



McKinley dominates early, pulls away late for Federal League win vs. Lake

SPORTS, 1B

THE CANTON REPOSITORY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2026 | CANTONREP.COM

MOVING OUR COMMUNITY FORWARD SINCE 1815 | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

There is no print edition of the paper today, but you can find today's puzzles, comics, national news and sports here in the eNewspaper.

OHIO

Measles cases increase more than 300%

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, ac-

cording 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 in

densely populated areas once it is introduced. So far this year, three states have reported more than 500 measles cases: Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Utah.

Why Ohio could be at risk for more measles cases

Most measles cases reported in Ohio this year have been among people who were not vaccinated, according to state health officials.

"It's unfortunate that these outbreaks have become more common in

See MEASLES, Page 6A



FedEx Capt. Michael "Shawn" Johnson, second from left, is pictured with other captains who participated in a Sept. 27 flight that delivered two large pandas to the United States from China. Also pictured are pilots Mark Fisher, Jason Redenius and Trey Hollingsworth. PROVIDED BY MICHAEL "SHAWN" JOHNSON

FedEx pilot from Jackson Twp. helped deliver 2 pandas from China

Steven M. Grazier
Massillon Independent
USA TODAY NETWORK

Michael "Shawn" Johnson, a FedEx pilot for 21 years, has seen his share of special deliveries.

A recent flight catapulted to the top of the Ohio pilot's list of favorites.

Johnson, of Jackson Township, is one of four FedEx pilots who shared flying duties last month aboard a Boeing 777 aircraft that delivered two giant pandas to the United States from China.

"FedEx handles a lot of animal transports, but this one was special," Johnson said of the nonstop, 8,000-mile flight from Chengdu, China, to Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in



Johnson

Atlanta. The flight took 16 hours. "I was honored to be part of that team."

The pandas – a 6-year-old male named Ping Ping and a 5-year-old female named Fu Shuang – arrived at Zoo Atlanta on Sept. 27. Both animals are part of Beijing's "panda diplomacy." American and Chinese officials recently met over trade relations and the AI race.

The flight was dubbed the "FedEx Panda Express," said Johnson, 56, a 1988 graduate of Hoover High School and former U.S. Air Force pilot.

Johnson said he watched as the pandas were loaded onto the FedEx aircraft in crates, but did not interact with the

animals. He said the only previous flight that comes close to this effort was when he transported a horse across multiple states.

Some other flights over the years have delivered tropical fish and chickens, Johnson said. Routine or everyday cargo tends to consist of electronics, appliances, clothing and an occasional vehicle.

"Nothing came close to this one. I was fortunate to get picked," Johnson said. He's been a pilot for 33 years and noted that flight hours and experience were factors in his selection.

Other pilots tapped for the mission were Mark Fisher, Jason Redenius and Trey Hollingsworth.

See PANDAS, Page 6A

Stark County pumpkin growers pumped for the fall season

Aaron Hughes
Canton Repository
USA TODAY NETWORK

As the weather cools and the spooky season approaches, it is a good time for pumpkin seekers in Stark County.

Kevin King, co-owner of the family Kingsway Pumpkin Farm near Hartsville, always looks forward to fall.

"The setup and the summer are long, getting everything fixed, built and set up and all that stuff. Once we open, I like the days running. I like to see people enjoy what we have," King said.

While the rainfall might have dampened some Ohioans' summer, it led to a good harvest for the 45-acre Kingsway farm.

"Yields are pretty good. Still got some weedy patches, but we have (that) anytime," he said. "Weeds and pumpkins is always a challenge."

Over in Lawrence Township south of Canal Fulton, the rain might've been a little too heavy for the 47 acres of pumpkins at Nickajack Farms.

"The pumpkins grew really well. They do have a little bit of a problem that they got too much water, if you can believe that," co-owner Debbie Sebolt said. "You'll see a lot of stems are starting to look like they're drying off and they're browning up a little bit. That's because there's too much water."

Overall, it was a good harvest for the farm as it gears up for fall events. The crisp blue skies and cooler temps create perfect pumpkin picking conditions.

"The picking patch is ready to go," she said. "There's pumpkins that are orange; some are turning, so now is the perfect time."

Here is a look at some places to enjoy pumpkins and enjoy fall fun across Stark and Northeast Ohio:

Arrowhead Orchard, 11724 Lisbon St. NE in Paris Township, runs a fall festival for the public on Saturdays and Sundays until Nov. 2. It features

See PUMPKIN, Page 5A

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to cantonrep.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 211 | No. 166
To subscribe 330-580-8500
©2026 \$2.99

