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Bald eagle recovery a ‘story of hope’



The bald eagle is native to North America and, according to fossil records, was present in the region when the first humans set foot on the continent. MIKE DE SISTI/MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL FILE

Raptor’s comeback seen as conservation milestone

Paul A. Smith
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

MILWAUKEE – Big, powerful and beautiful, they would have drawn the attention of the first humans to set foot in the area we now call the United States. They attained spiritual significance as Native American cultures developed over the following millennia.

As our republic was molded in the late 1700s, their image was selected by the founders for the Great Seal of the United States. During another tumultuous period in national history, one was enlisted as a living, battlefield inspiration for Union troops in the Civil War. Their recovery from dangerously low numbers in the mid-1900s, largely caused by pesticides found to cause broad ecological harm and later banned,

is an environmental success story. And in 2024 they were granted legal standing as the official U.S. bird.

Native to North America

The story of the bald eagle is about as American as it gets, serving as the country’s official symbol and bird. “When it comes to wildlife, humans

See BALD EAGLE, Page 4A

ANALYSIS

Immigration rulings will affect millions

Bart Jansen
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump cracked down on immigration through hundreds of policy changes that have affected millions of people. And though he lost at the Supreme Court on his top goal of restricting birthright citizenship, federal courts have largely supported his actions. Key decisions in the closing weeks of the Supreme Court’s term allowed him to end a humanitarian program for Haitians and Syrians living temporarily in the country, turn away refugees seeking asylum at the border and undertake

more scrutiny of green card holders returning from abroad. All were “victories for enforcing our nation’s immigration laws,” Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin said on social media June 25. “These decisions give us the tools we need to continue securing our nation.” After the recent Supreme Court victories, the White House promoted 60 policies as part of Trump’s crackdown on illegal immigration. Although immigration law experts said Trump’s loss on birthright citizenship was expected, they said the issue’s

See IMMIGRATION, Page 2A



President Donald Trump sought to limit the long-standing constitutional principle – enshrined in the 14th Amendment – that those born in the United States are citizens.
JOSH MORGAN/USA TODAY FILE

Climate change ‘fingerprint’ seen in heat

Dinah Voyles Pulver
USA TODAY

Early July brought historic extreme weather for the fourth year in a row, and scientists again see the “fingerprint” of climate change in a deadly Fourth of July. In 2023, it was a record-smashing heat wave. In 2024, history-making Hurricane Beryl ripped through the Caribbean. In 2025, a shockingly deadly flood. And in 2026? Another deadly heat wave. Days later, the heat warnings have finally faded for much of the Eastern United States, but the grim number of heat-related deaths continued to rise. At least 44 deaths have been reported as a result of the July 1 to July 4 heat wave, but it will be weeks or months before researchers finalize an estimate of the number of people who died or suffered injuries as a result of the extreme heat. More than 1,300 heat records were matched or broken for maximum high temperatures and warm overnight lows across 40 states and territories over the four days. From June 29 to July 5, 201 million Americans experienced at least one day when climate change made warm temperatures at least three times more likely, Shel Winkley, chief meteorologist at Climate Central, told USA TODAY. Temperatures on July 3 had “a very strong fingerprint of climate change,” he said, affecting 136 million Americans. By July 7, New Jersey officials had reported 29 deaths related to the heat and the complications it created for people with preexisting conditions. In New York City, officials blamed the heat for three deaths, and in Philadelphia, the city reported seven heat-related deaths since July 1, according to NBC10 Philadelphia. A heat-related death was reported on July 2 in Jackson, Mississippi, and multiple media outlets reported the medical examiner’s office in Cook County, Illinois, attributed heat as a contributing factor to four deaths. It’s not new or novel that summer is hot, that temperatures reach triple digits, or that there are heat waves, Winkley said. With climate change, Winkley said “these heat waves are not only getting more intense, we’re seeing higher temperatures because of them.” Climate Central reported in a recent study using its Climate Shift Index that summer nights have warmed across 231 U.S. cities by 3.1 degrees since 1971. World Weather Attribution, an international science consortium, said the July heat wave would have been “virtually impossible” without climate change. While daytime highs are bad enough, when they linger for several days, the resulting overnight high temperatures offer little relief for people and their surroundings, researchers at Duke University said during a July 7

See HEAT, Page 4A

