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Former ICE official targets Kaptur seat

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TOLEDO, OHIO, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026

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## COLD DAY DOESN'T DETER B.G. DEMONSTRATORS



Christina Guenther, far right, holds an anti-ICE sign while she and others protest during a Women's March Free America Walkout in Bowling Green on Tuesday.

THE BLADE/ADDISON ANNIS

## Funds for meter work approved

### Toledo council OKs project at lower cost

By ALICE MOMANY  
BLADE POLITICS WRITER

After voting against money that would have helped finish the city's smart meter project, Toledo City Council is changing course, with a catch.

The council voted Tuesday to allow the city to enter into a new contract with DLZ Ohio Inc. to provide professional program management services for the advanced metering infrastructure project — but at a reduced cost and timeline.

Last week, Doug Stephens, the city's director of public utilities, asked council members to approve \$863,908 to enter into a new contract with DLZ. The expenditure broke down to \$431,954 from the Water Replacement Fund and \$431,954 from the Sanitary Sewer Replacement Fund.

In December, the council shot down a similar ordi-

nance asking for \$960,000 to enter into a new contract with DLZ.

But on Tuesday, Councilman George Sarantou presented an amendment to Mr. Stephens' request that would limit the contract to one year and reduce the total expenditure to \$431,954, instead of \$863,908.

It would break down to \$215,977 from the Water Replacement Fund and \$215,977 from the Sanitary Sewer Replacement Fund.

The motion to amend the ordinance passed in a vote of 7-3, with Councilmen Adam Martinez, Sam Melden, and Vanice Williams voting against it. Councilmen John Hobbs III and Nick Komives were not present for the vote.

The motion to approve the amended ordinance passed in a vote of 9-1 with

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## E.U. fires Greenland salvo

### Members consider using trade 'bazooka' against U.S.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Trump's pledge to provoke a sweeping tariff fight with Europe to get his way in taking control of Greenland has left many of America's closest allies warning of a rupture with Washington capable of shattering the NATO alliance that had once seemed unshakable.

The European Union's top official on Tuesday called Trump's planned new tariffs over Greenland a "mistake" and questioned Trump's trustwor-

thiness. French President Emmanuel Macron said the union could retaliate by deploying one of its most powerful economic tools, known colloquially as a trade "bazooka."

Trump prides himself on ratcheting up pressure to try to negotiate through a position of strength. He was leaving Tuesday — the anniversary of his inauguration — for the World Economic Forum in Davos,

Switzerland, a venue that offers Trump the chance to defuse tensions as quickly as he stirred them up.

But European leaders — digging in and vowing to defend Denmark and its control over semiautonomous Greenland — may be seeking just as hard to meet an extraordinary moment with a show of their fierce resolve.

That could hurt the chances of Trump finding a quick way to turn around the crisis. Greenland's leader insisted on respect for its territorial integrity

and said recognition of international law is "not a game."

Trump made an unusual appearance in the White House briefing room to mark the one year he'd been in office. When asked how far he'd be willing to go to acquire Greenland, Trump said only, "You'll find out." He also mistakenly referred to Greenland as Iceland at one point.

European Commission President Ursula von der

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## Court skeptical of Hawaii gun law

WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Tuesday appeared skeptical of the constitutionality of a Hawaii law that sharply restricts where people can carry firearms — a case that may offer a strong indication of how far the justices will go in their push to loosen restrictions on guns.

### State tightly restricts carrying

Hawaii's law bans people from carrying firearms on private property open to the public unless they have the owner's consent. The court's conservatives sharply questioned an attorney defending Hawaii's law, suggesting it unduly burdened a constitutional

right to bear arms.

The decision will reverberate beyond Hawaii because four other states, including California and New York, have enacted similar laws in response to a landmark 2022 ruling by the high court that made it easier to challenge gun

limits.

The default rule in most states is that gun owners can carry firearms onto private property open to the public until they have been told otherwise. The Hawaii law flipped the rule. Property owners generally have the right to restrict guns on land closed

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## OHIO LEGISLATION

## Drug coupons to count for co-pays

By DANNY ELDREDGE  
BLADE COLUMBUS BUREAU CHIEF

COLUMBUS — Patients utilizing prescription drug co-pay coupons would see that financial assistance applied to their health insurance deductible and out-of-pocket maximum under bipartisan legislation being considered in the Ohio General Assembly.

Senate Bill 207, sponsored by state Sens. Susan Manchester (R, Lakeview) and Beth Liston (D, Dublin), would generally require health plan issuers to count all money paid for prescription drugs on behalf of a patient toward that patient's co-pay requirements for the year. The bill has received three hearings in the Ohio Senate

Financial Institutions, Insurance, and Technology Committee.

Currently, health plan issuers can utilize "co-pay accumulator" or "co-pay maximizer" programs that allow the insurers to accept financial assistance provided by a drug manufacturer without applying the money received to the patient's deductible or out-of-pocket maximum.

"This bill is simple," Ms. Manchester said. "It disallows health plans and pharmacy benefit managers from discriminating against patients who use third-party assistance to help pay their increasing out-of-pocket expenses mandated

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## INSIDE

### Vaccine booster

A pediatrics association unveils strong support of childhood vaccinations in Ohio.

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### David Briggs

Ottawa Hills native Jerry Lemieux has officiated 93 USGA championships and other tourneys. He heads to New York City for honors.

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### Weather

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### Sweetened offer

Netflix offers cash to acquire Warner Bros. and end Paramount's hostile takeover bid.

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### Legend's birthday

Dolly Parton turns 80 with a new version of a hit song and heartfelt wishes.

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## ICE took U.S. citizen in underwear

### They entered home without a warrant

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. PAUL — Federal immigration agents bashed open a door and detained a U.S. citizen in his Minnesota home at gunpoint without a warrant, then led him out onto the streets in his underwear in subfreezing conditions, according to his family and videos reviewed by reporters.

ChongLy "Scott" Thao said his daughter-in-law alerted him on Sunday afternoon that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents were banging



ASSOCIATED PRESS

at the door of his residence in St. Paul. He told her not to open it. Masked agents then forced their way in and pointed guns at the

family, yelling at them, Mr. Thao recalled.

"I was shaking," he said. "They didn't show any warrant; they just broke

down the door."

Amid a massive surge of federal agents into the

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