



Airtight defense sends Johnnies to fourth regional in 10 years

SPORTS, 9A

The Advocate

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Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche was summoned to the Capitol to assuage lawmakers' concerns with what critics have characterized as a "slush fund." ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY IMAGES

Trump defends DOJ fund amid growing GOP revolt

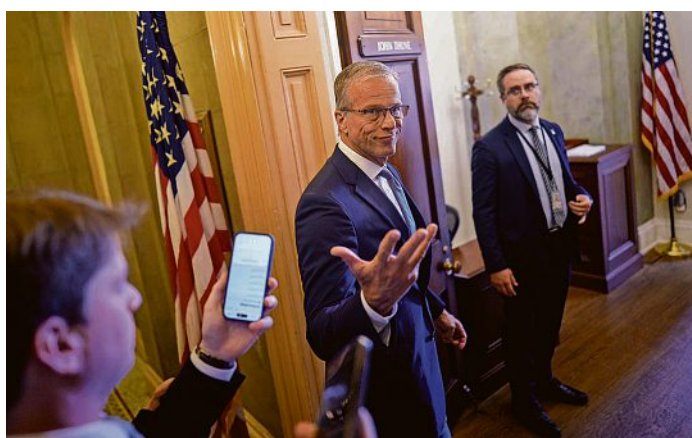
Critics: Money could go to president's allies, including Jan. 6 defendants

Joey Garrison
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump is digging in over the Justice Department's \$1.8 billion "anti-weaponization" fund as Senate Republicans revolt over a pot of money that could funnel payments to the president's allies, including Jan. 6 defendants.

Trump, in a May 22 post on Truth Social, said he "gave up a lot of money in allowing the just announced Anti-Weaponization Fund to go forward," adding that he could have settled his family's now-withdrawn lawsuit against the IRS for "an

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Senate Majority Leader John Thune said he was "not a big fan" of what the Trump administration has called an "anti-weaponization" fund. ANDREW HARNIK/GETTY IMAGES

Lyme disease hotspots in state

Tick season ramps up, causing illnesses

Alex Perry and Janet Loehrke
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohio has seen a rise in Lyme disease cases over the years. The disease is primarily spread through tick bites.

Tick-related illnesses are driving record emergency room visits across Ohio and the rest of the U.S., with the county recording 104 emergency room visits for tick bites per 100,000 total emergency room visits in April 2026, up from 68 per 100,000 in April 2025, according to Axios.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Northeast saw the largest increase in tick-related emergency room visits as of April 2026, with the Midwest, including Ohio, ranking second. An estimated 476,000 people receive treatment for Lyme disease each year, according to CDC data, making it the most common tick-borne illness in the nation, USA TODAY reports.

As tick activity increases, reported Lyme disease cases are also climbing in Ohio. Here's how many cases the state has seen so far.

Hundreds of Lyme disease cases reported in Ohio so far in 2026

So far, the state has seen 253 reported cases of Lyme disease this year through May 12, according to data from Ohio Department of Health's interactive Infectious Disease dashboard.

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U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT'S 250 BEST PLACES TO LIVE IN THE U.S.

Only 2 cities in Ohio show up on the annual list

Alex Perry
USA TODAY NETWORK

Ohio pride runs deep, but just two cities in the Buckeye State landed on U.S. News & World Report's ranking of the 250 Best Places to Live in the U.S. in 2026-27.

The annual list evaluates hundreds of U.S. cities based on affordability, desirability, job market strength and quality of life, using survey responses and data from multiple federal agencies to

come up with the rankings. Multiple Ohio cities were also recognized in U.S. News' 2025 ranking, where many stood out for the same reasons.

Affordability is weighing more heavily on Americans' housing decisions, according to U.S. News consumer lending analyst Erika Giovanetti.

"As prices of everyday goods continue to rise, consumers are considering affordability as a top priority when choosing a place to live," Giovanetti said

in a release. "Cost-of-living concerns resulted in many Americans putting what they can afford above their aspirations."

These are the two cities that made USNWR's 2026 rankings.

Mentor top Ohio city in U.S. News Best Places to Live ranking

Mentor ranked No. 88 nationally, making it the highest-ranked Ohio city on U.S. News' 2026-27 Best Places to Live list.

The Lake County city stood out for its affordability, lower cost of living and solid job market, according to U.S. News.

Here's a snapshot of how Mentor stacks up:

- Median home value: \$242,906 (below the national average of \$359,870)
- Median rent: \$1,019
- Median household income: \$90,954

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