



River Valley wrestler Valerie Riegel emerges as elite on the mat

SPORTS, 15A

The Marion Star **WEEKEND**

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2026 | MARION, OHIO | MARIONSTAR.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Acton calls 2019 dispute a private matter

Jessie Balmert
State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

Democratic Ohio gubernatorial candidate Amy Acton's campaign is pushing back against a recently disclosed 2019 domestic dispute, saying allies of Republican Vivek Ramaswamy are using the "private verbal disagreement" to smear her as the race intensifies.

In 2019, Bexley police responded to a domestic dispute between Ohio Department of Health Dr. Amy Acton and her husband. Acton is now running as a Democrat to replace term-limited Gov. Mike DeWine.

Republican gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy's allies, including Donald Trump Jr., say that behavior is disqualifying. Acton's campaign says they're blowing a "private verbal disagreement" out of proportion.

No one was charged or arrested in the incident, which the police report noted was a "verbal dispute only" and showed "no evidence of any physical violence."

On Aug. 18, 2019, Bexley police were dispatched to a "domestic dispute" between Acton and her husband, Eric, over her extended work hours, according to a Bexley Police Department field interview report first covered by NBC News. At the time, Acton was serving as DeWine's state health director.

Amy Acton told police she thought her husband was antagonizing her and wanted to leave the house. As Amy Acton was descending the stairs, she

See **ACTON**, Page 2A



"I take full responsibility for my mistakes. I apologize to the whole city council and the board. I feel like I wasted their time. And I feel like I wasted the City of Marion and the people's time, the people I was supposed to represent," Shawn Wilson, Fourth Ward said. ABBY BAMMERLIN/MARION STAR

Wilson resigns after four days in office

Abby Bammerlin
Marion Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Editor's note: This story has been updated to include information on Shawn Wilson's party affiliation, com-

ments from Wilson and comments from Scott Crider, At Large.

Just two days after his appointment, Shawn Wilson, Fourth Ward, resigned from the position effective April 15. The letter was submitted to the Marion County Board of Elections

on April 16.

Wilson cited "conflicts of interest" related to his job at the Ohio Department of Transportation as the reason for his resignation. He said on April

See **WILSON**, Page 2A

ODOT: Cars zooming to the orange barrels before merging are right

Chad Murphy
Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

Orange barrel season will be unrelenting this year as Ohio has nearly 1,000 road projects planned in 2026 that are projected to cost a record-breaking \$3.4 billion.

All that road work will bring lane closures that will snarl traffic and

force motorists to wait. And that may drive a pet peeve for some drivers who merge over right away and patiently wait, watching (perhaps with increasing irritation) while a dozen or so other cars zoom past, right up to the orange barrels before merging.

Well, guess what? The Ohio Department of Transportation says those drivers who cut in at the last second are doing it right.

Ohio Department of Transportation encourages the zipper merge

An ODOT Facebook post says the zipper merge eases congestion and shortens backups by 40%, delaying congestion and shortening the line of cars by one-third of a mile. According to ODOT, the zipper merge benefits all drivers.

What is the zipper merge that ODOT recommends?

The zipper merge got its name because it brings to mind the mechanics of a zipper -- two lines smoothly coming together to form one, according to AAA Living. To perform a zipper merge, drivers should stay in their

See **ODOT**, Page 2A



addressUSA

Find Out What Your Home Is Worth

Call Today for an Expert Valuation and Make Your Next Move

888-438-0750

Mon-Sun: 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM



Discover more at addressUSA.com

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to marionstar.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 149 | No. 134
Subscribe 877-424-0210
©2026 \$3.00



0 40901 50513 6