



Son’s burnout caps celebration of life for the late Kyle Busch

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Legalization eliminates some state marijuana offenses

Nancy Molnar
Canton Repository
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michigan may be Ohio’s biggest rival when it comes to the legal marijuana industry, thanks to lower prices. But it’s not the only one. The underground market — people growing and selling marijuana illegally — remains active in Ohio, law enforcement officials say, despite cannabis being readily available in joints, gummies, oils and other forms at more than 225 regulated dispensaries throughout the state. Law enforcement agencies admit they are more focused on other illegal drugs such as fentanyl and heroin, but marijuana-related arrests — while significantly down from years ago when cannabis was illegal in Ohio — continue.

It raises the question of why people are still buying illegally when they don’t have to. Marijuana experts and law enforcement say perhaps because it’s cheaper or because people don’t want to step into one of the legal cannabis businesses.

“The answer is economics,” Morgan Fox, political director of the marijuana advocacy group NORML and an Olmsted Falls native, wrote in an email. “Establishing a legal, regulated market isn’t like flipping a switch; it is introducing new competition to a well-established, incredibly interconnected underground market. Most consumers prefer the quality, safety, and reliability that comes with the regulated market, but for a significant portion of consumers, price is the biggest determining factor for where they obtain cannabis.”

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Canton Police Chief John Gabbard presents 2025 crime statistics before City Council.

ABREANNA BLOSE/CANTON REPOSITORY

MEASLES ON THE RISE



The U.S. measles outbreak continues to grow, showing little sign of slowing. ILLUSTRATION BY JANET LOEHRKE/USA TODAY

Cases in Ohio increase more than 300% in 2026

Alex Perry, Janet Loehrke and Chad Murphy
USA TODAY NETWORK

Measles cases in Ohio continue to climb as the state battles its third outbreak of 2026. Health officials warn measles is one of the world’s most contagious diseases. The virus spreads easily among unvaccinated people and can cause serious complications, especially in young children, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Ohio has reported more than 200 cases across 20 counties this year, according to the Ohio Department of

Health. Here’s what to know about the outbreak, why cases are rising, how measles spreads and why Ohio could continue to see cases rise. **How fast measles is spreading in Ohio**

Ohio’s case count has risen rapidly in recent months, growing from 45 cases reported Aug. 6 to 206 cases reported Oct. 1, the most recent ODH numbers show. The 206 cases in the Buckeye State so far in 2026 are already a 348% increase from the 46 cases in all of 2025. Measles cases continue to rise nationwide, with 3,887 infections reported

this year, according to the CDC. Measles isn’t spreading evenly across the country. Some states have reported no cases, while others have seen outbreaks, defined as three or more linked cases in a particular area. In 2026, 42 outbreaks have been recorded so far, representing about 95% of all reported infections, according to the CDC. Ohio has seen three outbreaks this year. Health officials say outbreaks are more common in communities with lower measles vaccination rates, where the virus can spread more easily

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Summit Metro Parks deciding whether to renew Szalay’s field lease for 32 acres

Stephanie Warsmith
Akron Beacon Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

As a lifelong farmer, John Szalay is no stranger to sleepless nights. He worries about the rain – and whether there will be too much or too lit-

tle. He frets about the corn and whether they can plant it soon enough for a good haul. Lately, though, he’s been concerned about the future of Szalay’s, the Peninsula farm that’s been in his family for 95 years and five generations.

Szalay’s is currently in negotiations with Summit Metro Parks for a new lease of a 32-acre property that is its largest field in the Cuyahoga Valley – and the only one on high ground. Complicating the talks, though, is

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