

FAMILIES
RECEIVING
PARTIAL
SNAP
BENEFIT. A2

DAYTON WILL
INDUCT TOPPIN INTO
UD HALL OF FAME IN
DECEMBER. D1

TRUMP ‘KNEW
ABOUT THE
GIRLS,’ SAYS
EPSTEIN
EMAIL. B1

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LOCAL IMPACT

Hamilton fire station 1st in county to add baby box

Safety incubator for surrendered newborns is 20th in state of Ohio.

By Michael D. Pitman
Staff Writer

Ohio's 20th Safe Haven Baby Box was installed in Hamilton, which the city's mayor said "results in safer newborns."

Tuesday afternoon, city leaders and state and federal officials attended the dedication of the baby box, also known as newborn safety incubators, at Hamilton Fire Station 22, 77 Pershing Ave.

It's the 395th box in the United States from the Safe Haven organization, whose founder, Monica Kelsey, said had helped 71 newborns. The Hamilton baby box is the first in Butler County.

She said while Ohio's law gives mothers the option to surrender a newborn 30 days or younger to law enforcement, hospitals or an emergency service organization, such as a fire department.

"What we're doing here today is giving a last-resort option for parents if they can't walk into this facility and hand their child to a person," Kelsey said.

Every state has some form of a Safe Haven law. In Ohio, the law was enacted about 25 years ago. In 2017, the state amended its Safe Haven laws to include newborn safety incubators, which Kelsey said now gives mothers "100% anonymity if they so choose."

The baby boxes are regulated by the state, and each location must be registered through the Ohio Department of Health. Registrations must be renewed every

three years.

While Safe Haven Baby Boxes is an organization working to install these newborn safety incubators, it is not the only company that can do so, according to the Ohio Department of Health.

Ohio Department of Health spokesman Ken Gordon said there are 20 newborn safety incubators registered in Ohio, though the department does not track the

manufacturer, only that they're installed. The department also does not track how many babies have been delivered to an NSI.

Gordon said there are two steps that require registration. Individuals who plan to install a box need to register with the Ohio Department of Health prior to the installation. In addition, each law enforcement agency, hospital, or emergency medical service that

has an NSI must register prior to the device being used.

More information on state requirements and registration forms can be found at odh.ohio.gov.

Thus far, according to media reports and Kelsey, two babies have been surrendered in Ohio through a Safe Haven Baby Box.

Baby box continued on A8

Federal budget bill bans hemp products

Ohio legislators say ban will affect state's regulation efforts.

By Avery Kreemer
Staff Writer

Ohio legislative leaders say they'll be forced to change course on the route to regulate intoxicating hemp in the state, following a provision in the federal budget bill passed this week that places new restrictions on hemp-derived products.

Ohio House Speaker Matt Huffman, R-Lima, told this outlet Wednesday that he expects federal action in this space to "significantly affect" the state legislature's conversations around intoxicating hemp, given that federal law supersedes state law.

The federal provision changes the federal definition of legal hemp, excluding all hemp-derived products that contain artificial or synthesized cannabinoids and all naturally derived hemp products that contain more than 0.3% of intoxicating cannabinoids like delta-8 THC, THCA, and "any other cannabinoids that have similar effects."

Such a restriction is characterized as an outright ban by industry advocates. Ohio Healthy Alternatives, an organization against government

Hemp continued on A8

U.S. GOVERNMENT

Federal workers question whether shutdown was worth their sacrifice

Many who missed paychecks feel like they were used as pawns.

By Fatima Hussein
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Jessica Sweet spent the federal government shutdown cutting back. To make ends meet, the Social Security claims specialist drank only one coffee a day, skipped meals, cut down on groceries and deferred paying some household bills. She

racked up spending on her credit card buying gas to get to work.

With the longest shutdown ever coming to a close, Sweet and hundreds of thousands of other federal workers who missed paychecks will soon get some relief. But many are left feeling that their livelihoods served as political pawns in the fight between recalcitrant lawmakers in Washington and are asking themselves whether the battle was worth their sacrifices.

"It's very frustrating to go through something like this," said Sweet, who is a union steward of AFGE Local 3343 in New York. "It shakes the foundation of trust that we all place in our agencies and in the federal government to do the right thing."

The shutdown began on Oct. 1 after Democrats rejected a short-term funding fix and demanded that the bill include an extension of federal subsidies for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

Its end emerged when eight

Shutdown continued on A8

Federal workers stand in line to pick up meals from the World Central Kitchen, Wednesday, in Washington. CLIFF OWEN / AP

THE LATEST

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