



2021 ATHENS COUNTY FAIR

Check pages B2-B4 for results and photos



BULLDOGS FALL TO TIGERS

Circleville tops Athens, 2-1

Page B1

The Athens Messenger

Recording History is our Legacy

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3 THINGS TO KNOW

1 Athens County in Ida's path

The remnants of Hurricane Ida will be making its way into the area starting on Tuesday. Periods of moderate to heavy rainfall is expected, leading to local rises in creeks and streams as well as instances of flash flooding. A flash flood watch will be in effect starting on Tuesday afternoon as two to four inches of rain is expected, with locally higher amounts of up to six inches possible.

2 Local school district hiring

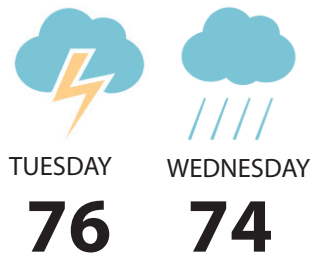
The Athens City School District is hiring permanent bus drivers based on proper paperwork with the starting pay of \$17.43 per hour including benefits. Please contact Sharon Ervin, Transportation Director at 740-797-4128 for more details.

The school district is also accepting and hiring substitute employees in the following areas, bus drivers, cafeteria, custodial, paraprofessionals and teachers. For more information on these positions please call the district office at 740-797-4544.

3 OhioHealth changes to visitor policy

Following the recent community surge of COVID-19 cases, OhioHealth announced that patients will be allowed to designate a single visitor for inpatient for the duration of their stay starting Aug. 31. Patients in emergency, medical practice, surgery, and outpatient infusion/radiation oncology space remain unchanged with one visitor allowed. The new visitor policy will go into effect Aug. 31, at midnight.

YOUR WEATHER



OBITUARIES

Kaylyn Hill, 12, of Reedsville
Lilian Winnenborg, 98, of Corning
See page A2

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SUBSCRIBER OF THE DAY

We appreciate our subscriber of the day, Dan DeLuca of Athens!



A horse is checked over by its handler at The 2021 Athens County Fair.

BY JOHN HALLEY

Meet your Miss and Jr. Miss Old Settlers Reunion contestants

BY ALEX HULVALCHICK
Messenger Editor

Six beautiful and talented young women are competing for the chance to be the 2021 Miss Old Settlers Reunion Queen alongside six girls vying for the Jr. Miss crown. A few familiar faces are amongst them as both Alexis Drake and Mayzie Black competed in the 2021 Miss Parade of the Hills competition.

The Evening Gown and Question portion of both competitions is scheduled at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept 4 with the coronation beginning at 6:15 p.m. the following day.

Miss Old Settlers Re-

union contestants:

The first contestant is Madison McWilliams. Madison is a sophomore at Trimble High School where she plays volleyball, softball and is a cheerleader. She recently showed pigs at The Athens County Fair.

Contestant number two is Natalie Simons. Natalie is a senior at Trimble High School and she enjoys spending time with family, babysitting, playing with animals and being outdoors. Any type of thrill seeking is her cup of tea!

Rylee Hawkins is competing as contestant number 3. Kylee is a sophomore at Nelsonville-York High School. She enjoys family

time, especially if it's on vacation at the beach. She also likes swimming, cheerleading and barrel racing her horse.

The fourth contestant is Alexis Drake, an 18-year-old recent graduate from Athens High School. She was a competitor in the 2021 Miss Parade of the Hills competition.

Contestant five is Mayzie Black. Mayzie recently competed in the 2021 Miss Parade of the Hills alongside fellow contestant Alexis Drake. She was awarded Miss Congeniality as well as the Volunteer of the Year Award.

SEE CONTESTANTS ON PAGE A2

2021 Little Miss Old Settlers Reunion contestants

BY ALEX HULVALCHICK
Messenger Editor

The 2021 Little Miss Old Settlers Reunion has a loaded competition this year with 18 girls competing for top prize.

The Talent Show for the Little Miss contestants is scheduled to begin at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 2. Their coronation will take place just before that of the Jr. Misses on Sunday, Sept. 5.

2021 Little Miss Old Settler Reunion contestants:

- Layla Smith is in the third grade and she enjoys singing, dancing, twirling baton and softball.
- Makyna Warren. She likes riding four wheelers, swimming and fishing.
- Hope Joyce likes art and reading. Her favorite animal is a giraffe and she is a cheerleader at

Nelsonville-York and is involved in Girl Scouts.

- Ty Layton. She likes painting, cheering and being outdoors.
- Lydia Decker enjoys sports, cooking and playing games.
- Delaenee Miller is a competitive cheerleader and has been cheering for six years.

SEE LITTLE MISS ON PAGE A3

SEE COVID ON PAGE A2

Trimble, Alexander school districts mandating masks amid sharp rise in cases

BY COLE BEHRENS
Messenger Assistant Editor

As COVID-19 returns to Athens County, school districts that previously had only recommended mask wearing are now returning to mandating indoor mask-wearing.

On Monday, Alexander Local Schools announced the district would be returning to mandating masks beginning Tuesday, from 7:45 a.m. until 2:45 p.m. each school day.

Last week, after initially only recommending masks for students, Trimble School District mandated indoor mask usage for all students in all indoor spaces, including classrooms, hallways, and gymnasiums – beginning on Monday.

In their announcements, both districts cited the increasing spread of coronavirus and infections among staff and faculty. Spread in the county is being driven largely by the emergent Delta variant of COVID-19, James Gaskell, medical director at The Athens City-County Health Department, said.

On Sunday, Athens County reported 20 cases and the moving 7-day average trends upward, largely among those aged 18 to 28.

Across the country, he said, coronavirus cases among children have also quadrupled or more in the past several months as the Delta strain of the coronavirus spreads.

Athens City School District and The Beacon School both had implemented mask mandates prior to the school year starting. Masks are recommended, but not required for students at Nelsonville-York School District.

Athens City Schools push back return date to Sept. 7, citing coronavirus among transportation staff

BY COLE BEHRENS
Messenger Assistant Editor

Athens City School District announced Monday it would not be reopening on Wednesday as planned, but after Labor Day, citing ongoing issues with coronavirus among transportation staff.

ACSD Superintendent Tom Gibbs said in an email three additional transportation employees had tested positive for COVID-19 and the three who were already ill were not well enough to return.

Last Thursday, Gibbs cited spread among transportation faculty as a reason for the initial closure. He said he had hoped school could return by Wednesday, Sept. 1.

The transportation office, Gibbs said, had two resignations right before the school year, and three drivers are out with coronavirus or injuries.

"Anything that could happen, has happened," Gibbs said to The Messenger.

Gibbs said administration was operating the radios and

Athens High School Principal Chad Springer, who has a van certification, was driving a large van for a smaller route. Everyone on the transportation staff, he said, was driving busses.

"Literally everyone in the transportation office was on the road," Gibbs said.

A shortage of bus drivers is part of a national trend, he said.

The Associated Press reported that a March study found nearly 80% of school districts that responded

were having trouble finding enough bus drivers.

Gibbs said the decision was made in consultation with the Athens City-County Health Department. All faculty and staff work their regular schedules on all three days.

Prior to the announced closure of the schools, ACSD had mandated that all students, faculty, staff and visitors would be required to wear masks while being transported on a school bus and during the regular school day, as reported by The Messenger.