



Men's NCAA tournament: Elite 8 winners, losers

SPORTS, 10A

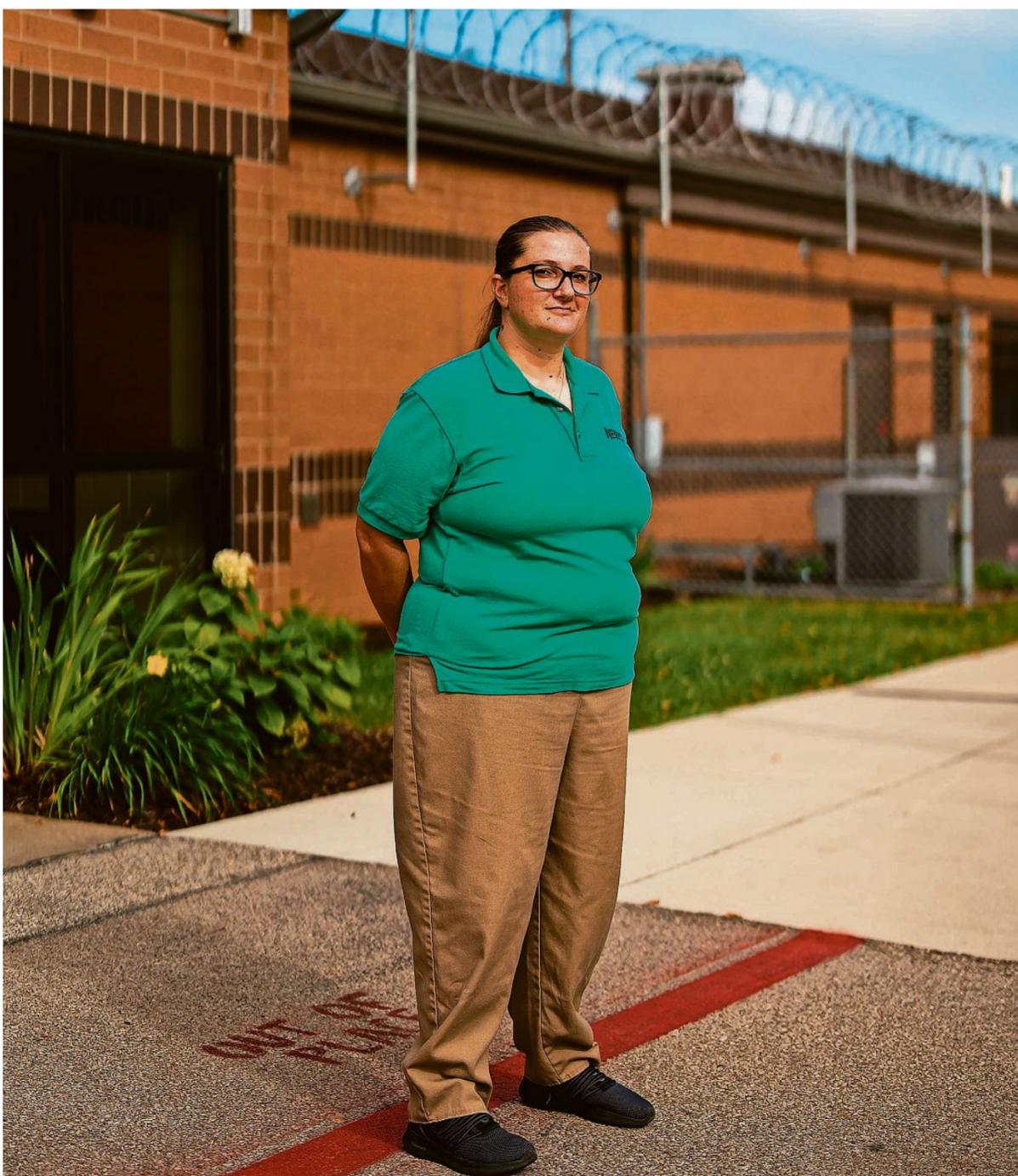
Ashland TIMES-GAZETTE

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SMUGGLED

'A bad situation'



Barbara Devine, a former corrections officer, is serving a three-year sentence for smuggling drugs into a Chillicothe state prison in 2022. She said she told her story to shed light on how corrupt staff contribute to the epidemic of drugs in Ohio prisons. ANDREW DOLPH/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Former Ohio corrections officer who was caught bringing drugs into a prison shares her story

Doug Livingston The Marshall Project

Corrections officer Barbara Devine grew nervous at the sight of the K-9 unit as she walked through security at Chillicothe Correctional Institution. • The dog was sniffing everyone entering the prison that morning in late 2022. But Devine had a good reason to be worried: In her vagina was a condom-wrapped package with three ounces of meth and eight cell phone SIM cards. • Corrections staff have recorded more than 56,000 drug confiscations in Ohio prisons since 2020, according to state data. • The Marshall Project-Cleveland, Columbus Dispatch, Cincinnati Enquirer, Akron Beacon Journal and Canton Repository examined nearly 100 prison smuggling cases to understand how illegal drugs are entering secure facilities under constant surveillance.

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Airports see return to normalcy

TSA agents get paid as federal funds are redirected

Eve Chen USA TODAY

Airports around the country are reporting a return to normalcy as Transportation Security Administration workers begin getting paid.

With legislation stalled in Congress, President Donald Trump signed an order on March 27, redirecting federal funds already earmarked for the Department of Homeland Security to pay TSA workers amid a weeks-long partial government shutdown that's ballooned airport security wait times. However, it's only a temporary fix, and long-term funding still needs to be approved by lawmakers, who are currently on a previously scheduled recess.

"At the direction of President Trump and the Secretary of Homeland Security Markwayne Mullin, TSA has immediately begun the process of paying its workforce. TSA officers should begin seeing paychecks as early as today," DHS Acting Assistant Secretary of Public Affairs Lauren Bis said in a statement to USA TODAY, expressing both TSA and DHS's gratitude for putting money back into the pockets of TSA workers who've been working without pay.

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NASA explains Ohio's influx of fireball meteors

Chad Murphy Akron Beacon Journal USA TODAY NETWORK

A 7-ton, 6-foot diameter meteor exploded over Ohio on March 17, causing a sonic boom and possibly raining meteorites over a portion of Medina County. A week later, more fireball meteors were caught on camera streaking across the skies of Northeast Ohio.

Across the country, fireball meteors have been reported. One was seen March 22 from California, Nevada and Arizona, USA TODAY reports. And on March 21, another meteor exploded over Texas, causing a suspected meteorite to crash through the roof of a home there.

So what's causing all the meteors? 'Tis the season, according to NASA. Here's what to know.

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