Friday
August 1, 2025

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JOURNAL-NEWS

FOOD TRUCK RALLY FUNDS TO HELP ROBOTIC CENTER. A2

BENGALS' HENDRICKSON SHOWS UP AT CAMP BUT DOESN'T PLAN TO PLAY UNLESS NEW DEAL. D1

TRUMP SETS 25% TARIFF, RUSSIAN OIL PENALTY FOR INDIA. B1

TOP LOCAL STORY

Cleveland-Cliffs abandons Middletown project

Plant will keep making steel as it has for 120 years, leaders say.

By Rick McCrabb
Contributing Writer

Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. has officially backed out of a $500 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to upgrade the Middletown Works.

That grant, coupled with $1.3 billion in upgrades from Cleveland-Cliffs, was to be used to convert the company's Middletown Works steel mill to hydrogen power, which would have transformed it into one of the most advanced steel-manufacturing facilities, added jobs and ensured the long-term stability of the business, officials had said.

When that announcement was made last year, Shawn Coffey,

union president of Local 1943, called the news "absolutely huge" for the employees and community.

"It's a bold statement by the company," he said. "This shows that we will be making steel for a lot longer."

Cleveland-Cliffs Middletown Works, founded as Armco Steel in 1900, planned to invest more than $500 million in federal grants

Cleveland-Cliffs Middletown Works. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

LOCAL IMPACT

Tip, overtime earners to receive federal tax break

Big Beautiful Bill allows some to deduct up to $25K through 2028.

By Aimee Hancock
Staff Writer

Employees who earn tips and overtime in 2025 may be eligible for a tax break when they file their federal taxes next year under the recent federal spending budget passed.

The federal spending bill includes a provision which allows employees in qualifying occupations to deduct tips up to a maximum annual deduction of $25,000, through 2028.

For those who are self-employed, deduction may not exceed the individual's net income from the trade or business in which the tips were earned, according to the IRS.

The National Restaurant Association is among industry groups that have been strong backers of a "No Tax on Tips" provision.

"Eliminating taxes on tips would put cash back in the pocket of a significant number of workers in the restaurant and food service industry and could help restaurant operators recruit industry workforce," Sean Kennedy, executive vice president of public affairs for the association, said.

While there is still much to be learned about how these changes will affect companies, Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce President Chris Kershner said business owners and managers already have their hands full when it comes to overseeing employees and operations.

"While Dayton area businesses have not received guidance yet

A server brings drinks to a table at Culp's Cafe at Carillon Historical Park in Dayton on July 22. The recently passed federal spending bill includes a provision that allows employees in qualifying occupations to deduct tips to a maximum annual deduction of $25,000. BRYANT BILLING / STAFF

from the U.S. Department of Treasury or the Internal Revenue Service on the new law, we are hopeful that it doesn't create additional administration for the business community," he said.

Individuals who receive qualified overtime compensation may also deduct the pay that exceeds their regular rate of pay, according to the bill's "no tax on overtime" provision, which is also effective temporarily through 2028.

The maximum annual deduction for overtime pay is $12,500, or $25,000 for joint filers.

Deduction eligibility for both tips and overtime phases out for taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income of more than $150,000, or $300,000 for joint filers.

The average worker is expected to see a tax cut of between $1,400 and $1,750 per year, according to the White House Council of Economic Advisers.

Tax-free tips would reduce federal revenue by $31 billion between the 2026 and 2029 fiscal years, while tax-free overtime would reduce federal revenue

by $90 billion during the same period, according to an analysis by the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation.

"If you look at the data on tipped income, that would cover the majority of individuals earning tips in the United States," Garrett Watson of the Tax Foundation, an organization that advocates for simplifying the tax code in pursuit of economic growth, told other media outlets. "So, it's still pretty generous for most

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TOP NATIONAL STORY

Trump proposes tracking of health data

Centers for Medicare, Medicaid Services say system to be opt-in.

By Amanda Seitz
Associated Press

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump has announced a plan for a new private health tracking system that will make it easier for patients to access their health records and monitor their wellness across health care systems and technologies. The system, however, is raising a host of privacy questions.

The collaboration between the federal government and Big Tech would allow patients to more seamlessly track and share their medical records or data among doctors, hospital systems and health apps, the administration and participating companies say.

Details of the system were announced Wednesday during a White House event dubbed "Making Health Technology Great Again."

How it would work

The system would be maintained by the federal government through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, pulling health data kept by Big Tech companies like Amazon, Google and Apple as well as major health companies like hospital system Cleveland Clinic and insurer

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