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## Appeals court OKs social media law

### Ohio can require parents' consent for minors to use

**Bethany Bruner**

Columbus Dispatch  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A federal appeals court has reversed an earlier ruling, allowing an Ohio law requiring parental consent for minors to use social media to be enacted.

In a 2-1 decision issued on June 18, a

panel of judges with the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the decision of Columbus-based U.S. District Court Judge Algenon Marbley, who had granted a permanent injunction that blocked the state's Parental Notification by Social Media Operators Act.

The appeals court decision said NetChoice, a trade organization representing social media companies like Meta and TikTok, didn't fully meet requirements to prove the entire Ohio law was unconstitutional.

The appeals court said a judgment should be filed in favor of the Ohio Attorney General's office, which would lift the ban and allow the law to go into effect. Ohio's law requires certain social media companies to get verifiable parental consent before anyone under the age of 16 can access their platforms and agree to the terms of service.

NetChoice sued days before the law went into effect in January 2024, arguing the law was too vague to be enforceable and violated the First Amendment

rights of minors by limiting their ability to free expression.

Marbley granted a preliminary injunction, temporarily pausing the law's enactment before issuing the permanent block in April 2025. Marbley said in his decision that he understood the law's intentions, but the efforts had gone too far.

The Ohio Attorney General's office, led at the time by Dave Yost, appealed

See **SOCIAL MEDIA**, Page 7A

## Life's twists and turns led family to open new café



The Borges family runs Stay Awhile Café in Firestone Park. From left they are Paulo; Suzana, 18; Sadie, 16; Sydney, 20; Ana; and Simon, 14. PHOTOS BY LISA SCALFARO/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

### Firestone Park spot invites neighbors to stay awhile

**Patrick Williams** Akron Beacon Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

After establishing strong connections in and around Summit County, a local family with Filipino and Portuguese roots is inviting members of Firestone Park neighborhood to come by their new café – and stay awhile. • Stay Awhile Café, at 1762 Brown St. in Akron, opened June 6 with family, friends, colleagues and other community members present, said owner Ana Borges.

"It's needed in the community," Ana said, citing limited coffee and healthy food options. "So, I mean, hey, we're happy to provide."

Originally from the Philippines, Ana moved to the United States at the age of 13. While living in New Jersey and studying and working at Monmouth University, she met Paulo Borges, who had himself immigrated from overseas.

"I was working in one of the offices, and he was one of the students that was coming in," Ana said. "I was like, 'This kid is coming in way too much.' That's how we got started. We happened to be the same major, too."

Paulo, who had moved to the United States from Portugal at 17 years old, continued on a medical education and career track after completing his undergraduate

See **CAFÉ**, Page 7A



Sydney Borges works on a Mango Matcha order at Stay Awhile Café in Firestone Park.

## Tavern reverses weekend closures

### Other bars cut hours after June 7 shooting

**Bryce Buyakie**

Akron Beacon Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A week after the Highland Tavern announced it would temporarily close on Fridays and Saturdays, the embattled bar reopened on Friday, June 19, resuming its normal weekend business hours.

In a June 19 Instagram post, the tavern announced it would resume its normal hours, writing it was again open "every day of the year" from 4 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. The tavern owner, Jess Williams, confirmed the change.

"We said it was temporary because we didn't know how long it would be," she said. "But with everyone else open, we decided to reopen."

See **TAVERN**, Page 8A

## Housing, lower costs lure people to Akron

### Experts point to signs city is bouncing back

**Amanda Garrett**

Akron Beacon Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Psst. Have you heard about Akron, the cool, affordable city now luring people to call it home?

WalletHub ranked the Rubber City as the fifth most affordable place to live in the U.S. Akron climbed to second place in the personal finance website's analysis when compared to other small cities, ranking only behind

See **AKRON**, Page 8A

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