



Ashland uses surge at Lexington to remain perfect in OCC

SPORTS, 14A

Ashland TIMES-GAZETTE

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POWERING AI DATA CENTERS

Polluting plants – disproportionately located in low-income communities – forced back into service

GETTY IMAGES

‘VERY DISAPPOINTING’

Laila Kearney
REUTERS

CHICAGO – In Chicago’s working-class Pilsen neighborhood, a 1960s-era oil-fired power plant rises up from an industrial lot behind Dvorak Park, which in warmer weather is packed with children climbing on its colorful playground and zooming down slides.

The rarely-used eight-unit Fisk power plant owned by Houston-based NRG Energy was scheduled to retire in 2026. But then came electricity demands from artificial intelligence.

Prices shot up in the country’s biggest power market, PJM Interconnection, as electricity requests from data centers

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The rarely used Fisk power plant in Chicago’s working-class Pilsen neighborhood was scheduled to retire in 2026. PHOTOS BY ERIC COX/REUTERS

“If you were a redlined neighborhood, you were more likely to have a fossil fuel power plant built nearby, and we saw that relationship was even stronger for peaker plants.”

Lara Cushing, UCLA professor of environmental health sciences



Fisk Coal Station’s dormant smokestack is visible from Dvorak Park in Pilsen, a predominantly Mexican community.

Note to readers

Due to the fast-changing winter storm, you may experience delivery changes of your printed newspaper – including early delivery of the Sunday paper, or delayed delivery of some editions until road conditions are safe. Visit us online for the latest updates on the storm’s impact on our community.

Kids can still marry at age 17 in Ohio

Laura A. Bischoff
State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

State lawmakers are considering changing Ohio’s marriage laws to ban 17-year-olds from getting married.

A bipartisan bill introduced Jan. 20 would raise the legal marriage age to 18 for both parties. The legislation leaves intact language from 2004 that prohibits same sex marriages in Ohio, even though the U.S. Supreme Court ruling legalized gay marriage a more than decade ago.

The bill is sponsored by state Sens. Bill DeMora, D-Columbus, and Bill Blessing, R-Colerain Twp.

In 2019, following an investigation by the Dayton Daily News, Ohio changed its marriage laws to block young teens, who were often pregnant, from getting married. The newspaper found 4,443 girls age 17 or younger were married in Ohio between 2000 and 2015, including 59 who were 15 and younger. State records show three girls age 14 were married,

See **MARRY**, Page 3A

Familiar Ring Nebula gives scientists surprise

Will Dunham
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The Ring Nebula, a stunning celestial structure residing in our neighborhood of the Milky Way galaxy, was discovered by French astronomer Charles Messier in 1779 and has been studied extensively ever since. But that does not mean we have it all figured out.

Researchers have spotted a large cloud of iron atoms in the shape of a bar stretching about 3.7 trillion miles long across the face of the nebula, which is a glowing shell of gas and dust expelled by a dying star, and are searching for an explanation.

They said it is possible the iron atoms, collectively comparable to the mass of Earth’s molten iron core, are the remnants of a rocky planet that was vaporized when the star threw off its outer layers, though they cautioned that such an explanation is mere conjecture at the moment. The inner rocky planets of our solar system, potentially even Earth, could face the same fate when the sun goes through these same death throes billions of years from now.

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