facebook.com/OhioValleyBank).

## ‘Harvest For A Heart’ Dinner set for Sept. 27

JACKSON — The Jackson County Heart Support Group's annual “Harvest For A Heart” Dinner is set for Monday, Sept. 27, at 6 p.m. The event will be held at the Jackson Christ United Methodist Church's Family Life Center. Tickets are \$20, and can be purchased at Village

Haircutters (151 Broadway Street, Jackson) or by calling 740-418-1075. There will be an auction with Ed Henderson, a match box raffle and split the pot. The match box raffle will begin at 6 p.m. All proceeds benefit heart and cancer patients in Jackson County.

## 2021 School Spirit Project underway

JACKSON — The Jackson County Department of Job and Family Service's “2021 School Spirit Project” is underway. Jackson County Children enrolled in K-12 whose household income does not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

(FPG) may be eligible for up to \$150 per child. Vouchers may be used toward the purchase of shoes, backpacks and/or socks at the Shoe Department. Applications are available at the agency and will be accepted through 3 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 30.

## Women’s cancer screenings in Vinton County

FROM STAFF REPORTS

MCARTHUR — Ohio University's Women's Health Clinic will offer breast and cervical cancer screenings on the mobile medical unit parked beside Campbell's Market in McArthur located at 630 W. Main St. on Tuesday, Oct. 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Through its Women's Health Clinic, the Ohio University Heritage Community Clinic has long provided mobile women's cancer screening clinics throughout southeastern Ohio as part of its mission to improve women's health in the region.

Services are available

to all women, uninsured, underinsured or insured. Appointments are required, and women should call 740-593-2432 or 1-800-844-2654 for an appointment.

Services offered include breast health education, PAP tests, breast and pelvic exams, order and scheduling of mammograms and navigation through the continuum of care. The Breast and Cervical Cancer Project (BCCP) will be available for no-cost breast and cervical cancer screenings and diagnostic testing to qualified women who meet eligibility criteria.

### 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;
- 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.

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.



# COMMUNITY

## Church yard sale to benefit student ministries

JACKSON — The Jackson First Church of the Nazarene, located at 251 Powell Drive in Jackson, will host its annual community yard sale Oct. 1-2 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. All proceeds will go toward children and youth ministries. For more information or questions call 740-286-2864.

## Jackson City Planning Commission to meet

JACKSON — The Jackson City Planning Commission Committee will be holding a meeting on Monday, Oct. 4, at 7 p.m. in Jackson City Council Chambers on Portsmouth Street in Jackson. This meeting is to discuss the request/application for rezoning

of property located at 265 Pearl Street. The Zoning Board of Appeals has granted “Conditional Use” of this property and the Planning Commission will now consider the rezoning of this property from B2 to R2. The public is welcome to attend.

## Cassandra Mayers named 2022 Distinguished Young Woman of Vinton County

The Distinguished Young Women of Vinton County, a scholarship program for high school girls, has named Vinton County’s 2022 Distinguished Young Woman and runner-up. Cassandra Mayers, daughter of Blair and Laura Mayers, was named winner of the competition. She plans to attend The Ohio State University to become a physician’s assistant. She will represent Vinton County in the Distinguished Young Women of Ohio program held mid November in Marysville, Ohio, where she will compete for more scholarship money, according to a Facebook post by the organization. Tomi Sue Schweikert, daughter of Mark and Jana Schweikert, was selected as runner-up in the Vinton County program. Tomi plans to attend the University



Cassandra Mayers

of Cincinnati and study mortuary science. Cassandra and Tomi Sue combined earned nearly \$6,000 in local scholarship money.

## Early voting for general election starts next week

BY JEREMIAH SHAVER  
Courier Multimedia Journalist

JACKSON — Did you know you can cast your ballot for the 2021 General Election in Jackson County early? Early in-person voting will begin Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2021. To vote early, visit the Jackson County Board of Elections Office, located at 25 E. South St, Suite B, in Jackson. Reminder the Board of Elections Office moved over the summer to the the Jackson County Job & Family Services Building. The Board of Elections is located in the back side of the building, enter the left door. The hours for early in-person voting are: Tuesday, Oct. 5 through Friday, Oct. 22 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Oct. 25 through Friday, Oct. 29, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, October 30,

from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 31, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The final day to vote early in-person at the Board of Elections Office will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 2 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 1, 2021. The General Election is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 2. The polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Below is a list of where each precinct will be voting this year. **Bloomfield Township** will be voting at the Madison-Jefferson Bingo Hall (located at 175 E. Main Street in Oak Hill). **Coal 1 (Village of Coalton) and Coal 2 (Coal Township)** will be voting at the Jackson Memorial Building (located at 145 Broadway Street in Jackson). **Franklin Township** will be voting at the Jackson Area YMCA (located at 594 E. Main Street in Jackson).

**Hamilton Township** will be voting at the Madison-Jefferson Bingo Hall (located at 175 E. Main Street in Oak Hill). **Jackson Township** will be voting at the Jackson-Vinton Community Action (located at 118 S. New York Avenue in Wellston). **Liberty Township** will be voting at the Jackson Memorial Building (located at 145 Broadway Street in Jackson). **Scioto Township** will be voting at the Jackson Memorial Building (located at 145 Broadway Street in Jackson). **Washington Township** will be voting at the Jackson-Vinton Community Action (located at 118 S. New York Avenue in Wellston). **City of Jackson, and Lick Township** will be voting at the Jackson Area YMCA (located at 594 E. Main Street in Jackson). **City of Wellston, and**

**Milton Township** will be voting at the Jackson-Vinton Community Action (located at 118 S. New York Avenue in Wellston). **Jefferson Township, Madison Township, and Village of Oak Hill** will be voting at the Madison-Jefferson Bingo Hall (located at 175 E. Main Street in Oak Hill). Absentee ballots will begin being mailed out on Oct. 5, 2021. Absentee ballots may be returned to the Board Office in-person until Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. If they are being returned by mail they must be postmarked by the Post Office by midnight Monday, Nov. 1, 2021. If you have any questions regarding voter registration, polling locations, curbside, absentee or early in person voting, call the Jackson County Board of Elections at 740-286-2905.

### 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;
- 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.

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.

STAY CONNECTED

with your community

THE

COURIER

Serving Vinton and Jackson Counties

VintonJacksonCourier.com







# Digest

From page 10

**Riley Holkema (Carroll)** vs. Lily Webb (Valley View).

Lilly Holbrook (Valley View) vs. **Hannah Litke (Greeneview)**

Kirsten Bottles (Carlisle) vs. **Anna Bowman (Cedarville)**

**Emily Walls (Carroll)** vs. Harmony Atkinson (Eaton).

**Addy Gill (Greeneview)** vs. Mackenzie Lightner (Miami Valley)

**Sara Cooley (Cedarville)** vs. Makiya Keeton (CJ) or Yetta Krummel-Adkins (Oakwood)

**Lucy Buhrman (Carroll)** vs. Anna Jackson (Carlisle) or **Kelsey Marsden (Greeneview)**

**Doubles At Centerville (Oct. 4 and 6)**

**Zoe Barger and Kimberly Dutenhaver (Cedarville)** vs. Rory Adams/Gabby Estep (Carlisle) or Olivia Eck/Izzy Orozco (Valley View)

**Karli Beard and Maria Camacho (Carroll)** vs. Elisabeth Collins and Chelsea Hoskins (Alter).

**Claire Morris and Jadyn Myers (Greeneview)** vs. Maya Baerek and Clara Deneault (Miami Valley).

**Alice Hook and Lauren Wiesert (Greeneview)** vs. Alana Baker/Annie Schaefer (Alter) or Anna Kramer/Haneet Kramer (Eaton)

**Ryleigh Burnett and Hannah Peterson (Cedarville)** vs. Kylie Gadd and Maggie Montgomery (Preble Shawnee)

**Vivian Dao and Meredith Sanders (Carroll)** vs. Casana Lawrence and Vanessa Maya Soberanos (Stivers).

**High school Boys soccer Legacy Christian 3, Urbana 1**

The three goals in Saturday's match for the Knights came from sophomores Parker Burke and Dillon Campbell, and a header by senior Kevin McEntyre.

Sophomore Adam Newell made nine saves in goal.

**Girls Soccer Carroll 2, Bellbrook 1**

The Patriots held off the Golden Eagles on Saturday in a matchup of two of the top teams in the Miami Valley.

Carroll freshman Rachel Gervais scored a goal in both halves, assisted by sophomore Melanie Hoffman both times.

Sophomore Lily Schindler pulled Bellbrook within one with 23 minutes left, but the Golden Eagles weren't able to tie it up. Schindler was assisted by junior Kelley Griffin.

Carroll came into the game ranked No. 5 in Division II, with Bellbrook at No. 7 in D-I.

**Volleyball Springfield 3, Greeneview 0**

Greeneview fell 25-17, 25-21, 25-8 on Saturday.

Sadie Trisel had eight kills and four blocks for the Rams.

Eryn Gardner added three kills and five blocks, while Sarah Trisel had nine digs.

Springfield won the reserve match, 25-20, 25-15.

**Middle School Volleyball Greeneview 7th, 8th grade teams win**

Both teams defeated Catholic Central in three sets.

The seventh graders won a tight match, 28-26, 22-25, 25-23.

Emma Ryan led the way with 11 kills, Olivia Haines had five and Alexia Harlow had four.

The eighth-grade team won 25-16, 19-25, 25-15.

Jayden Bloom had 14 kills, Elise Taylor added seven and Peyton McCaslin finished with five.

**Fall sports results needed**

Please remember we want to report on sports going on this fall. Whether it's youth, middle school, high school, or college, we want to tell your story. Send game results and story ideas to [sports@xeniagazette.com](mailto:sports@xeniagazette.com). Please include the date the game/match was played, the final score, team record and any pertinent stats. Please make sure to include the first and last name of any players mentioned. If an athlete has a particularly good game or deserves some recognition, let us know.

Send Greene County sports information to [sports@xeniagazette.com](mailto:sports@xeniagazette.com). Game reports should include the final score and first and last name of players who deserve mention, along with their stats from the game. Reserve, freshmen, and middle school information is welcomed as well.

seven tackles to lead the defense.

**Badin 62, Carroll 0**

The Patriots were shut out for the second straight game.

Unbeaten Badin, No. 2 in D-III, led 28-0 after the first quarter and 48-0 at halftime.

Contact Steven Wright at 937-502-4498 and follow on Twitter @Steven\_Wright\_.

# Win

From page 10

show off what the eyes also showed: A total team effort.

Seniors Sarah Brown, Ceci Kennedy, and Jenni Page, as well as junior Emma Kuhn all had at least five kills.

The team had 21 blocks between seven contributors, led by Kuhn's seven. Senior Holly Lefevers got 13 digs.

Sophomores Kayla Caldwell and Courtney Maxwell joined Kennedy with at least three aces.

"Energy, the talking and teamwork was a lot better in this game," Baylor said. "It's something that we've been stressing is to hold each other accountable. I always tell them, if I'm the only one yelling it just turns into white noise. I even told my seniors, you need to take control. It shouldn't just be me, it should also be you. Lead by example and be loud."

The Beavers got its sternest challenge in the



Senior Holly Lefevers (4) prepares to play the ball to her teammates against Oakwood on Saturday.

second set as Oakwood stayed within three points for the majority of it.

Leading 16-15, sophomore Courtney Maxwell, who had three aces in the match, was able to maintain serve to build up a four-point cushion. Oakwood got back to as close as 23-21, but Beavercreek held strong to close it out and take a two-set lead.

"That was a rough patch, but we have a really young team with a lot of personalities and we're starting to find our footing," Baylor



Beavercreek junior Peyton Bundy (17) goes up for a spike against Oakwood.

said.

Beavercreek heads back into Greater Western Ohio Conference play at first-place Cen-

terville today.

Contact Steven Wright at 937-502-4498 and follow on Twitter @Steven\_Wright\_.

## 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;
- 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.

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.

# Football

From page 10

score on a 90-yard kick-off return in the second quarter by sophomore Adi Hernandez. It was followed by a two-point pass to freshman Gavin Arnold.

Senior Solomon Hardaman and sophomore CJ Crawford each had

## There are currently two Director positions open on the Greene County Fair Board.

- Requirements for application:**
- + **A current resident of Greene County.**
  - + **Resides in Ross Township.**
  - + **18 years of age or older.**
  - + **Currently holds (or can purchase) a membership ticket for the Greene County Agricultural Society.**
  - + **Has been a member of the Greene County Agricultural Society for three out of the past seven years. (purchased a membership pass)**
  - + **Has attended at least two Fair Board meetings.**

**Interested persons can send a letter of intent to the Greene County Fair Board, 120 Fairground Road, Xenia, Ohio 45385.**

**The letter should arrive no later than October 8, 2021**

CH-7025107



**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities  
Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**12/6/2021 4:40:08 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 21-0637-GA-AIR**

Summary: Proof of Pub Proof of Publication (Part 6 of 6) electronically filed by Mr.  
John R. Ryan on behalf of Columbia Gas of Ohio