



# Bill Belichick baffled as North Carolina’s losses mount

SPORTS, 9A

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Isabella Busey was named the 2025 Fairfield County Fair Queen at the Junior Fair Panorama on Oct. 4, at the fairgrounds. TONYA SHIPLEY/LANCASTER EAGLE-GAZETTE

# Isabella Busey crowned 2025 Junior Fair Queen

**Tonya Shipley**  
Lancaster Eagle-Gazette  
USA TODAY NETWORK

LANCASTER – Growing up, Isabella Busey remembered seeing the Fairfield County Junior Fair queens and attendants appearing at events around the fairgrounds. She would beg her mom to let her attend those events so she could see these young women she idolized.

With those thoughts in her mind, Busey couldn’t keep the tears back after her name was announced as the 2025 Fairfield County Fair Queen on Oct. 4, 2025, at the Junior Fair Panorama.

“Honestly, it was straight tears,”

said Busey after her win. “I could not believe that I just got crowned.”

Busey will succeed the 2024 queen, Sophia Preston.

The Panorama, held the night before the official opening of the 175th Fairfield County Fair, included not only the queen’s contest, but the honoring of other 4-H members and the bestowal of the Friend of the Junior Fair award.

**Fulfilling a dream**

Nine queen finalists were chosen to compete prior to the Panorama. One by one, they took the stage and answered a single question. Busey’s question: “What would it mean to you to be the

Fairfield County Junior Fair Queen?”

“I get to be the leader and the role model that I looked up to growing up at the Fairfield County Fair,” Busey said as part of her answer.

Busey, 16, is the daughter of Jocelyn Busey. She attends Canal Winchester High School and is a member of the Lithopolis Livestock 4-H Club.

Her mother, Jocelyn, was 1st attendant twice when she was in 4-H, so to see her daughter become queen made her feel proud. She was also one of the first on the stage to hug and congratulate her daughter.

Kaitlyn Stonerock, the daughter of Eileen and John Stonerock, was

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# Property tax veto overridden by Senate

**Haley BeMiller and Jessie Balmert**  
Enquirer Statehouse Bureau  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohio will eliminate two types of property tax levies that schools and local governments use to raise money.

The Ohio Senate voted 21-11 on Oct. 1 to reinstate a budget provision to get rid of replacement and emergency levies. Gov. Mike DeWine vetoed that proposal and other property tax measures in the two-year state budget and convened a working group to study the issue.

The Ohio House voted in July to override this veto, so the proposal can now become law.

GOP lawmakers contend scrapping these levies will promote transparency and ensure homeowners understand how their taxes will be affected. Sen. Sandra O’Brien, R-Ash-tabula, said school districts are putting emergency levies on the ballot when there’s not a true emergency.

“An emergency is an immediate danger that you have to take care of right away and it’s short-lived. Well, that’s not an emergency levy,” O’Brien said. “Our voters, they’re confused. They’re terribly confused.”

Democrats and local leaders say this will only hurt school districts without providing meaningful tax relief.

“Ohioans didn’t ask for this,” Senate Minority Leader Nickie Antonio, D-Lakewood, said. “They asked for real property tax relief, not restrictions. They wanted and deserve real property tax relief. This provision silences voters at the local level and undermines their ability to invest in their own communities.”

**What are emergency, replacement levies?**

Ohio allows schools districts and other local entities to use different kinds of levies to raise money from

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# Dogwood Pass offers spooky thrills in Beaver

**Shelby Reeves**  
Chillicothe Gazette  
USA TODAY NETWORK

BEAVER — The old wild west town of Dogwood Pass has traded in its pistols for chainsaws as it transforms into Slaughter Holler this Halloween season.

Mike Montgomery, better known as Frog, grew up on the land that is now a major tourist attraction in Pike County. His parents grew up on farms on opposite sides of the road before getting married and combining the farms. In his youth, Montgomery could often be found on a horse trail with his friends, which was filled with dogwood trees.

## Dogwood Pass

As he grew, Montgomery always dreamed of building an old saloon on the farm for him and his guests to enjoy, but it wasn’t until around 2009 that he built his first saloon by hand. From the outside facade to the interior decorations, Montgomery themed his new “man cave” after the wild west.

Just a few short years later, Montgomery used his personal space to host a benefit to help a local family. While he never intended for his creation to become a business, the public loved the saloon, and Montgomery was building

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Dressed up as the famous character Leatherface from the horror film Texas Chainsaw Massacre, Wade Brinson, the second hand man to Mike Montgomery (owner of Dogwood Pass) runs through the doors, with his chainsaw in the air, at the entrance of Slaughter Holler at Dogwood Pass haunted Halloween trail on Sept. 30 in Beaver. TY WRIGHT/CHILLICOTHE GAZETTE

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