



Food banks will feel fallout for months

NEWS, 4A

TIMES RECORDER

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CFA EMINENT DOMAIN CASE

Firm requests reconsideration

Shawn Digity
Zanesville Times Recorder
USA TODAY NETWORK

ZANESVILLE – Not so fast. The eminent domain battle between Barnes Advertising and the Muskingum County Convention Facilities Authority (CFA) over two billboards still has some life.

Barnes’ attorney Michael Galasso submitted a document Nov. 6, requesting reconsideration from the Ohio Supreme Court, after it declined jurisdiction (or review) over the case Oct. 28. Galasso argues that Ohio’s Fifth District Court of Appeals made its decision in favor of the CFA in May 2025 based on its plan to build two community pa-

vilions next to the Muskingum County Conference & Welcome Center, and not the specific taking of two billboards and their corresponding easements in its parking lot. Galasso also stated the appeals court and the Muskingum County Court of Common Pleas, which ruled in favor of the CFA in October 2024, both

made their rulings on speculation. He asserted that the CFA had “fluctuating descriptions of the intended public use, incomplete plans, incomplete funding, and an underlying revenue-based purpose,” according to his filing. **See CFA, Page 2A**

‘IT’S AN HONOR’

State group recognizes Reed with Rookie of the Year award

Shawn Digity
Zanesville Times Recorder | USA TODAY NETWORK

ZANESVILLE – Muskingum County is the home of a recently named Rookie of the Year recipient — but the honor wasn’t sports-related. Eric Reed, executive director of the Zanesville-Muskingum County Port Authority, received the honor last month at the Ohio Economic Development Association’s annual summit and award luncheon. The award recognizes an individual who has been an economic development professional in Ohio for less than two years and has made extraordinary contributions to local or state economic and workforce development. The three finalists were anonymously nominated then scored and reviewed by a selection committee based on port authority projects. The local projects, all done under Reed’s leadership, include:

- Nearly \$21 million in All Ohio Future Funds for a developmental site in Jackson Township.
- Completion of the Marker Inc. 200,000-square-foot spec building at National Road Business Park.
- Expansion of the Eastpointe Business Park’s transloading station and railroad infrastructure.
- Air freshener company K29 (Sterling Teal International) and its relocation into Zanesville.

“It’s an honor to receive, but it’s more than an individual award. It’s a collective effort with the community and the stakeholders and folks that put a concerted effort into making Muskingum County a great place,” Reed told the Times Recorder Nov. 12.

Reed took over the executive director role in April 2025.

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Eric Reed, the Zanesville-Muskingum County port authority’s executive director, was awarded as the Ohio Economic Development Association’s Rookie of the Year in October He was judged on developmental projects, like a spec building at National Road Business Park. SHAWN DIGITY/ZANESVILLE TIMES RECORDER

Congress passes hemp ban

Ohio debates rules for THC drinks, gummies

Haley BeMiller
State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

When Congress voted to end the government shutdown, it also threw a wrench in Ohio’s efforts to regulate hemp gummies and THC drinks. President Donald Trump signed legislation Nov. 12 to fund the federal government and end the record-breaking shutdown that caused chaos at airports and left 1.4 million Ohioans without food assistance. Tucked into the spending bill is a measure that would ban most hemp-derived cannabis – something critics say will decimate businesses. “Everything that we carry is hemp related and protected by the Farm Bill over these last 10 years,” said Joe Brennan, owner of Columbus Botanical Depot. “That’s all we carry. We specialize in that one product. ... It would be everything.” The measure aims to close a loophole in the 2018 Farm Bill, which paved the way for a booming industry that sells everything from synthetic delta-8 THC to THC beverages. The ban, which does not take effect for one year, applies to products with more than 0.3% total THC or 0.4 milligrams per container. And it’s already complicating efforts by Ohio lawmakers to set rules for the state’s hemp industry. The Ohio House and Senate are in the middle of negotiations over Senate Bill 56, which aims to tweak the recreational

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