



TIGERS TRIUMPH

DETROIT'S COLT KEITH CELEBRATES AFTER SCORING A RUN IN WEDNESDAY'S 4-0 WIN OVER THE LOS ANGELES ANGELS. THE TIGERS OPEN A SERIES AGAINST THE CHICAGO WHITE SOX TODAY. **B1**

CLIMATE CHANGE

Think it's hot now? Next five years are expected to smash records.



Residents carry drinking water along Brazil's dry Madeira River, a tributary of the Amazon River, in 2024. A new report expects even warmer and unusually dry conditions in the Amazon basin. That could be devastating for the planet. *AP file photos*

A new report from the U.N. weather agency gives a three-out-of-four chance that we'll soon exceed the international safety limit set in 2015.

Seth Borenstein *Associated Press*

In the next five years, the Earth is overwhelmingly likely to surge again and again past the international climate threshold set as safe and shatter its hottest-year record along the way, according to new United Nations climate projections.

The World Meteorological Organization also forecasts an overheating Arctic that warms nearly 3 degrees Fahrenheit (1.66 degrees Celsius) between now and 2030 and a dangerous drought with potential wildfires for the Amazon, a crucial part of Earth's natural defenses to lessen human-caused climate change. A hotter globe from the burning of coal, oil and gas means more extreme weather including floods, droughts and heat waves, scientists said.

The projections by the U.N. climate agency and the United Kingdom's Meteorological Office said there's a 75% chance that the average global temperature between 2026 and 2030 will be more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) higher compared with pre-industrial times. That threshold is the agreed-upon limit of warming — averaged over 20 years — set in 2015



Icebergs float near Kulusuk, Greenland. Warming in the Arctic is rising 3.5 times faster than the rest of the globe.

by the Paris climate agreement.

A U.N. science report a few years later detailed how exceeding that 1.5 mark means more likely death, danger and species loss. Even though it's only a few tenths of a degree, some of the planet's ecosystems, such as coral and glaciers, can't handle the strain.

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

There's a 91% chance that at least one of the next five years will shoot past the 1.5-degree threshold and an 86% chance that one of those years will smash the record for Earth's hottest year set in 2024, the WMO report said. The WMO projects each year between now and 2030 to be between

1.3 degrees Celsius (2.3 degrees Fahrenheit) and 1.9 degrees Celsius (3.4 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer since the late 1800s.

"It's important to note that (1.5) is not kind of a cliff edge that we're going to fall off," said report co-author Melissa Seabrook, a climate scientist at the U.K. Meteorological Office. "Every kind of 0.1 of a degree has more and more severe impact."

She pointed to unprecedented May heat in Europe this week.

An entire year or more above the 1.5 degree mark "means a whole range of extreme weather events, probably many so hot/wet/dry that it exceeds anything we've experienced in the past and thus crucially, anything our city planning, agriculture etc. has anticipated," Imperial College of London climate scientist Friederike Otto, who wasn't part of the report, said in an email. "This will mean many people will lose their lives, we are in for a lot of food price shocks, and more intense wildfires."

Nearly all the shorter-term forecasts call for a strong El Nino — a natural warming of parts of the central Pacific that alters weather worldwide and spikes global temperatures — to form soon. The WMO report said it could stretch all the way to 2028. Because of that, Seabrook said 2027 will likely break the 2024 heat record.

And if the next five years do average more than 1.5 degrees Celsius since pre-industrial times, that means Earth will have warmed a quarter of a degree Celsius (0.45 degrees Fahrenheit) in a decade, which is faster than the previous rates of warming. **SEE CLIMATE CHANGE, A3**

MICHIGAN POLITICS

Whitmer rules out running for president in 2028

The governor said she still has a "lot of energy," but wants to wait and think before jumping into another race.

Danielle James *djames@mlive.com*

MACKINAC ISLAND — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has officially ruled out a 2028 presidential run.

During a Thursday interview with WJBK-TV in Detroit, the term-limited Democratic governor said she still has a "lot of energy," but wants to wait and think before jumping headfirst into another race.

"I do think about it a bit," Whitmer said in a 45-second clip posted by the TV station Thursday. "I've got a lot of energy," she said. "I will be 55 when I leave office, so I want to have impact. I want to do good work."

But Whitmer said she's also looking forward to taking a bit of a break and "thinking about it, not jumping right into something."

She said after receiving counsel from others who've attempted the transition, the advice she's received is "take a little bit of time, and so that's what I'm going to do."

When it was pointed out that there's still time until 2028, Whitmer agreed but said she thinks there will be a "robust group of people running for president."

"I will not be one of them in 2028, I can tell you that," she said. A spokesperson for Whitmer's office did not immediately return a request for comment. Whitmer's team previously rejected an MLive request to interview her while on the island.

Whitmer is one of several Michigan names that have been floated as potential Democratic presidential candidates. Others are Pete Buttigieg, the former secretary of transportation under President Joe Biden, and U.S. Sen. Elissa Slotkin, D-Holly.



Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, shown at a bill-signing ceremony on Mackinac Island Wednesday, says she's looking forward to taking a bit of a break when her term ends. *Danielle James, MLive.com*

SELFRIDGE

Air base funds OK'd

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed a bill Wednesday setting aside \$152 million to be spent building runways at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. **A3**

MSU president accepts Clemson job despite recent \$1 million raise

Kevin Guskiewicz will be the 16th president of the school.

Matthew Miller *mmiller@mlive.com*

EAST LANSING — Last week, Michigan State University's Board of Trustees offered President Kevin Guskiewicz a \$1 million raise to convince him to stay at MSU.

On Wednesday, Guskiewicz was hired as the 16th president of Clemson University in South Carolina. He had been at MSU for just over 26 months.

"We were searching for an inspired leader," said Clemson trustee Cheri Phyfer, who led the presidential search, "someone with a bold vision and the operational expertise necessary to lead in a rapidly evolving higher education envi-

ronment, someone who could imagine an even brighter future for our university and for those we serve and then deliver on that vision. We found those qualities in abundance."

Guskiewicz will receive a base salary of \$1.2 million, with deferred compensation of \$285,000 annually and a performance bonus of up to \$250,000 each year.

With the raise offered to him last week, his MSU salary would have been more than \$2 million.

Guskiewicz said he was "deeply honored and incredibly grateful."

"To be entrusted with leading a university as respected, ambitious and beloved as

Clemson is both humbling and inspiring," he said, during the Clemson board's online meeting.

In proposing the raise, MSU trustee Sandy Pierce said Guskiewicz had been "frustrated" with certain members of the board and that the additional money was a needed incentive for him to stay.

It wasn't enough.

TRUSTEES BLAMED

In his parting message to the campus community, Guskiewicz gave voice to his frustration with "discouraging behavior by a few trustees."

SEE HIGHER EDUCATION, A3

