



The market won't wait.
And neither should you.

Buying or selling? Don't wait—
make your move now.

Discover more at addressUSA.com



Chillicothe Gazette

Oldest newspaper
west of the Alleghenies

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026 | CHILLICOTHE, OHIO | CHILLICOTHEGAZETTE.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Ross County woman has ties to Revolutionary War soldier

Destiny Torres
Chillicothe Gazette | USA TODAY NETWORK

CHILLICOTHE – For many women in the Nathaniel Massie Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, their genealogy and ancestry are extremely important. That is the same for member Julie Dyke, whose fourth-great-grandfather was a soldier in the American Revolutionary War.

Paul Streve enlisted in the Northampton County, PA Militia in 1776, just six weeks before the Battle of Long Island on Aug. 27. Dyke said this battle was the largest in the Revolutionary War due to the size of the forces deployed and the intensity of the combat.

"Sixty-four British troops were killed, but 300 US troops were killed," Dyke said.

On top of the death toll, 800 US troops were wounded, and 1,079 were captured or missing.

"For your patriot to have made it out, I kind of feel blessed to be here."

Dyke said she assumes he acquired land in Ross County from the Virginia Military District and settled in Huntington Township around 1800.

Streve married Mary Wild in 1779. His wife died in 1823, and then he married Christina Tomer in 1824. But just five years after their marriage, Streve passed away on Jan. 12, 1829.

"In our DAR chapter, it's not really common that your patriot is buried here," Dyke said. "I have lived in Huntington Township my entire life. My patriot is buried, probably ten miles from my house."

Streve is buried in the Bishop Hill Cemetery, Huntington Township.



Paul Streve enlisted in the Northampton County PA Militia in 1776. He later moved to Huntington Township, where he was later buried in 1829. PROVIDED BY THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Noah Spetnagle and Michael Comer were named the 2026 Employee and Officer of the Year, respectively, for Ross Correctional Institution. SHELBY REEVES/CHILLICOTHE GAZETTE

RCI names 2026 Officer, Employee of the Year

Shelby Reeves
Chillicothe Gazette | USA TODAY NETWORK

CHILLICOTHE – When they clock in, correctional officers and employees at local institutions, like Ross Correctional Institution, put their lives on the line to keep residents safe. In recognition of this, the institution names an officer and employee of the year annually.

These awards are voted on by those working in the institution. This year, two previous winners were once again recognized, something Warden Tim Shoop says is no accident.

"These two are stand-out guys," said Shoop of the winners.

Corrections Officer of the Year

Officer Michael Comer has been in corrections for over 30 years, with a majority of his time spent on the special teams unit, which he joined a year after starting his job at RCI. He remembers seeing how mem-

bers of the group handled situations during his first year and knowing that he wanted to do the same.

"I want to be the guy they call when something goes wrong," said Comer.

He recalls one example where he was called to the office of a mental health worker who had a shank pulled on her by an incarcerated adult. Comer was able to use his training and knowledge to de-escalate the situation with his words before anyone got hurt.

In his time at the institution, Comer has worked all around the facility, ensuring the safety of his peers and those who are incarcerated. While at work, he said he is consciously trying to make a positive impact, no matter the size, in the lives of those he interacts with.

This is the second time Comer has received the Officer of the Year recognition from RCI, the first being in 2016. Knowing how many hardworking people there are at RCI, Comer said he was surprised to win again, but he is still honored to have been chosen.

See RCI, Page 2A

Wexner gives testimony about Epstein to committee

Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

New Albany billionaire Les Wexner testified to a congressional committee from his New Albany home for nearly five hours on Feb. 18 about his relationship with disgraced and now deceased financier Jeffrey Epstein.

More Inside

Gov. Dewine says relation between Epstein and Wexner an 'old story', 2A

Epstein, a convicted sex offender, died in 2019 in what New York City's chief medical examiner ruled a suicide in a New York jail cell awaiting trial on child sex trafficking charges. He was Wexner's former financial adviser, and the two had a close relationship for years.

The House Committee on Over-

sight and Government Reform released its full deposition video of Wexner on Feb. 19.

A spokesperson for Wexner declined to comment for this story.

Here are key takeaways from the interview with the committee.

Wexner answers questions about Ohio State OB-GYN Mark Landon

Wexner told questioners that he was not aware of payments made to Dr. Mark Landon, an OB-GYN at Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and who documents show was being paid by Epstein.

See WEXNER, Page 3A



The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform released its full deposition video of Les Wexner. PROVIDED BY THE HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to [chillicotheGazette.com/enewspaper](https://chillicothe Gazette.com/enewspaper) or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 225 | No. 307
Subscribe 660-240-9710
©2026 \$2.00

