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News Journal

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New Trump accounts arrive

Amani Bayo
Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohio families now have another option to help save for their children's future. The new federally backed "Trump Accounts" officially launched July 4, allowing parents to open investment accounts for children under 18. Babies born between 2025 and 2028 are also eligible for

a one-time \$1,000 government contribution. But while the new accounts have generated national attention, Ohio already has a long-running savings program designed to help families prepare for education expenses. Officials with Ohio's CollegeAdvantage 529 plan say the two programs aren't mutually exclusive, and parents don't necessarily have to choose one over the

other. "They certainly can be in both programs," said Dave Kemp, interim executive director of Ohio's CollegeAdvantage program. "There's no issue with that." **How do Trump Accounts work?** Created under President Donald Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Trump Accounts are investment ac-

counts owned by a child but managed by a parent or guardian until the child turns 18. Any child younger than 18 can have an account, but only U.S. citizens born between 2025 and 2028 qualify for the federal government's \$1,000 "seed" contribution. Families and others can contribute up to \$10,000 per year. **See ACCOUNTS, Page 2A**



Kamal Dhimal, left, president and CEO of the Global Bhutanese Hindu Organization, shows David Swalley a few updates at the organization's world headquarters in Galion. ZACH TUGGLE/NEWS JOURNAL

Exiled from Bhutan, Hindu diaspora finds a home in OH

Zach Tuggle
Mansfield News Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Thousands of Hindus exiled from their homeland of Bhutan have found solace during their annual festival in Galion. Nearly 10,000 members of the Global Bhutanese Hindu Organization are expected to visit the Om Center Divya

Dham at 4270 Ohio 309 between Galion and Marion for this year's event, Varshik Utsav, which runs July 6-12. Residents of Richland, Crawford, Marion and Morrow counties will notice that number is down from the 75,000 who visited for the 2025 festival, said Kamal Dhimal, president and CEO of the Global Bhutanese Hindu Organization. "Last year, we had a huge program,

and that program was organized by 11 different countries," Dhimal said. "This year, we don't have that big volume, though we have some people from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Michigan and some other areas." The larger events drawing worldwide travelers are expected to take place every five years. **See HOME, Page 2A**

Ohio law requires 15-foot police buffer

Jessie Balmert
State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

A new Ohio law requires protesters and bystanders to give law enforcement a 15-foot buffer when they're doing their jobs. The change is aimed at keeping law enforcement safe in life-or-death scenarios, but could infringe on protesters' First Amendment rights. House Bill 20, signed by Gov. Mike DeWine on July 7, will penalize anyone who doesn't give law enforcement a 15-foot buffer zone when performing their duties. Protesters and bystanders can't approach or remain in that area after receiving a warning from a first responder or if their presence interferes with officers' duties. "This bill simply allows first responders to focus on their duties and protect our community," said Rep. Phil Plummer, a Republican and former Montgomery County sheriff, who sponsored the bill with Rep. Thomas Hall, R-Madison Township. The new law also increases the penalty for "obstructing official business" to a fourth-degree felony if the violation creates a risk of physical harm to a first responder. Groups like the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio and the Council on **See BUFFER, Page 2A**

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