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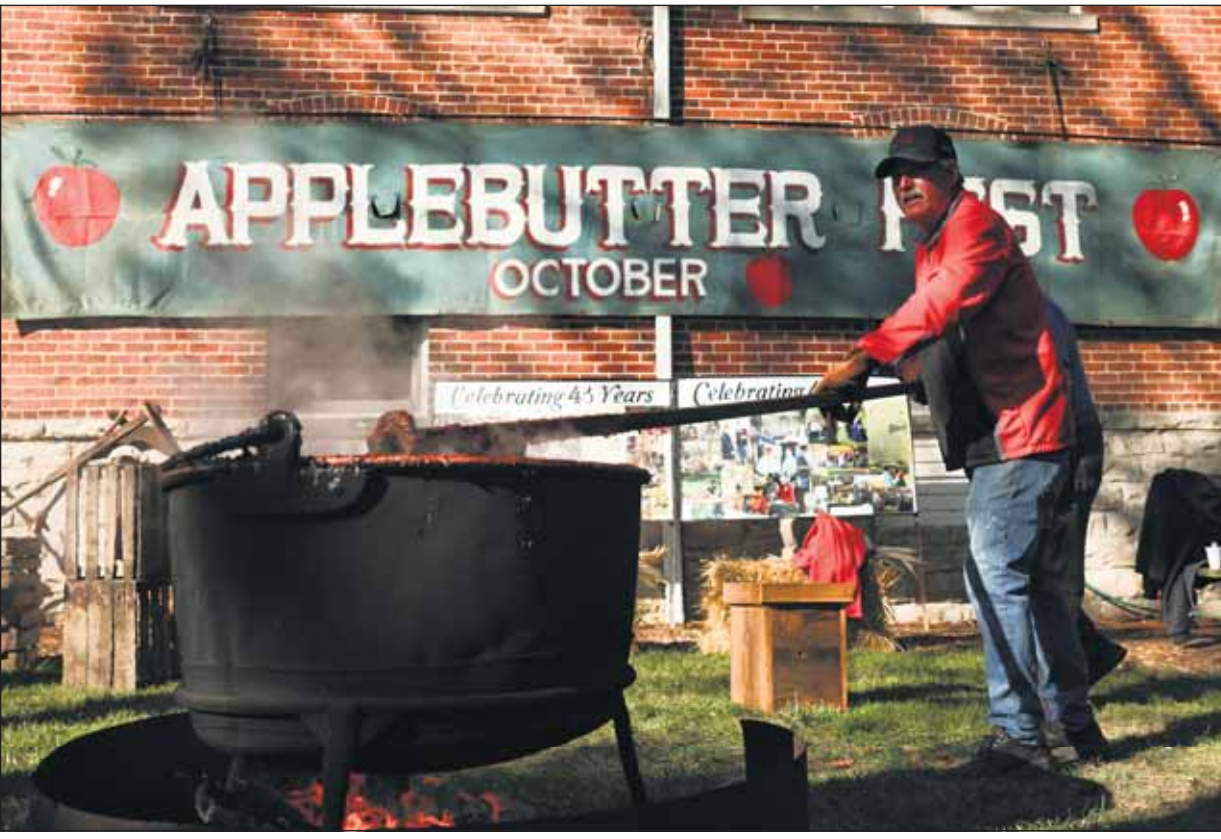
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TOLEDO, OHIO, MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025

UPDATES AT toledoBlade.com FINAL

TENS OF THOUSANDS FLOCK TO SMALL OHIO TOWN



THE BLADE/REBECCA BENSON

Joe Box stirs a pot of apple butter during the annual Applebutter Fest, known as the signature celebration of Grand Rapids, Ohio, on Sunday.

Applebutter Fest draws many Grand Rapids hosts beloved countryside celebration

By JAMES TRUMM
BLADE STAFF WRITER

GRAND RAPIDS, Ohio — The Grand Rapids Applebutter Fest had it all Sunday: football, Halloween, electioneering, bluegrass, bullet jewelry, deep-fried Oreos, Christmas decorations in October, and yes, apple butter.

Since 1977, the town that housed 925 souls as of the 2020 census now attracts tens of thousands of visitors annually to its signature celebration.

As early arrivals trek over the bridge from Providence Metropark to the village, one of the first houses they encounter has a yard full of animatronic monsters. Lucas Braatz, who has lived in that house for more than four years, says the festival



THE BLADE/REBECCA BENSON

Ten-year-old Josiah Buehrer struggles as he churns apples into apple cider during the festival.

gives him an opportunity to let his freak flag fly.

"I don't have a problem with the streets being shut down," he said. "I love the people-watching. It gives us a reason to stay home."

Further down the road are houses with political signs promoting local candidates and urging people to "vote YES for the Grand Rapids pool." Other signs attached to light poles bear

photos of hometown heroes, servicemen who died heartbreakingly young in the line of duty.

At one of the numerous

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Maumee plan for sewer fixes OK'd

By DEBBIE ROGERS
BLADE STAFF WRITER

A judge has approved an agreement between the state and the city of Maumee to use public funds for private sewer fixes.

Lucas County Common Pleas Court Judge Lindsay

Ohio EPA's deal approved

Navarre signed off on the agreement, according to court documents.

It is the final piece of the city's negotiations with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the

state attorney general, after the city self-reported years of illegal sewage discharges into the Maumee River.

The state and city agreed to the terms this summer,

a comment period was held, and Judge Navarre then finalized the agreement.

The city, in a statement, said the consent decree was reached after extensive negotiations and

See MAUMEE, Page A4

Release of hostages imminent

Israel awaits reunions; more aid enters Gaza

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO — Israel expects all living hostages held in Gaza to be released Monday in its cease-fire deal with Hamas and Palestinians awaited the release of hundreds of prisoners held in Israel and a surge of aid into the famine-stricken territory.

"In a few hours, we will all be reunited," said Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir, Israel's military chief of staff.

President Trump, who pushed to clinch the cease-fire deal, was expected to arrive Monday morning in Israel. He will meet with families of the hostages and speak at Israel's parliament, according to a schedule released by the White House.

Trump will continue to Egypt, where the office of Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi has said he will serve as co-chairman of a "peace summit" Monday

■ Trump discusses possibility sending missiles to Ukraine. Page A2.

with regional and international leaders.

Mahmoud Abbas, leader of the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority, will attend, according to Mahmoud al-Habbash, a judge and adviser to Mr. Abbas.

Israeli government spokesman Shosh Bedrosian said all 20 living hostages are expected to be released at one time to the Red Cross, then driven to a military base to reunite with families or, if needed, immediately to a hospital.

After the hostages are freed, Israel was ready to release about 2,000 Palestinian detainees and receive the 28 hostages believed to be dead.

See HOSTAGES, Page A5

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ASSESSMENT

Migrant crackdown may up food prices

WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — The Trump Administration said that its immigration crackdown is hurting farmers and risking higher food prices for Americans by cutting off agriculture's labor supply.

The Labor Department warned in an obscure document filed with the Federal Register that "the near total cessation of the inflow of illegal aliens" is threatening "the stability of domestic food production and prices for U.S. consumers."

"Unless the department acts immediately to provide a source of stable and lawful labor, this threat will grow," with increased funding for immigration en-

forcement from the One Beautiful Bill Act, the Labor Department said.

The Federal Register is the place where all proposed rules are recorded for the public to view and comment.

Contradicting comments made by Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins that the U.S. farm workforce will become "100 percent American" as a result of mass deportations, the Labor Department noted that Americans are not willing to step into farm work and lack the skills to fill agricultural jobs that undocumented immigrants are abandoning.

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INSIDE

David Briggs

Now that the college football season is halfway over, it's time for our annual report cards.

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Bouncy beat

Rapper and actor Common is chosen as the composer for the theme song for NBA on Prime.

Peach Plus | Page B7

Weather

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A safer Maumee

Maumee is given \$900,000 for safety improvements.

Second News | Page A6

Cuts coming

JD Vance warns the shutdown could bring more cuts.

News | Page A3

Columbus statues gaining new life

Art toppled in 2020 gets restoration

NEW YORK TIMES

RICHMOND, Va. — Five years after it was splattered with red paint, toppled, and dragged into a lake, the bronze statue of Christopher Columbus that stood for nearly a century in a city park in Richmond has been fished out, restored, and given a new home.

It now gazes out at a bocce ball court outside a Sons of Italy lodge some 300 miles away in Blauvelt, N.Y.

Boston's marble Colum-



NEW YORK TIMES

Tilghman Hemsley used pieces of a destroyed Christopher Columbus statue that stood at a park in Baltimore to guide his creation of two replicas.

bus statue was beheaded in 2020 — its second decapitation. Repaired and given to the Knights of Co-

lumbus, it was moved to the garden of a nearby church, where it now stands among religious

statues.

In Baltimore, where protesters pulled down a Columbus statue in 2020 and dumped it into the Inner Harbor, the broken pieces have been retrieved and used to guide the creation of a replica.

The culture war over Columbus statues has entered a new phase.

"Pretty much every October we're going to have a different view of Columbus and therefore of the Columbus statues," said historian Matthew Restall, who wrote *The Nine Lives of Christopher Columbus*, a new biography chronicling his contentious legacy.

"These are essentially living objects whose

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