

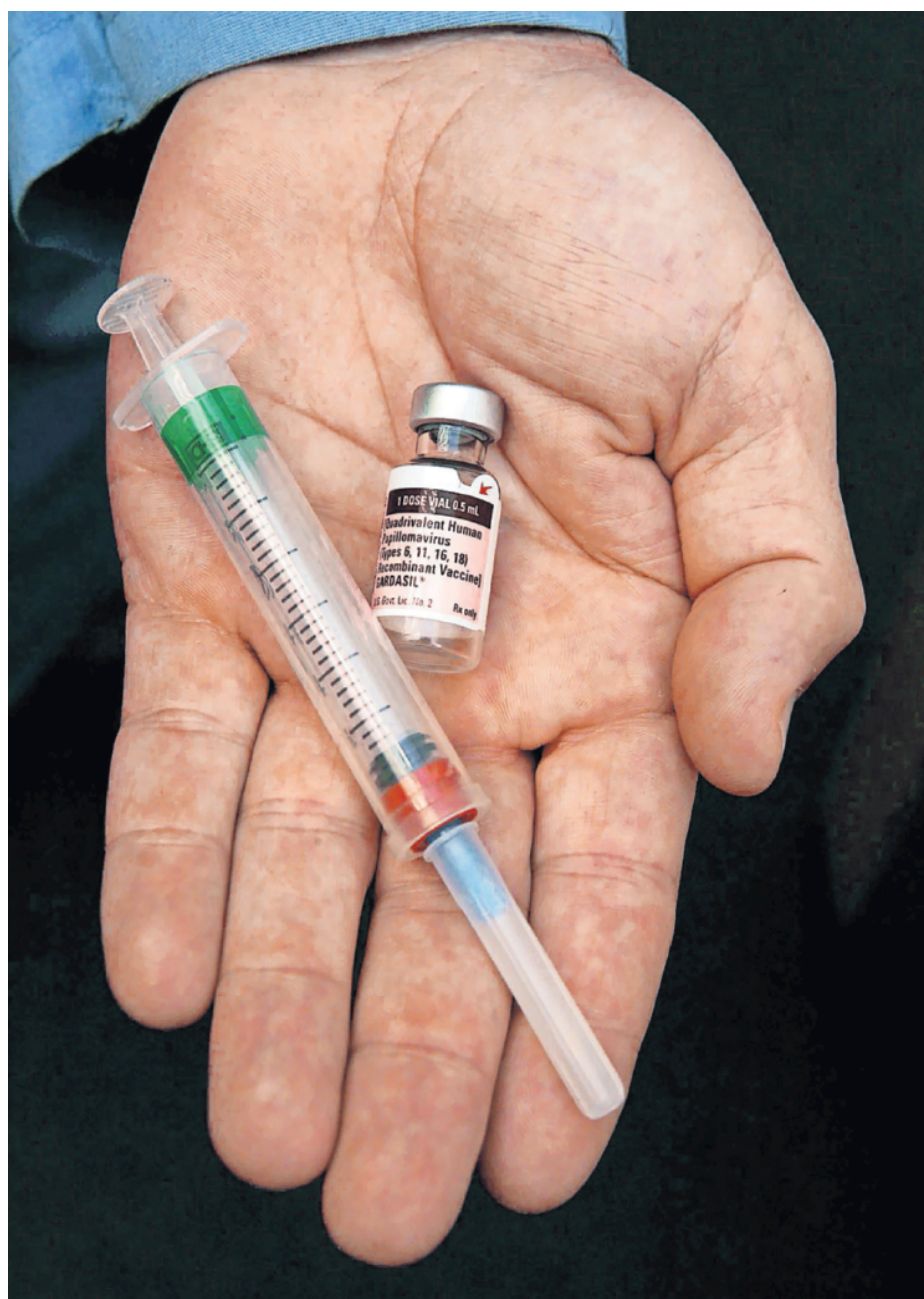


PLAYOFF PARTY

THE CAVALIERS' FIVE-YEAR DROUGHT IS OVER. JARRETT ALLEN SCORES 24 IN SUNDAY'S HOME WIN OVER THE ROCKETS THAT CLINCHES THE TEAM'S FIRST PLAYOFF BERTH SINCE 2018. **B1**

HEALTH TACKLING HPV

Researchers work to stop HPV from causing cancer



While cervical cancer rates have dropped dramatically in women, other HPV related cancers, especially cancers of the head and neck are on the rise, especially in men. *Charles Rex Arbogast, Associated Press files*

HPV is responsible for rising rates of throat and tongue cancers, but University Hospitals researchers are developing drugs to block the virus' ability to corrupt natural cell growth and ultimately form tumors.

eliminated through vaccination, Pan thinks it may be possible to prevent them from making people sick.

HPV causes cancer by blocking the signal that causes cells to die at the end of their natural life cycle. As a result, the cells become immortal, continue to grow and divide, ultimately forming tumors. Pan says he has found a way to prevent HPV from interrupting that signal, thus preventing cells from becoming cancerous.

He says so far this works in all forms of HPV related cancers that have been transplanted onto mice.

A LIFETIME RISK OF CANCER

An understanding of HPV-related cancers may be more important than we once imagined. Although HPV was once thought to be a cancer of young people, as it turns out we are beginning to see it in much older populations, said Dr. Ted Teknos, a head and neck cancer specialist and President of University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center.

Teknos says that most exposures happen in the teenage and young adult years. However, he also points out, that if the virus isn't completely cleared from the body after the initial infection, it is capable of integrating into our DNA and causing cancer for the rest of the person's life.

"In fact, the longer a person lives, the more likely they are to develop an HPV-related head and neck cancer," said Teknos. "We used to report that this was a disease primarily of people in their 40s, but now what we are seeing is an ever-increasing number of people in their 60s, 70s and 80s who are getting these malignancies."

Most people link HPV to cervical cancer. Cervical cancers, more than 90% of which are believed to be caused by HPV, have dropped to a third of what they once were thanks to the introduction of a vaccine against the major circulating strains of HPV.

SEE TACKLING HPV, A7

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The human papillomavirus, known as HPV, is responsible for causing multiple types of cancer, the most well-known of which is cancer of the cervix.

But while vaccines against HPV have caused rates of cervical cancer to drop dramatically, other HPV-related cancers, especially cancers of the head and neck, continue to rise steadily.

This has researchers at University Hospitals asking why, and developing proactive strategies they hope will stop these cancers once and for all.

Quintin Pan, a cancer researcher at Case Western Reserve University and University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center, might have a few tricks up his sleeve. His lab is working on two drugs that can stop HPV from causing cancer. So even if the viruses can't be totally

POST ROE OHIO

Amendment, not yet on the ballot, already under attack

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COLUMBUS — The proposal to protect abortion rights in the Ohio Constitution advanced smoothly through the initial stages of the winding process to get on the ballot, but as advocates began to gather signatures to put the amendment on the November ballot, opponents began setting up roadblocks.

Any or all of the challenges could thwart the amendment's success in Ohio — and at least make it more expensive for it to pass.

A four-week, \$5 million television and digital ad campaign opposing the amendment is underway. Two abortion opponents are suing a state board that cleared the amendment for the signature-gathering process.

And Ohio Senate President Matt Huffman wants to put a proposal before voters on Aug. 8 that, if passed, would preempt the abortion-rights amendment in November and require a 60% supermajority for any changes to the state constitution to pass. Right now, a simple majority of 50% plus one vote is required.

The amendment proposal, called "The Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety," would guarantee that patients could make decisions about reproduction, including birth control, fertility treatment, continuing a pregnancy or abortion and miscarriage care until viability, which is around 22 to 24 weeks.

Under current law, supporters need to gather approximately 413,000 signatures from registered voters by July 5 to make the ballot in November.

Amendment backers expected a fight, having watched constitutional amendment campaigns in Michigan and other states, said Jeff Rusnak, a political strategist with the amendment campaign.



Opponents of the proposed amendment to the Ohio Constitution that would protect abortion rights have launched a \$5 million ad campaign to disrupt efforts to put the issue on the Aug. 8 ballot. *Plain Dealer files*

"They're trying to change the rules because they know they can't win," he said.

But opponents believe the proposal is too broad and that abortion is the taking of a life.

"The foundational goal of what we've done today with Protect Women Ohio is to educate the public on what the ballot language actually says," said Mike Gonidakis, president of Ohio Right to Life, which is a member of the opposition coalition. "And that's why we've made a significant investment into educating the public via our airwaves, both television and digital."

Protect Women Ohio said the amendment campaign will be well-funded by the ACLU and Planned Parenthood, but the group plans to tell voters that the amendment is "anti-parent" and "includes its direct assault on parental rights, its elimination of current health and safety standards for women, and the fact that it includes zero protections for the unborn."

SEE POST ROE OHIO, A7

HOME RULE

Did Cuyahoga County charter anticipate countywide laws?

County council is considering asserting its regional authority once again.

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Cuyahoga County isn't a municipality, but it sometimes acts like one, passing regional ordinances to unite its 57 cities and two townships under a single rule of law.

It doesn't happen often.

County council didn't exercise that power the first seven years of its charter, leaving cities to solely govern themselves. But since 2018, two issues of regional importance have compelled council members to act, and they're now considering a third, signaling that this may become a more common occurrence.

Council first used its power to establish countywide law in 2018, when it passed an ordinance prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, religion, military status, national origin, disability, age, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity or expression — and created the Human Rights Commission to

enforce it. That ordinance was amended last year to prohibit discrimination based on a person's reproductive health decisions in the wake of Roe v. Wade's reversal.

Council flexed its power again when passing a plastic bag ban, which went into effect last year and represented a countywide commitment to preserving and protecting the local environment by eliminating some of the garbage that pollutes Lake Erie. Some cities opted out of the ban, as is their right under home-rule law, but the county's action prompted some businesses in those cities to voluntarily adopt the policy anyway.

Now, council is considering asserting its regional authority a third time by enacting "Pay-to-Stay" legislation to protect all county renters from unnecessary eviction, strengthening ordinances that already exist in eight municipalities.

The legality of the legislation itself remains in question, given state law that may prevent any city or county from regulating landlord-tenant relationships. But the intention is the same as with the prior two countywide ordinances: to codify certain rights for equity and fairness, regardless of which city in Cuyahoga County a resident calls home.

SEE HOME RULE, A3

EXTREME WEATHER

Aid after the storm

Help began pouring into one of the poorest regions of the U.S. after a deadly tornado wrought a path of destruction in the Mississippi delta. **A4**

JERUSALEM

Israelis protest firing

Israelis flooded the streets Sunday night to protest Prime Minister Netanyahu's abrupt firing of his defense minister for challenging judicial overhaul plan. **A5**

