

FIVE DAY forecast 4/23/26

THURSDAY 84/60

FRIDAY 82/61

SATURDAY 73/51 60%

SUNDAY 69/49 40% AM

MONDAY 72/51 30% AM

FORUM CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE



PHOTO | SUBMITTED
Josh Wright and Jeff Jobe question Republican State Representative candidates Marty Shepherd and Wes Pate.

and Niki Tichenor Riley each outlined their priorities.

Housing availability emerged early, with all three acknowledging a shortage. Bullock said the fiscal court has already formed a committee to study housing needs and pursue partnerships with developers, particularly for middle-income housing.

“If you’re going to bring industry in here, you need the housing for them to live in,” Bullock said.

Beatty said the county should pursue grants and consider hiring a full-time grant writer to secure outside funding for new construction and renovation of existing homes.

“My plan is to find money in our budget to hire a full-time grant writer for the county,” Beatty said.

Tichenor Riley said housing development should remain largely in the private sector rather than becoming a primary county responsibility.

On small business

support, Bullock called local businesses the backbone of the economy and pointed to the county’s ability to waive occupational taxes for new businesses during startup phases.

Beatty again emphasized the need to seek grant funding and said county leaders must better understand the needs of local businesses. Tichenor Riley highlighted the role of the Ohio County Economic Development Alliance in business recruitment and support.

Candidates were also asked about partnering with cities such as Hartford and Beaver Dam to expand walking and biking trails. All three supported collaboration, though Beatty noted budget limitations would likely require outside funding.

Transparency and public notice, particularly regarding developments such as the proposed biodigester, were also discussed. Beatty said transparency

is a central theme of his campaign and emphasized the need to keep citizens informed.

Tichenor Riley said major projects should be communicated to the public earlier in the process.

“We should have heard about that from the get-go,” she said.

Bullock said transparency is important but noted some early-stage negotiations may need to remain private.

The candidate forum was moderated by WXMZ’s Josh Wright and The Times-News’ Jeff Jobe.

The event was slotted for two hours, with candidates speaking for offices including magistrate and state representative, among others. Food trucks were set up for attendees to enjoy during the event, although rain limited outdoor dining opportunities.

This coverage is intended to highlight the event. The full forum is available on the WXMZ and The Times-News Facebook pages.

AIR EVAC CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

gave K-6 students the opportunity to watch a helicopter land, learn how Air Evac serves the community, and see the aircraft up close.

Crew members also answered questions from students and explained their role in providing emergency medical transport.

School officials expressed appreciation to the Air Evac team for taking time to provide the educational experience for students.



PHOTO | SUBMITTED | JASON BULLOCK

Tree Falls on Vehicle, Minor Injuries Reported



PHOTO | SUBMITTED

BY Jeff Jobe COMMUNITY PUBLISHER

OHIO COUNTY — The Fordsville Volunteer Fire Department reported an unusual accident Thursday morning, April 16, in the 300 block of 54 West after a large section of a dead tree fell into the roadway and struck a passing vehicle.

The incident occurred during the morning hours and resulted in minor injuries. All individuals involved are expected to be OK.

The fallen tree created a dangerous situation for motorists, but a quick response from emergency personnel helped secure the scene and assist those involved.

Officials expressed appreciation to Ohio County Dispatch, EMS, the Ohio County Sheriff’s Office, and Rags to Richies Towing for their response.

The incident serves as a reminder of the hazards posed by dead or weakened trees, particularly along roadways.

Weekly SUDOKU

Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in some cells and empty boxes in others.

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all the numbers from one to nine.

Answer key for the Sudoku puzzle.

SCRAMBLERS puzzle with a cartoon illustration of a man at a desk and a list of words to be unscrambled.

FEAR & KNOT crossword puzzle with a cartoon illustration of a man and a list of words to be unscrambled.

MARRIAGE puzzle with a cartoon illustration of a man and a list of words to be unscrambled.

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Two panels of a cartoon strip showing characters in a room with various objects and dialogue.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

A cartoon strip showing a cat and a dog talking. The cat says, 'OK, WE'RE GOING TO TRY A NEW APPROACH. WE'LL SHARE OUR FEELINGS, AND WHEN YOU HEAR THE BELL, RETURN TO YOUR NEUTRAL CORNERS.'

POPEYE BY RANDY MEHLHOLD

A cartoon strip showing Popeye and Olive Oyl. Popeye says, 'JACK, CAN YOU HELP ME?' and Olive Oyl replies, 'THAT'S MR. JACK! I'M AN ADULT, Y'KNOW!'

DAVEY JONES!

A cartoon strip showing a character in a boat. The character says, 'I GOTTA GIT T' TH' KINGDOM O' TH' PAST BUT ME SHIP'S WRECKED. KIN YA HELP?' and another character replies, 'WHAT IS IT, NEPHEW?'

YAML BARRELS PART 6

A cartoon strip showing characters in a room. One character says, 'AFTER BEING ABDUCTED BY THE SEA HAG'S SISTER AND ESCAPING HER DUNGEON, OLIVE OYL FOUND AND FREED THREE STRANGE PRISONERS. NOW, THEY SEARCH THE WITCH'S CASTLE FOR AN EXIT.'

HAPPY, THE MORE I KNOW ABOUT YOU, THE MORE SAD I'LL BE WHEN NONE OF YOU SURVIVE.

A cartoon strip showing characters in a room. One character says, 'NEED ANOTHER LEG UP?' and another replies, 'NO, THANK YOU. I DON'T THINK ANY SKULL CAN TAKE ANY MORE CLEVER WORDPLAY.'