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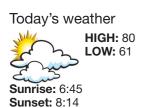
Kilmar Abrego Garcia freed from jail, A7

THE WEEKLY ROUNDUP OF HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL ACTION, SECTION C

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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

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

said the board has routinely discussed dum of understanding with the Black 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.

the school board, it's my responsibility and the rest of the board's responsibility to stabilize," Stiver said.

The board adopted a memoran-

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

According to the passed resolution, "As your elected representative on 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



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.

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 Friday's picnic featured chicken 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 133 high schools in the Cleveschools in a recent ranking by land Metro Area. It was also U.S. News & World Report.

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 members, students and famiassessments, 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 ranked 19th out of 903 high The ranking was conducted 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

lies 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.

S. Court St., opened its doors on ment Corporation Executive Direc-

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's Acme Fresh Market, 1225 Medina County Economic Develop-

meeting for the store about 18 years ago. Since then, she has often asked when the project would move for-

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

tor Bethany Dentler recalled that she thrilled that they're here, but also family about Acme a couple of years attended the first public planning 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

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



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ACCENT **A5-6** BUSINESS......**B5**

CLASSIFIEDS B8 COMICS **B6-7**

OBITUARIES......A8

RELIGION A4 SPORTS **B1-3**



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