



High school football: Looking ahead to Week 8

SPORTS, 9A

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Gary Siders Sr. appears for a competency hearing in Vinton County Common Pleas Court Sept. 9 in McArthur. The hearing was held in Laina Featheroff Rogers courtroom. DORAL CHENOWETH/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Child abuse case against grandfather dismissed

Bethany Bruner
Newark Advocate
USA TODAY NETWORK

The criminal case against the grandfather of 16 children found living in a Vinton County home will not move forward. In an Oct. 6 entry, Vinton County Common Pleas Judge Laina Fetherolf Rogers said charges against Gary Siders

Sr., 73, have been dismissed. Siders appeared in court Sept. 9 to discuss a psychological evaluation done in his case. At that time, the attorneys agreed Siders was not mentally competent to stand trial. Siders faced 10 felony and six misdemeanor charges of endangering children. The Oct. 6 court record says the case is dismissed without prejudice, meaning it

could be refiled at a later date. That is unlikely given what Siders' attorney has described as his mental state. Dorian Baum said his client is unable to directly answer questions, has memory issues and has not been able to grasp the circumstances of his charges. The record says the court will keep

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Data center plan draws noise concerns

Shelby Reeves
Chillicothe Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

As Chillicothe continues to discuss the proposed data center, which is planning on moving it into the former paper mill, one concern that is brought up time and time again is the noise level. How loud will this data center be? Will it disrupt downtown activities or annoy nearby homeowners? David Stanfill with Alignment Engine says it won't. In a public presentation, Stanfill said the anticipated noise level from the chillers at the data mill, when measured at the fence line, will be around 39.4 dB, which is less than the 78 dB from the legacy mill and less than the current noise level at the fence line today, around 55.4 dB. The low noise level means many won't even notice a difference once the data center is built, but all the talk around noise levels has many wondering what a decibel even is and what the levels are at other sites around the city. We tested these places to find out. Take a look at decibel levels found at various places in Chillicothe:

- Library: 44.5 dB
- Busy coffee shop: 58.6 dB
- Yoctangee Park: 47.2 dB
- Bridge Street Bridge: 69.4 dB

For football fans, BetMGM ranked the top 15 loudest college football stadiums and Ohio Stadium, home of the Ohio State Buckeyes, reached number 14 at a peak of 112 dB. That is almost as loud as a jet takeoff. According to the CDC, noise-induced hearing loss can be caused by sounds at around 85 dB or more, which is why it is recommended to wear hearing protection around equipment that can produce such levels.

Voter ID amendment added to November ballot

Haley BeMiller
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Ohio voters will soon decide whether they support requiring a photo ID at the polls. If that idea sounds familiar, it's because it's already state law. Ohio's GOP-controlled Legislature voted in June to place the proposed constitutional amendment, known as Issue 3, on the Nov. 3 ballot. It's the only statewide issue before Ohioans in the upcoming election, along with key races for governor and U.S. Senate. Here's what you need to know about Issue 3.

What is Ohio Issue 3?

Simply put, Issue 3 would enshrine the state's voter ID policy in the Ohio Constitution. Ohio requires voters who cast in-person ballots to present a photo ID, with exceptions for people who have a religious objection to being photographed. It can be an unexpired Ohio driver's

license or state ID, U.S. passport, U.S. military ID, Ohio National Guard ID or an ID issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs. University IDs and out-of-state driver's licenses aren't accepted. The ballot measure reinforces all of those rules. It also allows lawmakers to decide whether to require photo ID for mail-in voting. Right now, absentee voters can provide their driver's license number or the last four digits of their Social Security number in lieu of a photo ID.

What does the ballot language say?

You can read the ballot language, explanation of the issue and arguments for and against it on the Ohio secretary of state's website.

What does this mean for Ohio voters?

Not much. Since the photo ID requirement is current law, Issue 3 won't change the voter experience – regard-

less of whether it passes or fails.

Why is this on the November ballot?

GOP lawmakers quickly passed the ballot measure at the urging of their gubernatorial candidate, Vivek Ramaswamy. Proponents say it will strengthen Ohio's election system and make it harder to roll back voter ID rules down the road. The Nov. 3 vote comes as President Donald Trump, Ohio Sen. Jon Husted and other Republicans push to require photo ID nationwide. "Should we know in this country who's coming to the polls to vote?" Husted told reporters at an Issue 3 rally in August. "I think we should. I think we should verify that to make sure that we know that fraud isn't happening in our system." Democrats contend Issue 3 is unnecessary and accuse Republicans of using it to distract from other issues, such as the cost of living and high gas prices. State Rep. Allison Russo, D-Upper Arlington, a candidate for secretary of state, said Issue 3 could make it more difficult for Ohio to adapt voting laws as

new forms of identification become available. "This is purely political," Russo said. "It is a bad way to make election law."

Who backs Issue 3? Who opposes it?

Ohio Republicans appear united around Issue 3, which got a shoutout from Trump during his Oct. 3 rally near Dayton. "This is your chance to stop Democrat cheaters, fraudsters and defend Ohio elections for your children and for your grandchildren," he told supporters. Democrats largely oppose the measure, although gubernatorial candidate Amy Acton said she'll support it. Former Sen. Sherrod Brown, who's running against Husted, said Ohio already has secure elections "with no sign of fraud and corruption." A recent Suffolk University/USA TODAY Ohio Network poll found 61% of likely voters support the amendment. State government reporter Haley BeMiller can be reached at hbemiller@usatodayco.com or @haleybemiller on X.

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