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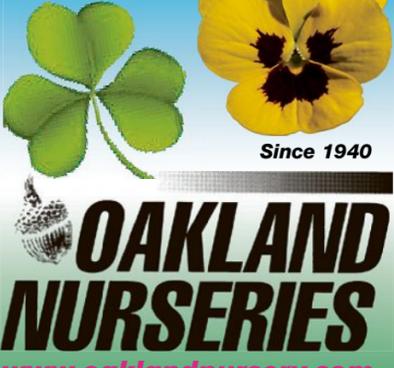
# 4 for \$10

Forever Black Mulch

2 cu. ft., reg. \$4.79

## SALE 4 bags for \$10

(limit 52 bags, no deliveries)



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# The Columbus Dispatch

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026 | DISPATCH.COM

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Former Ohio State football player Kirk Barton listens to the victim impact speech of Ethan Perry's mother, Roslyn Perry, after pleading guilty in connection with a June 21, 2025, fatal crash that ended with 24-year-old Ethan Perry dying.

KYLE ROBERTSON/COLUMBUS DISPATCH

## Ex-OSU football player pleads guilty in crash

Barton gets 5 to 7½ years in prison for 2025 death

**Bethany Bruner**  
Columbus Dispatch  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A former Ohio State University offensive lineman appearing in court on March 25 admitted to having a blood alcohol level more than three times the legal limit and driving more than 125 mph when he caused a crash in Dublin that killed a 24-year-old man.

Kirk Barton, 41, entered a guilty plea to aggravated vehicular homicide in connection with the June 21, 2025, crash that resulted in the death of 24-year-old Ethan Perry.

Visiting Judge David Cain presided over the hearing in Franklin County Common Pleas Court. He sentenced Barton to five to seven and a half years in prison.

As part of his sentence, Barton's driver's license will be suspended for life. Cain ordered Barton to pay a \$10,000 fine but because Perry's family is planning to file a civil lawsuit, that fine was suspended.

Barton was initially charged with aggravated vehicular homicide, aggravated

**"Because of your selfishness, I will never experience being the mother of the groom. ... Because of your selfishness, my child doesn't call me in the mornings on my commute to work."**

**Roslyn Perry**  
Mother of Ethan Perry

ed vehicular assault and operating a vehicle while under the influence.

Around 3 a.m. on June 21, Barton was driving west in the eastbound lanes of U.S. 33, known as Bridge Street, in Dublin. Barton turned his 2025 Ford Raptor pickup truck - with a "WISEMEN" vanity plate - to be headed the correct direction and then, according to police,

See **GUILTY PLEA**, Page 8A



Ethan Perry, 24, died on June 21, 2025, after his car was struck by a pickup truck driven by 40-year-old Kirk Barton. Perry's mom, Roslyn, said her son loved working with cars and had plans to become an entrepreneur. PROVIDED BY ROSLYN PERRY

## Firing of NJ morgue employee is upheld

Worker had shared info about Gaudreau deaths

**Bethany Bruner**  
Columbus Dispatch  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A New Jersey morgue assistant and death investigator's firing has been upheld after he admitted to sending confidential information about the crash that killed Johnny and Matthew Gaudreau to a group of friends.

The Gloucester County, New Jersey, worker had appealed his firing. He had been fired with an effective date less than one month after the Aug. 29, 2024, crash in which the Gaudreau brothers died. The firing was, in part, because he had "disrespected the deceased and violated their rights."

Johnny Gaudreau, 31, a forward for the Columbus Blue Jackets, and his brother, 29-year-old Matthew Gaudreau, died after being struck by a Jeep Grand Cherokee while biking to their home in Oldmans Township.

See **FIRING**, Page 8A

## Iran rejects an initial U.S. ceasefire plan

**Michael Loria, Bart Jansen, Christopher Cann, Cybele Mayes-Osterman and Andrea Riquier**  
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump is prepared to "unleash hell" if negotiations with Iran fail, the White House said on March 25, after Tehran rejected an initial U.S. proposal and thousands of American troops were en route to the Middle East.

"Iran should not miscalculate," White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said at a briefing, adding that if Iran refuses to make a deal to end the war, "President Trump will ensure they are hit harder than they have ever been hit before."

Three Israeli cabinet sources said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's

See **IRAN WAR**, Page 7A

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