



## Could Allar's NFL dream lead him home to Browns?

SPORTS, 1B

Covering Ravenna, Kent & Portage County

# Record-Courier

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## 'Widowmaker' can't stop this avid cyclist

Jeff Siefer's heart nearly gave out on him after a ride



**Jeff Saunders**

Ravenna Record-Courier | USA TODAY NETWORK

Laura Siefer remembers the letters her husband, Jeff, formed with his finger on the palm of her hand the morning after he had open heart surgery at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center.

**"After I started riding an old bike I had from high school, it just took off."**

**Jeff Siefer**

"I said 'S-T, I know what this is. I'm the stoker,'" Laura Siefer said. "That's what he recognized me as, his stoker, which is the person who rides on the back of a tandem [bicycle]. He's the captain, I'm the stoker."

"So he was already thinking about getting back on the bicycle 12 hours after having open heart surgery." Bike riding is a passion for Siefers. It is what brought them together in the early 2000s and it occupies a great deal of their time. Earlier that April day when Jeff's now 66-year-old heart nearly gave out on him, they had completed a 47-mile ride with friends.

"The event he had was quite dramatic," said Dr. Yakov Elgudin, the heart surgeon at UH Harrington Heart & Vascular Institute who performed surgery on Siefer.

But a lot that could have gone wrong went right, and Jeff Siefer is back to riding, and volunteering, with completion of an astronomical goal he set for himself some two decades ago within sight.

"There's a lot of things that worked out, we be-

lieve, because of our faith," Laura Siefer said.

### Biking is a passion for Laura and Jeff Siefer

It was in 2000 that Jeff Siefer a bicycle was the perfect vehicle for losing weight.

"After I started riding an old bike I had from high school, it just took off. It really took off," said Siefer said.

Laura Siefer said she started riding around the same time after hearing about the National Multiple Sclerosis Society bike ride. In 2001, she started volunteering with the Summit Metro Parks bike patrol, which rides the trails, removing debris and providing aid to people with medical issues or whose bikes are disabled.

"That's how I got a little more excited about biking," she said.

Siefer joined the patrol in 2003. The couple met around 2004 and started patrolling a lot together

See **CYCLIST**, Page 4A



Franklin Township residents Jeff and Laura Siefer on their tandem bicycle. Biking brought them together in the early 2000s and it was after a ride in 2025 that Jeff suffered a near fatal hear attack. UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS

TOP: Jeff Siefer, a 66-year-old Franklin Township resident, stands outside the UH Portage Endoscopy Center where he volunteers. JEFF LANGE/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL



Polling indicates many Republicans are wary of military involvement in Iran, which presents a challenge as the president works to keep them motivated in a crucial election year. PROVIDED BY U.S. NAVY VIA REUTERS

## Some in MAGA skeptical of war

Trump campaigned as critic of interventionism

**Zac Anderson**  
USA TODAY

After unleashing Operation Epic Fury in Iran, President Donald Trump is facing right-wing skepticism at home as the military campaign threatens to strain his political coalition heading into the midterm election.

Trump campaigned as a staunch critic of U.S. wars in the Middle East, and his aggressive foreign policy moves since returning to office have sparked backlash within the Make America Great Again movement, including accusations he has betrayed those who subscribed to his anti-interventionist "America First" pledges.

See **WAR**, Page 2A

## Man gets 1 year for Kent park assault

Also facing charges in Mahoning County

**Jeff Saunders**  
Ravenna Record-Courier  
USA TODAY NETWORK

RAVENNA - A Mahoning County man will spend a year behind bars for sexually assaulting a woman whom he met for a date in a Kent park.

Portage County Common Pleas Judge Becky Doherty sentenced Brian Timothy Swansinger, 29, of New Middletown on March 2.

Doherty also ruled Swansinger a Tier I sex offender, which will require him to register with the sheriff of any county he lives or works annually for 15 years and she ordered him to pay \$424 in court costs.

See **ASSAULT**, Page 2A

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