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MORE THAN \$108 IN COUPONS • INSIDE

The Lima News

Issue 150, Volume 137

Breaking news at limaohio.com

Sunday, May 30, 2021 • \$2.50

Tank plant facing cut in funding

Portman: Reduction of more than \$400M a step backward

By Sam Shriver
The Lima News

WASHINGTON — The Abrams Main Battle Tank program at the Joint Systems Manufacturing Center in Lima stands to lose almost \$400 million in the proposed defense budget of President Joe Biden.



Portman

The Biden administration's budget requests \$981 million for

Abrams tank modification which is down by over \$400 million from the \$1.4 billion it received in the previous year's budget.

Lima Mayor David Berger, who is co-chair of Task Force Lima, was optimistic that funding would be restored.

"This had unanimous bipartisan support from the congressional delegation and I expect that will continue going forward," Berger said. "The plant's back over 900-plus employees and they're building 30 tanks a month. That's from when they were building one tank (a month). So things are going well out there and I think we'll continue to see them go well for quite some time."

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, called the decision a step backward.

"I'm very disappointed to see the Biden administration supporting budget cuts for modernization of these Abrams Main Battle Tank," Portman said late Friday. "During the Trump administration, we saw much-needed increases in the level of modernization funding and the Biden administration is now taking a step back. It is vital that our troops have the best equipment in the world, which is why our tanks must be continually upgraded."

The modifications are done by the strategic, skilled workforce at the Lima Tank Plant, Portman said.

"The best tanks and armored vehicles in the world are made at JSMC, and it is absolutely critical that we maintain funding for the vehicles modified and built at this military facility," Portman said. "The JSMC and our Ohio workers are not just making our country safer, they're

See TANK | 3A

Ohio health orders are going away

Reviewing statistics from the COVID-19 pandemic

A look at key dates and corresponding Lima-area numbers of weekly new cases and deaths.

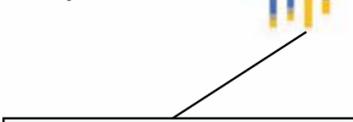


JULY 23, 2020
Gov. Mike DeWine orders residents to wear masks in public, later expanding the order to include schools.

Weekly new cases



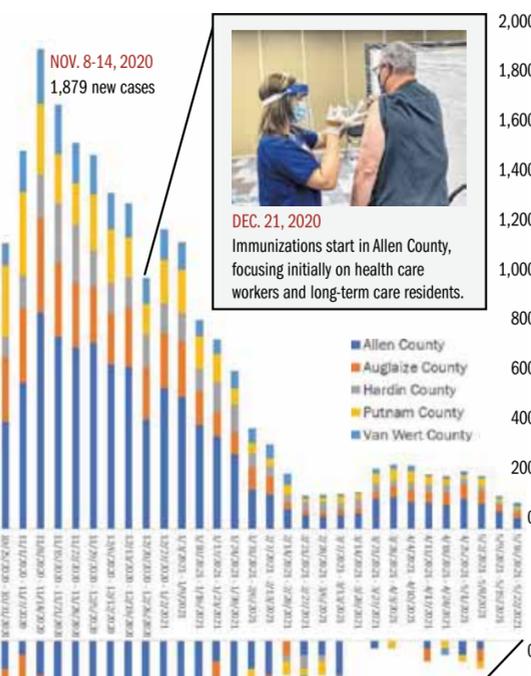
Weekly new deaths



MAY 1, 2020
Ohio businesses start to reopen, starting with elective surgeries, veterinarian and dental offices. Only employees were required to wear masks.



AUG. 12, 2020
Lima schools welcomes students back for in-person instruction, giving families the option to continue online learning if preferred. Allen County districts were among the first schools to bring students back into classrooms.



JUNE 2, 2021
Ohio Department of Health will rescind all health orders following the CDC's guidance that fully vaccinated individuals are safe to stop wearing masks and social distancing.

But unvaccinated remain at risk

By Mackenzi Klemann
mklemann@limanews.com

LIMA — Ohio was the first in the nation to close schools in March 2020. The state is now set to rescind all but a few of its mask rules and health orders June 2, forgoing previous standards Gov. Mike DeWine said would guide his decision to eliminate pandemic rules as soon as Ohio's case average fell below a threshold the state is unlikely to meet by Wednesday.

DeWine was heralded as a national leader for taking early action to slow the transmission of a virus that health officials knew little about.

But the politics of Ohio's coronavirus response has often been shaped by opposition from the governor's own party, culminating in legislation limiting his public health authority that will take

See ORDERS | 3A

Five new deaths for region

The Lima News

There were five deaths reported in the 24 hour period ending at 2 p.m. Saturday.

Three of the deaths were in Allen County and one each in Hardin and Putnam Counties.

ONLY ON LIMA OHIO.COM

See more local coverage about COVID-19 at LimaOhio.com/tag/coronavirus.

Get the shot

Ohio's online vaccination scheduling portal shows who's eligible and which pharmacies, health departments and mass vaccination clinics are closest to your home or workplace. Visit gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov to schedule your appointment.

Share your information at info@limanews.com.

COVID-19 IN PAST DAY

| County | Cases | Deaths | Recovered | Change |
|------------------------|-----------|--------|-----------|---------------------|
| Allen County | 11,838 | 237 | 11,403 | +9 +3 +22 |
| Auglaize County | 4,984 | 87 | 4,794 | +1 0 +17 |
| Hardin County | 2,736 | 65 | 2,641 | 0 +1 +4 |
| Putnam County | 4,329 | 103 | 4,170 | +2 +1 +10 |
| Van Wert County | 2,464 | 64 | 2,371 | 3 0 +1 |
| Ohio | 1,101,557 | 19,861 | 1,061,831 | +585 0 +1,066 |

Updated 2 p.m. 5/29/21
Recovered defined as symptom onset more than 21 days prior, not deceased. Only verified deaths included now, which is updated twice per week by the state.

Source: coronavirus.ohio.gov

Gun-rights advocates praise legislation

By Jim Provance
The (Toledo) Blade

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Pointing to Michigan as Exhibit A, Republican gun-rights advocates in Ohio on introduced bills last week that would prohibit state and local govern-

ments from infringing on gun access and use in the heat of an emergency.

While not an issue in Ohio during the coronavirus pandemic, the bills' sponsors, state Rep. Scott Wiggam (R., Wooster) and state Sen. Tim Schaffer

(R., Lancaster), said the state shouldn't wait until the next emergency occurs under a different governor.

"[Michigan] Gov. Gretchen Whitmer restricted the ability of people to buy firearms as part of her COVID response,"

said Chris Lee, lobbyist for the National Shooting Sports Foundation. "And later over the summer she was quoted as saying she would happily do it again."

"When a state like Michigan,

See GUN RIGHTS | 3A

OHIO LOTTERY

DAILY (Saturday)
Pick 3: 0-8-1 day, 6-0-6 night
Pick 4: 0-1-4-3 day, 1-9-4-9 night
Pick 5: 9-7-1-2-9 day, 7-0-6-3-2 night
Rolling Cash 5: 2-10-18-29-32

CLASSIC (Saturday): 2-6-24-26-28-29
KICKER: 273750
Jackpot: \$9.0 million
POWERBALL (Wednesday): 2-8-21-34-62
Powerball: 16

Power Play: 2
Jackpot: \$253 million
MEGA MILLIONS (Friday): 10-14-20-47-70
Mega Ball: 15
Megaplier: 2
Jackpot: \$34 million

A NEWS
B REGION & OHIO
Region News: 1B
Obituaries: 2B
Weather: 6B
C SPORTS

D BUSINESS
Business: 1D
Opinion: 3D
E LIFESTYLE
People & More: 2E
Parenting: 3E

Calendar: 4E
F REAL ESTATE / CLASSIFIED
Z COMICS

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