



David Dix and Joe Filippini/Record-Courier photo illustration
 Nearly a dozen buildings and 27 trees have been torn down to make way for the new Fairchild Avenue Bridge in Kent. The Johnson Building and buildings surrounding it on North Mantua Street at the entrance to the present Crain Avenue Bridge also will be razed for the new Sheetz service plaza.

Buildings, trees make way for Kent bridge project

By **Matt Fredmonsky**
 Record-Courier staff writer

The city of Kent isn't just tearing down buildings to make way for the new Fairchild Avenue Bridge. A number of trees are also disappearing.

In total, contractors will remove 27 trees to clear the way for

the new bridge, which will extend Fairchild Avenue directly across the Cuyahoga River and intersect with North Water Street.

However, those trees removed will be offset by the planting of more than 100 new trees and 750 shrubs as part of the estimated \$23 million construction project.

Kent Engineer Jim Bowling said

the city has tried to minimize the impact on the environment due to the project. One attempt to do so involves a storm water wetland that will be constructed above state recommendations near where the current Crain Avenue Bridge lands on the east side of the river.

"We tried to be as environmentally conscious as we could," Bowl-

ing said.

Some of the trees cut down last week for the project included two large sycamores — each about 90 years old — on the east side of North Water Street almost directly across from where the new bridge will land.

The trees, Bowling said, came down at the recommendation of the city's arborist, Gerald Shanley, who

did not believe they could survive after the roadway there is lowered between 3 and 4 feet.

The new bridge will encounter two sets of railroad tracks: The lower CSX Transportation Co. tracks running alongside the Cuyahoga River and the upper ABC Railroad tracks

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50 CENTS

WINDHAM'S EXPRESSIVE JACK O'LANTERNS



Steph Krell/Record-Courier
 Three jack o'lanterns, wearing expressions of evil, surprise and anger, await halloween on the front porch of a Windham home.

Portage unemployment dips

Rate at 9.2% as Ohioans dropped out of labor force

By **Mike Sever**
 Record-Courier staff writer

Portage County's jobless rate dipped in September to 9.2 percent, down from 10.1 percent in August.

The county rate means about 8,300 out of 90,100 people in the local labor force were out of work, according to the Ohio Department of Job and Fam-

ily Services. Portage's rate ranked 65th highest out of Ohio's 88 counties.

A year ago, the county jobless rate was at 6.1 percent.

The state's jobless rate for September was 10.1 percent, seasonally adjusted, down from 10.8 percent in August, while the U.S. rate was 9.8 percent, up from 9.7 percent in August. A year ago, Ohio's rate was 6.8 percent.

"Ohio's unemployment rate declined in September as more Ohioans dropped out of the labor force," said ODJFS Director Douglas Lumpkin. "The service-providing and goods-producing sectors continued to show losses as well."

The number of workers unemployed

See Portage, page A8

Plough's law license to be suspended

Disciplinary hearing set for Portage judge

By **Dave O'Brien**
 Record-Courier staff writer

Following an agreement with the Ohio Supreme Court's board of discipline, Portage County Municipal Court Judge John Plough has agreed to have his law license suspended for one year, with six months of that suspension stayed, according to a 30-page Ohio Supreme Court filing.

A disciplinary hearing remains scheduled for Monday in Columbus, but the agreement follows an investigation into a number of



Plough

complaints about Plough's actions on the municipal court bench, to which he was elected in 2004. Nine counts of violations originally were filed, of which several were ultimately dismissed.

Plough said he fully expects he will finish out his term on the bench before the suspension takes effect, as the 27-member disciplinary committee does not meet again until December and Plough's term ends in January.

"My main goal was to finish my term. I never planned on running (for office) again anyway. I'm not happy about being disciplined, and not fighting it, but I did that for the sake of my family

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WEATHER



PLEASANT, SOME SUN

70°/46°

Accu-weather A8

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A special good morning to Record-Courier subscriber **John Fiorille of Mantua**



Homecoming in Ravenna

Ravenna High School's final Homecoming at the original building will be held Saturday. This year's theme will be "A Journey through Time."

The Homecoming décor will be in the large gymnasium in the James L. Coll Annex, and will be open to the public from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday.

S.R. 14 work under way

EDINBURG — Through Thursday, traffic on S.R. 14 from Tallmadge Road to Cable Line Road will be reduced to one lane at various locations with traffic being maintained by flaggers for pavement work.

Foreign enrollment at KSU is up 27 percent

By **Colin McEwen**
 Record-Courier staff writer

Kent State University set a record this semester with a huge enrollment surge.

But there is another fact that university officials are equally proud of — a 27 percent jump in enrollment among foreign students.

KSU officials said the university is reaping the rewards of its expanding global presence, reaching out to — and attracting — students from all over the globe.

Ninety-one countries, to be exact.

For example, from fall 2008 to fall 2009, the number of Chinese students enrolled at the university has risen 36 percent — from 112 students to 152.

University officials estimate the Chinese students enrolled this semester will generate more than \$3 million per year to the university — based on a figure that each international student brings \$20,000 of revenue to the university each year.

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Garrettsville expo is Thursday

By **Diane Smith**
 Record-Courier staff writer

GARRETTSVILLE — About 60 businesses from the Garrettsville, Hiram, Windham, Freedom and Nelson will be on hand Thursday to show that business is more robust in those small communities than people may think.

The Garrettsville Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring its 9th Biannual Business Showcase from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday at James A. Garfield High School.

Gretchen Cram, president of the chamber, said a wide variety of businesses have registered for the event. Their table rental

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Downtown ghost walk in Kent Saturday

Kent's Third Annual Downtown Ghost Walk will take place from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Saturday with tours of "haunted" locales throughout the downtown area.

The event, sponsored by Main Street Kent and the Kent Historical Society, will focus on tales of haunted Kent in the downtown area and the residential historic district around West Main Street. Attendees will tour the neighborhoods on foot as storytellers share tales of haunted Kent at stops along the way.

Storytellers include Sara Showman and Mark Dawidziak from Largely Literary

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