



# Ranking the Guardians’ best draft picks since the year 2000

SPORTS, 1B

Covering Ravenna, Kent & Portage County

# Record-Courier

MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025 | RECORD-COURIER.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## ANALYSIS

# Trump-Putin bromance flowered, soured

## U.S. president appears to be shifting his thinking

Kim Hjelmgaard, Francesca Chambers and Cybele Mayes-Osterman  
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump said he would end the war in Ukraine within his first 24 hours in office. But now, more than 4,000 hours in, Trump’s patience with Russian President Vladimir Putin, whom the U.S. president in June called “very kind,” appears

to be wearing thin. Relations have hit a wall as Russia’s leader has pushed forward with intensifying drone and missile attacks on Ukrainian cities while appearing to repeatedly rebuff Trump’s attempts to broker a ceasefire. “We get a lot of (expletive) thrown at us by Putin, if you want to know the truth,” Trump told reporters on July 9, summing up what Ukrainians and other seasoned Russia watchers have been saying for two decades. “He’s very nice to us all the time, but it turns out to be meaningless.” Trump initiated direct talks with Putin shortly after taking office, saying – much to Putin’s delight – that he

was effectively ready to let Russia keep the Ukrainian territory it had already taken when Moscow invaded Kyiv in February 2022. Trump also said Ukraine’s Crimea region, which Putin seized in 2014, “will stay with Russia.” At the same time, Trump said he was not interested in spending more on Ukraine’s defense, an issue that exploded out into the open when Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited the White House in February. “You don’t have the cards right now,” Trump told Zelenskyy in remarks that were carried live on TV and

See PUTIN, Page 3A



Nelson-Kennedy Ledges State Park is featured in a commercial promoting tourism in Ohio. RECORD-COURIER

# State uses Portage park to promote Ohio tourism

Diane Smith  
Ravenna Record-Courier | USA TODAY NETWORK

Nelson-Kennedy Ledges State Park is featured in a commercial promoting tourism in Ohio. The video features a family throwing a dart at a map, deciding to go on vacation wherever the dart lands. When it lands on Ohio, the family visits Headlands Beach State Park in Mentor, Put-In-Bay, Mill Creek Park in Youngstown, Brass Eye in Columbus, Aullwood Audubon in Dayton, the Christmas Story house in Cleveland and the End of Appalachia Preserve in West Union, in addition to Nelson Ledges. While the park is located in Nelson, it is depicted in the video as Garrettsville, which is its mailing address.

## Trustee: Tourists filling state park

Nelson Trustee Anna Mae VanDerHoeven said the state of Ohio is making a big effort to promote tourism in its state park. Trustees, she said, were among the first to visit a glass walkway that opened over Memorial Day weekend after two years of construction. The 137-foot walkway goes over Sylvan Creek Gorge in the park, the Ohio Department of Natural Re-

sources states on its website. Those walking over the bridge can see the water 50 feet below. The walkway ends in a platform overlooking Minnehaha Falls. ODNr recently told WEWS Channel 5 in Cleveland that the bridge was one of the most unusual structures ever constructed in a state park. VanDerHoeven recalls having some sticker shock over the \$1.68 million cost when she visited. “You could feed a lot of people or serve a lot of veterans with that money,” she said. She said the overlook is “just gorgeous.” Since the bridge was dedicated, a school bus of students from James A. Garfield Local Schools visited the trail, and one man told her he visited from Wisconsin. The privately owned Nelson Ledges Quarry Park has put up a sign to let visitors know that it’s not the state park, VanDerHoeven said. The state, she said, also featured the park in a state magazine to promote tourism. “It has attracted so many people,” she said. But those people, VanDerHoeven added, must travel to Garrettsville or Middlefield in Geauga County to grab a bite to eat or visit any businesses. “It brings people to the township, but we don’t get anything out of it,” she said. “We just get the traffic.” Reporter Diane Smith can be reached at dsmith@recordpub.com.

# Veto override could give a county panel power to lower property taxes

Cole Behrens  
Columbus Dispatch | USA TODAY NETWORK

A county government panel could get greater authority to lower your property taxes by reducing the amount collected by schools, libraries and other entities if state lawmakers proceed with a plan to override Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine’s veto. On July 1, DeWine line-item vetoed state budget provisions that would give authority to a county’s three-member budget commission to reduce millage collected by taxing authorities like schools and libraries. The Ohio House plans to return July 21 to vote on an override of DeWine’s veto on that change and others, and the Ohio Senate could be close behind. In his veto message, DeWine said the budget commission provision “breaches the approval of such millage by the voters,” and also would pose challenges for the Ohio Department of Taxation calculations. If enacted, the change would empower commissions in Ohio’s 88 counties. The provision was among a group of budget proposals meant to address rising property taxes. DeWine also vetoed a plan to force school districts with large cash balances to return money to property owners, though lawmakers haven’t said they plan to override that decision. Opponents say the change, especially for school districts, could cause confusion and a lack of representation on tax changes. Others, like Ohio Library Council Executive Director Michelle Francis, say “communities deserve local control and respect for the votes they’ve cast.” “Allowing a three-member county commission to override the will of local voters not only undermines democratic decision-making, but also puts critical library services at risk,” Francis said. But Rep. David Thomas, R-Jefferson, said something needs to be done to address rising property taxes. “No local government is going to voluntarily reduce their taxes unless there’s some pressure to do so,” Thomas said. “And the taxpayers really have nowhere to turn. Giving (the budget commissions) more authority will be the check that I think our taxpayers are wanting.”

See TAXES, Page 2A

YOUR HOME DESERVES A

# WATERPROOFED BASEMENT.

**LIMITED TIME OFFER**

## \$500 OFF\*

GET A FREE INSPECTION

### 330-294-2426

\* Ten percent off any job over \$2500 up to a max of \$500. Coupon must be presented at time of inspection. Offer may not be combined with any other offer. Limit one per customer. Ask inspector for further details. Promo valid through 07/31/2025

- FOUNDATION REPAIR
- BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
- BASEMENT FINISHING
- CRAWL SPACE REPAIR
- CONCRETE LIFTING

OhioBasementAuthority™

A Groundworks® Company

BBB

