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TOLEDO, OHIO, FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2026

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SOAKING IN ALL THE AREA HAS TO OFFER



THE BLADE/PHILLIP L. KAPLAN
Above, Dennis and Heidi Martin work out with daughter Selene, 15, at Pine Glen Park in West Toledo earlier this week. At left, a cyclist bikes along the trail at Maumee Bay State Park as the sun begins to set in Oregon. Experts say it will be warm and humid Friday as highs reach the mid-80s, with partly cloudy skies and a chance of a few storms. SEE WEATHER MAPS, FORECAST ON PAGE B10.

THE BLADE/ADDISON ANNIS

Most crime trends drop in Toledo

Homicides decline 25% for 1st half of this year

By TOM HENRY
 BLADE STAFF WRITER

Homicides within the city of Toledo were down 25 percent over the first six months of 2026 compared to the first six months of 2025.

Midyear crime statistics released by the city inside the Toledo Police Department Safety Building on Thursday showed Toledo had 12 homicides between Jan. 1 and June 30, compared to 16 during the same six-month period last year.

Shootings that resulted in human injury were up 12 percent.

But Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz and Police Chief Michael Troendle said that increase is partly attributable to the June 6 melee at the Old West End Festival, which resulted in 12 people being struck by gunfire. That one incident drove the figure in that category to 92,

up from 80 before the chaos began. During the first six months of 2025, 82 people were shot.

"I'm praying we never have another incident like that," Chief Troendle said.

Before getting into the first six-month crime statistics, he and Mayor Kapszukiewicz spent a lot of time remarking about how well the city recovered from the Old West End Festival with two other major events that drew thousands of people to downtown.

Neither of those events — the Metroparks Toledo Watershed Weekend celebration and the Fourth of July fireworks — resulted in violence.

Last year, there were seven homicides spread out across the city over a 72-hour period over the Independence Day weekend.

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STATE EARNS TOP HONOR

CNBC calls Ohio best for business

By DANNY ELDRIDGE
 BLADE COLUMBUS BUREAU CHIEF

COLUMBUS — Ohio is the best state for doing business in the country, according to CNBC.

The Buckeye State is number one overall in the network's annual state business rankings — up from number five in 2025.

Steve Stivers, president and CEO of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, said the ranking is a testament to years of thoughtful leadership and collaboration across the state.

"But rankings aren't permanent — they're earned every year. States that stop improving eventually fall behind," Mr. Stivers said. "If Ohio wants to remain the best state for business, we can't coast. We must con-

tinue to make smart, pro-growth policy decisions every day."

Wendy Gramza, president and CEO of the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, said the ranking is excellent news for employers and communities across Ohio.

"It reflects years of investment in work force, infrastructure, innovation, and economic development that have strengthened Ohio's competitive position," she said.

"For the Toledo region, it's further evidence that our manufacturing base, logistics network, and collaborative business community are helping drive the state's success," Ms. Gramza said.

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U.S., Iran exchange attacks

Strikes increase in intensity, threatening cease-fire

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The United States launched new airstrikes against Iran early Thursday, and Tehran responded by targeting U.S.-allied Mideast countries in an exchange of fire that threatened an interim deal

intended to help end the war in the Middle East.

Back-and-forth attacks, including a day earlier, have repeatedly threatened the cease-fire. But Thursday's appeared bigger all around, with sirens sounding at least three times in Bahrain, home to

the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet headquarters, and missiles targeting Kuwait and Qatar.

Sirens sounded Thursday afternoon in Jordan as well, where the United States has stationed troops and aircraft.

An Iranian official

accused the United States of launching an airstrike later Thursday targeting the area around Iran's sole nuclear power plant, and other explosions were reported elsewhere in the country during the

See IRAN, Page A4

Ex-Olympian pleads not guilty

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A former Olympic canoe racer pleaded not guilty Thursday to deliberately damaging the recently renovated Lincoln Memorial Reflect-

Reflecting Pool claim denied

ing Pool, a politically charged case that his defense attorneys and other Trump Administration

critics have derided as an abuse of prosecutorial power.

David Hearn, who

competed in three Summer Olympics, entered the plea through one of his attorneys during his initial appearance in D.C.

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INSIDE

Maximum sentence

Man gets 17 years in prison for abusing 4-H participants.

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Lower layoffs

Applications for U.S. jobless aid tick down slightly.

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COMING SUNDAY

A look inside the South Toledo plant now serving as a Swiss manufacturer's North American hub.

AND



A local bartender is bottling small-batch syrups one flavor at a time.

ALSO

How northwest Ohio couples are personalizing their weddings.

Democrats offer to replace Platner on Maine's ballot

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTLAND, Maine — Democrats in Maine began jockeying Thursday to become the new candidate for a pivotal U.S. Senate seat after progressive nominee Graham Platner announced he will withdraw from the race after a sexual assault allegation.

Democrats need to pick a candidate to replace Mr. Platner on the ballot by July 27, according to state law. Whoever is selected will have less than four months before facing long-time Republican Sen. Susan Collins in the general election. Potential candidates had already been

teasing their interest before Mr. Platner, who denies the allegation, announced he intends to drop out.

Mr. Platner is expected to file paperwork to formally withdraw on Monday, the deadline to do so.

But a growing number began formally launching their campaigns Thursday.

The Maine Democratic Party has said it will hold a nominating convention to choose the replacement. The party says the convention will involve hundreds



Platner

of delegates from across the state, but how and when that'll take place remains unknown.

Maine is considered a key state for control of the narrowly divided Senate, and Democrats are desperate for a candidate capable of defeating Ms. Collins while President Trump is broadly unpopular.

Gov. Janet Mills, who sought the nomination during the primary campaign and suspended her campaign in late April, has not indicated if she's interested in running.

Troy Jackson is Maine's

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