

Guardians win series with walk-off hit in 10th

SPORTS, 1B

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Haymaker Farmers' Market in Kent has debuted its recently completed mural in the location of the year-round, weekly event. PHOTOS BY LISA SCALFARO/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Haymaker Farmers' Market debuts collaborative mural

April Helms

Akron Beacon Journal USA TODAY NETWORK

Organizers of the Haymaker Farmers' Market recently celebrated the completion of a new mural on Franklin Avenue in Kent.

This mural, reported to be the largest in Portage County, was unveiled Aug. 23 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The artwork was created in collaboration with Kent State University's Wick Poetry Center. The mural's design features the "Haymaker Community Poem," which was created in 2022 using submissions from shoppers and vendors who wrote poems for the market's 30th anniversary.

"We were thrilled to create the website and prompts, to gather a harvest of voices celebrating the market, to build

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The recently completed mural under the Haymaker Parkway overpass in Kent includes pieces of poems written to celebrate Haymaker Farmers' Market's 30th anniversary in 2022.

Judge tosses Mantua officer's lawsuit

Civil suit about Portage endangerment claim

Jeff Saunders

Ravenna Record-Courier USA TODAY NETWORK

A Mantua police officer's lawsuit against the Portage County Sheriff's Office over a child endangerment charge has been dismissed by a federal

Judge Bridget Meehan Brennan dismissed on Aug. 27 the case Miranda Brothers filed in February due to alleged noncompliance of court orders by Brothers and her attorney, Eric Fink, according to U.S. Sixth District Court for the Northern District of Ohio records. The case was dismissed "with prejudice," meaning it cannot be refiled.

Attempts to reach Brothers and Fink by phone for comment were not immediately successful.

The civil complaint Fink filed names Portage County, the Portage County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Bruce D. Zuchowski, former sheriff's Detective Kenneth Romo, and a second, unidentified detective as defendants in the case.

According to court records, both parties were ordered to submit a joint status report prior to an Aug. 14 telephone status coference. When the report was not submitted, the conference was cancelled and the parties were ordered to submit the report by Aug. 18.

On that date, the defense filed a status report that indicated they twice had attempted to contact Fink in the previous few days without response. In addition, no explanation for the

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Ohio sees kindergarten vaccine rates drop ahead of school year

Samantha Hendrickson

Columbus Dispatch USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohio's K-12 students are back in class, but are they vaccinated?

The start of the 2025-2026 school year comes on the heels of a national measles outbreak that killed several children and hospitalized hundreds of

unvaccinated people in the United States, as well as increased anti-vaccine rhetoric at the federal level under Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Vaccination rates for Ohio's kindergarteners have continued to drop since the 2019-2020 school year, reaching a low of 85.4% vaccinated in the 2024-2025 school year — down from 89.9%

just five years ago. It follows a national trend of decreased vaccination rates, many of them due to religious or philosophical exemptions.

Vaccination rates of more than 90% are necessary in order to achieve "herd immunity," or the number of vaccinated people necessary to provide effective protection from things like measles and whooping cough, which have seen a re-

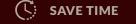
bound in recent years, health officials

"That means thousands fewer incoming kindergartners are protected against the range of diseases that these vaccines prevent," Ohio Department of Health director Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff lamented in an Aug. 26 press conference,

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