



GAME TWO

DID THE CAVS SHAKE OFF THE GAME 1 DISASTER AND TIE THE SERIES WITH NEW YORK, OR ARE THEY COMING HOME DOWN 2-0? FOR A FULL RECAP OF THE GAME, CHECK OUT EXTRA IN THE PLAIN DEALER ONLINE AT READER.PD.CLEVELAND.COM

WORKPLACE SAFETY

Cleveland OKs jail time for threatening hospital workers

Hospital systems have been urging City Council to stiffen penalties, but at the same time can require employees to use PTO to press charges.

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Cleveland City Council has moved forward with stricter criminal penalties for threatening healthcare workers, including mandatory jail time, while also sending some hospitals a blunt message: Stop forcing employees to use their own paid time off to pursue prosecution.

Cleveland's three major hospital systems have spent months urging council to stiffen penalties, arguing harsher consequences could help deter threats and violence against healthcare workers. But council members have remained skeptical, noting that despite hundreds of reported incidents each year, relatively few cases ever lead to criminal charges — raising questions about whether the legislation would make any practical difference.

Councilman Mike Polensek, who chairs council's safety committee, said healthcare workers told him they often avoid pursuing charges because doing so can require them to use their own vacation or sick time.

"That's one of the reasons the numbers are so low, because they have to use their own personal time or sick time to file a complaint," Polensek said.

Under Ohio law, the victim — the healthcare worker who was attacked — must be the party to press charges, not the hospital system or employer. Council can't legislate hospital HR policies, but members pressed Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals and MetroHealth to put their policies in writing and urged them to provide paid time off for employees pursuing criminal cases.

SEE WORKPLACE SAFETY, A2



Cleveland Clinic told Cleveland City Council there has been 1,390 violent events (from 2023 to date) at its locations across in the area where police were called, including assaults and menacing incidents. Just 59 cases were presented for prosecution, and 46 were prosecuted. *Getty Images*

EXTREME WEATHER

Savage hail storm in April left its mark in damages

Cost for the battering of buildings, cars and other structures is likely to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

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Large hail is often described as being the size of golf balls, but some chunks of ice that pounded Solon last month were almost the size of tennis balls, said Independence attorney Bobby Rutter.

He's referring to a brief but intense downpour of hail that pummeled a pocket of southeastern Cuyahoga County, leaving in its wake what may be the costliest natural disaster to strike the region in many years.

Rutter, who expects to be busy this summer helping clients settle insurance claims, said damage totals across the area will probably be in the hundreds of millions of dollars, although probably not more than \$300 million, when all is said and done.

"There's nothing really of this magnitude that's happened up here in the recent history of Northeast Ohio," he said. "And that's why we're not really built for it."

In many cases, roofs were damaged to the point where they can't be patched and must be replaced, he said. The same with siding. Hail may have only dented one side of a house, due to the direction of the wind, but all the siding will need replacing so everything matches, he said.

Among the hardest hit areas were the cities of Solon and Bedford.

Taylor Davis, president of Davis Automotive, which sells BMWs, Jaguars and Land Rovers in Solon, said damage to his dealership, including to buildings and vehicles, will ultimately exceed \$10 million.

"We were the worst-hit, talking to the other dealers in the area," he said.

SEE EXTREME WEATHER, A3

MEDICAL RESEARCH CLEVELAND

Former British PM's mission is personal

David Cameron visited town this week to discuss government funding, AI advances and his personal connection to rare disease research.

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Former British Prime Minister David Cameron came to Cleveland this week with a message shaped by personal tragedy: Watching his young son die from an

extremely rare neurological disorder taught him about the amazing work being done in healthcare, and how much is still unknown.

If his son Ivan had been born today, physicians could analyze his genetics and dive into a database of information about severe child epilepsies, leading to answers about causation and effective treatment, Cameron said. None of that was available when Ivan was born in 2002.

The experience led Cameron to support physician-scientists who are developing medicines for conditions including cancer, Alzheimer's, and rare diseases.

That work brought him to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History on Wednesday for the Harrington Discovery Institute's 13th Annual Scientific Symposium. The Uni-

versity Hospitals-based institute brought together entrepreneurs, investors and drug developers from across the United States, United Kingdom and Canada.

"I'm really passionate about this work, because I know what parents go through with a child with a rare disease, and the agonies of it," Cameron said during his keynote address.

Cameron is chair of the advisory council for the Oxford-Harrington Rare Disease Centre, a partnership between the Harrington Discovery Institute and the University of Oxford. The institute supports physician-scientists who are developing new medicines for rare conditions, with an added focus on brain disease.

SEE MEDICAL RESEARCH, A2

WASHINGTON

GOP senators delay vote

Senate Republicans appear increasingly unlikely to meet their self-imposed deadline for passing a roughly \$70 billion immigration enforcement bill this week. **A6**

IN THE CLE

He's The Boss

Bruce Springsteen and The E Street Band are in town tonight and we have a wish list of songs we'd love to hear at Rocket Arena. **D1**

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