



Young minds grow

Clay expands engineering lab

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Running the table

AW volleyball finishes 10-0 in NLL

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COSTUMES CUTE AND PRACTICAL FOR TOLEDO WEATHER



THE BLADE/KURT STEISS

Hospital staff members carry jellyfish umbrellas during an event at ProMedica Russell J. Ebeid Children's Hospital in Toledo on Thursday. Despite the dreary day, guests in costumes watched Toledo SWAT officers dressed as heroes rappel down the building. To read more about the heroes' actions, check out the Magazine page in The Blade on Sunday. To read more about the weather, go to Page B10.

Judges call vouchers unlawful

Ohio to appeal ruling on EdChoice program

By DANNY ELDREDGE
BLADE COLUMBUS BUREAU CHIEF

COLUMBUS — Ohio's EdChoice voucher program is unconstitutional, the 10th District Court of Appeals ruled Thursday. "EdChoice, as presently structured and funded, secures with taxpayer funds a competing system of uncommon schools that is not subject to the same obligations imposed on Ohio's system of common schools," Judge David Leland wrote for the court's three-judge panel. The voucher program vi-

olates the Ohio Constitution's mandate to secure a "thorough and efficient system of common schools throughout the state," he said. Judges Kristin Boggs and Shawn Dingus concurred with Judge Leland's opinion, and the ruling affirms the holding of Franklin County Judge Jaiza Page. All four judges are Democrats. The court is staying enforcement of the judgment pending an anticipated appeal to the Ohio Supreme

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Swayne Field art gets 2nd look

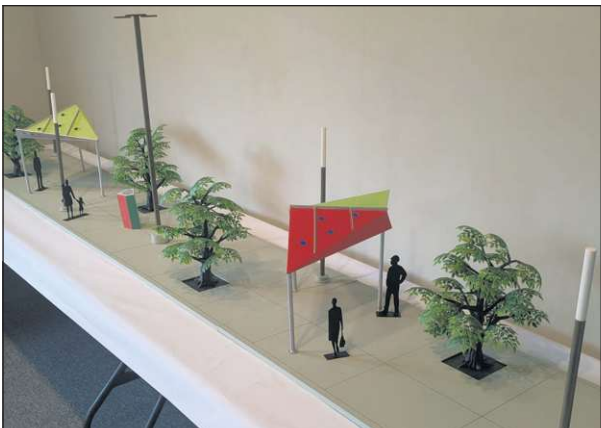
Artist to change colors over concerns of racist imagery

By SHEILA HOWARD
BLADE STAFF WRITER

A Toledo City Council member has raised questions about a rendering of the proposed Swayne Field artwork, saying its colors evoke watermelon imagery, which has a painful history as a racially demeaning stereotype of Black people.

Designed by Blissfield, Mich.-based artist Ken Thompson, the installation would feature two canopy structures in the site's median, serving as both shelter and artwork.

The renderings show red-and-green canopies with blue acrylic panels that some viewers said resemble watermelon seeds, raising concerns that the imagery could be upsetting



THE ARTS COMMISSION

The proposed Swayne Field art installation has drawn concern from people who say it resembles watermelon, evoking racist stereotypes.

for residents of Toledo's Englewood, a richly Black neighborhood. "That's what it looked like when I saw it — a wa-

termelon with seeds," said Councilman Cerssandra McPherson. "It's in our community. This is in a Black community. You

can't do that." The watermelon stigma has roots in racist caricatures that followed emancipation. Watermelons had been grown and sold by newly freed Black Americans, making the fruit a symbol of self-sufficiency and economic independence. Racist depictions later twisted that association into a demeaning stereotype.

"Some people may not see it ... but because that's my community, that's my history, I know that's what people will look at it and think. They were glad that

See SWAYNE, Page A12

ZELENSKY DROPS ENERGY TRUCE

Ukraine drones hit Russia oil refinery

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine attacked a Russian oil refinery Thursday, abandoning a brief truce involving energy-related targets that it said Moscow did not heed, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he felt betrayed by President Trump.

The drone strike started a fire at the refinery about 180 miles southeast of Moscow in Russia's Ryazan region, according to the Russian Defense Ministry and Ryazan Gov. Pavel Malkov. Astra online news outlet

posted what it said was a photograph of the blaze. The strike could further complicate Kyiv's relations with Trump, which have soured again in recent days amid deepening tensions between Ukraine and Washington. Mr. Zelensky said he was outraged by Russia's continuing aerial bombardment of energy infrastructure in apparent defiance of Trump's demand Sunday for both sides to halt those attacks.

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COMING SUNDAY

A local manufacturer is investing \$1 million in an expansion while preserving the family culture that has kept some employees there for decades.

AND



ALSO

Find out which high school runners emerge as the leaders in a northwest Ohio meet.

A Canadian artist has created a sculpture near the new Gordie Howe bridge that symbolizes hope and freedom across generations.

INSIDE

Weather
HI 62° LO 36°
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Requesting help

Lucas County facilities seek funding for renovations.

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Sports | Page B1

Cleveland leads

The Guardians beat the Tampa Bay Rays 3-2 in Game 3 of the American League Championship Series.

Blast to the past

Kitao Sakurai's 2026 film adaptation of the 1990s arcade game Street Fighter brings back nostalgia of the decade.

Peach Plus | Page B7

Vance touts similarities between Michigan, Ohio

V.P. rallies in Monroe for Republicans

By ALICE MOMANY
BLADE POLITICS WRITER

MONROE — Despite a longstanding rivalry between the Buckeye state and its neighbor north, Vice President JD Vance visited Monroe on Thursday for a rally that showed similar political environments between the two states.

Both Ohio and Michigan are considered battleground states for the U.S. Senate, where Republi-

cans look to hold on to one seat and flip the other.

Mr. Vance is crisscrossing the country, holding midterm rallies to energize Republicans and encourage them to vote in a competitive election year. He campaigned with U.S. Sen. Jon Husted (R, Ohio) and Republican gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy in Lima on Oct. 9.

On Thursday, he visited

Monroe to campaign for former U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers, who is running against Democrat Abdul El-Sayed, for the seat currently held by U.S. Sen. Gary Peters (D., Mich.). Mr. Peters is not seeking re-election.

Mr. Vance also stumped for Republican gubernatorial candidate John James, who currently represents

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THE BLADE/JEREMY WADSWORTH

Vice President JD Vance speaks during a GOP midterm rally at the LevelUp Training Complex in Monroe on Thursday.

BEND, ORE.

Officials say 5 dead in school shooting

BLADE NEWS SERVICES

BEND, Ore. — A 16-year-old opened fire at an elementary school in Bend, Ore., on Thursday, killing three children and a teacher before he was shot by a person at the scene who pursued him into the school, authorities said.

Authorities found the suspect dead inside the school minutes after the shooting was first reported, Bend Police Chief Mike Krantz said.

The three children killed were aged 5, 8, and 11. Another child, 7, and a teacher, 54, were injured and taken to a hospital in critical condition, Chief Krantz said.

The attacker, identified as a Bend resident, forced his way into the school by shooting at locked doors, police said. He was shot and went down inside the school shortly after officers arrived, police spokesman Sheila Miller said.

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