


SCOREBOARD

Hillsdale	42	Highland	49
Black River	14	McDowell (Pa.)	10
Berea-Midpark	28	Medina	21
Brunswick.....	7	Stow	13
Buckeye	41	Wadsworth	55
Cloverleaf	0	Barberton	7

NATION

Kilmar Abrego Garcia
freed from jail, **A7**

Today's weather

HIGH: 80
LOW: 61

Sunrise: 6:45
Sunset: 8:14

THE
GAZETTE

Serving Medina County Since 1832

SATURDAY, August 23, 2025

\$3.00

BLACK RIVER BOARD OF EDUCATION TO STABILIZE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Salaries increased for staffing

Sara Crawford
The Gazette

SULLIVAN TWP. — In an effort to stabilize the school district, the Black River Board of Education approved several resolutions on Thursday night, which adjusted the salaries for teachers, the superintendent and the treasurer.

During Thursday's meeting, Black River board President Chuck Stiver

said the board has routinely discussed stabilization. He said that for several years, the district has struggled with its finances and undergone several changes to its administration, leading to the instability.

"As your elected representative on the school board, it's my responsibility and the rest of the board's responsibility to stabilize," Stiver said.

The board adopted a memoran-

dum of understanding with the Black River Teachers Association, which affects certain provisions of the collective bargaining agreement that runs through June 30, 2027.

According to the passed resolution, the memorandum of understanding contains changes to the terms and conditions of the 2026-27 salary schedule, increasing the salary by 4.687 percent.

As the board discussed the resolution, Black River Superintendent Anthony Stretar said the raise for teachers plays into his mantra for the school district.

"The mantra is right-size our staff, compensate our staff better and continue to increase opportunities for the students," Stretar said. "That's the formula we are working and living by."

With the approved raises, Stretar

said it helps get the ball rolling in the right direction. He believes there hasn't been a raise like that in more than 25 years.

Stretar said the district understands that to attract and retain teachers, it must increase pay and improve working conditions and quality of life within the district.

See **SALARIES**, A2

MEDINA COUNTY SENIOR AND ADULT SERVICES

Picnic ends with a luau



MADISYN WOODRING / GAZETTE

Medina County seniors participate in a luau at Medina County Senior and Adult Services on Friday.

Madisyn Woodring
The Gazette

MEDINA — Medina County seniors dressed in Hawaiian shirts and leis to celebrate the end of summer during a luau held by Medina County Senior and Adult Services on Friday.

The luau concluded the agency's picnic at the patio program for the year. Director Laura Toth said the agency hosted six picnics outside over the course of the summer, and the program went well this year.

Friday's picnic featured chicken breast, sweet potato casserole, cold

salads and cheesecake while musician Scott Sopata performed on guitar and the steel drums for those in attendance. Deputies from the Medina County Sheriff's Office later handed out ice cream and popsicles from the Medina County Police Activities League ice cream truck.

See **LUAU**, A2

PUBLIC SCHOOL RANKING

Report says
Highland High
leads county

Madisyn Woodring
The Gazette

Highland High School received the highest placement among Medina County high schools in a recent ranking by U.S. News & World Report.

The ranking was conducted in coordination with social science research firm RTI International. Nearly 18,000 public high schools were ranked out of the more than 24,000 schools that were reviewed.

"The highest ranked U.S. public schools in U.S. News & World Report's 2025-2026 Best High Schools rankings are those whose students demonstrated outstanding outcomes above expectations in math, reading and science state assessments, earned qualifying scores on an array of col-

lege-level exams and graduated in high proportions," U.S. News & World Report stated.

Highland ranked third out of 133 high schools in the Cleveland Metro Area. It was also ranked 19th out of 903 high schools in the state and 580th out of around 18,000 high schools in the country.

"Highland students continue to perform and excel at the highest levels," Highland Superintendent Catherine Aukerman said. "Being recognized as one of the top high schools in the state of Ohio and at the national level reflects the strong commitment and dedication of our outstanding staff members, students and families to education."

See **HIGHLAND**, A2

"Being recognized as one of the top high schools in the state of Ohio and at the national level reflects the strong commitment and dedication of our outstanding staff members, students and families to education."

Highland Superintendent Catherine Aukerman

Medina's Acme celebrated with ribbon-cutting

Sara Crawford
The Gazette

MEDINA — Medina's newest grocery store, Acme Fresh Market, received an official welcome on Friday as city and state officials gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Medina's Acme Fresh Market, 1225 S. Court St., opened its doors on

Aug. 7.

Throughout the planning and construction phases, city officials said the new store would serve residents living south of Medina's square, as most grocery stores are located north.

During Friday's ribbon-cutting, Medina County Economic Development Corporation Executive Direc-

tor Bethany Dentler recalled that she attended the first public planning meeting for the store about 18 years ago. Since then, she has often asked when the project would move forward.

Dentler said she lives just a few minutes from the new Acme location. "From a personal perspective, I'm

thrilled that they're here, but also as the county, to see this part of the county and have these amenities," Dentler said. "I think it's going to be a great store — very successful — and we're thrilled to be part of it."

Medina Economic Development Director Kimberly Marshall said that when the city talked with the Albrecht

family about Acme a couple of years ago, they set a deadline.

Medina Mayor Dennis Hanwell will finish his final term in office in December. As he approached the date, he set several goals to complete, including the opening of Acme.

See **ACME**, A2



WWW.MEDINA-GAZETTE.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/MEDINAGAZETTE

INDEX

ACCENT A5-6
BUSINESS..... B5

CLASSIFIEDS B8
COMICS B6-7

OBITUARIES..... A8
OPINION..... A3

RELIGION A4
SPORTS B1-3



We're within crawling distance.

Now at 3778 Medina Road, Medina



Akron Children's