

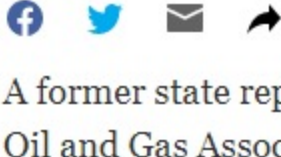


NEWS

Former lawmaker Jim Aslanides heading oil and gas group

Adrian Burns USA TODAY NETWORK-OHIO

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A former state representative from Coshocton has been tapped to head the Ohio Oil and Gas Association.

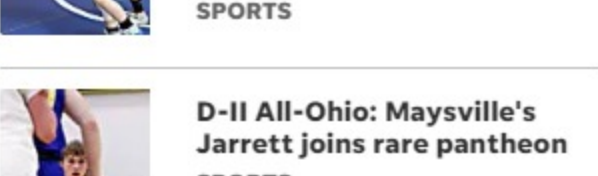
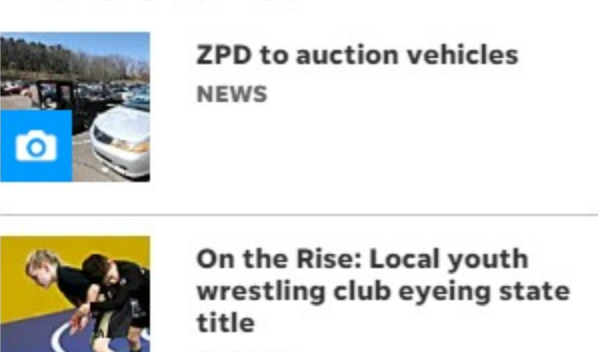
Jim Aslanides, who is perhaps best known for being the chief architect of Ohio's 2004 concealed carry law, took the helm of the 3,000-member trade group Dec. 15 for a two-year term.

Aslanides, who served in the statehouse representing Zanesville, Coshocton and the surrounding communities from 1999 to 2009, has owned an oil and gas drilling business since 1981 and is a longtime member of the association. Aslanides, 56, replaced outgoing president David Hill, who owns a Byesville-based oil and gas business.

In his new role, Aslanides said he expects to steward the association's continued focus on furthering numerous aspects of the oil and gas industry, which saw a boom in Eastern Ohio that has [since ebbed](#) amid low energy prices.



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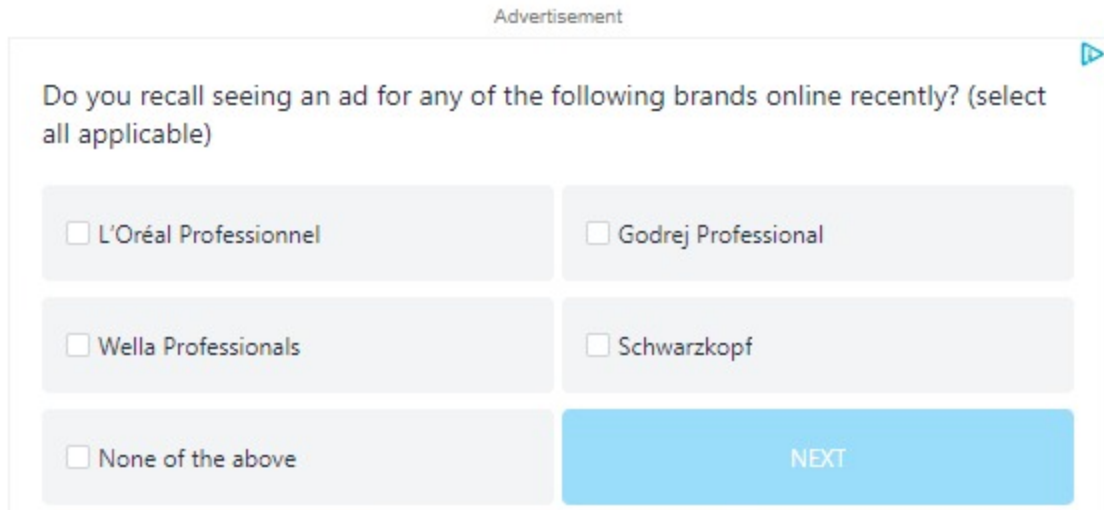


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"Whether it is new technology, policy, pipeline construction, midstream development, storage well systems or any facet of the industry, we have many members who coordinate their knowledge in order to education the public," he said.

The association will also maintain a strong voice in Columbus, Aslanides said.

"We do all we can to ensure that regulation, for example, is responsible and accountable and is very sufficient to protect the health and welfare of the state," he said.



Ohio has largely been friendly to the oil and gas industry. In one major win for the industry, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled in 2015 that local jurisdictions such as cities and towns can not ban hydraulic fracturing, a controversial process that has been blamed for water pollution and earthquakes.

With a long background in the statehouse, Aslanides said he'll be charged with continuing to monitor and shape possible laws and regulations for the industry.

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"I think one of my major efforts is to ensure that since I do understand the regulatory environment and how the legislature works, to make sure that the regulatory environment is not overly burdensome."

Another major issue facing the industry is energy prices, which have been historically low, Aslanides said.

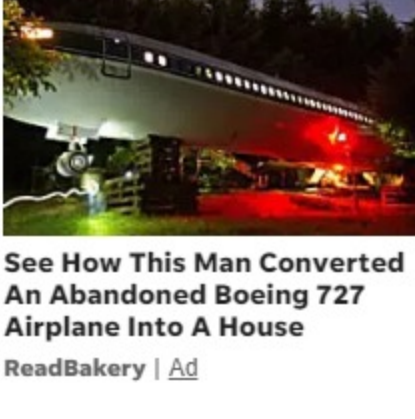
"The higher prices are for the commodity, the more regions of the state that would be commercially successful," Aslanides said.

But under the current low prices, the bulk of the new oil and gas activity is likely to remain in the eastern part of the state, he said.



Former State Rep. Jim Aslanides started a two-year term as president of the Ohio Oil and Natural Gas Association on Dec. 15. *Provided*

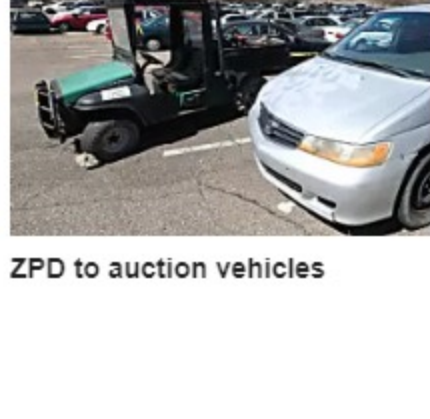
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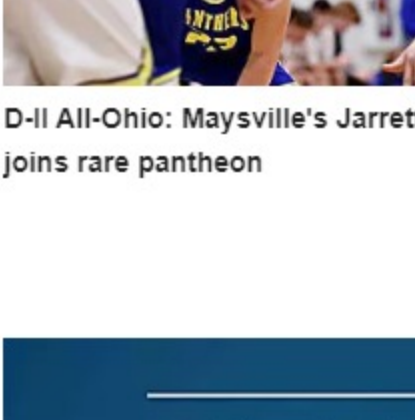
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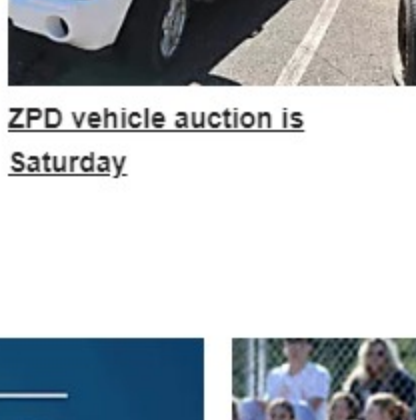
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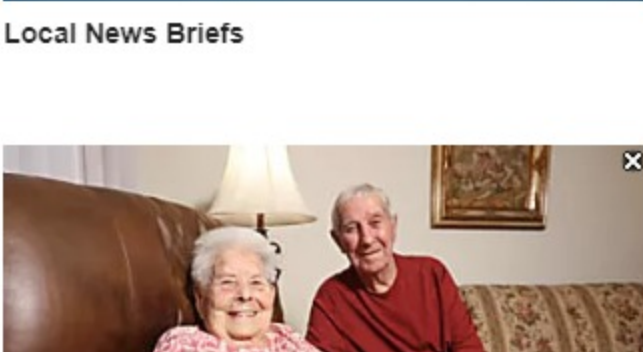
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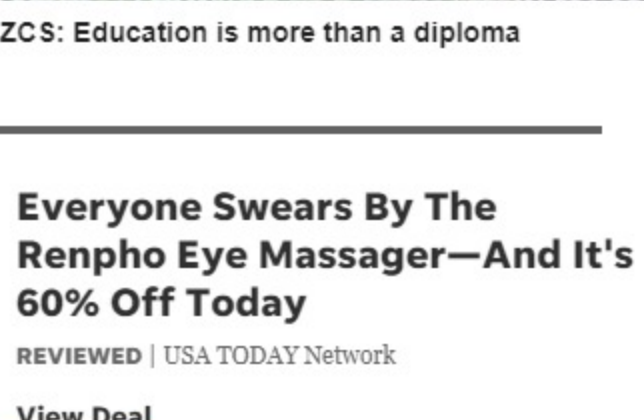
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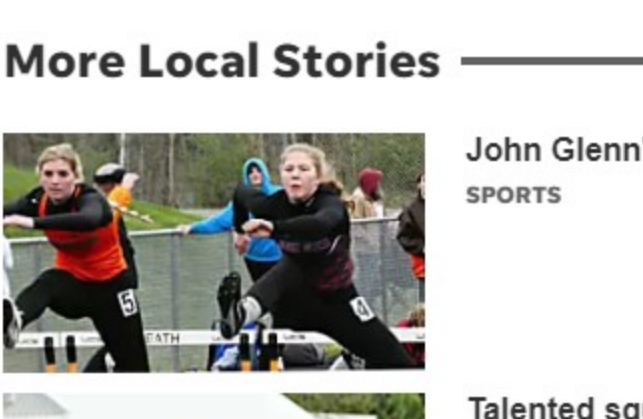
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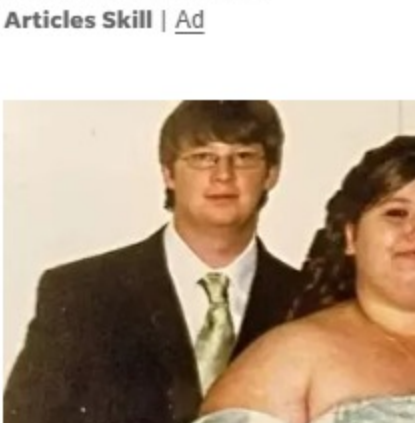
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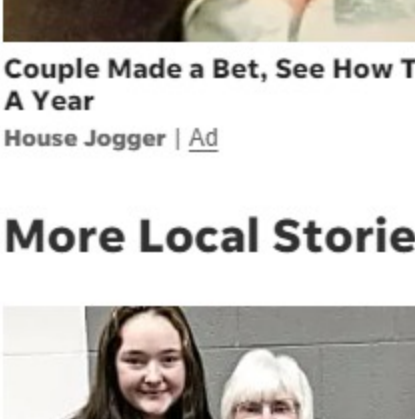
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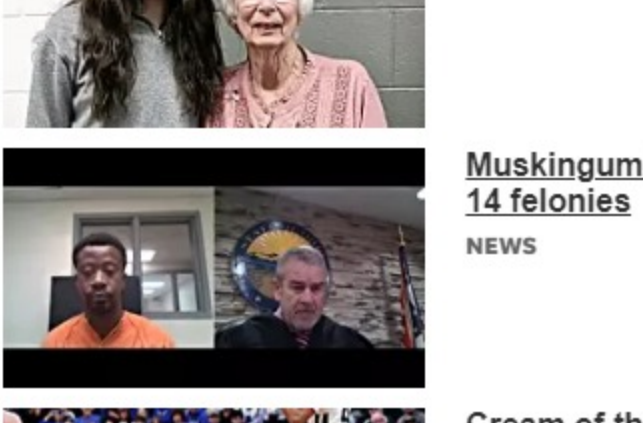
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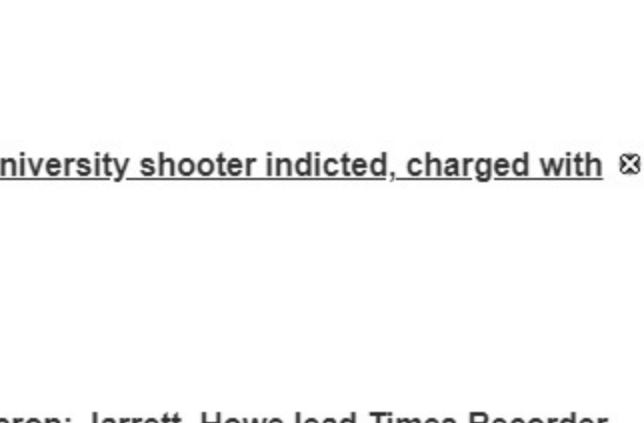
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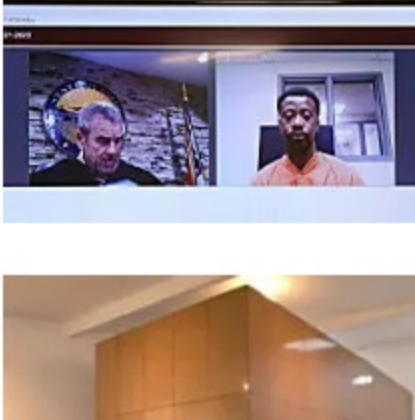


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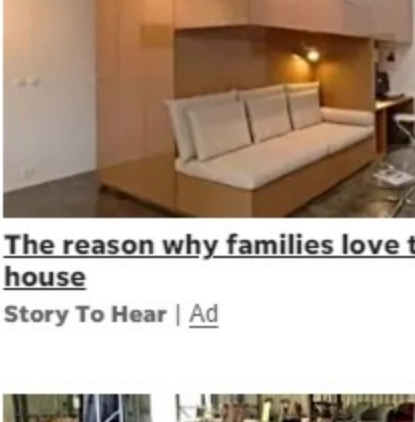


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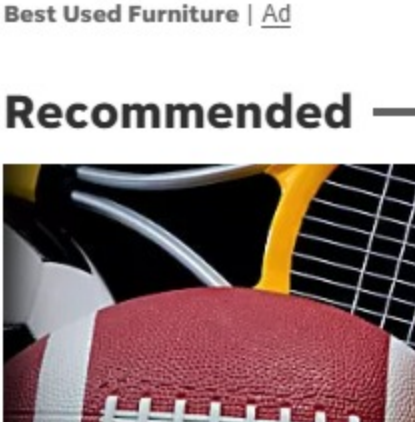
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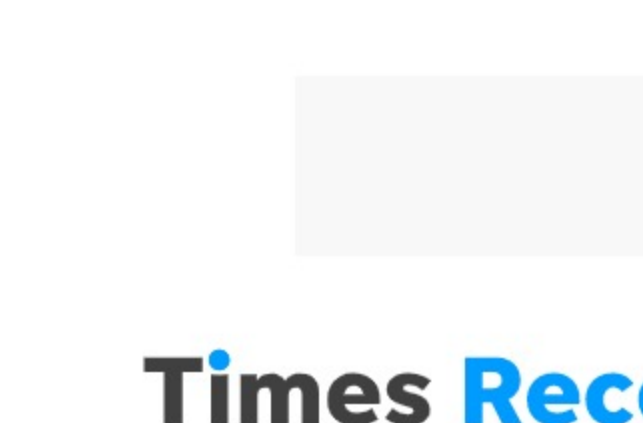
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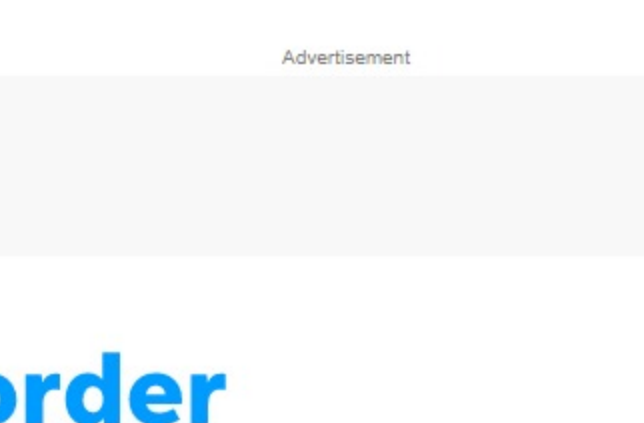
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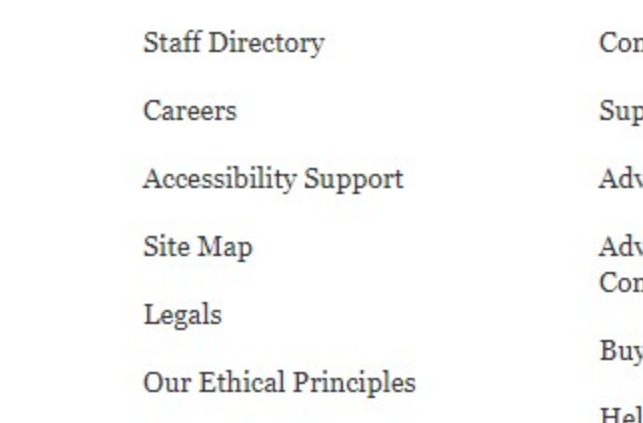


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