

# Looking back to Sept. 10, 2018

Written by Mary Ann Kearns

The following information was entered into the Sept. 10, 2018, edition of The Ledger Independent:

### Area hit with heavy rain, remnants of Gordon

Several Mason County roads were closed Sunday after rainfall totaling as much as six inches fell across the area beginning Friday evening. The rain was the remnants of Hurricane Gordon. The weather forced some events planned for the weekend to be postponed and others to be moved to inside venues. Competitors in the a cross country meet at Mason County High School ran in the rain and finished looking like competitors in a mud run. In

Augusta, the Swingtime on the River was moved from Riverside Drive to the school gymnasium. The St. Patrick Festival carried on as scheduled. According to Mason County Judge-Executive Joe Pfeffer, Mill Creek at Kentucky 11, Dixon Pike at the approach to the historic iron bridge and Brandywine Road were all deemed impassable. On West Parry Lane, a washout at a box culvert made it unsafe to cross until it can be stabilized by road crews, he said. Sheriff Patrick Boggs reported Weaver Road was closed by high water. “Throughout the county caution is advised when traveling due to the debris washed onto roadways and cross drains being overrun and resulting in uneven surfaces,” Pfeffer said.

Pyles Lane was reported as being under water by Road Supervisor Joe Brown, Pfeffer said. Mason County Commissioner Annette Walters reported that the North Fork of the Licking River was “way out of its banks.” At least one family in the area was forced from its home by flood waters, officials said. There was some flash flooding reported along Locust and Bracken creeks in Bracken County. In Augusta, boats were moved from the city’s boat docks and at least one boat was capsized by the rapid runoff from Bracken County. Maysville Mayor David Cartmell said the city’s flood plan was in force and by Sunday afternoon there had been no issues to speak of. “Everything is working



Photo by Terry Prather

A swollen North Fork of the Licking River near Murphysville has forced residents to move their vehicles to a safe area so that have a way of getting out in case of emergencies. Most have parked along nearby U.S. 62.

smoothly,” Cartmell said. Flooding which the city experienced in early spring was not a threat, Cartmell said, because the rainfall extended over a longer period of time. Flooding was also reported in Adams County and officials urged motorists to use caution when driving. Road closings included Blue

Creek Road at Cassell Run Road, OHIO 41 AT Bentonville to Aberdeen, Ohio 348 and 781, Ohio 73 from Ohio 32 to Radon, and Hull Road off Ohio 41. High water was also reported on Fawcett Road and Lawshe Road. According to the National Weather Service Ohio River Forecast Center, the river stood at 34.6

feet at 1 p.m., Sunday and was expected to crest at 44.9 feet Thursday morning, at Maysville. The area remained under a flood warning until 7 p.m., Sunday and a flash flood warning until 8 a.m., Monday, More rain was expected Sunday, according to the National Weather Service at Wilmington, Ohio.

# Shawnee State University to host “Ohio’s Game Changers”

A weekend honoring Branch Rickey

Submitted by Jeremy Reed  
Director of Communications

PORTSMOUTH, Ohio – Next month, Shawnee State University will celebrate Ohio’s sports legacy with Ohio’s Game Changers, a three-day weekend of events honoring Branch Rickey, the southern Ohio native whose decision to sign Jackie Robinson reshaped American sports and society. These events, funded in part by the America 250-Ohio Commission, brings together scholars, storytellers, and the community to explore Rick-

ey’s legacy and its place in American history. In addition, October 23rd marks the 81st anniversary of Robinson’s first contract signing with Branch Rickey in 1945, marking the beginning of the integration of Major League Baseball. The community is invited to join Shawnee State University in celebrating this milestone weekend, honoring a legacy that continues to shape the game and American life.

**Event schedule:**  
Thursday, October 22 — Branch Rickey’s Legacy: Panel Discussion Flohr Lecture Hall in

Clark Memorial Library. 6:30pm-8:00pm. Historians and scholars discuss Branch Rickey’s life, legacy, and Ohio roots. **The Panel features:** Leslie Heaphy, Ph.D., author of “Jackie Robinson and the 1945 Monarchs,” Associate Professor of History, Kent State University at Stark, President, International Women’s Baseball Center Board, Chair, SABR Women in Baseball Committee; and Chair, Jerry Malloy Negro League Conference Jerry Holt, Ph.D., author of “Rickey: The Life and Amazing Times of Southern Ohio’s Own Branch Rickey,” Professor (retired), Purdue

University; former Chair, English Dept. & Dean, College of Arts and Science at Shawnee State University Al Oliver, Seven-time MLB All-Star; “Mr. Ambassador,” City of Portsmouth, OH Drew Feight, Ph.D., Professor of History, Director, Center for Public History at Shawnee State University, and developer of the Scioto Historical Project mobile app and website. To learn more about the panel visit our website. Friday & Saturday, October 23–24 — Rickey: The Life and Amazing Times of Southern Ohio’s Own Branch Rick-

ey, directed by and starring Geoffrey Nelson at the Kahl Studio Theater in the Vern Riffe Center for the Arts at 7pm. A one-act play, based on the life of Branch Rickey, brought to life on stage. Tickets are free. Reserve your tickets here. Saturday, October 24 — Historic Walking Tour Kickoff, History Fair & Rickey (2nd Performance) The day begins with a Local History Fair, with displays highlighting local historical organizations and non-profits. Come learn about how you can get involved in Portsmouth’s Past. From 10am-3pm in the West Ballroom, Morris University Center.

The day continues with the inaugural historic walking tour of the Labold Park complex, with exclusive access to locations within Spartan-Municipal Stadium and Branch Rickey Ballpark. Tours on the hour, starting at 1pm. A limited run of 100 tickets, each including exclusive commemorative swag. Tours are free but require registration. RSVP today! The evening closes with a second performance of Rickey at the Kahl Studio Theater in the Vern Riffe Center for the Arts at 7pm. Tickets are free. To learn more about these activities, visit our website.

## SSU class of 2030 largest in nearly a decade

Submitted by Cindi Remy  
Chief Communications Officer

PORTSMOUTH, Ohio – Shawnee State University’s class of 2030 brings a new energy to campus with the largest first-year enrollment in nearly a decade. New undergraduate students have increased by 11% this fall over last. “Shawnee State Uni-

versity is no longer a hidden gem. Word is getting out that SSU has fantastic programs and people, is extremely affordable, and our graduates are fueling an in-demand workforce that has made Ohio the #1 state for business in the U.S,” said SSU President Eric Andrew Braun. The class of 2030 will be the first to graduate

under Shawnee State’s new Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR), which can be customized through internships, service learning, clinical and field experience, studying abroad, or creative/entrepreneurial projects. The ELR bridges classroom learning with real-world practice to help better prepare students for the workforce.

## Nonprofit creates scholarship program fueled by federal tax credit for Kentucky students

### Scholarship funds can go to public or private school students

Mckenna Horsley  
Kentucky Lantern

A statewide nonprofit organization has been established to oversee educational scholarships for Kentucky public and private school students under a future federal tax credit program. The Kentucky Education Fund “a statewide, nonpartisan option for administering qualifying contributions and scholarships under the new program,” a press release from the organization said. Earlier this year, the Kentucky General Assembly opted the state into a program of education grants for K-12 students promoted by the Trump administration and benefiting from a new federal tax credit. Republican state law-

makers said House Bill 1 would allow K-12 students and their families to benefit from a federal tax credit at no cost to Kentucky, but critics, including some Democrats, said the program is a way to support “school choice” options — at the expense of public schools — despite rejections by Kentucky voters and the state Supreme Court. Under the federal program, taxpayers can claim an up to \$1,700 tax credit for contributions to approved Scholarship Granting Organizations, or SGOs, like the Kentucky Education Fund. The group said it received federal nonprofit recognition in July and approval from the Secretary of State Michael Adams’ office on Aug. 27 as a Kentucky SGO. Adams, a Republican, formally signed paperwork with the IRS to opt Kentucky into the federal program and signed a state regulation for the procedures to submit, review and process filings for SGOs. The Kentucky Education Fund has partnered with Kentucky’s Area Development Districts to help with establishing the program in all 120 Kentucky counties and creating its governance. “For more than 50 years, Kentucky’s Area Development Districts

have served as the conveners and planners across all communities, urban and rural,” said Senate President Pro Tem David Givens, R-Greensburg. “Having Area Development District leaders serve as the founding body of the Kentucky Education Fund is a natural extension of that work, bringing together regional knowledge, trusted partnerships and a shared commitment to creating greater opportunities for all Kentuckians.” Will Hodges, a former superintendent of Green County Schools, is an adviser to the fund, and said in a statement that the organization plans to help students “from Paducah to Pikeville.” “The Area Development Districts brought regional knowledge from every part of Kentucky to the Fund’s formation, helping ensure that statewide reach was part of the conversation from the beginning,” Hodges said. According to its website, the Fund says K-12 students eligible for a scholarship may be “attending public or private schools.” Students who are “receiving a home-based education, provided the student and scholarship expense satisfy applicable federal requirements and Fund policies,” may also be eligible.

## Have a breaking news tip?



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