



Food banks will feel fallout for months

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Congress passes hemp ban

Ohio debates rules for THC drinks, gummies

Haley BeMiller
State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

When Congress voted to end the government shutdown, it also threw a wrench in Ohio's efforts to regulate

hemp gummies and THC drinks. President Donald Trump signed legislation Nov. 12 to fund the federal government and end the record-breaking shutdown that caused chaos at airports and left 1.4 million Ohioans without food assistance.

Tucked into the spending bill is a measure that would ban most hemp-derived cannabis – something critics say will decimate businesses. “Everything that we carry is hemp related and protected by the Farm Bill over these last 10 years,” said Joe Brennan, owner of Columbus Botanical Depot. “That’s all we carry. We specialize in that one product. ... It would be every-

thing.” The measure aims to close a loophole in the 2018 Farm Bill, which paved the way for a booming industry that sells everything from synthetic delta-8 THC to THC beverages. The ban, which does not take effect for one year, applies to products with more than 0.3% total See HEMP BAN, Page 3A



Ben Batchelor will be sworn into the Ohio State Bar Association on Nov. 17 and will start practicing law at Pomerene, Burns & Skelton. His father is Judge Robert Batchelor of Coshocton County Common Pleas Court. LEONARD HAYHURST/TRIBUNE

Batchelor leaves ministry to practice law in hometown

Leonard L. Hayhurst Coshocton Tribune | USA TODAY NETWORK

Ben Batchelor went from a minister to an attorney with the uniting theme of serving people. • One would think Ben was destined for a life in law, growing up as the son of former Coshocton County prosecutor and current Coshocton County Common Pleas Court Judge Robert Batchelor. Ben's brother is also an attorney in Columbus. • He said his father never pushed him to become an attorney nor to return to his hometown to practice. However, Ben saw the need locally and has joined Pomerene, Burns & Skelton, the oldest continual law firm in Ohio now celebrating 165 years in business.

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“It’s a great opportunity to provide a service to the county that’s desperately needed and it’s a great place for me to really get my feet underneath me in terms of a legal career.”

Ben Batchelor

Holiday shipping deadlines for FedEx, UPS, USPS

Alex Perry, Marina Johnson and John Tufts
USA TODAY NETWORK

As the holiday season and Black Friday sales approach, shipping Christmas gifts could become a hassle, especially if you want them to arrive by Christmas. Major carriers like the United States Postal Service, UPS and FedEx recommend starting early to avoid potential delays so that your gifts and packages arrive by Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec. 25. And you may be able to get some gifts shipped for free on National Free Shipping Day in December. Here’s how late you can send gifts to ensure they arrive by Christmas.

When is National Free Shipping Day 2025?

This year, Free Shipping Day falls on Sunday, Dec. 14.

What is National Free Shipping Day?

National Free Shipping Day started in 2008 and takes place annually in mid-December. In the past, many companies have forgone shipping costs, allowing shoppers to keep a little extra money in their pockets in time for the holidays.

Which stores participate in Free Shipping Day?

Retailers make the decision whether or not to participate in Free Shipping Day. In the past, participating retailers have included Amazon, Walmart, Apple, Target, Nordstrom, Barnes & Noble, Bloomingdales, Best Buy, Kohl’s and many others. Check each store to see if you can earn some additional savings by shipping gifts on Dec. 14. In the meantime, here are the shipping deadlines if you want your gift to arrive before Dec. 25.

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