



‘DUMB AND DUMBER’

BROWNS SPECIAL TEAMS COORDINATOR BUBBA VENTRONE DIDN'T MINCE WORDS WHEN IT CAME TO THEIR TWO MAJOR MISTAKES ON KICK COVERAGE LAST SUNDAY. C1

SHOTSPOTTER CLEVELAND

Faster police response, but not a crime reducer



Researchers at Cleveland State University for their report analyzed 87,000 ShotSpotter alerts, observed how officers used the technology in practice and conducted hundreds of surveys of police and city residents. ShotSpotter

Cleveland State researchers release a report on the city's use of ShotSpotter, gunshot detection technology.

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An independent report has found a gunshot detection system in Cleveland helped police respond more quickly to gunfire, but it wasn't able to reduce crime. Researchers at Cleveland State University on Friday released their 185-page

report reviewing Cleveland police's use of ShotSpotter. The release came at a hearing before Cleveland City Council's Public Safety Committee. Researchers analyzed 87,000 ShotSpotter alerts, observed how officers used the technology in practice and conducted hundreds of surveys of police and city residents. The city-commissioned report found the technology's use was a mixed bag. On one hand, ShotSpotter was reliable in identifying when and where a gun was fired; it helped officers arrive on scene faster; it detected gunfire that wouldn't have otherwise been reported; and police were not abusing the technology in a way that violates the Fourth Amendment.

On the other hand, ShotSpotter did not function as a crime deterrent, rarely helped investigations, diverted police attention from other calls and didn't integrate well with other department technology. "ShotSpotter does not directly reduce crime, but it does help police respond to confirmed incidents of gunfire," said Stephanie Kent, a Cleveland State University professor who co-authored the report. The report did not make a recommendation as to whether the city should continue using ShotSpotter. Cleveland has an agreement with ShotSpotter to use the technology though at least April. SEE SHOTSPOTTER, A2

STATE LEGISLATION

Raging chromosomes: Error on test prompts action.

An expected amendment will ensure students aren't penalized for a biology question on Ohio's State Tests that was graded incorrectly.

Laura Hancock lhancock@cleveland.com

Ohio lawmakers plan next week to amend an education bill to hold high school students harmless after a state biology test question had a wrong answer marked as correct. State Sen. Andrew Brenner, a Delaware County Republican who chairs the Senate Education Committee, confirmed there was an error. The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce shared the question Friday afternoon, which was in the 2024-2025 Biology End-of-Course Assessment. It asked students to order recombination frequencies between alleles on a single chromosome on a table provided in the test. Students had to provide seven answers. "Following a review, it was determined the test vendor scored one, 1-point question incorrectly," said Lacey Snoke, a DEW spokeswoman. "As a result, the Department is working with the General Assembly to ensure that students who deserved credit for that test item are awarded the proper credit." Brenner said the amendment is expected to state that students who marked the answer that was ultimately correct will be given credit, and their final scores will improve. For all other students, the amendment is expected to state that the question will not count toward the final scores. If the Legislature passes the amendment, 529 students will move from "basic" to "proficient" on the test, Snoke said. SEE TEST, A2

SURVEY

70% of Americans say raising kids is too expensive

That's a jump of 13 percentage points from last year.

Praveena Somasundaram Washington Post

Most Americans think raising children is unaffordable, with finances as the major factor in determining family size, a new report found. Seven in 10 respondents said they believe raising children is too expensive — a 13-percentage-point jump from last year, according to the American Family Survey, which tracks public opinion about fam-

ily life in the United States annually. This year was the first time in the survey's 11-year run that Americans said finances were the top reason they capped, or planned to cap, the size of their family. They cited it twice as often as any other factor, researchers said, mirroring nationwide concerns about rising costs. The results, released Friday, are a key signal of how finances are shaping Americans' decisions about whether to have children, and if they do, when and how many. The country's birth rate stood at 1.6 children per woman in 2024 — up less than 1% from the previous year's historic low. The survey was conducted by Brigham

Young University's Wheatley Institute and Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy, and the Deseret News. Researchers surveyed 3,000 people between Aug. 6 and 18. The margin of error was 2 percentage points. Susan Brown, director of Bowling Green State University's Center for Family and Demographic Research, called the affordability concerns the survey's most striking finding. "To get 70% of Americans to agree on something, just that alone is telling us something," said Brown, who is not affiliated with the report. SEE RAISING KIDS, A2



Children watch a Veterans Day Parade in Media, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday. Matt Slocum, Associated Press

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