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The aerosol research is important to 'realize what this algae is doing to our bodies.'

— Kim Steele, a University of Toledo Medical Center nurse involved with the project

## Study weighs airborne algal toxins' effects

### UT team seeks aid of those who live, work near lake

By TOM HENRY

BLADE STAFF WRITER

Sue Carter didn't hesitate when she heard researchers were looking for people who live along Lake Erie to help answer a question no one has been able to fully explain.

"I wanted to be in this study when I first heard about it," said Ms. Carter, a Point Place resident whose home sits along the shoreline. "I care about the lake. It's in my front yard."

Ms. Carter became the first to sign up for a first-of-its-kind study led by University of Toledo medical researchers examining the health effects of airborne algal toxins — an issue that has drawn increasing concern as harmful blooms in Lake Erie arrive earlier and linger longer.

Now, researchers are trying to find many more people like her.

#### Outreach expands

A "full-court press" has begun to boost enrollment in the five-year project, which has drawn 31 participants so far. Researchers want that total to reach 200 people in the coming months.

The project is called the Great Lakes Aerosol Monitoring Research, or GLAMR, study. It is being done in collaboration with the University of Michigan with financial support from the National Institutes of Health.

The study is a key part of a five-year, \$6.5 million federal grant to fund the reshaped and expanded Great Lakes Center for Fresh Waters and Human Health, which in 2024 was moved to UM. That center was originally anchored at Bowling Green State University.

Enrollment got off to a slow start in summer 2025 because of the funding cy-



THE BLADE/KURT STEISS

Katherine Behrens uses a NIOX VERO device, which assesses airway inflammation.



THE BLADE/KURT STEISS

From left, Upasana Shrestha, Apurva Lad, Steven Haller, Livia Bruni de Souza, Jennifer Gilmore, Kim Steele, and Katherine Behrens stand in the GLAMR (Great Lakes Aerosol Monitoring Research) mobile unit.



THE BLADE/KURT STEISS

Steven Haller, with the University of Toledo, holds a NIOX VERO device outside of the mobile unit that will bring the testing to people in the region.

cle, with money released near the end of last year's harmful algal bloom season.

Now, with the 2026 bloom on the horizon, the team has launched bill-

board campaigns in Toledo and Port Clinton and mailed postcards to 19,000 homes and businesses near the shoreline.

"It wasn't a full-court press until now," said Dr.

Joan Duggan, an infectious disease specialist and one of the team members. "Last year was a pilot roll-out."

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## Areas near nuclear site in Israel hit

### Trump warns of strikes if strait isn't fully open

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO — Iranian missiles struck two communities in southern Israel late Saturday, leaving buildings shattered and dozens injured in dual attacks not far from Israel's main nuclear research center, while President Trump warned the United States will "obliterate" Iranian power plants if it doesn't fully open the Strait of Hormuz within 48 hours.

The developments signaled the war was moving in a dangerous new direction at the start of its fourth week.

Trump — who is facing increasing pressure at home to secure the strait as oil prices soar — issued the ultimatum in a social media post while he spent the weekend at his Florida home.

Trump said he's giving

Iran 48 hours to open the vital waterway or face a new round of attacks. He said the United States would destroy "various POWER PLANTS, STARTING WITH THE BIGGEST ONE FIRST!"

The Strait of Hormuz, which connects the Persian Gulf to the rest of the globe's oceans, is a critical pathway for the world's flow of oil. Attacks on commercial ships and threats of further strikes have stopped nearly all tankers from carrying oil, gas, and other goods through the passage. That's also led to cuts in output from some of the world's largest producers, because their crude has nowhere to go.

The Iranian strikes in Israel came after Tehran's main nuclear enrichment

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WORST IN 20 YEARS

## Hawaiian floods threatening dam

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU — As Hawaii endures its worst flooding in more than 20 years, officials urged people in hard-hit areas to "LEAVE NOW." That warning early Saturday came after heavy rains fell on soil already saturated by downpours from a winter storm a week ago, and still more was expected over the weekend.

Muddy floodwaters smothered vast stretches of Oahu's North Shore, a community world-renowned for its big-wave surfing. Raging waters lifted homes and cars and prompted evacuation orders for 5,500 people north of Honolulu. Authorities cautioned that a 120-year-old dam could fail.

"The remaining access road out of Waialua is at high risk of failure if rainfall continues," an emergency alert said.

On the island of Maui, authorities upgraded an evacuation advisory to a warning for some parts of Lahaina, which is still reeling from a deadly 2023 wildfire, because of retention basins nearing capacity.

North Shore Oahu residents who did not evacuate were heartened in the morning by receding waters and moments of blue skies, but more rain was on the way.

"Don't let your guard

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### Butt of the joke

The Onion pokes fun at UT in one of its latest stories.

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A Toledo shop keeps the art of leather-working alive.

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## Good-bye, Hawaii; Hello, Toledo!

### Family's home plans redirected

By SHEILA HOWARD

BLADE STAFF WRITER

Colin Stroud and his family went from saying "We're moving to Hawaii!" to "Hello, Toledo!"

The well-known travel entrepreneur and points expert went viral for announcing a six-month move to Hawaii, then bailing after six days and landing — unexpectedly — in Toledo.

Mr. Stroud, 26, built his business by teaching others how to turn credit card points into first-class travel, eventually earning more from his side hustle



THE BLADE/KURT STEISS

Colin Stroud, a well-known travel expert, has found himself and his family happily living in the Glass City after his dreams of living in Hawaii unraveled quickly.

than from his roles in insurance and nonprofit fund-raising. He grew his personal brand to nearly 35,000 followers on LinkedIn.

With his remote busi-

ness thriving, the couple realized they had a rare window of freedom before their daughters, ages 1 and 3, started school and then they could no longer live anywhere they wanted.

The conditions felt right for a bold move.

"We have this opportunity to basically be a digital nomad, if you will. I could

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