

FOOTBALL

Buckeye, Rocky River to play for share of CWC championship, **C1**

BUSINESS & POLITICS

Shutdown causing havoc in aviation industry, **B2**

Today's weather



HIGH: 66
LOW: 50

Sunrise: 7:42
Sunset: 6:43

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NEXT STEP UP EMERGENCY SHELTER

Brunswick considers funding

Madisyn Woodring
The Gazette

BRUNSWICK — The city is considering providing funding for the county's emergency shelter, Next Step Up, to help the shelter continue operating next year.

Medina Metropolitan Housing Authority Executive Director Skip Sipos gave a presentation about the shelter to Brunswick City Council on Tuesday.

Next Step Up opened in February in Medina. He said guests live communally in the men's room, women's

room and family room, and there are 27 beds and two cribs.

"Since Feb. 28 through Sept. 30, 141 guests have entered the shelter," Sipos said. "Of those, 15 have been children and seven (have been) veterans, and we have welcomed six canines and two felines. Pets are often a barrier for

folks accepting shelter, so our shelter is the only one in Ohio that does that."

Households can comprise one person or multiple people, he said. Since February, 19 households have left the shelter and entered into lease agreements, and 35 more households have found alternative housing with

family and friends.

Also, three veterans received Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers, which allowed them to gain permanent housing, Sipos said. While in the shelter, 22 people secured employment.

See **SHELTER, A2**

MEDINA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Native plant seeds gathered



PATRICK RHONEMUS / GAZETTE

Kellie Docherty, Medina Soil and Water Conservation District conservation educator, right, helps a volunteer identify native plants during the seed collection event on Thursday.

Patrick Rhonemus
The Gazette

LAFAYETTE TWP. — On Thursday, volunteers gathered at the Medina Soil and Water Conservation District to collect seeds from native plants.

The native seed collection event was hosted in conjunction with the Medina County Park District, Medina Soil and Water Conservation District, and Wild Ones, a nonprofit organization that promotes and teaches the benefits of native plants.

Thursday's program was led by Kellie Docherty, the conservation educator at the conservation district, and park district natural resource manager Travis Morton.

See **SEEDS, A2**

SPENCER TOWNSHIP

Three run for 2 trustee seats

Sara Crawford
The Gazette

SPENCER TWP. — Three candidates are running for two spots on the Spencer Township board of trustees in the November election, including incumbent Gary Flegel and challengers Jon Brietkrenz and Mike Clifford. Brietkrenz did not respond to several attempts to reach him.

What makes me the best candidate?

Clifford: I am a third-generation Spencer on both sides of my family. I have worked for 41 years for a family business in Spencer that my grandfa-

ther started in Spencer in the 1930s. I will continue to support Spencer and Black River organizations. I will listen to residents, work together and make decisions that put families first to maintain our rural community. I have a strong work ethic that brings honesty, dedication, integrity and a practical approach to problem solving. My construction and work experience will help Spencer make sound financial decisions regarding buildings, equipment, roads, zoning and the cemetery.

See **SPENCER, A2**

MEDINA TOWNSHIP

Four run for 2 trustee seats

Sara Crawford
The Gazette

MEDINA TWP. — Four candidates are running for two spots on the Medina Township board of trustees in the November election, including incumbents Bruce Christopher and Doug Eastwood, as well as challengers JoAnn Berkowitz and Mike Stopa.

What makes you the best candidate for the position?

Berkowitz: Given the narrow passage of the 2.5-mill levy, it is essential to prioritize inclusion and transparency to fully engage residents and ensure they are well-informed about trustee board actions. The responsibilities outlined on the ballot require someone with the skills and experience to accomplish these goals effectively and to collaborate and communicate for optimal outcomes. I have demon-

strated these capabilities. As a teacher, principal, school district administrator, business owner and longtime Medina resident, I know how to solve problems with people — not for them.

Christopher: My work experience in the industry, along with the experience as a trustee, combined with my formal education, allows me to bring an excellent blend to this position to keep the township moving forward. In my first term, we had to overcome negative things said about the police and the fire department. I worked with the other trustees to ensure that over \$5,100 was repaid to the township. We overcame these hurdles. I have shown that I can and will work as a team member for the betterment of the township's residents.

See **MEDINA, A4**

MEDINA RECREATION CENTER

Grant sought to support expansion

Sara Crawford
The Gazette

MEDINA — The Medina Community Recreation Center is seeking grant funding to support the construction of a turf field house addition, which would provide addi-

tional indoor field house space for community members.

On Tuesday, Medina Parks and Recreation Director Jansen Wehrley attended both the Medina Board of Education and Medina Finance Committee meetings to discuss a capital bill grant request, which

would provide the Medina Recreation Center with a portion of the funding needed for the addition.

After the Medina Recreation Center opened its fitness room expansion in late December 2023, Wehrley said the staff began talking about what the

next big project could be.

"If we could come up with an indoor turf space that could be utilized, that would help take some of the pressure off of our field house during peak times," Wehrley said.

See **GRANT, A2**

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