



Ontario girls, Ashland boys soccer impress in season opener

SPORTS, 10A

Ashland TIMES-GAZETTE

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Summer camp costly 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 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

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Eagles, bobcats, black bears are back

Kaycee Sloan
Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

Three species are returning to Ohio (and to Greater Cincinnati). Bald eagles, bobcats and black bears were once considered rare sightings, but their populations are on the rise, according to data from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Kathy Garza-Behr, wildlife communication specialist for the department, said these three species are thriving due to habitat restoration and protection. Additionally, all three are protected from harvest in the Buckeye State. "There is no legal season," she said. "We are also able to verify more reports than in the past. That is due to technology, phones and security-type cameras."

Ohio's bald eagle nest population is soaring

A bald eagle nest census conducted by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' Division of Wildlife, and released July 3, found the number of active nests (defined as having eggs, eaglets or an incubating eagle present) is soaring. The 2025 census confirmed the presence of 964 bald eagle nests across 87 of Ohio's 88 counties. That's a 36% increase from the 707 nests

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Ohio Magazine names its five Best Hometowns

Janson McNair
Canton Repository
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Buckeye State is home to plenty of outstanding communities. But which ones are the best? Ohio Magazine recently announced honorees for its annual Best Hometowns awards. The five winners — which will be featured in the November/December issue of the magazine — are: Ashland, Barnesville, Green, Mount Vernon, Yellow Springs. "To determine the honorees, Ohio Magazine solicited nominations and conducted site visits across the state in the spring and summer," according to the magazine. "The editors evaluated the nominees in six categories — community spirit, education, entertainment, health and safety, business envi-

ronment and culture and heritage — to help finalize our selections." Green officials are pleased to earn the recognition. "Being named one of Ohio's Best Hometowns is a proud moment for Green," Mayor Rocco Yeargin said in a prepared statement. "This honor reflects the hard work, vision, and community spirit that make our city a great place to live, work, and visit. It's recognition of what our residents know well — Green is a vibrant, welcoming community with a bright future." Here's a little bit more about each town:

Ashland

Ashland — the county seat of Ashland County — has a population of about 18,000. Situated along Interstate 71 between Cleveland and Columbus,

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City of Ashland employees erect the toy solidiers at the arch on East Main Street as the city prepares for the annual Christmas Parade in 2024. PROVIDED BY TOM E. PUSKAR/CITY OF ASHLAND

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