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INSIDE, 3A

The

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Mass shooting trial now underway

Josué Perez
Newark Advocate
USA TODAY NETWORK

A murder trial is set to begin for a Columbus man accused of killing two people and injuring four others in a February 2025 mass shooting in New Albany. Prosecutors expect the trial of Bruce R. Foster III, 29, who police in court records allege shot and killed two people

around 10:30 p.m. Feb. 4, 2025 inside KDC/ONE, will begin Aug. 24. Foster underwent psychiatric evaluations in the past several months to determine his mental state during the shooting. Two people, Kyle Vaver, 38, and Shekhar Chapagai, 30, died in the shooting, and the four other victims suffered injuries but survived. The facility sits in the Licking County part of New Albany.

It will be a bench trial, meaning there will be no jury and Licking County Common Pleas Judge David Branstool will deliver a verdict. Prosecutors expect the trial will last a week. Foster faces four charges each of aggravated murder and murder, with two of each charge alleging he killed someone while committing another crime. He also faces two counts each of attempted murder and aggravated burglary, six

counts of felonious assault and one count of inducing panic. In May 2025, he pleaded not guilty due to his mental state. The trial will largely revolve around whether Foster knew his actions during the shooting were wrong, Licking County Assistant Prosecutor Tyler McCoy told The Advocate.

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ACES OF TRADES



Amanda Swick, with her dog, Leroy, is the veterinary science instructor at the Career & Technology Education Centers of Licking County. KURT SNYDER/THE ADVOCATE

Woman helps students in veterinary medicine

Drew Bracken
Special to Newark Advocate
USA TODAY NETWORK

NEWARK – Preparing the next generation motivates her. “As a kid, I was very involved in 4-H and spent much of my childhood showing horses,” Amanda Swick said. “I started in western pleasure and eventually moved into barrel racing. Horses

have always been my biggest passion. “I also loved camping, fishing and going to the fair,” she said. “I just loved being outside and spending time with animals. If there was an animal that needed cared for, you could usually find me trying to help it. I always had a passion for caring for animals.” Today, Swick is the veterinary science instructor at the Career & Technology Education Centers of Licking County. “I teach both junior and senior students interested in pursuing careers in veterinary medicine,” she said. “My students learn topics including animal behavior, anatomy, diseases, medical terminology, laboratory procedures, surgical assisting, animal restraint and patient care for both small and large animals.

See SWICK, Page 2A

Buckeye Lake sees bad flooding, displacing residents

Josué Perez
Newark Advocate
USA TODAY NETWORK

Buckeye Lake saw record flooding that closed a portion of Interstate 70 and prompted evacuation efforts in several areas of the village. That includes along Walnut Road, which had multiple feet of water in certain areas, nearly engulfing the KOA campground and nearby homes. Overnight heavy rains Aug. 20 caused flash flooding in several Licking County areas, and Buckeye Lake reached major flooding levels, according to the National Weather Service. The South Fork Licking River runs through Buckeye Lake, and it crested at 882.82 feet at 9:30 a.m. Aug. 21, just short of setting the 882.9 feet record set in March 2020. The weather service forecasted the river would again crest near the record with 882.8 feet around 2 p.m. Aug. 21, before gradually receding over the weekend. The water flooded basements in several people’s homes, including Myra Mills’ along Walnut Road. She and her family scrambled to collect their belongings before water began to rush in Aug. 20, and they wanted to wait out the flooding until Buckeye Lake police told them they needed to evacuate. “I was cool until they told me we had to leave, and then I started crying,” Mills said. “You don’t know what we’re going to expect because our basement

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