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STUDENT LOANS?
WHAT TO KNOW
FOR 2026. **B8**

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BACK TO LEAVE
OSU, ENTER
TRANSFER
PORTAL. **C1**

CONTINUING COVERAGE



The Nuxhall Foundation has exceeded a \$1 million matching gift challenge from the Hatton Foundation. The challenge was issued in support of the Hope Center, a year-round indoor complex for those who are physically and developmentally disabled. The 31,000-square-foot facility will be an addition to the Joe Nuxhall Miracle League Fields on Groh Lane in Fairfield. PROVIDED

\$1M challenge met for Nuxhall Foundation

Matching gift will allow foundation to break ground for Hope Center in 2026.

By Michael D. Pitman
Staff Writer

The Hope Center, a project years in the making, will break ground in 2026 after a first-time Nuxhall Foundation donor makes major matching gift. Hatton Foundation Executive Director Walt Lunsford announced at the Miracle Ball in October a \$1 million matching gift to construct the 31,000-square-

HOPE CENTER DONATIONS

Donors can support The Nuxhall Foundation's Hope Center project :

- Online at nuxhallmiracleleague.org/donate
- By Venmo to [@nuxhallfoundation](https://venmo.com/nuxhallfoundation)
- By mail at The Nuxhall Foundation, P.O. Box 18146, Fairfield, Ohio 45018.
- Three-year pledges can be set up at nuxhallmiracleleague.org/pledgehope.
- For further giving opportunities, contact Nuxhall Foundation Executive Director Tyler Bradshaw at info@nuxhallmiracleleague.org.

foot indoor recreational facility planned for the Joe Nuxhall Miracle League Fields campus in Fairfield.

And they matched every dol-

lar, and then some.

More than \$1.25 million was donated by the Wednesday deadline toward the Nuxhall Foundation project, which brings the

capital campaign total to more than \$6.6 million, enough to start construction.

The total campaign has a \$12 million goal, with \$10 million needed for construction and \$2 million for a maintenance and operational endowment, according to The Nuxhall Foundation.

"This overwhelming total was a team effort from a community of givers who get why our mission matters – and more importantly, they realize that The Hope Center is a dream worth believing in," said Kim Nuxhall, president and board chairman of The Nuxhall Foundation.

Challenge continued on A6

LOCAL IMPACT

Hospital stays for flu quickly rising in Ohio

Health officials: New strain from Australia may be contributing to increasing number of hospitalizations.

By Michael Kurtz
Staff Writer

Hospitalizations due to flu in the region and nationally are climbing rapidly and in some cases doubling or tripling historical averages, according to the Ohio Department of Health.

For the week ending Dec. 27, 1,465 Ohioans were hospitalized due to the flu, up from 745 the prior week and more than double the historical average of 665.

A 16-year-old Beavercreek girl was the state's first pediatric flu-related death of the season, ODH Director Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff reported on Dec. 31.

Ohio typically has between 1 and 7 pediatric flu-related deaths per year according to the state.

Greene County had 30 people hospitalized for the flu during the week ending Dec. 27, more than triple the 9 from the prior week.

Flu continued on A6

TOP INTERNATIONAL STORY

Justice Department indicts Maduro for cocaine, corruption

He's accused of allowing shipment of thousands of tons of cocaine into U.S.

By Alanna Durkin Richer
and Larry Neumeister
Associated Press

NEW YORK – A newly unsealed U.S. Justice Department indictment accuses captured Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro of running a "corrupt, illegitimate government" fueled by an extensive drug-trafficking oper-

ation that flooded the U.S. with thousands of tons of cocaine.

The arrest of Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, in a stunning military operation early Saturday in Venezuela sets the stage for a major test for U.S. prosecutors as they seek to secure a conviction in a Manhattan courtroom against the longtime leader of the oil-rich South American nation.

After arriving at a small airport in New York City's northern suburbs, Maduro was flown by helicopter to Manhattan, where a convoy of law enforcement vehi-

cles, including an armored car, was waiting to whisk him to a nearby U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration office.

Speaking to reporters hours after Maduro's capture, President Donald Trump revealed his plans to exploit the leadership void to "fix" the country's oil infrastructure and sell "large amounts" of oil to other countries.

Here's a look at the accusations against Maduro and the charges he faces:

Maduro continued on A6



Government supporters burn a U.S. flag in Caracas, Venezuela on Saturday after U.S. President Donald Trump announced that U.S. forces had captured Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife.

ARIANA CUBILLOS / AP

THE LATEST

Probe opened into managers of Swiss bar where fire killed 40. **B1**

Retraction of study renews concerns about weedkiller. **B2**

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