

The Red and Gray

Edited by Mychal and Lucy

December 17, 2018

Upcoming Events

by: Brody

December

17th- Girls basketball vs. South Webster 5:30 pm

17th- Boys basketball at South Webster 5:30 pm

18th- 8th grade History Day

19th- End of 2nd nine weeks

19th- 2-hour early dismissal

20th- Girls basketball vs.

Northwest 5:30 pm

20th- Girls basketball at Northwest 5:30 pm

Dec. 20th- Jan. 2nd- Christmas Break

24th- Christmas Eve

25th- Christmas Day

31st- New Year's Eve

January

1st- New Year's Day

3rd- Classes Resume

Motivational

by: Sarah, Doyle, and Jacob

"Before Alice got to Wonderland, she had to fall."

-Unknown

"When you want to succeed as much as you want to breathe, then you'll be successful."

-Eric Thomas

"We are held back by fear, not limitations."

-Unknown

Cheerleaders to Florida

Where Dreams Come True

by: Autumn and Vaeh

It's not every day that you get to go to Florida and cheer at one of the biggest college football playoff games. This year, five junior high cheerleaders were chosen to cheer at the Buffalo Wild Wings Citrus Bowl. Over the summer, our cheerleaders participated in the Premier Cheer Camp, and that is where they qualified. Our five qualifying cheerleaders were Paige Martin, Cali Miller, Gracyn Coriell, Marissa Diddle, and Maddie Warren. Out of the five that qualified, only two are going to attend the Citrus Bowl. Gracyn Coriell and Cali Miller are going to Orlando after Christmas to sight see and practice with all of the other cheerleaders around the United States. The girls will be in Orlando six days before the football game on New Year's Day. When I asked Gracyn Coriell how she felt about attending this game, she replied, "I'm excited and nervous, because there will be over 65,000 people there." Gracyn and Cali are excited to attend, and can't wait to cheer with many girls from around the United States.



Gamer Guys

Playstation Classic

The Playstation Classic has just been released onto the market. The PlayStation Classic comes with 20 pre-loaded games including Final Fantasy VII, Jumping Flash, Ridge Racer Type 4, Tekken 3 and Wild Arms. This mini Console is approximately 45% smaller than the original PlayStation. This is a big money maker for Sony's part and is a good addition to the Playstation consoles.

Our Thoughts

We believe that Playstation classic is a great product. We highly advise that you get it and we give the Playstation classic a 7 out of 10.

8th Grade Trip Reminders

Are You Ready?

by: Sydney and Autumn

Our 8th grade trip is getting closer and closer, here are a few reminders. We will be having a couple of fundraisers over Christmas break to help contribute to the payment for the trip. We will be having a 31 Fundraiser and a gas card raffle. Our next payment is February 1st, it will be \$100.00



Minford Students Saving Energy

by: Brody

The 7th grade science classes are currently doing their annual Energy Conservation Unit, which has been sponsored by AEP and the Ohio Energy Project. The program first started here in 2012 under the direction of Mrs. Byrd, and has saved potentially thousands of dollars of unused energy through donated items. AEP has donated some items to start students to conserve energy, including weather stripping to reduce heating/AC costs, shower heads/faucet heads to reduce water use. They have also donated LED light bulbs to reduce energy use, and thermometers to maximize energy efficiency and to keep food safe in refrigerators and freezers. Mrs. Byrd's classes are even creating a tree decorated with ornaments made from recycled materials. The tree will be on display until Christmas in Mrs. Byrd's room, so be sure to stop by and admire the creativity of her students.

Yearbook Cover Contest

by: Mychal

The Yearbook Cover Contest has officially ended! The yearbook staff is so happy with all of the submissions they received. With so many amazing submissions, the yearbook staff says it is definitely going to be a hard decision. The yearbook staff wanted to thank everyone who submitted and say good luck to everyone! They also wanted to add that when schools returns in January, applications to be on the yearbook staff should be handed out!

Canned Food Drive Making a Difference

by: Doyle, Lee, and Sarah

Have you ever wondered how you can help a family during the holidays? Well, now is your opportunity to do just that. Minford Middle School has white barrels throughout the school, collecting non-perishable food items. These items are collected and given to the Minford Fire Department. Greg Shumway started working with the fire department about ten years ago, encouraging people to bring in cans of food. Since there weren't many people bringing in canned food at the fire department, he brought the drive to Minford Schools. Mr. Shumway decided to invite the school to join him and the Minford Fire Department. "We give it to one or two churches. After that, we give it to the Hopewell houses," explains Shumway. We asked if they had given any prizes and he replied, "The preschool through third grades have a competition between classes to see who can get the most cans donated. Whoever wins the competition receives a pizza party." So make sure you bring in any extra canned food you have lying around!

Young Entrepreneur

by: Vaeh

According to Webster's dictionary, an entrepreneur is one who organizes, manages, and assumes the risks of a business or enterprise. Mychal Cron, an 8th grader, is just that. Mychal started her very own leather jewelry business in May 2018, called Mychal's Leather Jewelry.

Mychal's Leather Jewelry sells leather earrings in all shapes and sizes. Her business all started with her mom's birthday gift. After making one pair for her mom, her nana convinced her to sell them. Mychal runs the business mostly by herself, with exception of her family members that help her when things get crazy! Mychal not only is a young entrepreneur, but is also a student athlete, as well as, co-editor of the Red and Gray. When I asked Mychal how she manages being a student athlete, editor of the school newspaper and young entrepreneur, this was her response, "It can be super hard when a lot of orders come in. Any spare time I have I make sure to work on earrings." Mychal never imagined that her small business would grow this big, and she plans on expanding it. Mychal already has her earrings at Beauty Bungalow in Portsmouth, and plans to take them to a few more businesses and work a few more vendor fairs. Mychal is one of the few students here at Minford that is brave enough to take a leap and go for something so risky. Mychal's Leather Jewelry is constantly expanding, and is growing more popular everyday!



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Youth and Government

Today's Youth; Tomorrow's Leaders

by: Vaeh

Not many students get involved with the government, and if they ever do, it will be later in the future. However, six eighth graders wanted to get involved. Each year, Mrs. Rolfe leads a group of 6th-8th graders to the State House to learn more about our government. This year students, Autumn Picklesimer, Joe Hannah, Luke Rader, Adam Crank, Nevaeh Porter and Cole Borland took part in Youth & Government. Youth & Government is a program for junior high students held at the State House in the fall. Students create a bill that enforces something that they want changed in their state or community. The students spend three days in Columbus at the state house debating their bills and other bills that students from around Ohio bring. Youth & Government gives students the opportunity to not only make a change, but also make lifelong friends and memories while doing so. This program is a great way for students to get involved with the government while finding ways to make change.

Newspaper Field Trip

by: Juniper

On December 3rd, the 8th grade took a trip to The Ironton Tribune in light of "The Red and Gray" newspaper, that was created this school year by Mrs. Shonkwiler's first period language arts class. We were able to experience what it is like to work in a newspaper office.

With only thirteen people on the Ironton Tribune staff, they have to work very hard to produce a daily newspaper, bimonthly magazine, and maintain social media networks. The Ironton Tribune does great work highlighting charities, schools, and shelters around the holidays. While at the Tribune, our co-editors, Lucy Grashel and Mychal Cron were interviewed for a front page story on our visit, that was featured in their newspaper on December 6th. Every student in the 8th grade was interviewed personally and will appear in the newspaper individually everyday. We are very grateful for the opportunity to tour The Ironton Tribune and meet their amazing staff.

National Holidays

by: Doyle and Jacob

December
17th- National Maple Syrup Day
18th- Bake Cookies Day
19th- Look For An Evergreen Day
20th- Go Caroling Day
21st- Crossword Puzzle Day
22nd- National Date Nut Bread Day
24th- Christmas Eve, National Chocolate Day, National Eggnog Day
25th- Christmas Day
26th- Boxing Day
27th- National Fruitcake Day
28th- Card Playing Day
29th- Pepper Pot Day
30th- Bacon Day
31st- New Year's Eve

Sports

by: Hannah and Sydney

Our Minford Jr high boys teams both played at Waverly on Thursday, December 13th. The 8th grade girls played Waverly at home on Thursday. The girls game started at 5:30. Boys, however, were away at Waverly. Their game also started at 5:30 with 8th following after the 7th grade. Our 8th grade girls team left their home court with a win on Thursday, December 13. The score was 30-15. Our 7th boys basketball team brought home a win with a score of 50-32. Our 8th grade boys lost in a rough fight, with a score of 24-16. Good luck to both of the Jr.High girls and boys basketball teams against the South Webster Jeeps on Monday, December 17th!



Wings Award

by: Juniper and Isabella

In this edition of “The Red and Gray,” we will be highlighting two students that have shown kind acts during this holiday season. Our first Wings Award goes to Brasen Barton, better known as “Bam Bam.” Bam Bam was nominated for the Wings Award by Mr. Evans because of a kind act he did at a basketball game on December 3rd. An elderly woman was having difficulties walking into the gymnasium and Bam Bam took notice. Rather than going to hang out with his friends, he escorted the lady in and made sure she was okay. Bam Bam says that his greatest inspiration is his grandpa, “He has been there for me through everything... He taught me respect.” Bam Bam explained that he did not know anyone was watching him; he just knew it was the right thing to do.

Our 2nd Wings Award nominee is Addison Akers. Addy was nominated for this award because she found \$21 on the cafeteria floor and turned it into Assistant principal, Mrs. Ruby. Addy says that she turned in the money because, “Someone else may have needed it more than me.” Addy believes we could make our school a better place by showing kindness to others. Addy is a member of softball, basketball, volleyball, Leadership Alliance, and the A/B honor roll. Addy says that her greatest inspiration is her mom. “She encourages me to try my best and do the right thing.” Addy and Bam Bam are just two examples of the many acts of kindness demonstrated by Minford Middle School students.

Staff Spotlight 34 Years of Smiles

by: Autumn

For 34 years, a very familiar face greets us upon entering the middle school gymnasium. That smile belongs to, our very own Health and Physical Education teacher, Mr. RD Baker. Mr. Baker graduated high school from Portsmouth High and went to Shawnee State for one year. He went to Wilmington College for 4 years and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree. He then went on to get his masters degree from the University of Dayton in school counseling. When asked, “Why do you enjoy teaching?” he replied, “It gives me the opportunity to try and encourage people and make a positive difference in their lives.” Out of school, Mr. Baker enjoys spending time his wonderful wife, Clarisa, and his two children, Trenton and Taylor. He also enjoys cheering on his Ohio State Buckeyes and studying the Bible.

Fun Facts

Did You Know?

by: Brody

1. A pineapple isn't an apple or a pine; it's just a large berry.
2. Broccoli is actually a type of flower, and it's the only veggie that is one.
3. The first escalator built was installed in 1897, in Coney Island.



Ohio Highway State Patrol Basketball Game Red & Blue v.s. Red & Gray

by: Sarah

Most of us have heard about the Ohio Highway State Patrol, but we might not all know what they do. In the words of the OHSP themselves, their duty is to “Keep roadways safe, serve the community, enforce traffic and criminal laws, and investigate crashes.” On Tuesday, November 27th, the Ohio Highway State Patrol and the Minford Elementary/Middle School staff clashed in an intense game of basketball. Both teams were neck and neck nearly the entire game, with the leading points getting tossed back and forth. In the last five minutes of the game, the OHSP pulled ahead. The OHSP had won with a score of 90 to 85.

White Christmas

by: Amelia

Our high school National Honor Society students made their annual trip to the middle school visiting each classroom in hopes of encouraging students to give for the holidays. White Christmas is a program where students bring in pennies based on their homeroom and the homeroom with the most pennies gets a pizza party. The money brought in by the students will be used to buy Christmas gifts for children in need. This program will be ending December 9th. We can truly make these children's Christmas white. Your small change can make a big change in the life of a child.

Minford Students Witness Highway Opening

by: Brody

At 8:30am on December 14, the Portsmouth Bypass, formerly known as the Southern Ohio Veterans Memorial Highway, finally opened to the public after almost 55 years of planning and about 5 years of construction. Over \$630 million was poured into the freeway, and it paid off, as our newspaper staff were some of the first to be on the new bypass, designed to cut travel times down by 15 minutes from Portsmouth to Lucasville.

HISTORY

The project was first conceived in the 1950s and '60s, as the old streets of Portsmouth couldn't accommodate the rapidly growing city, but the project never took off due to a lack of funding (though it did garner lots of attention). It wasn't until the 1990s that the lines were drawn for a new bypass to join Lucasville and Portsmouth, providing a sort of shortcut to replace the travelling up SR 335 and following Lucasville-Minford Road to get to Lucasville, skipping the 23-52 interchange altogether.

LAYOUT

The highway will start with an interchange on US 52 near Portsmouth, going north to meet up with SR 140. The highway will continue northward and meet with SR 335 at the airport/Sunshine Church. The highway will then turn northwest to meet with Lucasville-Minford Road, and eventually go on to meet with US 23 just north of Lucasville.

OPENING

The ribbon cutting ceremony at the airport commenced at 2:30 Thursday afternoon, amid many people awaiting the opening. The ribbon was laid out by a construction worker dressed as Santa Claus, and cut soon after. A parade of antique cars drove down the highway, as the first vehicles to drive down the new highway. Four buses filled with students from Minford, Valley, and Wheelersburg followed after the cars. The vehicles drove to US 23, then turned back and drove the whole way back to US 52, before turning again and exiting at the SR 335 interchange.

STATS

Bridges: 20

Miles: 16

Interchanges: 5

Communities affected: Wheelersburg/Highland Bend, Shumway Hollow/Minford, Lucasville

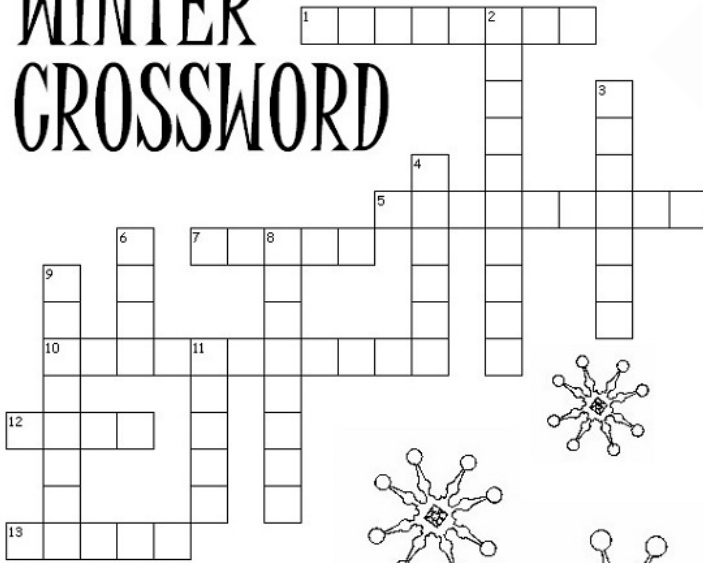
Years: 55

Funds: \$634,300,000

Information thanks to: <https://www.transportation.gov/tifia/financed-projects/portsmouth-bypass>



WINTER CROSSWORD

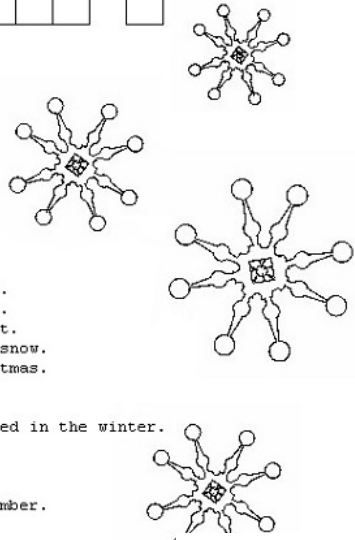
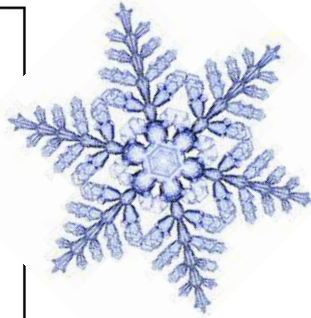


Across

- 1. Time off from school or work.
- 5. Used to decorate a Christmas tree.
- 7. It's a season for giving _____.
- 10. Holiday celebrated on January 1st.
- 12. Strap them on and go downhill on snow.
- 13. I'm dreaming of a _____ Christmas.

Down

- 2. Winter sport on frozen water.
- 3. African-American holiday celebrated in the winter.
- 4. Famous Snowman
- 6. Flakes that fall from the sky.
- 8. The month following January.
- 9. Jewish holiday celebrated in December.
- 11. Santa's Helpers



Happy Holidays

N	I	O	S	S	P	T	D	C	R	P	I	H	I
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L	O	S	R	P	N	T	O	D	V	S	E	O	I
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C	T	D	N	R	A	N	T	S	U	P	N	R	E
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- CANDY CANES
- WRAPPING PAPER
- PRESENTS
- CARDS
- SNOWFLAKES
- TINSEL
- CHIMNEY
- SLED
- COOKIES
- ICICLES
- NORTH POLE
- DECORATIONS
- RUDOLPH
- STOCKING
- DECEMBER
- LIGHTS
- SANTA
- ELVES
- WINTER
- BELLS