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The News - Messenger

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohio to roll out Next Gen 911 statewide

Laura A. Bischoff
State Bureau | USA TODAY NETWORK

Within five years, all 215 emergency dispatch centers across Ohio will upgrade to Next Generation 911, including 15 more counties this year.

This is good news for anyone using a cell phone to call for emergency help.

"It will get help to them faster because the geolocation information gets their calls routed to the right

place the first time, at the outset, and allows the first responders to pinpoint exactly where the emergency is," said Angela Canepa, who leads first responder communication initiatives for the Ohio Department of Administrative Services.

Older 911 systems can't receive text messages or photos and can't pinpoint a cell phone caller's location. This leads to time-consuming delays as callers are transferred to the right dispatch center, often requiring them to repeat what they told the previous dispatcher.

Next Generation 911 more precisely locates callers so they're more likely to start with the correct dispatch center. And if dispatchers do have to transfer a call, it can be done with one button, not a 10-digit phone number. Text messages, photos and eventually videos can be shared with the dispatch centers.

"There is so much time wasted trying to find boats on a lake, cars on a highway, a place in a building, you

See NEXT GEN 911, Page 2A



Ronnie Gillespie, wearing blue and white, had a very good day with Whats Shakin. They handily won race 5, the Three-Year-Old Colt Trot, with a 2-minute race. PHOTOS BY ROGER LAPOINTE/NEWS HERALD

Harness racing almost breaks record at fair

Roger LaPointe
Port Clinton News Herald | USA TODAY NETWORK

OAK HARBOR – Harness racing had a good day at the 61st Annual Ottawa County Fair, with a track record almost broken in a clear win.

The weather was warm on Monday, July 14, hitting the upper 80s with clear skies and a dry, dusty track. Announcers were screaming as Whats Shakin pulled away from all the other horses. That lead con-

tinued to grow as an Ottawa County Fair track record was almost broken.

Ronnie Gillespie, wearing blue and white, had a very good day with Whats Shakin. They handily won race 5, the Three-Year-Old Colt Trot, with a 2-minute race.

The Three-Year-Old Colt Trot record is 1:59, set by Grover Hill in 2024.

rlapointe@gannett.com
419-332-2674



Ronnie Gillespie, wearing blue and white, had a very good day with Whats Shakin. They handily won race 5, the Three-Year-Old Colt Trot, with a 2-minute race.

SB 1 gives Ohio college trustees more power

Sheridan Hendrix
Columbus Dispatch | USA TODAY NETWORK

Nearly two dozen trustees will soon begin the academic year as the newest board members of Ohio's public universities at the same time a sweeping new higher education law strengthened university trustees' roles at their institutions.

Each of Ohio's 14 public universities and 23 community colleges has its own boards of trustees. Trustees are appointed by the governor and charged by the state legislature with the responsibility of governing their respective school, from setting tuition prices to hiring new presidents. Each school has between nine and 15 trustees, all of whom are unpaid.

Gov. Mike DeWine's office announced 21 new trustee appointments this summer, most of whom were announced on the same day that Senate Bill 1 officially went into effect.

What changes does Senate Bill 1 make to university trustees?

SB 1, formally known as the Advance Ohio Higher Education Act, is a massive overhaul of the state's higher education ecosystem. The new law, among other things, bans diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programs on campus, bans faculty strikes, limits the power of tenure among university educators and prevents higher education institutions from taking positions on "controversial beliefs or policies."

It also gives trustees significantly more control over certain university operations.

Trustees are now tasked with creating new university policies, like prohibiting campus offices related to DEI and requiring that courses "demonstrate intellectual diversity" before approval.

Trustees will be responsible for eliminating low-enrollment academic programs, as well as adopting an annual performance evaluation and post-tenure review policies for faculty members. Boards need to approve a plan for university's to create a newly required course on American civic literacy.

SB 1 also shortens university trustees' terms from

See SB 1, Page 2A

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