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MARCHING INTO BATTLE



Area high school marching bands performed for a crowd during the 17th Battle of the Bands at Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center on Sept. 5. PHOTOS BY TY WRIGHT/CHILLICOTHE GAZETTE



Paint Valley drummers dance with the rest of the band as they perform during the 17th Battle of the Bands.



With their faces painted in zombie make-up members of the Westfall High School Marching Band played Michael Jackson's Thriller during the 17th Battle of the Bands.

For more photos, go to www.ChillicotheGazette.com

Experts warn on home lease-back offers

Danae King
Columbus Dispatch
USA TODAY NETWORK

The commercials sound good. They show the smiling faces of families and couples and large sums of cash being counted out.

The voiceover promises homeowners that they can access their home equity without taking on debt or moving, in what's called a sale-leaseback. It offers homeowners the option to sell their home to a company and then lease it back and keep living there.

And, while it may be a good option for some, advocates say it can hurt others.

If the marketing and sales practices sound too good to be true, they are, said Stacey Tutt, a senior staff attorney at the National Housing Law Project, which works to advance housing justice for poor people and tenants.

"You hear all this, you're like: 'How could this be bad?'" Tutt said. "If you're wondering that, then they're not giving you all the answers."

Sale-leaseback programs have existed for a long time, Tutt said, but there have been companies emerging with new models as interest rates have risen — and their practices are concerning.

She's skeptical of the programs and warns homeowners against them for several reasons, including the fact that these practices aren't as regulated as those in other real estate transactions. There are also other issues: rent can be raised after the initial lease term expires, leases don't have to be renewed despite companies stating that people can remain in

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Trump admin bans pronouns in Ohio youth prison sex ed

Jessie Balmert
State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

President Donald Trump's administration is threatening to cut federal funding if Ohio's youth prisons don't remove references to transgender people from sexual education materials.

Trump's Department of Health and Human Services warned Ohio and 39 other states that they had 60 days to remove any references to gender identity from their Personal Responsibility Education Program materials.

The program, created by former President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, aims to educate young people on abstinence and contraception to prevent pregnancy and sexually

transmitted infections. The Ohio Department of Youth Services, which houses about 470 across three youth prisons, received \$1.8 million through this program over the fiscal year.

In an Aug. 26 letter to the Ohio Department of Youth Services, federal officials detailed which language they want removed:

- **Advice on pronoun usage.** "Asking participants to tell you their pronouns is a way of creating a safe space for transgender or gender nonconforming youth," reads one section of "Making Proud Choices! 5th edition." "Pronouns don't always line up with what observers might expect based on a person's perceived biological sex."

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President Donald Trump's administration is warning the Ohio Department of Youth Services that it could lose funding if it doesn't remove gender identity language from sexual education materials. LILY SMITH/THE REGISTER

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