



## As Sawyer ends his OSU career, he says one moment still gnaws at him

SPORTS, 1C

# The Columbus Dispatch

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 2025 | DISPATCH.COM

154 YEARS | SINCE 1871

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



David Paragas, 64, and his son, Zach, 25, ride their bikes on Punta Alley in Italian Village on July 29.  
SAMANTHA MADAR/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

## ‘Very emotional and meaningful’

Sophia Veneziano Columbus Dispatch | USA TODAY NETWORK

In 2009, David Paragas rode in the first-ever Pelotonia Ride Weekend.

What started as a way for him to support cancer research in honor of those he lost to the disease soon became part of the family’s identity. For Paragas, his passion for coming “together as one” to fund cancer research was in honor of his family members who were lost to the disease, including not only his father and sister, but also his father-in-law.

He continued participating in the annual ride, and his kids, Zach and Zoe, grew up cheering on their father as he logged hundreds of miles at the finish line every year.

Since that inaugural ride, the Pelotonia Ride Weekend event has welcomed thousands of riders to central Ohio to cycle routes ranging from 24 to 190 miles.

The annual ride has raised over \$309 million since its inception, with the entirety donated to cancer research at the Ohio State University

See PELOTONIA, Page 2A

## David Paragas fights cancer and will cycle for a cure in Pelotonia riding event with his son by his side

## Census shows aging of America

### 11 states now have more senior citizens than kids

Samantha Hendrickson

Columbus Dispatch  
USA TODAY NETWORK

America is aging, and Ohio is no exception.

Recently released United States Census data revealed that in 2024, 11 states and half of U.S. counties had more people over age 65 than they did under age 18.

While Ohio is not among those 11 states, researchers at Miami University’s Scripps Gerontology Center project that by 2050, 30% of Ohio’s 11 million residents will be over age 65.

The aging of Ohio’s counties, and the country, comes as officials, including Vice President JD Vance, have expressed concerns about the nation’s falling birth rate. Births in Ohio have hit record lows since the COVID-19 pandemic.

This population shift is not surprising to those who work in aging communities, who also press that the data isn’t inherently negative. More elderly individuals means humans are living longer, and there are more and more people sticking around longer with resources to share. But there’s still significant work to be done to support this increasing population.

While overall children still outnumber adults over 65 in the U.S., the U.S. population age 65 and older rose to 61.2 million and the population under age 18 fell to 73.1 million from 2023 to 2024, according to the Vintage 2024 Population Estimates.

This rise and fall has been documented since 2004 in the U.S. Those age 65 and older have steadily increased from 12.4% of the national population in 2004 to 18.0% in 2024, while children have declined in numbers from 25.0% to 21.5%.

See AGING, Page 7A

## Harris leaves door open to a new presidential bid

Francesca Chambers  
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Former Vice President Kamala Harris won’t be running for California governor in 2026, but she is not ruling out another bid for the White House.

The two-time Democratic presidential candidate, who abruptly took over

as her party’s nominee in the 2024 general election, said in a surprise announcement on July 30 that she would not compete in next year’s gubernatorial race.

Harris, who currently lives in Southern California with her husband, Doug Emhoff, did not say whether she has decided to run for president in 2028.

“For now, my leadership – and public

service – will not be in elected office,” she said. “I look forward to getting back out and listening to the American people, helping elect Democrats across the nation who will fight fearlessly, and sharing more details in the months ahead about my own plans.”

A source familiar with her thinking

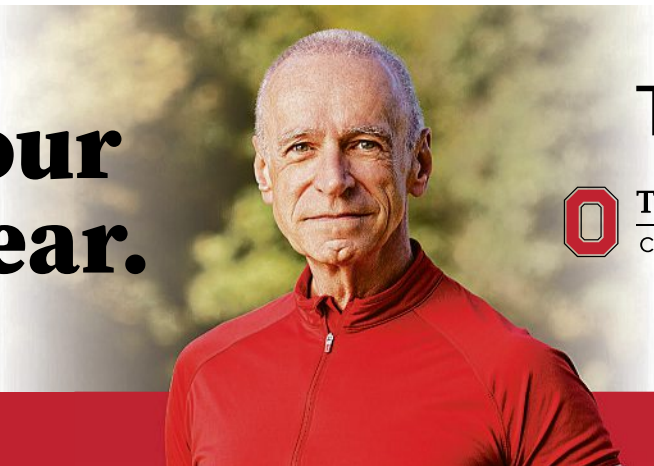
See HARRIS, Page 7A



Vice President Kamala Harris lost in 2024 to Republican Donald Trump, whom she characterized on the trail as an acute threat to democracy.

ANDREW HARNIK/GETTY IMAGES FILE

## The choice for your cancer care is clear.



## The James



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER



#ChooseTheJames

### Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to [dispatch.com/enewspaper](https://dispatch.com/enewspaper) or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 155 | No. 27  
Subscribe 877-734-7728  
©2025 \$3.00

