

# SPRINGFIELD NEWS-SUN

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OSU, OU TO  
BE RIVALS  
ON FIELD,  
BANDMATES  
AT HALF. **A2**



**BURROW HOPING  
TO GET OFFENSE  
BACK ON TRACK VS.  
JACKSONVILLE. **D1****

**HOUSEHOLD  
INCOME ROSE  
SLIGHTLY  
LAST YEAR  
IN U.S. **B1****

## CLOSER LOOK

# Coffee drinkers could get a jolt in their wallets

Local brew shops dealing with the impacts of tariffs.

By **Michael Kurtz**  
Staff Writer

If you're not already, don't be surprised to pay a little bit more for your morning cup of coffee as local businesses deal with the impact of the latest round of tariffs that went into effect last month.

There is a 50% tariff on products imported from Brazil, the largest supplier of coffee to the United States. Wilson Reiser, CEO of Piqua-based Winans Coffee & Chocolate, said his company hasn't yet increased prices to consumers as a direct result of his increased production costs, opting instead to absorb the cost in Winans' bottom line.

"I think we're doing what most companies are doing," Reiser said. "We're eating it. We're waiting."

### Balancing costs with customers' needs

Coffee accounts for half of Winans' manufacturing business, Reiser said.

The tariffs have been "an incredible hit" to the coffee portion of his business, Reiser said, but he's more concerned about the growing fatigue of consumers who have watched prices trickle up.

The price of a pound of Arabica coffee is up 40% to 60% on commodity markets since Jan. 1 due to a combination of factors, including weather, supply chain costs and tariffs, according to Trading Economics, which fol-



A clerk works with displays at Poppets Coffee & Tea at 2nd Street Market in Dayton. Poppets is planning to open a store Oct. 13 in spite of tariff uncertainty. **MICHAEL KURTZ / STAFF**

lows economic indicators and commodity prices. Brazil accounts for 40% of the world supply of Arabica beans, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Suppliers and retailers that have announced coffee price increases due to tariffs include J.M. Smucker Company, which makes Folgers, as well as Walmart, Costco and Target.

Reiser said he's reluctant to follow suit with short-term fixes like price increases since the company

plans to grow in the long term.

"What we really want to do is maintain our customer base. We don't want to erode consumer confidence," he said.

It's a tricky dance for local businesses who have to balance their operating costs while keeping the people who buy their products and services from going elsewhere.

Companies are also trying to plan for their futures without having all the facts.

"The tariff policy discussion is creating uncertainty about the future," said Chris Kershner, president and CEO of the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce. "It is hard for businesses to plan for sales six months from now if they don't have confidence in their costs. Dayton area businesses are extremely adaptable, and they will adjust when they have cost certainty."

**Coffee continued on A8**

## CLOSER LOOK

# Legal pot makes hiring harder

Attorney says companies should have a clear policy.

By **Brooke Spurlock**  
Staff Writer

Medical and recreational marijuana being legalized in Ohio has caused an increase in positive drug tests, making recruitment and retention harder for employers and their drug-free workplace policies, local attorneys say.

Attorney Randall Comer, of Martin, Browne, Hull & Harper, spoke about marijuana in the workplace at the recent Springfield Safety Council meeting.

Comer, a main partner at the law firm, built his career in general defense litigation with a focus on employment law, workers' compensation and contract disputes, and is an Ohio Supreme Court trained mediator for a wide range of legal disputes, according to Doc Hayes, council chairman, who introduced Comer.

There are four states in the U.S. where marijuana is still illegal, including Idaho, Wyoming, Kansas and South Carolina, Comer said. Every other state has some form of legality, such as CBD only, which stands for cannabidiol and is a non-impairing compound found in cannabis.

**Drugs continued on A8**

### TOP NATIONAL STORY

# A college campus, a fiery speaker – and then a single gunshot

Charlie Kirk, influential conservative activist, shot, killed in Utah.

By **Gene Johnson**  
and **Hannah Schoenbaum**  
Associated Press

OREM, Utah – Just weeks into the fall semester, a crowd gathered around a white canopy on a grassy college courtyard. They were eager to hear what the speaker beneath it had to say. It was a typical university scene, with its promise of

the exchange of ideas and debate, except in one way: its size.

This speaker was Charlie Kirk, one of the most influential voices in President Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" movement, and the event Wednesday at Utah Valley University drew more than 3,000 people. Backpack-toting students watched from surrounding buildings as Kirk, wearing a white T-shirt that said "Freedom," tossed red MAGA caps, Frisbee-style, to his fans.

He took his place beneath the canopy, the slogans "The Amer-

ican Comeback" and "Prove Me Wrong" emblazoned across it. He picked up a handheld microphone and he began to address the audience.

As he answered a question about gun violence, a single shot cracked.

### Campuses were Kirk's frequent stops

Kirk, 31, a podcaster, founded the conservative youth organization Turning Point USA. He

**Kirk continued on A8**



People attend a vigil at Timpanogos Regional Hospital for Charlie Kirk, the CEO and co-founder of Turning Point USA, who was shot and killed Wednesday in Orem, Utah. **ALEX GOODLETT / AP**

**THE LATEST**

3 former FBI officials fired in purge sue, allege 'retribution.' **B2**

Zhao's 'Hamnet': something emotional this way comes. **C1**

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