



## Day exceeds expectations in his latest performance review

SPORTS, 1B

# News Herald

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## Could ‘Meet Baby Olivia’ be required viewing?

3-minute video depicts development of a fetus

**Jessie Balmert**  
State Bureau  
USA TODAY NETWORK

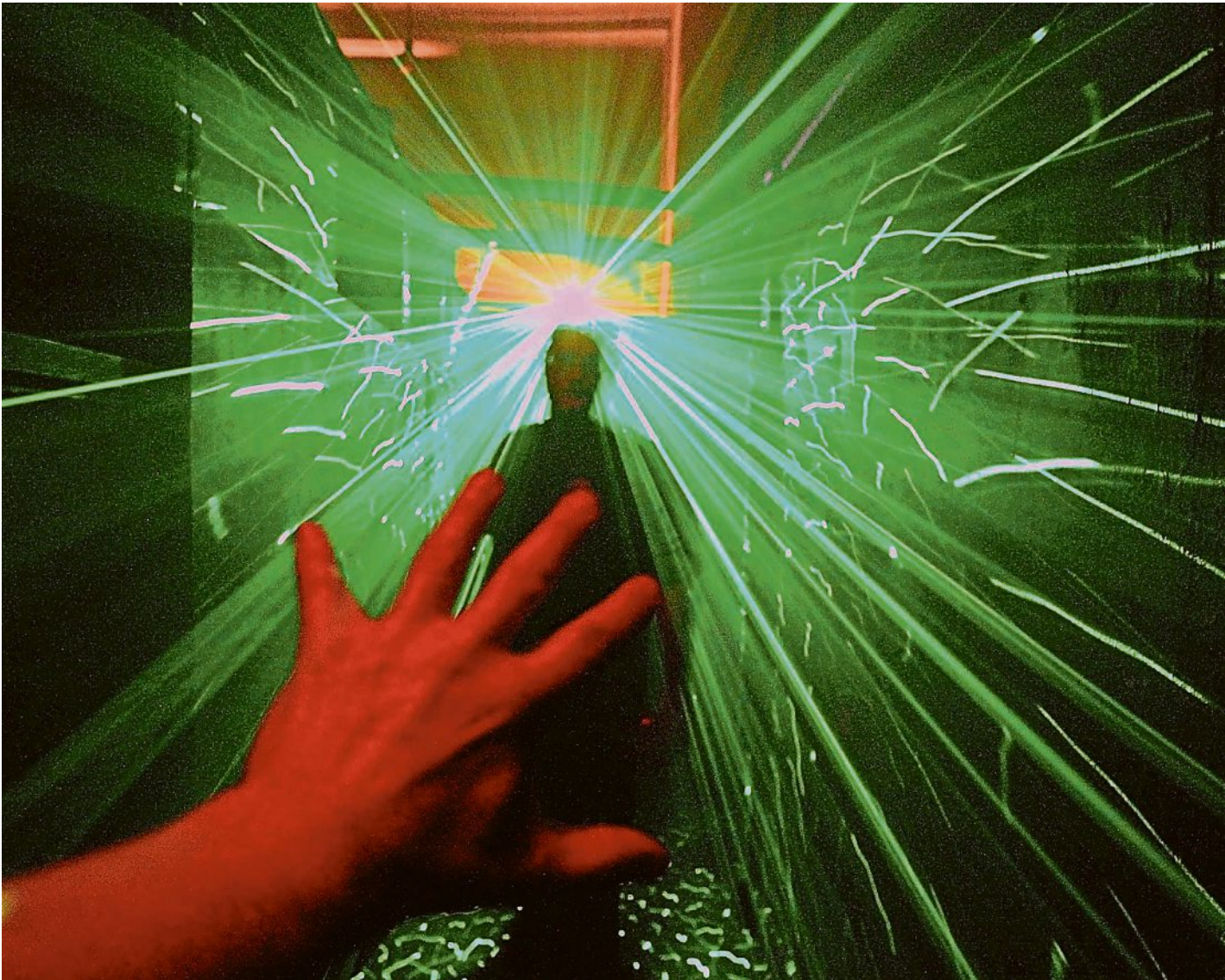
An Ohio Republican lawmaker wants to require public school students to watch a video depicting fetal development – a proposal pushed by abortion opponents in several other states.

Rep. Melanie Miller, R-Ashland, introduced the Baby Olivia Act to make watching a video on fetal development mandatory for public school students each year starting in the third grade. Under House Bill 485, Ohio would audit whether schools show the video, starting in the 2026-2027 school year. Schools that don’t comply risk a lawsuit or other penalties, Miller said. “We’re hoping that we can change the culture to be celebrating life instead of destroying life,” said Miller, who also

leads Ashland Pregnancy Care Center, which opposes abortion. Live Action, an anti-abortion organization, created a three-minute video called “Meet Baby Olivia,” which narrates that life begins at fertilization. Planned Parenthood, which performs abortions, describes the video as “created by the extreme national anti-abortion group Live Action explicitly to be used to indoctrinate young people in

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## The best haunted houses in Ohio



Something scary is happening at the Haunted Schoolhouse and Laboratory on Oct. 23, 2014 in Akron. PHIL MASTURZO/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

### Haunted Schoolhouse, Laboratory in Akron are already open

**Chad Murphy**  
Akron Beacon Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Spooky season is underway in Ohio, with longtime favorites like the Haunted Schoolhouse and Laboratory in Akron already open. As Ohio continues its reign as the state with the most haunted houses in the nation, the number of choices may be overwhelming to some. And that’s where websites like The Scare Factor and Ohio Haunted Houses come in.

Each year, The Scare Factor gives its picks of the top 13 haunted houses in Ohio, based on popularity metrics, social media presence and the site’s own reviews. The website insists it is not a “best of” list. Instead, it’s “a list of haunts we feel that you need to add to your visit list this season for various reasons.” And Ohio Haunted Houses presents its Attraction of the Year award, as voted on by haunted house enthusiasts, each year. Both lists offer up a good selection of

the best haunted houses around the state. Here’s a look at their choices.

**What are the best haunts in Ohio for Halloween 2025? The Scare Factor’s ranking**

The Scare Factor’s choices for the top haunts this Halloween are:

1. Fear Columbus
2. The Dent Schoolhouse, Cincinnati
3. Face Your Fears Hotels of Terror,

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## Ohio minimum wage will increase in 2026

**Haley BeMiller**  
State Bureau  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohio’s minimum wage will increase to \$11 starting Jan. 1, 2026. The change marks a 2.8% jump from the current rate of \$10.70 for non-tipped workers, according to the Ohio Department of Commerce. Wages for tipped employees will increase from \$5.35 per hour to \$5.50. Ohio’s minimum wage increases Jan. 1 every year based on inflation. The rate applies to businesses with annual gross receipts of more than \$405,000 per year. Employees of smaller businesses, as well as 14- and 15-year-olds, earn \$7.25 per hour. The advocacy group One Fair Wage unsuccessfully pushed for a constitutional amendment in 2024 to raise Ohio’s minimum wage to \$15. Organizers pledged to put the issue on the November 2025 ballot, but that never materialized. State government reporter Haley BeMiller can be reached at hbeMiller@gannett.com or @haleybemiller on X.

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