



## Big Ten flexes, SEC retreats

SPORTS, 9A

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## 'No better pleasure'



Truck driver Michael Harrod recently celebrated safely driving one million miles. SHELBY REEVES/CHILLICOTHE GAZETTE

### Local truck driver 'Gator' hits one million miles

**Shelby Reeves**  
Chillicothe Gazette  
USA TODAY NETWORK

For every mile he drives, truck driver Micheal Harrod is tasked with making hundreds of decisions. Whether it be big or small, each of those decisions helps ensure the safety of Harrod and those on the road with him. Day in and day out for seven years, Harrod has been making the correct decision and just recently hit the one million-mile mark as a truck driver.

Harrod moved from Florida, which earned him the nickname "Gator," to

work at Active USA in Chillicothe. For many years, he would work on the trucks, but seven years ago, he started his driving journey. As a driver, he has seen much of the country and Canada from the road and has enjoyed every moment of it.

"I've been to just about every province in Canada," said Harrod.

While on the road, Harrod said his goal is to be safe, which is why he takes his time and is always looking out for obstacles. He notes that the regular training he gets and the technology in the Kenworth trucks he drives help make that easy.

"There's no better pleasure than driving the world's best trucks," said Harrod.

Harrod is the 12th driver from the Chillicothe branch of Active USA to reach 1 million miles on the road. Two drivers from the Chillicothe location have made it to the two-million-mile mark.

To celebrate this achievement, Harrod was recognized by the state highway patrol, Representative Mark Jonson and Kelli Johnson who was there on behalf of Representative Dave Taylor. Those at Active USA also thanked Harrod and his family for their efforts and sacrifices.

Harrod said he is looking forward to many more miles behind the wheel.

## Portagree Pottery expands

### Mobile studio brings parties across region

**Shelby Reeves**  
Chillicothe Gazette  
USA TODAY NETWORK

After a year of helping customers create one-of-a-kind pieces of art in Downtown Chillicothe, Portagree Pottery is expanding with a mobile unit, which will help bring the business to new parts of the region.

Owner Tabby Allegree said that over the past year, she has learned a lot about running a business. The more she interacts with customers the more she hears what they want from the store and how the shop can improve. She has also gotten to know some amazing people over the last year.

"It has been a blast," said Allegree. She has especially loved connecting with the community and creating mugs to represent the area. In the past year, she has created mugs for the Kenworth Truck Parade, local parks and more.

Whether you want to paint a pre-made pottery piece or throw your own creation on a wheel, the business has you covered. Now, with the new pottery trailer, you don't even have to come to the store to have fun.

The trailer allows Allegree to bring everything from her store, including the wheels, on the road for parties and events. Previously, for out-of-studio events, Allegree would have to pack everything into her car, so the trailer makes traveling easier and allows her to bring more items.

Portagree Pottery will continue serving customers through its brick-and-mortar downtown store at 19 West 2nd Street in Chillicothe.



The Portagree Pottery mobile unit helps the local business bring pottery parties across the region. SHELBY REEVES/CHILLICOTHE GAZETTE

## More Ohio counties work with ICE under Trump

**Danae King**  
Columbus Dispatch  
USA TODAY NETWORK

At the beginning of 2025, just two Ohio law enforcement agencies were officially working with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials.

By the end of the year, law enforcement in at least 14 Ohio counties had agreements with ICE or the U.S. Marshals Service, many of them profiting counties to the tune of millions of dollars, according to a new report by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Ohio. In addition, the Corrections

Center of Northwest Ohio, which covers a five-county region, also was working with ICE.

That means that at least 1.6 million Ohioans and nearly 14% of the state's population live in a county where local law enforcement is working with ICE or the U.S. Marshals Service, according to the "ICE in Ohio" report.

There are different types of agreements that police, sheriffs, and jails can have with ICE. The ACLU of Ohio sent 38 public records requests to county and local police departments in 17 Ohio counties to find out which had agreements.

They found that there was a dramatic

increase in federal immigration enforcement's presence in the Buckeye state since President Donald Trump took office for his second term as president on Jan. 20, 2025.

Trump took the oath of office on the heels of a campaign promising to deport immigrants. ICE officers have rounded up immigrants, some of them legally living and working in the United States, and sent them to detention facilities as they await rulings on their cases.

In Ohio, ICE arrested more than 200 people beginning in late December during what it called "Operation Buckeye."

Though the data does not extend into 2026, Jocelyn Rosnick, chief policy and

advocacy officer for the ACLU of Ohio, said there is fear the expansion of ICE in Ohio will continue.

"We've seen from the administration that there is an environment of pressure to enter into these contracts and agreements," Rosnick said during a media call on March 30. "What our report, 'ICE in Ohio,' is uncovering is just the tip of the iceberg; it's just what we were able to glean from these contracts and agreements, but it likely goes much deeper."

Rosnick said Ohio municipalities in three counties signed four additional agreements with ICE during the first

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