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SEPT. 11. A3

AFTER KIRK KILLING,
AMERICANS AGREE ON
ONE THING: SOMETHING
IS SERIOUSLY WRONG. B2

OSU PULLS
AWAY IN
2ND HALF
TO BEAT
OHIO. C1

CONTINUING COVERAGE

TOP STATE STORY

Commissioners aim to
find property tax breaks

Butler County commissioners are looking into how to best provide tax relief to locals. One reform the commissioners are considering is the so-called “piggyback” property tax provision. FILE

Commissioners express doubt that state will deliver relief.

By Denise G. Callahan
Contributing Writer

Butler County commissioners say since the state seems unable to pass meaningful property tax relief, they must.

The majority of the board is poised to pass some form of tax breaks.

Commissioners Cindy Carpenter and Don Dixon this week said they are in favor of providing some form of property tax relief to taxpayers, the question is how much.

“It’s obvious the state’s not going to do anything,” Dixon said and later added. “We’ve been doing kind of a balancing act trying to wait to see what the state would do, they promised and promised and promised, now they set up this new committee and they have done nothing, so we have to do it ourselves.”

Commissioner T.C. Rogers was non-committal, saying he’s “thinking about it” and told the Journal-News “it sets a precedent.” He also noted the governor’s property tax working group has until Sept. 30 to offer reform recommendations and he wants to see what they offer.

What can be done

The board is considering adopting the only property tax reform measure in the biennium budget Gov. Mike DeWine didn’t veto, the so-called “piggyback” property tax provision. It gives county commissioners the authority

to essentially double the state-funded Homestead exemptions and 2.5% owner-occupancy credits for eligible property owners using local dollars.

The Homestead exemption shields the first \$28,000 of a property’s value from taxation and the homeowner must be at least 65 years old or permanently and totally disabled. The income threshold is \$40,000.

If the commissioners went this

route, it would cost \$16 million combined for the Homestead and 2.5% rollbacks. The schools – they receive the bulk of property taxes – would take the biggest hit at \$10.4 million, the county \$2.1 million, the townships nearly \$1.5 million and the remainder would be withheld from cities, villages, libraries, parks and vocational schools.

County Administrator Judi Boyko gave the commissioners

another option. She said they could also forego collecting a portion of their inside millage – which totals roughly \$25 million – that came as a result of the average 37% value hike last year.

It would save countywide taxpayers around \$6.5 million.

She said based on the average countywide home value of \$250,000, homeowners would

Tax continued on A4

Most Ohio nonprofits at risk due to cuts in funding

Around 72% of nonprofits in Ohio rely on federal funds.

By Sydney Dawes and Samantha Wildow
Staff Writer

As the Trump administration continues its goal to cut down government spending, it’s unclear what funding will or won’t be available to nonprofits over the next few years.

But federal restructuring and cuts in 2025 have already been felt locally. Federal staff of a program that help seniors pay for heat and air-conditioning have been eliminated, funding for public media outlets has been clawed back and more.

Without government grants, roughly 72% of Ohio nonprofits would be at risk of operating at a loss, according to an analysis by the Urban Institute.

Ohio nonprofits receive an estimated \$8 billion in government grants, with nonprofits in Hamilton, Cuyahoga and Franklin counties receiving the most government funding, according to the Urban Institute.

The Urban Institute found that most nonprofits that receive government grants “don’t have a large enough operating surplus to weather the removal of these funds.

“A prolonged pause or loss of government funding to

Funding continued on A4

TOP NATIONAL STORY

Millions are facing skyrocketing health insurance costs

Democrats threaten shutdown if GOP doesn’t extend expiring tax credits.

By Mary Clare Jalonick and Amanda Seitz
Associated Press

WASHINGTON – There’s bipartisan support in Congress for extending tax credits that have made health insurance more affordable

for millions of people since the COVID-19 pandemic. But the credits are in danger of expiring as Republicans and Democrats clash over how to do it.

Democrats are threatening to vote to shut down the government at the end of the month if Republicans don’t extend the subsidies, which were first put in place in 2021 and extended a year later when they controlled Congress and the White House.

The tax credits, which are

slated to expire at the end of the year, go to low- and middle-income people who purchase health insurance through the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Some Republicans who have opposed the health care law since it was enacted under President Barack Obama are suddenly open to keeping the tax credits. They acknowledge that many of their constituents could see steep hikes in coverage if the subsidies are allowed

to lapse.

Still, the two sides are far apart. Republicans are divided, with many firmly opposed. GOP leaders in the House and Senate have been open but noncommittal on the extension, and many of those Republicans who say they support it argue that the tax credits should be reworked – potentially opening up a new health care debate that could take months to resolve.

Democrats would be

unlikely to agree to any changes in the subsidies, increasing the chances of a standoff and mounting uncertainty for health insurers, hospitals, state governments and the people who receive them.

“In just a few weeks, unless Congress acts, millions of Americans will start getting letters in the mail telling them their health insurance costs are about to go through the roof – hundreds of dollars, thousands in some

cases,” Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said this past week.

Higher health insurance rates

Enrollment in ACA plans has surged to a record 24 million people in large part due to the billions of dollars in subsidies that have lowered costs for many people. The expanded subsidies

Insurance continued on A4

THE LATEST

Court OKs ending legal protection for over 400K migrants. B1

Trump administration to fund research into vaccines, autism. B2

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