



Vaccine panel had low rate of financial conflicts

NEWS, 2A

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7TH ANNUAL PORT CLINTON LIGHTHOUSE AND MARITIME FESTIVAL

Festival goers enjoy great weather in Port Clinton

Doug Hise

Special to The News Herald
USA TODAY NETWORK

PORT CLINTON - Twenty vendors and three food trucks were on hand at the 7th annual Port Clinton Lighthouse and Maritime Festival at Waterworks Park.

Festival goers were treated to beautiful blue skies and temperatures in the upper 80s on Aug. 16.

See **FESTIVAL**, Page 2A



The Port Clinton Antique and Classic Wooden Boat Show was held at the 7th Annual Port Clinton Lighthouse and Maritime Festival on Aug. 16.

DOUG HISE/SPECIAL TO THE NEWS HERALD

ONE YEAR LATER



A worker checks the growth and health of a bud during an inspection at the Buckeye Relief cultivation facility in Eastlake. PHOTOS BY MIKE CARDEW/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

IS IT WORKING?

Ohio's recreational marijuana program faced a turbulent first year of operation

Haley BeMiller State Bureau | USA TODAY NETWORK

When Ohio legalized recreational marijuana, supporters forecasted a new era for cannabis consumption in the Buckeye State. • Consumers would turn their backs on the illicit market. Tax dollars would go to local communities, not the state up north. • People harmed by marijuana prohibition could turn over a new leaf and open small businesses in a blossoming industry. • Turns out reality is more complicated than that.

Since recreational marijuana sales launched one year ago, the industry has faced sluggish growth and a slow regulatory process that delayed the rollout of popular products.

People still visit Michigan to buy cheap marijuana.

The prevalence of gray market cannabis, including delta-8, means consumers can bypass a licensed dispensary and visit stores with fewer rules.

It's not all doom and gloom, business leaders say. Sales picked up in 2025, and changes on the horizon could give the market a boost.

But uncertainty still abounds – especially as state lawmakers debate whether to tinker with the program backed by voters in 2023.

“There’s no reason to expect that Ohio would somehow redefine the market possibilities for this drug,” said Doug



A technician holds Sour Blue Diesel flower in the cure room at Buckeye Relief's cultivation facility in Eastlake.

See **PROGRAM**, Page 3A

Sherrod Brown launches Ohio Senate campaign

Haley BeMiller

State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

When Sherrod Brown left the U.S. Senate last year, he promised he wasn't going anywhere.

His comeback didn't take long.

Brown, 72, announced Aug. 18 that he'll run for Senate in 2026 against Sen. Jon Husted, who was appointed to replace Vice President JD Vance earlier this year. Neither candidate is expected to face a serious primary challenge, meaning they can focus squarely on next year's general election.

“Ohio doesn't have a United States senator that cares about workers, period,” Brown said in an interview with the statehouse bureau. “I want to be that again. I can make a difference.”

Brown's announcement came months after he lost to Sen. Bernie Moreno in one of the country's most competitive Senate races. It also ended speculation about his political future and whether he would run for governor against the presumptive GOP nominee, Vivek Ramaswamy.

Brown said he thought seriously about both races but believes he can make the biggest impact in the Senate.

“It wasn't that I think governor would be a bad thing to do or a lousy place to make change,” he said. “I just think that the Senate is a better place that I can make the kind of change and advocate for workers.”

Despite help from national Democrats in 2024, Brown couldn't overcome President Donald Trump's popularity in Ohio and his impact on the rest of the Republican ticket. Trump defeated former Vice President Kamala Harris by 11 points, while Brown lost to Moreno by fewer than

See **BROWN**, Page 2A

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