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SPORTS, 1B

Chillicothe Gazette

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Honor Flight trip to D.C. was special for brothers



Brothers David Price, left, and Harold Price visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. last week as they partook in the annual Honor Flight Network flight for veterans to visit that city's war memorials. SUBMITTED PHOTO BY HAROLD PRICE

Jeff Barron
Lancaster Eagle-Gazette | USA TODAY NETWORK

CHILICOTHE - Veterans Day last week was extra special for city resident Harold Price and his brother, David, who

lives in Illinois. The brothers were among 250 others from Ohio on the Honor Flight Network flight that left Columbus at 8 a.m. for an hour flight to Washington D.C. They were among three groups that were bussed to the various war memorials there once they arrived. David Price is a U.S. Army veteran who served in Vietnam. Harold Price is

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Shine On Chillicothe raises \$100K for Yoctangee holiday lights

Megan Becker
Chillicothe Gazette | USA TODAY NETWORK

CHILICOTHE— Yoctangee Park's Christmas lights will be bigger and better than ever thanks to Shine On Chillicothe, the city's blossoming organization of holiday light enthusiasts. The non-profit was founded last year to bring more Christmas decorations and lights to Chillicothe during the annual Christmas tree lighting celebration.

The organization's inaugural year collected about \$90,000 to light up the park. This year, the organization has collected over \$100,000 for decorations through community fundraisers, including selling Christmas trees and hosting a cocktail dinner. Downtown businesses sponsored individual trees, which Shine On decorated with over 500 strands of lights.

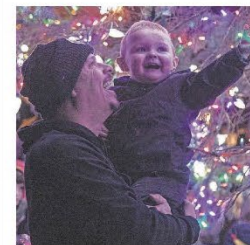
Big donors include Adena Health System, South Central Power and Mares Cares.

Some displays are rented from an organization in Columbus, while other decorations are bought to be reused for years to come.

Lisa Wayland, a member of Shine On, said the group started putting up the lights in October and are still working eight hour days to finish in time for the grand tree lighting this month.

Wayland said the organization's goal this year is to light as much of the park as possible. She said last year's display was, "beautiful and everybody appreciated them, but there was still a lot of darkness in the park."

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Braxton Clarkson checks out the Christmas Tree bulbs on the park tree with his uncle James Littlejohn after the tree lighting ceremony in Yoctangee Park in 2021. FILE PHOTO

What laws could Ohio pass before end of year?

Anna Staver
State Bureau | USA TODAY NETWORK

The midterm election is over and state lawmakers are going back in session next week to debate everything from abortion access to criminal justice reform and whether transgender girls can play school sports. The lame-duck ses-

sion, the time period between an election and the swearing-in of new lawmakers, is shaping up to be a busy one.

Republicans have supermajorities in both the state House and Senate. That's not going to change come January, but legislation that fails to pass by Dec. 31 has to start from square one in January. And with a budget process set to get underway, now may be the best chance lawmakers have to get certain bills across the finish line. Lawmakers are scheduled to be back in Columbus on Nov. 15. Here's what we may be seeing move between now and New Year's Eve.

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TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH: 42 LOW: 34 A touch of afternoon rain	HIGH: 41 LOW: 29 Low clouds and cold	HIGH: 38 LOW: 25 Cold with low clouds	HIGH: 30 LOW: 16 Low clouds, breezy and very cold	HIGH: 33 LOW: 19 Cold with intervals of clouds and sunshine

ALMANAC
Sundays
TEMPERATURES
High 41
Low 35
PRECIPITATION (in inches)
Sundays 0.01"

SUN & MOON
SUN Today Wed.
Rise .. 7:15 a.m. .. 7:16 a.m.
Set ... 5:14 p.m. .. 5:13 p.m.
MOON Today Wed.
Rise 11:13 p.m. none
Set ... 1:22 p.m. .. 1:50 p.m.

MOON PHASES
Last New First Full
Nov 16 Nov 23 Nov 30 Dec 7

NATIONAL EXTREMES
48 contiguous states Sunday
HIGH TEMPERATURE
Miami, FL 88°
LOW TEMPERATURE
Yellowstone N.P., WY -16°

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BIBLE DIGEST

"And it shall come to pass in the last days, said God, I will pour out of my Spirit on all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:" (Acts 2:17 AKJV)

LOTTERIES

OHIO
(Drawings: Nov. 14)
Pick 3 (early): 4 8 1
Pick 4 (early): 0 0 7 5
Pick 5 (early): 7 6 2 2 2
(Drawings: Nov. 13)
Pick 3 (late): 6 1 1
Pick 4 (late): 4 0 0 1
Pick 5 (late): 5 0 6 7 0
Rolling Cash 5: 7 14 15 17 31
Classic Lotto: Monday's jackpot was \$1.3 million.

Flight

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a U.S. Navy veteran. The Honor Flight Network's webpage said the organization's mission "is to celebrate America's veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation's memorials."

The Price brothers first stopped at the Iwo Jima monument.

"It was so crowded that we couldn't get into there to it," Harold Price, 70, said. "But they had a Marine marching group that was performing while we were there. Then we went to the Navy museum next and that sits on Pennsylvania Avenue. So I was able to see the Navy monuments, since I was in the Navy."

The Prices then went to the Lincoln Memorial, the Korean War Memorial and the Vietnam Wall. They also saw the Air Force monument and visited Arlington National Cemetery and saw the changing of the guard ceremony there.

David Price, 74, said it was an honor to see the Vietnam War memorial. He has seen the traveling wall, but never the actual wall itself.

"I was over excited when I seen it," he said. "It's too much to talk about. It's just great."

Harold Price said the one-day Honor Flight was a trip he'll never forget. They started planning the trip in January and wanted to go with each other.

Upon returning to Columbus Thursday night, those on the Honor Flight were welcomed by about 200 people at John Glenn

International Airport.

Vietnam War veteran and Lancaster resident Harry Braglin, 79, said that reception was special to him.

"I felt that night that I finally got to come home from Vietnam," the former Marine said. "Those people were all cheering me on and all the other veterans, too. The biggest surprise on that was when I saw my whole family come to greet me and welcome me back home."

Braglin said he urges all Vietnam veterans to take the Honor Flight, calling a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"We didn't have a good time in Vietnam," he said. "And we deserve to go see what we were fighting for and our brothers that have been lost."

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Lancaster resident Harry Braglin is shown returning to Columbus Thursday night from Washington D.C. after participating in the Honor Flight Network's annual flight to the nation's capital. PHOTO SUBMITTED BY HOLLY BEAM

Laws

Continued from Page 1A

Abortion access

Republicans promised to ban almost all access to abortion in Ohio, but Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman, R-Lima, has said he's not sure whether that's possible. "This is a tiny amount of time. We have five session days scheduled," Huffman said in October. "There may be people who say this is too pro-life or people who say this is not pro-life enough."

He plans to focus on where the GOP already agrees first like defining life-of-the-mother exemptions in the state's current law. And making it easier for babies to be born in Ohio.

His position hasn't changed in recent weeks. Huffman told the USA TODAY Network Ohio Bureau that he plans to meet with the governor and House leadership in the coming days to discuss what's possible.

Some Republican lawmakers want to move as soon as possible on two companion bills (Senate Bill 123 and House Bill 598).

Both known as the Human Life Protection Act,

these bills would create the crime of criminal abortion (a felony) and expand the current charge of abortion manslaughter. Neither one has exemptions for rape or incest.

"I don't know what it's going to be yet," Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko, D-Richmond Heights, said. "They've played their cards very tight."

Gov. Mike DeWine announced his wish list in September, which included raising the state income limits for child-care assistance and Medicaid for pregnant women and children.

State Sen. Teresa Varonero, R-Huron, also introduced a bill to give state employees 12 weeks of paid family leave.

Yuko said he's supportive, in theory, of making it easier to have a baby in Ohio. Democrats have been introducing nearly identical legislation for years.

But he's worried these kinds of seemingly bipartisan bills will get controversial last-minute amendments like banning abortion from the moment of conception.

"I think my biggest concern is what are we going to see from the majority party," he said.

Criminal justice reform

Huffman's number one priority before the end of this General Assembly is a major overhaul to the state's criminal justice system.

He's been working on getting this across the finish line for two years and remains hopeful about its chances.

"We want folks to be able to get jobs, pay taxes, feed their families and take care of themselves," Huffman said. And a lot of the sanctions Ohioans place on people leaving prison (like licensing restrictions) make that more difficult.

LGBTQ issues

Lawmakers have introduced a number of bills that would change life in Ohio for LGBTQ+ children.

House Bill 454 outlaws the use of puberty blockers, hormones and gender reassignment surgery until age 18. And doctors who broke the law could face professional discipline and civil lawsuits.

Twenty-five of Ohio's 64 House Republicans signed up to sponsor the bill a year ago, but it still hasn't gotten a vote.

That could change in the coming weeks

though, Equality Ohio Public Policy Director Maria Bruno said.

"We are ready for hearings as soon as next week," she said. "But we hope common sense will prevail and they will not try to rush through an already harmful piece of legislation."

Huffman told the USA TODAY Network Ohio Bureau in October that this bill and the one banning transgender girls from playing on women's sports teams weren't on his shortlist of priorities for lame duck but he didn't oppose other people getting them across the finish line.

However, he would object to the version of the "Save Women's Sports" bill passed by House Republicans in June. House Bill 151 included a controversial way to verify whether a student was

female: An exam of her internal and external reproductive anatomy.

"I think it's unlikely it will pass the Senate with that language included," Bruno said. "I do want to flag that it's a super dangerous invasive bill even without that piece of legislation."

The other methods of verifying a student's sex are blood draws to check hormone levels and analysis of a child's genetic makeup.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association allows transgender girls to play on sports teams now so long as they undergo at least one year of hormone therapy.

Anna Staver is a reporter for the USA TODAY Network Ohio Bureau, which serves the Columbus Dispatch, Cincinnati Enquirer, Akron Beacon Journal and 18 other affiliated news organizations across Ohio.

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Lights

Continued from Page 1A

Although it may take a few more years of acquiring Christmas decorations to light up the entire park, Wayland said the organization is making major strides.

Grand Tree Lighting

The Christmas tree lighting will be held at Yoctangee Park at 6 p.m. on Friday during downtown open house week-end. The event will host carolers, carriage rides, ice skating, hot chocolate, Christmas music and

food trucks. Santa will be arriving in a horse-drawn sleigh.

The tree lighting will take place at 6:30 p.m.

Megan Becker is a reporter for the Chillicothe Gazette. Call her at 740-349-1106, email her at mbecker@gannett.com or follow her on Twitter @BeckerReporting.

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