



# Walleye win

## Toledo defeats Wichita

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MONDAY MEMORIES

# Planting time

## Pup supervises greenhouse garden

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## CASTING A LINE



THE BLADE/KURT STEISS

Angel Webb, left, and Victoria Terry fish for catfish at Middlegrounds Metropark in Toledo on Sunday. The weather could not have been much better to fish as temperatures were near 60 and sunny. Monday's forecast is even better. SEE FORECAST, WEATHER MAPS ON PAGE B10.

# Khamenei's son named as successor

## Follows slain father as supreme leader of Iran

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Mojtaba Khamenei, a son of Iran's late supreme leader, has been named his successor, Iranian state TV announced early Monday, as the war that began a little over a week ago with his father's killing took a dramatic turn.



Mojtaba Khamenei

The younger Mr. Khamenei, who had not been seen or heard from publicly since the war started, had long been considered a contender for the post, even before an Israeli strike killed Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and despite never being elected or appointed to a government position.

Iranian officials as the country awaited a decision by the Assembly of Experts, a group of clerics that selects the supreme leader.

State TV read a statement from the assembly saying he was selected based on "strong" votes and urging the nation to unite behind him.

The station broadcast scenes of people celebrating in parts of Tehran.

There has been only one other transfer of power in

See IRAN, Page A5

# Ohio mulls data center changes

## Study commission, end of tax exemptions on table

By DANNY ELDREDGE  
BLADE COLUMBUS BUREAU CHIEF

COLUMBUS — Lawmakers are moving closer to ending the sales and use tax exemption that data centers have utilized for more than a decade, according to Ohio House Speaker Matt Huffman (R, Lima).

The Ohio General Assembly attempted to eliminate the exemption as part



Huffman

of the operating budget, but that provision was vetoed by Gov. Mike DeWine.

A veto override requires 60 votes in the Ohio House and 20 votes in the Ohio Senate.

"We are whipping votes, as we say, to try to do

that," Mr. Huffman said.

The speaker said Wednesday the data center sales and use tax exemption might have made sense years ago, when the facilities were only being built in states like Oregon and California.

"We don't have a problem with data centers coming to Ohio now," Mr. Huffman said.

It's unclear if the

speaker will be able to count on Democratic votes to help override the veto; Ohio House Minority Leader Dani Isaacsohn (D, Cincinnati) said data centers have led to a significant increase in union jobs for construction workers and plumbers across the state.

"If [sales tax

See CENTERS, Page A4

# AI powers surge in high-volt lines

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUGARLOAF, Pa. — For John Zola, the 40 acres were like a paradise: apple orchards tucked into northern Pennsylvania's rolling hills, a barn, meadows, and more than enough land for four houses: one for himself and his wife and each of his three adult children.

It's been "hell," however,

## Local landowners fight back

since a contractor hired by the local power utility knocked on his door in late 2024 and informed him that it planned to build a 500-kilovolt power line through his property.

The 240-foot metal towers would reach 10 times as high as the century-old

apple trees they'd plow through and loom over the Zolas' homes and the basketball court and swimming pool where his grandchildren play.

This line and others like it are being planned in accelerating numbers in the United States to deliver

power, sometimes across hundreds of miles, to enormous data centers run by the world's biggest tech companies.

Although advances in artificial intelligence are seen by President Trump as critical to the nation's economic and national security, their energy needs

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## TRUMP PUSHES 'ELECTION TAKEOVER'

# Several states eyed as midterm targets

NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — Facing the possibility of big losses for Republicans in the midterm elections, President Trump has reiterated his unfounded assertions of electoral fraud.

He has also begun speaking of the need to "nationalize" elections and for Republican officials to "take over" voting procedures in parts of the country.

This rhetoric is often vague, coming across as a hint of plan, rather than an actual one.

But a map of potential targets may be coming into focus and includes the swing states Michigan, Georgia, North Carolina,

and Arizona.

Voting experts, government officials, and others have identified a host of conditions that could make those places ripe for meddling from the Trump Administration or its allies.

In Michigan, a coalition of right-wing activists has obtained copies of about 150,000 absentee ballots and envelopes from the 2020 election, and is organizing to investigate them for errors, anomalies, or fraud.

In North Carolina and Arizona, several Republican legislators and local election officials continue

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A toy train show brings in hundreds of collectors.

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## David Briggs

Can Inverness rise to the challenge of the U.S. Open?

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## Oil prices rising

The war in Iran sends oil prices over \$100 per barrel.

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## Love on the brain

Daryl Hannah responds to her unflattering portrayal in the FX and Hulu series *Love Story*.

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# Fayette begins life after Eagle plant

## Residents concerned about town

By VINCENT LUCARELLI  
BLADE STAFF WRITER

FAYETTE, Ohio — More than two months after it was first announced, the closure of Eagle Machining in Fayette, Ohio, is still fresh in the minds of many.

"It was concerning," Fayette Village Administrator Bryan Stambaugh said of when he first heard the company's plans to shut down the plant.

The plant employed around 250 workers in the production of metal components for industrial and automotive uses. It had changed names many times over the years, so talk of more change was not unusual.

Mr. Stambaugh said he had hoped the December



THE BLADE/VINCENT LUCARELLI

The Eagle Machining plant in Fayette, Ohio, announced in December it would be closing. The plant employed around 250 workers.

announcement that Eagle's parent company, auto parts magnate First Brands Group, was laying off all of the plant's employees would ultimately be another such change in name

only — but that was not to be.

"The facility's grown since I was in high school," Mr. Stambaugh said, adding that the plant's HR department had recently told

the village it was doing fine. "They've added on a lot so obviously it was doing well."

And yet, First Brands

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