



Storylines galore for today's big matchup

SPORTS, 1D

Covering Ravenna, Kent & Portage County

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COVID-19

About 70% of Portage firefighters vaccinated

Area departments are making shot optional

Bob Gaetjens
Record-Courier
USA TODAY NETWORK

Though not a complete picture, about 68% of Portage County firefighters and EMS personnel have chosen to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as part of Phase 1A.

Based on data from 10 of the county's fire departments, including the four cities, vaccination rates in individual departments range from around 18% in Atwater to 95% in the city of Ravenna. Area fire departments are making vaccination optional, and many of the firefighters opting out say they want to see longer-term success before rolling up their sleeves, according to fire administrators around the county. Streetsboro Fire Capt. Kevin Grimm said he did a lot of reading before decid-

ing to get the vaccine. About 71% of the Streetsboro department chose to get vaccinated. "Unless you are anti-vaccine, period, this wasn't rushed," he said. "Everything I experienced was as expected." He said the first dose produced soreness in his arm where he was injected. The side effects with the second dose were worse. "After, the second dose, I got an achy back, headache, fatigue, loss of appetite and a general malaise feeling," said

Grimm, adding the side effects set in 18 hours after the second shot and then were gone after 24 hours. Aurora Fire Chief David Barnes said he discussed how much to encourage firefighters to get the shot with the city's law and human resources departments. In Aurora 46 of 50 fire and EMS personnel elected to get vaccinated. "A couple of them wanted to see what kinds of reactions we had," he said. **See VACCINE, Page 2A**

Family still coping with loss of Evey



Melissa Montecalvo in her Ravenna home, after the Dec. 13 death of her daughter, Evey Montecalvo, 13, in an auto crash. Melissa pulls Evey's current school photo from an envelope. PHOTOS BY LISA SCALFARO/RECORD-COURIER

13-year-old died in an auto crash in December

Jeff Saunders
Record-Courier
USA TODAY NETWORK

Evangelina Ann Montecalvo was a bright light to her friends and family — a happy girl who just wanted others to be happy, too. "She was so sweet to everyone," said her mother, Melissa Montecalvo. "She was a great friend, a beautiful person. She was so much fun. She always knew how to make people laugh. She was always being silly and telling jokes. "Basically, she was just always happy, always smiling, always trying to make other people happy." Thirteen-year-old Evey, as she was known to her family and friends, was one of three people killed when the driver of a pick-up truck lost control and crashed on Peck Road in Shalersville on Dec. 13. Melissa said her daughter had a



A beaming baby Evey in a photograph on the refrigerator.

Officials worry over safety of Super Bowl

Heather Hollingsworth and Curt Anderson
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kansas City Chiefs superfan Ty Rowton hugged strangers in the streets of Miami last year after watching his team win the Super Bowl, and then joined hundreds of thousands of fans back home at a victory parade, thinking little of a mysterious virus that his buddies were beginning to talk about. The championship seems like a lifetime ago. Now the Chiefs are preparing to play in the Super Bowl again, this time in Tampa, Florida, and the virus has morphed into a once-in-a-century pandemic that has health officials on edge as fans congregate at parties and bars for the game. The nation's top health officials sounded the alarm this week about the Super Bowl being a potential super-spreader event, and they urged people to gather with friends over Zoom, not in crowds. "I'm worried about Super Bowl Sunday, quite honestly. People gather, they watch games together. We've seen outbreaks already from football parties," said Rochelle Walensky, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "So I really do think that we need to watch this and be careful." The Super Bowl comes as the nation sees a dramatic drop in new virus cases — a sign that the infection spike from holiday gatherings is easing. The virus has killed about 460,000 people in the U.S., but the seven-day rolling average for daily new cases went from 180,489 as of Jan. 22 to 125,854 as of Friday, according to data from Johns

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Despite the city slogan of "need a mask, just ask," bare faces take in the sights Friday near activities for this year's Super Bowl in Tampa, Fla. CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

