



Five college football coaches on the hot seat

SPORTS, 11A

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Highway patrol wages announced

Zach Tuggle
Mansfield News Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

There are 26 workers at Ohio Highway Patrol Post 70 in Richland County and, in 2025, they earned a combined \$2.39 million, an average of \$91,700 each.

Everyone who works for the Ohio Highway Patrol, regardless of their position, is an employee of the state's department of public safety, which has a budget of \$1.08 billion for fiscal year 2026.

To maintain public financial transparency, journalists from USA Today Co.

have requested salary information for officials from around the nation.

The salaries of state employees are listed on Ohio Checkbook, a financial database maintained by the Ohio Office of Budget and Management, which is overseen by Ohio Treasurer Robert Sprague.

Lt. Jason Murfield, the commander of the Mansfield post, which is off Ohio 13 one block north of Interstate-71, "covers an area that is a vital hub for Ohio travel, centered around Interstate-71 and U.S. 30."

Here is a look at the salaries for the

people who work at Ohio Highway Patrol Post 70 in Richland County and earn at least \$50,000:

Jason Murfield - lieutenant

Murfield is paid a rate of \$65.44 per hour and in 2025 had a base pay of \$135,293.30 and total earnings of \$142,413.17

"We take pride in protecting and serving an area that includes multiple educational institutions, two correctional facilities, two rest areas and the Mansfield Lahm Air National Guard Base," Murfield

said. "The Mansfield Post is one of the most active in the state, and our troopers are dedicated to meeting the unique needs of our community."

Their goal, he said, is "to foster strong community partnerships while providing essential services to reduce fatal and injury crashes and support the public during emergencies."

"Our troopers work to ensure the safety of everyone traveling on Ohio's roadways by removing impaired drivers and enforcing traffic laws," Murfield said.

See **WAGES**, Page 2A



A young skier works through a turn during a race at Snow Trails ski resort in Mansfield. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY SNOW TRAILS

Young Olympic hopefuls train at Snow Trails in Mansfield

Zach Tuggle
Mansfield News Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

The air was frigid and dark as Justin O'Dell skied down the competition slope at Snow Trails ski resort in Mansfield.

"I want to turn more aggressively on this course," he said under the lights. "Really get some power on the outside ski so I can gain more speed for my turns."

Like most of the 40 or so other youth who train regularly at Snow Trails, the 13-year-old Loudonville boy hopes to someday ski in the Winter Olympics, maybe as soon as the 2030 games in France.

"I'm not going to put all my eggs in one basket," O'Dell said. "But I sure will try."

See **SKI**, Page 10A



A young skier works through a turn during a race at Snow Trails ski resort in Mansfield.

Wexner gives testimony about Epstein

Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

New Albany billionaire Les Wexner testified to a congressional committee from his New Albany home for nearly five hours on Feb. 18 about his relationship with disgraced and now deceased financier Jeffrey Epstein.

Epstein, a convicted sex offender, died in 2019 in what New York City's chief medical examiner ruled a suicide in a New York jail cell awaiting trial on child sex trafficking charges. He was Wexner's former financial adviser, and the two had a close relationship for years.

The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform released its full deposition video of Wexner on Feb. 19.

A spokesperson for Wexner declined to comment for this story.

Here are key takeaways from the interview with the committee.

Wexner answers questions about Ohio State OB-GYN Mark Landon

Wexner told questioners that he was not aware of payments made to Dr. Mark Landon, an OB-GYN at Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and who documents show was being paid by Epstein.

Landon has said he did not provide medical care to Epstein but was a consultant on bio-tech investments from 2001 to 2005. Records released by the Justice Department suggest Landon was being paid \$25,000 to \$30,000 at a time.

A memo left for Epstein on April 11, 2005, stated: "Dr. Landon's \$25k quarterly payment is due, please approve." Later that day, the same individual followed up with an additional memo making reference to Wexner and his wife, Abigail.

See **EPSTEIN**, Page 10A

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