



Browns' 5 most important players in 2026 season

SPORTS, 1B

Akron Beacon Journal

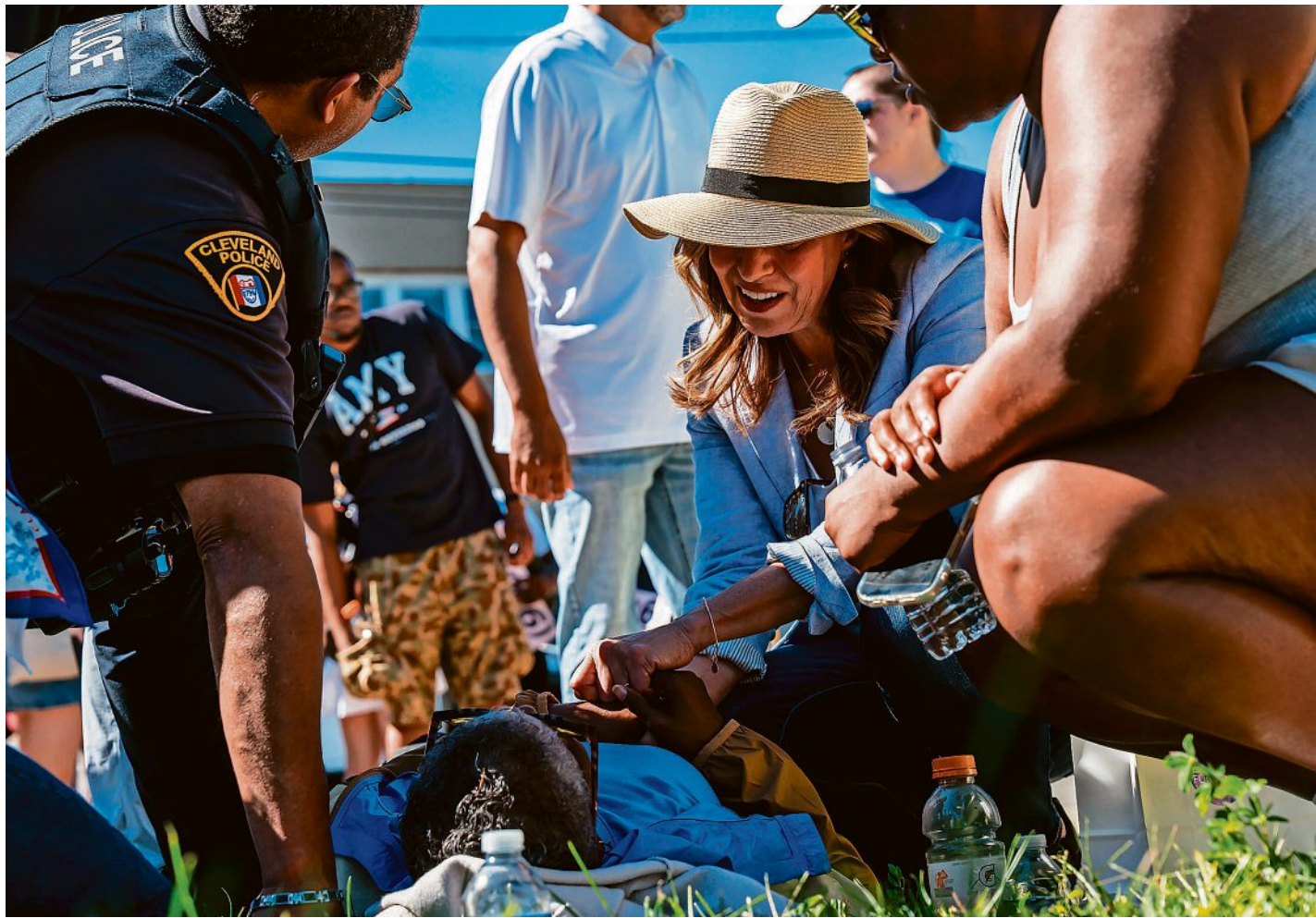
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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 | BEACONJOURNAL.COM

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ELECTION 2026 OHIO GOVERNOR'S RACE

Acton calls self 'fierce warrior'



Dr. Amy Acton, in straw hat, attends to a woman experiencing a medical emergency during the beginning of the Labor Day parade on Cleveland's east side. ANDREW DOLPH/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Dem candidate unfazed by incident day earlier

Amanda Garrett

Akron Beacon Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Democrat Ohio gubernatorial candidate Dr. Amy Acton spent Labor Day morning campaigning and providing medical care to two women who collapsed during an annual parade on Cleveland's east side.

The day before, Acton was rushed by an armed man at the Canfield Fair in her home county of Mahoning. She was not injured, but others were knocked down by the armed man and Acton provided medical care to them, too.

If Acton was rattled by the armed man Sept. 6, she didn't show it Sept. 7.

Acton hardly mentioned the incident, referring to it only as a "rough day" and describing herself as a "fierce warrior in this fight."

"They're making a big mistake when they mistake kindness for weakness," Acton told the crowd gathered at the end of the parade at Luke Easter Park. "It's a fierce commitment to justice."

Many voters at the 54th annual Labor Day Parade & Festival — which marches down Kinsman Avenue and ends in a festival of food trucks, friends and music at Luke Easter Park — said they hadn't heard about what happened to Acton a day earlier. Most said they were more concerned about pocketbook issues than political violence.

Sharita Jackson of Maple Heights said she's worried about prices.

"The cost of living is astronomical," she said. "Food is a big thing for me. People doesn't have enough food. Kids in school can't eat."

Jackson said she's also worried for

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Acton supporters before the Labor Day parade in Cleveland on Sept. 7. ANDREW DOLPH/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Armed man accused of lunging at Acton after shoving through crowd

Anthony Shoemaker, April Helms and Jessie Balmert

State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

An armed man was arrested after lunging at Democratic Ohio gubernatorial candidate Dr. Amy Acton and knocking over fairgoers at the Canfield Fair in Mahoning County, authorities said.

Midday on Sept. 6, Patrick M. Havas, 38, of Canfield, forced his way through a crowd at the Mahoning County Democratic Party's tent toward Acton, knocking over multiple people along the way, the Ohio State Highway Patrol said in a statement. The Patrol's executive protection unit quickly detained him.

Acton was not injured.

Those in attendance said Havas



Police officers gather outside a booth where an armed man lunged toward Dr. Amy Acton at Canfield Fair on Sept. 6. LISA SCALFARO/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

pulled out his phone while Acton was giving her speech, as if to record himself asking Acton a question. Havas pushed

Inside

Witness recounts attack: 'We got lucky.' 8A

Acton lends aid during parade. 8A

through the crowd, knocking down at least two older adults, they said.

After detaining Havas, law enforcement found two pistols and a Taser in his possession, according to an Ohio State Highway Patrol statement. The Canfield Fair allows firearms except inside marked buildings.

Havas was taken to the Mahoning County Jail, where he was booked on charges of disorderly conduct and two counts of assault. Investigators say no

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Flock blocks audit data that led to misuse probes

Kenny Jacoby, Austin Fast and Jack Lemnus

USA TODAY NETWORK

At least 19 police and sheriff's office employees in five states were arrested, fired, put on administrative leave or placed under investigation over the past two months for using Flock Safety's vast network of license plate reader cameras to track cars' locations for potentially improper or illegal purposes.

But it was USA TODAY reporters, not their police supervisors, who spotted their irregular search activity.

In Dallas, Georgia, state investigators arrested a 911 director who searched more than 2,500 times for cars belong-



To reveal the officers' surveillance, USA TODAY analyzed more than 75 million searches of Flock license plate reader data spanning 3½ years and more than 6,300 agencies.

BRIAN SNYDER/REUTERS FILE

ing to her estranged husband and his new girlfriend.

In Sarasota, Florida, an officer who tracked an ex-girlfriend's car at least 335 times over two months was fired and arrested.

The Lufkin Police Department in Texas suspended all Flock use after Rangers arrested an officer who had repeatedly tracked seven license plates, one more than 3,400 times. He is charged with at least 100 felonies.

In each of those cases and more than a dozen others, USA TODAY flagged their patterns of questionable searches before their own agencies did. Only after reporters contacted their employers did the agencies spring into action.

Their cases illustrate a dynamic that is playing out in communities across the country. As Flock and other brands of automated license plate readers become ubiquitous in nearly every state, many law enforcement agencies have done little to monitor how their own employees use them.

Some of that work instead has fallen on journalists, activists and others concerned that anyone with access to the company's private camera networks can follow virtually any driver's movements with a query as effortless as a Google search.

Yet in direct response to increasing

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Volume 188 | No. 128
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