



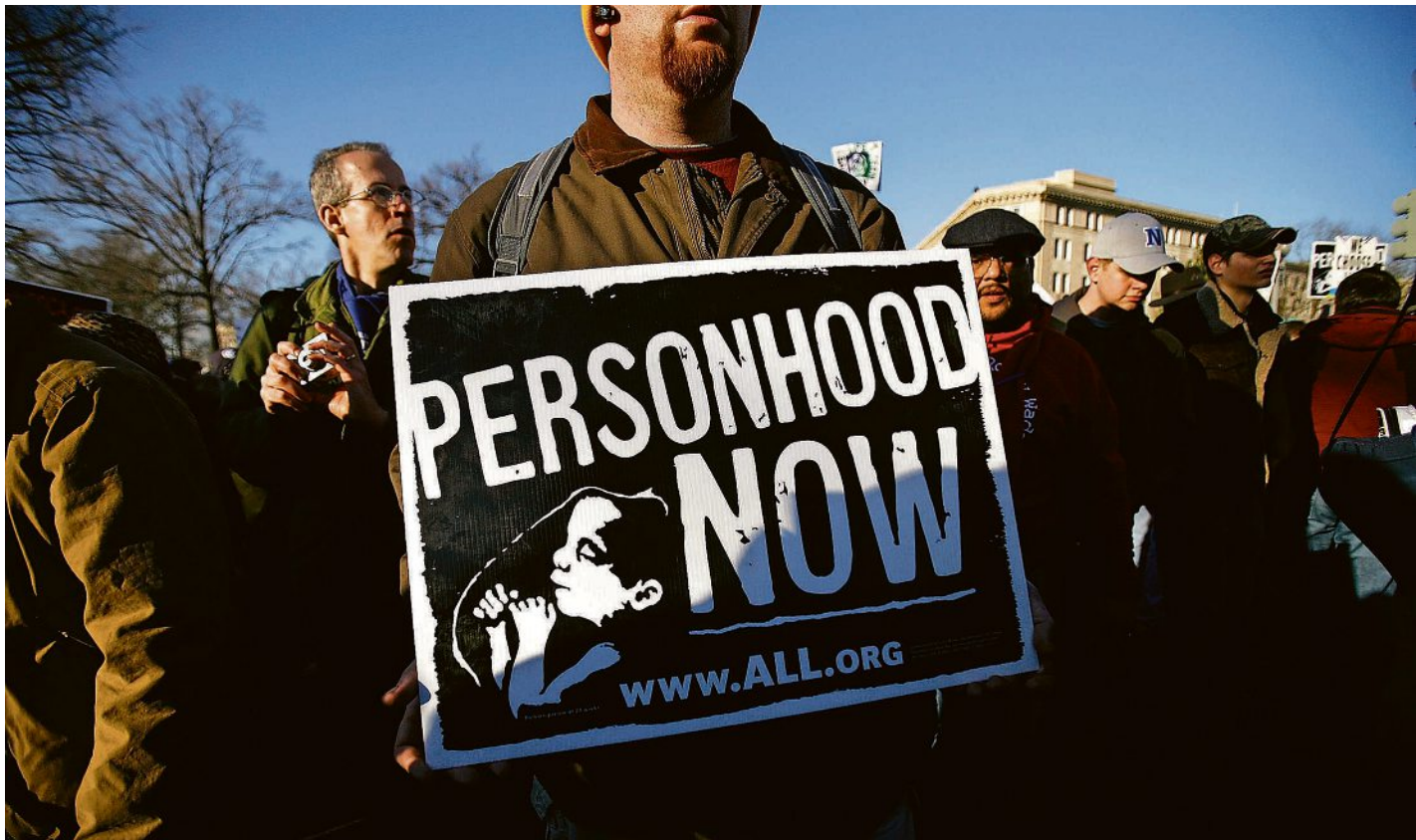
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SPORTS, 1B

PRESS & SUN-BULLETIN

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Activists have intensified efforts to extend legal rights to embryos and fetuses. Personhood arguments now surface in not only abortion restrictions but also disputes involving pregnancy loss, child support and taxes.

ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Embryo personhood debate gains notice

HHS guidelines add to movement's momentum after Dobbs decision

Risa Cromer
Purdue University
THE CONVERSATION

About 100,000 babies were born through in vitro fertilization in 2024, according to the most recent U.S. data. But IVF commonly involves trying to create multiple embryos, because success is never guaranteed. If unused, those embryos can be frozen, discarded, donated to research or donated to another fertility patient.

In the eyes of some anti-abortion activists, those frozen IVF embryos are already children – children who need to be “adopted” into families. And that idea now appears in a federal document: grant guidelines announced by the Department of Health and Human Services in June.

The department's Embryo Adoption Awareness and Services program has existed since 2002. But this year's funding notice describes IVF embryos as “children who already exist and are in need of a family.” Rather than presenting “embryo adoption” as one option among many for patients with remaining embryos, the document describes



An embryologist pulls out vials of human embryos from a liquid nitrogen storage container at a California IVF clinic in 2007. Grant guidelines announced by the Department of Health and Human Services in June describe IVF embryos as “children who already exist and are in need of a family.”

SANDY HUFFAKER/GETTY IMAGES

the practice as centered on embryos' “rights” and “best interests.”

This language draws from a decades-long movement to give personhood status to fetuses and embryos, including those made in fertility clinics. The personhood movement is rooted in a belief embraced by many conservative Christians: that human life begins at fertilization and should receive legal protection

from that moment.

Embryo adoption occupies a niche corner of U.S. fertility care. But the notice brings far-reaching questions about reproductive politics into sharper focus, including the future of IVF – a fertility treatment that many of those same conservative Christians support.

See EMBRYOS, Page 7A

Broome County road work begins

Sunshyne Lynch
Binghamton Press & Sun Bulletin
USA TODAY NETWORK

Beginning on Aug. 24, Broome County drivers should be prepared for various construction projects hitting local roads and highways.

From Broome County highways to downtown Binghamton roadways, motorists can expect possible delays and detours as even more road work is set to begin.

Here's what Broome County road projects are set to start on Aug. 24.

Main Street in Binghamton

A portion of Main Street in the City of Binghamton will be closed beginning Aug. 24 for construction.

City of Binghamton Deputy Mayor Ben Straebler announced on Aug. 21 that Main Street between Schiller Street and Ashbury Court will be closed to motorists for paving. Various side streets leading to Main Street will also be closed “as appropriate with the progression of the paving operation,” Straebler said.

See ROAD WORK, Page 2A

‘Explosive diarrhea’ parasite cases climb

New York reporting numbers nearing 1,000

Madison Scott
New York Connect Team
USA TODAY NETWORK

The New York State Department of Health has reported an additional 41 confirmed cases of cyclosporiasis in the state since Aug. 12, bringing the total number of cases this year to 973 through Aug. 17.

The New York State Department of Health is posting weekly updates on confirmed cyclosporiasis cases every Wednesday through the end of August.

See CASES, Page 7A

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