



APPEAL
DENIED

NCAA OFFICIALS UPHELD A TARGETING PENALTY ON JAISHAWN BARNHAM, FORCING THE MICHIGAN LINEBACKER TO MISS THE FIRST HALF OF THIS WEEK'S GAME AGAINST OKLAHOMA. **B1**

SCIENCE

Cuts to climate satellites will
make weather prediction harder



Hurricane Erin's movement was observed by a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration satellite on Aug. 20. NOAA

The Trump administration is scrapping satellite observations of Earth that officials say go beyond the essential task of predicting the weather.

Scott Dance Washington Post

Two satellite instruments that track Earth's carbon dioxide levels will soon go offline, deemed "beyond their primary mission." Two others meant to monitor water contamination and air pollution, including from greenhouse gases, will be removed from a future satellite mission based on orders to "deliver a weather-only instrument manifest."

The Trump administration is scrapping satellite observations of Earth that officials say go beyond the essential task of predicting the weather, according to budget documents that outline plans to reshape government research. In doing so, meteorologists and climate scientists say it is drawing a line between what is weather — and thus warrants government investment — and what is climate.

For example, language in a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration budget calls for preserving funding for the National Weather Service while slashing anything tied to climate change, limiting

government investment to "research that is more directly related to the NOAA mission." It echoed a call in the Republican policy playbook Project 2025 to dismantle climate research, which the report said drives "the climate change alarm industry," while continuing to improve weather forecasting accuracy.

But scientists said there is no division between weather and climate and that losing climate data will actually hurt weather forecasting. "This is a complete fallacy, weather versus climate. It is one and the same," said Lars Peter Riishojgaard, director of the Earth System Science Interdisciplinary Center at the University of Maryland.

As much as politicians may seek to separate the two, Riishojgaard said, "The earth system is wrapped together in its intricacy in ways that do not align with any particular political agenda."

NOAA spokeswoman Kim Doster did not answer questions about the status of the instruments but said the agency is "prioritizing next-gen weather and Earth observation capabilities." NOAA's mission includes understanding and predicting changes to climate, weather and the oceans and conserving marine ecosystems and fisheries.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Scientists have long made a distinction between weather and climate when asked if specific extreme weather events can be tied to climate change.

Weather, they explain, is what is happening outside our windows, changing by the

day and by the hour as atmospheric forces interact. Climate, on the other hand, is the long-term average of weather — defining the range of expected weather in a given location on a given day.

But as climate changes with the warming of the planet, the consequence of fossil fuel emissions and the greenhouse effect, the range of possible weather extremes is changing, too.

Satellite tools currently in space and those planned for future missions are meant to help scientists track those changes and understand how they are creating new weather hazards that could harm human health and valuable fisheries.

One set of instruments has been measuring carbon dioxide concentrations from space for the past decade, giving a new level of detail about how fast they are rising and how they vary around the globe. Carbon dioxide is the main driver of Earth's warming over the past century and a half, and concentrations have surged faster than at any time in human history.

But the Trump administration's budget request for NASA calls the Orbiting Carbon Observatory instruments "two climate missions beyond their prime mission" that it says will end during the current federal fiscal year, which ends next month.

NASA spokeswoman Cheryl Warner declined to comment on the status of the missions, saying it would be "inappropriate" because the budget has not been enacted.

SEE SCIENCE, A3

MICHIGAN EDUCATION

Standardized
tests: Three
things parents
should know

Some pandemic-era effects remain among students in two subjects.

Jackie Smith jsmith@mlive.com

Michigan students in K-12 schools don't take standardized tests in every subject in every grade, but when the results are released at the end of each summer, they can still be a bellwether for measuring learning progress, whether by parents or and among school leaders.

Results for statewide assessments taken last spring like the M-STEP and SAT were shared by the Michigan Department of Education on Aug. 27.

Families typically receive their students' individual reports about results in the days after the wider release. For the parents looking to get a more big-picture understanding, searchable results going back close to two decades are available through MI School Data.

The M-STEP, short for Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress, annually assesses progress from third to eighth grade and again in the 11th grade, although not in all subjects. Meanwhile, the SAT, or the Scholastic Aptitude Test as administered by the College Board, is taken by high school juniors and its PSAT pretest by eighth-graders.

Results have also been released for the MI-ACCESS, Michigan's alternative assessment for students with cognitive disabilities.

Here are a few key takeaways to help parents navigate the results and see how far instruction in the state has come.

STUDENT PERFORMANCE IMPROVED

Results in tests like the M-STEP are listed as the rate or number of students who performed at proficiency and advanced levels, as well as those who underperformed at partially or not proficient.

SEE MICHIGAN EDUCATION, A3



A Michigan Central High student goes into her locker on Aug. 20, the first day of the school year in that district. Results for statewide assessments taken last spring showed that Michigan students, across all tests, subjects and grades, improved proficiency in 14 of the 20 assessments administered for 2025. MLive.com files

Parent, 2 children
killed in crash
while stopped
at red light

The collision remains under investigation.

Nathan Clark nclark1@mlive.com

PONTIAC — Two children and one of their parents were killed Friday night when a car crashed into them while they were stopped at a red light.

Rescue crews were called at 8:20 p.m. Friday to the intersection of Montcalm and Joslyn roads in Pontiac for a report of major crash with serious injuries, according to the Oakland County Sheriff's Office.

Dispatch received multiple 911 calls reporting a vehicle had gone airborne and that a child had possibly been ejected from the vehicle, police said.

The preliminary investigation showed a

2022 Honda Civic, driven by a 21-year-old Pontiac resident, was going south on Joslyn Road when it crossed into oncoming traffic for unknown reasons, police said.

The vehicle crossed oncoming traffic, left the roadway and struck traffic signs and poles before entering Montcalm Road and hit a 2025 Chevrolet Malibu stopped at a red light, police said.

The driver of the Malibu, 37, suffered fatal injuries in the crash and was pronounced dead at the scene, police said.

Two children also in the Malibu, ages 6 and 4, were taken to McLaren Oakland Hospital where they later were pronounced dead, police said.

A third passenger, age 9, was taken to Corewell Health William Beaumont University Hospital in Royal Oak for treatment. The child was listed in critical condition, police said.

"This unimaginable tragedy has taken the lives of a parent and two young children. Our investigators will work tirelessly to determine the full circumstances of this incident and we extend our deepest sympathies to the family as they navigate this profound loss," Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said.

The driver of the Honda was taken to Trinity Heath Oakland Hospital and was listed in stable condition, police said.

