

### **TAKING** SHAPE

AS THE BROWNS MAKE THEIR FIRST **ROSTER TRIMS HEADED INTO TUESDAY'S** CUTDOWN DAY, THEY GET SOME DECENT NEWS ON SOME INJURIES. C1

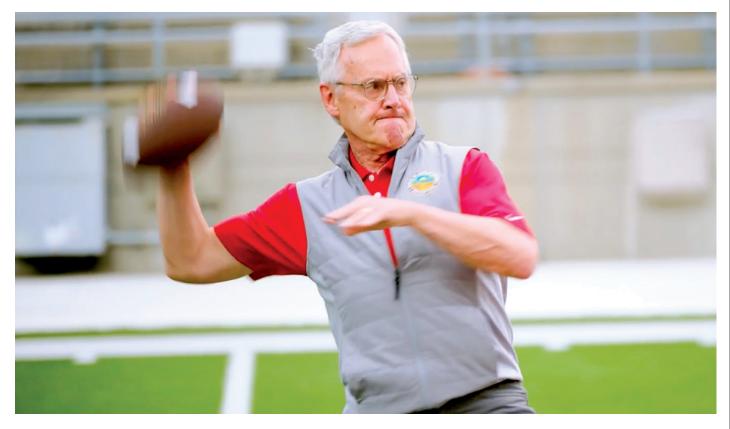


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**OHIO SCHOOLS** 

## Jim Tressel is leading the fitness



Ohio Lt. Gov. Jim Tressel fires a pass in a promotional video for the Team Tressel Fitness Challenge, which launches in schools across the state today. Image from video, Team Tressel Fitness Challenge

The lieutenant governor today rolls out the Team Tressel Fitness Challenge, as President Trump reinstates the Presidential Fitness Test.

Laura Hancock lhancock@cleveland.com

COLUMBUS — Ohio schools are reviving the classic fitness challenges of shuttle runs, sit-ups and push-ups with a new program launching today by Lt. Gov. Jim Tressel.

The Team Tressel Fitness Challenge for fourth through eighth graders is reminiscent of the former Presidential Fitness Test, but with key differences: participation is optional, and activities are designed to accommodate all abilities and fitness levels.

To receive a bronze, silver or gold certificate, students must complete challenges on sleep and nutrition in addition to exercise for 10, 20 or 30 days, with the hope that these activities begin lifetime habits.

Perhaps the biggest relief? Pull-ups - perhaps the most dreaded part of the Presidential Fitness Test — are not mandatory. Students can instead work on planks, bicep curls or other activities in the strength-building challenge.

"When I was doing the Presidential Fitness 60 years ago, I never made it to the top of that rope in the gym," said Tressel, the former Ohio State University head football coach who led the team to a

national championship and seven Big Ten championships. "I just never made it there. But I did some of the other things OK."

Currently, 631 public and private schools and homeschools with 159,000 Ohio students have signed up for the fitness challenge. In Cuyahoga County, 63 schools and home schools are participating.

The fitness challenge begins today. Students will start a 20-page workbook outlining exercise choices, and providing space for reflective writing on what activities are their favorite and how to continue to motivate themselves throughout the challenge. Social media challenges with videos demonstrating the activities also go online today. Schools will be able to upload videos to the pages as well.

SEE OHIO SCHOOLS, A2

COMMENTARY

### 'Trickle-down economics' is for their own good?

Tell it to the kids in the homeless shelter, as federal disinvestment in housing vouchers has the CMHA scrambling to hold the line against a collapsing system.

Leila Atassi latassi@cleveland.com

I have a visceral reaction when I read news like this. The Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing

Authority has urgently requested that landlords freeze rents in a desperate measure to buy time, while Washington starves the federal Housing Choice Voucher program, known to some as Section 8, of the dollars it needs to function.

Inflation has driven up the cost of everything — food, gas, utilities — and rent is no exception. Landlords aren't villains

They're facing higher property taxes, insurance premiums and maintenance

But when those increases collide with stagnant federal support, the people caught in the middle are families, seniors and those with disabilities, who

live one rent check away from losing their homes.

I know this is just one of a thousand ways our federal government betrays the people it is supposed to serve.

It sometimes feels easier on the conscience to compartmentalize these stories, to see them only as headlines, rather than lives unraveling in real time. It can be exhausting to care.

But the antidote to that compassion fatigue is meeting someone whose story strips away abstraction and makes the suffering impossible to ignore. Someone like Shay and her daughters — who reminded me so much of my own.

SEE COMMENTARY, A2

CONVENTIONS

# Group excludes CLE as host over state's LGBTQ, immigration laws

ISA leaders said their policy prohibits holding conferences in locations where members' civil rights could be restricted.

**Kaylee Remington** kremington@cleveland.com

A leading international academic association will not consider the city of Cleveland for future conventions, citing recently enacted and pending Ohio legislation affecting LGBTQ rights and immigration enforcement.

In a letter to Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine on Friday, the International Studies Association, a 7,000-member organization of scholars from more than 80 countries, said state laws restricting transgender rights and agreements between Ohio officials and federal immigration authorities would jeopardize the safety and inclusion of its members.

The group, which holds about a dozen conferences worldwide each year, said it will not pursue Cleveland as a host city. Its annual convention, drawing 5,000 to 6,500 participants, remains scheduled for Columbus in 2026, the letter said.

'We do hope for a successful and productive convention in Columbus next year, and hope that you will do everything in your power to ensure that our attendees can enjoy Columbus, whatever region of the world they are from and without regard to their sexuality or gender identity," wrote ISA President Siba Grovogui and Executive Director MJ Bosia.

David Gilbert, president and CEO of Destination Cleveland, said the decision by ISA was disappointing.

"In our work to attract people to and improve perceptions of Cleveland, Destination Cleveland pursues the hosting of meetings and conventions. These events bring hundreds of thousands of attendees and hundreds of millions of dollars in economic benefit to the city, county and state each year," Gilbert said.

**SEE CONVENTIONS, A2** 

#### **IMMIGRATION**

#### ICE scaling up

ICE is rapidly expanding and adapting its enforcement tactics as it prepares to carry out mass deportations under Trump's immigration agenda. A4

**INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING** 

#### Postal problems

As the U.S. ends duty-free exemptions on low-value imports, European postal services suspend shipments amid confusion over new tariffs and customs rules. A5

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