

Nation/World briefs

Justices weigh legal arguments as Ohio wants to resume enforcing strict abortion law

Compiled from news services

Ohio Supreme Court justices vigorously questioned the state's lawyer Wednesday about a legal strategy that Ohio is attempting in hopes of reviving its law banning on abortions except in the earliest weeks of pregnancy.

Before Ohio Solicitor General Benjamin Flowers even finished the first sentence of his argument, justices began peppering him with technical questions that suggested they may be reticent to step in and lift a county judge's order that has been blocking the law since last October. The state is also challenging whether Preterm Cleveland and other Ohio clinics have the necessary legal standing to sue.

Mr. Flowers argued that the state has the right to appeal Hamilton County Common Pleas Judge Christian Jenkins' order if it can show it's suffering "irreparable harm" while the law is on hold. Mr. Flowers said each abortion that takes place that would have been prevented under Ohio's 2019 ban constitutes such harm.

The law, signed by Republican Gov. Mike DeWine in April 2019, prohibits most abortions once cardiac activity can be detected, which can be as early as six weeks into pregnancy, before many women know they're pregnant. The legal battle over the law comes as a proposed constitutional amendment that would protect abortion access in Ohio will go before voters in November.

"The problem with the First District's ruling (denying Ohio's request to appeal Judge Jenkins' order) is that, if it's right, then all 88 (county) common pleas courts can unilaterally, indefinitely suspend operation of state law for as long as it takes to conduct discovery, to hold the trial and issue an injunction," Mr. Flowers

told the court.

Winner of \$1.6B Mega Millions claims prize

The winner of the \$1.6 billion Mega Millions jackpot in August — the third largest in U.S. history — has come forward to claim the prize, officials said Wednesday.

In all, Mega Millions has had five prizes of more than a billion dollars.

Under a new Florida law, the winner's name remains anonymous for 90 days from the date the prize was claimed, which was on Sept. 25, lottery officials said in an email. The lottery did not confirm whether the winner took the lump sum or the annuity, and did not specify the estimated lump sum amount.

In Florida, winners have to claim the lump sum within 60 days of the drawing. They have up to 180 days if they choose to go with an annuity, which is paid out in 30 annual installments. The jackpot is also subject to federal taxes. There's no state income tax in Florida.

The winning ticket was sold at a Publix supermarket in Neptune Beach, a town along the Atlantic Coast near Jacksonville.

Russia says Ukraine's allies aided attack

Russia on Wednesday accused Ukraine's Western allies of helping plan and conduct last week's missile strike on the Black Sea Fleet's headquarters on the annexed Crimean Peninsula.

"There is no doubt that the attack had been planned in advance using Western intelligence means, NATO satellite assets and reconnaissance planes and was implemented upon the advice of American and British security agencies and in close coordination with them,"

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said at a briefing.

Moscow has repeatedly claimed that the U.S. and its NATO allies have effectively become involved in the conflict by supplying weapons to Ukraine and providing it with intelligence information and helping plan attacks on Russian facilities.

Unconfirmed news reports said Storm Shadow missiles provided to Ukraine by the U.K. and France were used in the attack on the headquarters.

Israelis can travel to U.S. without a visa

The Biden administration announced Wednesday that it would allow Israeli citizens to enter the United States without a visa, a step toward improving relations between the two nations at a time when President Joe Biden is engaged in complex diplomacy with Israel on a range of issues.

The move means Israel must take reciprocal actions toward American citizens, including Palestinian Americans who often face difficulties in traveling to Palestinian territories to see family members and friends.

Administration officials said the Homeland Security Department agreed to accept Israel into the U.S. government's visa waiver program after monitoring a pilot effort since July, when the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding. Since July 20, Israel has allowed more than 100,000 U.S. citizens, including tens of thousands of Palestinian Americans, to enter Israel without a visa, the officials said.

Any U.S. citizen trying to visit the West Bank can now fly into Ben-Gurion International Airport in Tel Aviv, Israel, and travel to the Palestinian territory overland, the officials said.

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HomeBuyers of Pittsburgh MAKES AN OVERWHELMING SALE EASY

Inheriting a home can be a bittersweet and overwhelming experience. On one hand, you've just acquired a valuable asset, but on the other hand, you may be left with the large responsibility of selling the home if you don't want to live there or maintain it as an investment property.

Local Pittsburgh residents, Tim and his brother, recently experienced the loss of a family member, and did not know what to do with their family home located in North Versailles. The property remained vacant for over nine months while they decided the best course of action. With the home needing many updates and repairs, they decided to work with a cash buying company.

After researching several options, they found local cash buying company HomeBuyers of Pittsburgh and decided to work with their team given their upstanding reputation, overall professionalism, and knowledge of the North Versailles municipalities' requirements. Additionally, Tim and his brother needed a flexible closing date to pack up their family member's personal belongings from the house. They had limited time due to demanding work schedules, and The HomeBuyers of Pittsburgh team was able to accommodate their time frame while also giving them a competitive cash offer for their family home.

During the closing process, their sewer inspection unexpectedly failed. Given the specific municipality requirements in the North Versailles area, the HomeBuyers of Pittsburgh team was very familiar with how to work with this municipality and were



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able to get the sewer line fixed in a timely manner. Tim, the executor of his family's property shared his first hand experience working with HomeBuyers of Pittsburgh and their team:

"When my mom and dad passed to say we were overwhelmed was an understatement. We were not sure what to do with our family home. We contacted Home Buyers of Pittsburgh. They offered us a fair price and made the whole process very easy. They helped with the dye test and switching all of the utilities, closing was a breeze. Many thanks to Ryan, Danielle, and Brad." - Timothy

If you've inherited a home in the Pittsburgh area and have decided to sell it, HomeBuyers of Pittsburgh has been rated the #1 Professional Homebuyer in Pittsburgh multiple years in a row. Their team takes pride in their commitment to each individual seller in making life transitions and complex situations easy for the home seller and the home selling process as simple and hassle-free as possible.

The proof is in the track record: 5 years of A+ BBB history, 125 plus 5-Star Google Rating, 2022 Best places to work #1 PBT, 2022 Trib Live Best of the Best (3rd year running), featured in Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pittsburgh Business Times as the #1 Fastest Growing Company in 2019, INC. 5000 #747 and #541 Fastest Growing Private Company in the Nation, seen on KDKA/CBS, and heard on KDKA AM Radio Monthly as your Pittsburgh Real Estate Experts.



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