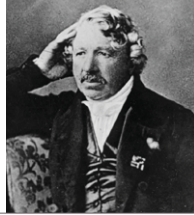




Kick it off  
MAC football season preview  
SPORTS C1



Picture perfect  
The early days of photography  
PEACH D1

# THE BLADE

Winner of the  
Pulitzer Prize  
for Investigative  
Reporting

One of America's Great Newspapers

\$1.50 • 28 PAGES

TOLEDO, OHIO, MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025

UPDATES AT [toledoBla.de.com](https://toledo.bla.de.com)

FINAL

## NEIGHBORHOOD'S ROOTS ON DISPLAY AT BIRMINGHAM FEST



THE BLADE/KURT STEISS

Members of the Bavarian Sports Club and American Turners Toledo's Deutsche Volkstanz Gruppe perform a dance together during the second day of the Birmingham Ethnic Festival in East Toledo on Sunday.

## Ohio health-care measure resurfaces

### Amendment to block Obamacare derails GOP's priorities

By JIM PROVANCE

BLADE COLUMBUS BUREAU CHIEF

COLUMBUS — How did a 2011 constitutional amendment championed by conservatives to block implementation of Obamacare in Ohio come to be weaponized by the other side to block conservatives' agenda on issues like abortion and transgender

care?

Fourteen years ago nearly 66 percent of voters approved an amendment to the Ohio Constitution, promoted as a way of reining in the power of government when it comes to directing "the purchase or sale of health care or health insurance" within the state.

Its timing and primary pur-

pose was to block implementation of the still new federal Affordable Care Act. It failed.

But today that language is being used by the other side — so far successfully. What the amendment's backers insist was about health insurance and government intrusion is now being used to bolster the argument that, unlike the U.S.

Constitution, the Ohio Constitution contains a right to health care.

Judges have cited the language among other constitutional reasons for striking down Ohio's near ban on abortion and more recently the ability of transgender

See HEALTH CARE, Page A4

## Woman praised for work with athletes

### Special Olympics to honor Black

By DEBBIE ROGERS

BLADE STAFF WRITER

BOWLING GREEN — Dolores Black's life has been filled with conversation, competition, community, and compassion.

The 91-year-old teacher, coach, and volunteer will be honored once again for her commitment to children with developmental disabilities.

Wood County Special Olympics will hold a recognition banquet from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday to celebrate the athletes' accomplishments and to mark

the 20th anniversary of the Dolores Black Gymnasium at the Bowling Green Community Center, 1245 W. Newton Rd.

#### Embracing an eclectic lifestyle

Ms. Black's home is as eclectic as the thick black eyeglasses flecked with gold she often wears. Every wall in her sprawling ranch home is



THE BLADE/REBECCA BENSON

Dolores Black helped start physical education at Wood Lane, which serves students with complex disabilities.

See BLACK, Page A4

## E.U. leaders to join talks on Ukraine

### Trump envoy: Putin open to NATO-like defense deal

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, Ukraine — European and NATO leaders announced Sunday they will join Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky in Washington to present a united front in talks with President Trump on ending Russia's war in Ukraine and firming up U.S. security guarantees now on the negotiating table.

Leaders from Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Finland are rallying around the Ukrainian president after his exclusion from Trump's summit on Friday with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Their pledge to be at Mr. Zelensky's side at the White House on Monday is an apparent effort to ensure the meeting goes better than the last one in February, when Trump berated Mr. Zelensky in a heated Oval Office encounter.

"The Europeans are very afraid of the Oval Office scene being repeated and so they

want to support Mr. Zelensky to the hilt," said retired French Gen. Dominique Trinquand, a former head of France's military mission at the United Nations.

"It's a power struggle and a position of strength that might work with Trump," he said.

Mr. Putin agreed at the summit in Alaska on Friday that the United States and its European allies could offer Ukraine a security guarantee resembling NATO's collective defense mandate as part of an eventual deal to end the 3½-year war, special U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff said Sunday on CNN's *State of the Union*.

It "was the first time we had ever heard the Russians agree to that," said Mr. Witkoff, who called it "game-changing."

French President Emmanuel Macron said later that the European delegation will ask

See UKRAINE, Page A2

#### 85% 'RULE' USED SINCE 1930S AND '40S

## States slow to alter speed-limit policy

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rose Hammond pushed authorities for years to lower the 55 mph speed limit on a two-lane road that passes her assisted living community, a church, two schools, and a busy park that hosts numerous youth sports leagues.

"What are you waiting for, somebody to get killed?" the 85-year-old chided officials in northwest Ohio, complaining that nothing was being done about the motorcycles that race by almost daily.

Amid growing public pressure, Sylvania Township asked county engineers in March to analyze whether Mitchaw Road's posted speed is too high.

The answer: Technically, it's 5 mph too low.

The reason dates back to

studies on rural roads from the 1930s and 1940s that still play an outsized role in the way speed limits are set across the country — even in urban areas.

Born from that research was a widely accepted concept known as the 85 percent rule, which suggests a road's posted speed should be tied to the 15th-fastest vehicle out of every 100 traveling it in free-flowing traffic, rounded to the nearest 5 mph increment.

But after decades of closely following the rule, some states — with a nudge from the federal government — are seeking to modify if not replace it when setting guidelines for how local engineers should decide what

See SPEED, Page A4

## INSIDE

### Keeping up his pace

Bill Rodgers, four-time winner of the Boston and New York City marathons, will return to Toledo after 43 years for another run.

Second News | Page B1

### Strikes continue

Air Canada says it will resume flights Monday after flight attendants refuse a federal order to return to work.

Business | Page B4

### Weather

HI 80° LO 59°

Page D6



### David Briggs

The bowl ban the NCAA placed on Akron proves unfair since Michigan's Wolverines can play.

Sports | Page C1

### High heat, high loss

The threat of climate change not only affects tropical regions but also survival of tropical birds.

Peach | Page D1

Business | B4  
Classified | C6  
Comics | D4  
Crossword | D2  
Lottery | A3  
Obituaries | B3

Opinion | A6  
Peach | D1  
Peach Plus | D3  
Second News | B1  
Sports | C1  
TV listings | D5

TO SUBSCRIBE CALL  
419-724-6300 OR 1-800-245-3317

Copyright © 2025 The Blade



Recycled and recyclable

## Wildfire fighters unmasked, ill, dying

### Protections minimal for toxic smoke

NEW YORK TIMES

LOS ANGELES — The smoke from the wildfires that burned through Los Angeles in January smelled like plastic and was so thick that it hid the ocean.

Firefighters who responded developed instant migraines, coughed up black goo, and dropped to their knees, vomiting and dizzy.

Seven months later, some are still jolted awake by wheezing fits in the middle of the night. One damaged his vocal cords so badly that his young son says he sounds like



NEW YORK TIMES

Forest Service workers are not allowed to wear masks on the front line, even if they want to, and the agency has fought against equipping firefighters with masks.

a supervillain. Another used to run a six-minute mile and now struggles to run at all.

Fernando Allende, a 33

-year-old whose U.S. Forest Service crew was among the first on the ground, figured he would bounce back from his

nagging cough.

But in June, while fighting another fire, he suddenly couldn't breathe.

At the hospital, doctors discovered blood clots in his lungs and a mass pressing on his heart. They gave him a diagnosis usually seen in much older people: non-Hodgkin lymphoma, an aggressive cancer.

It would be unthinkable for urban firefighters to enter a burning building without wearing a mask.

But across the country, tens of thousands of people who fight wildfires spend weeks working in toxic smoke and ash wearing only a cloth bandanna, or no facial protection at all.

Wildfire crews were once

See WILDFIRES, Page A3