



# Why Flacco, Wilson and Rodgers are still NFL QBs

SPORTS, 1B

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# Summer camp costlly for many parents



A survey found parents spend almost \$900 per child on summer care, including things like camp or day care. DAVID RODRIGUEZ MUÑOZ/DETROIT FREE PRESS

## Expert shares tips for easing burden next year

Madeline Mitchell  
USA TODAY

It's August, and for a kid that means one of two things: Summer is done or almost over.

But for some parents, the financial burden of summer child care is just getting started.

Child care is one of the biggest costs for some families in the United States, where the cost of child care for two kids has eclipsed the cost of rent in all 50 states. During the summer months, worries about child care and kids' access to meals regularly provided at school tend to escalate. A growing number of parents are taking on debt to cover the cost of summer child care, camps and other activities, a new study found. Other parents who can afford it still feel the stress of finding summer child care, because slots for camps and summer schools fill up long before summer begins.

"This is not a new problem," said Matt Schulz, chief consumer finance



Summer camps offer a fun slate of activities for kids, but parents often struggle to pay for the programs. ART ILLMAN/DAILY NEWS

analyst at LendingTree. "Summer camp has been expensive for a long time, and it's only getting more so."

Two-thirds of parents who need summer child care say they struggle to afford it, and 62% of parents go into debt to cover summer child care, camps and activities, according to a recent survey of more than 600 parents by Len-

dingTree, an online lending marketplace. Parents in the survey said they spend almost \$900 per child on summer care, and nearly half said they cut back on other expenses like dining out and entertainment to offset the cost.

Most parents said they wish they

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## McKerr to replace Katz at Union City Schools

Don Reid  
Coldwater Daily Reporter  
USA TODAY NETWORK

UNION CITY — The Union City Community Schools Board of Education accepted the retirement of Superintendent Chris Katz on Monday, Aug. 18.

The board signed a contract with Patrick McKerr as the new superintendent, starting Sept. 1.

School Board Chairman Amber Herman said the board decided in April to promote McKerr after learning Katz intended to retire "Sometime in the future."

McKerr became director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment at Union City four years ago. Both men worked closely together.

The board approved a three-year contract for McKerr, starting at \$126,690.

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## Zierle sentenced for criminal sexual conduct with teen

Don Reid  
Coldwater Daily Reporter  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Branch County Circuit Judge Bill O'Grady on Monday, Aug. 18 sentenced Ray Zierle to nine to 50 years in prison after he pleaded no contest to two counts of first-degree criminal sexual

conduct with a 15-year-old girl with whom he developed a relationship.

"You are every parent's nightmare," O'Grady told Zierle.

The Branch County Sheriff Department discovered the relationship when they seized his cell phone during a December 2024 drug raid at his Bidwell Road home.

O'Grady sentenced Zierle to nine to 20 years after a no contest plea to delivery of methamphetamine.

Prosecutor Zack Stempien said the girl agreed to the plea first.

"She really didn't understand the gravity of the relationship until she was able to get out of it, then have conversations with different people to see what

was really going on."

Zierle worked as a night janitor at Union City schools for almost a year. Union City schools terminated Zierle after his March arrest.

The girl told deputies Zierle took her to work with him and initiated sex there

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