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Ohio State will honor Jerry Lucas with a statue

SPORTS, 13A

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Husted: Gov't shouldn't force vaccines

Cole Behrens

Columbus Dispatch

USA TODAY NETWORK

Sen. Jon Husted said Sept. 5 that the government shouldn't force vaccinations amid changes in federal guidance.

At a tour of the Eastland Career Center in Groveport, Husted said that "we should never force people to take vaccines that they don't want."

"Through the pandemic, a lot of public trust was lost in our so-called 'health experts,'" Husted said. "We need to re-

build trust and we should always remember, though we shouldn't force people to take health care services they don't want, but we shouldn't prevent them from having access to them either."

In August, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration changed the recommendation for COVID-19 vaccines, saying they should be administered only to people over certain ages with underlying conditions and those over 65, according to USA TODAY.

Husted's remarks came a day after an

explosive U.S. Senate Finance Committee hearing with Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., where Kennedy initially refused to say COVID-19 vaccines had saved lives or acknowledge that more than 1 million people in the U.S. had died from the disease when prodded by senators, according to USA TODAY.

Kennedy also defended the firing of CDC employees, including the director, arguing the agency failed during the COVID-19 pandemic, blaming the agency for business closures, masking of stu-

dents at schools and other mandates.

On Sept. 5, Husted said he had not had the opportunity to watch the hearing or read what was said.

"These are important conversations to have — and I'm satisfied at the moment that we're having that healthy debate — but sometimes it can be controversial, but we need we need to have it as a nation," Husted said.

The remarks also come after Florida officials announced plans to repeal vac-

See HUSTED, Page 2A

Despite financial turmoil and layoffs at other facilities, Intel continues to build its chip-manufacturing plant in New Albany. DORAL CHENOWETH/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Future of Intel's Ohio project is in question

Chips may not be produced in New Albany until 2030 or 2031

Max Filby and Maria DeVito

Columbus Dispatch

USA TODAY NETWORK

Construction equipment kept rolling just steps away from a temporary stage where some of the nation's top political and tech leaders heralded Intel's 2022 arrival in Ohio as what would turn the Rust Belt into the "Silicon Heartland."

Not even a visit from the president of the United States for the groundbreaking ceremony could pause work on Intel's Ohio factories that were set to open in 2025. In fact, momentum was so strong that Intel's then-chief executive officer Pat Gelsinger boasted the company's proposed \$28 billion investment could grow to \$100 billion and that as many as 10 factories could be built locally.

But three years since the 2022 groundbreaking, Intel is still in search of a customer for the chips it

intends to make in Ohio and not a single factory has opened as financial turmoil has forced the chip-maker to repeatedly delay its New Albany fabs.

"Things are very much up in the air," said Zach Schiller, research director at Policy Matters Ohio, a left-leaning think tank with offices in Columbus and Cleveland. "There are some people who think it might not happen at all, and that's quite possible."

Semiconductors were to begin rolling off factory lines this year at Intel's Ohio One campus. Now, chips may not be produced locally until at least 2030 or 2031 as the company announced in July that it would "further slow" construction.

Despite the delays and financial troubles, Intel's leaders have maintained they're committed to building out the Ohio fabs and have reassured state and local leaders that the project will keep moving forward.

"With approximately \$7 billion invested in Ohio through its fabrication plants project, Intel's Ohio One facility is on track to produce chips made here

See INTEL, Page 12A

Newark woman connected to homicide sentenced

Josué Perez

Newark Advocate

USA TODAY NETWORK

A Newark woman will spend six years in prison after pleading guilty to involuntary manslaughter and other charges in connection with the death of a man in Hanover Township.

Brandy L. Sunkle, 40, entered her plea during a Sept. 8 hearing in Licking County Common Pleas Court. Prosecutors in October charged her with murder in the death of Dale Matson, 48, whom deputies found dead Oct. 7 in Hanover Township. But that charge was reduced to involuntary manslaughter as part of a plea agreement. Sunkle pleaded guilty to the reduced charge along with tampering with evidence and weapons under disability.

Deputies responding to a report of a shooting in the 3000 block of Albright Road found Matson dead in a car with multiple gunshot wounds, according to a criminal complaint, and reported finding shell casings around the car and a bullet hole in the driver's side door.

During the hearing, Licking County Chief Felony Prosecutor Cliff Murphy said an investigation into Sunkle's phone found deleted text messages in which she asked three other defendants in the case — Jason Castle, 46, of Hope-well; Travis Schwarz, 44, of Pickering-ton; and Sasha Martin, 36, of Newark — to come to her home after alleging Matson hit her and was acting erratic.

In June, Castle pleaded guilty to shooting and killing Matson but is seeking to withdraw that plea, court records show.

Murphy also said messages revealed Sunkle planned to keep Matson there until the other three arrived and that she told another person the trio were coming to cause Matson serious physical harm.

"I am very sorry that this has all happened," Sunkle said during the hearing. "Never was there any kind of intention for something so terrible to happen. It's affected my life, every-body's life who was involved and I just

See SENTENCED, Page 5A

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