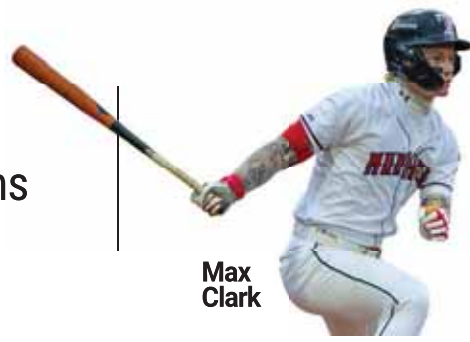




# Toledo tradition

Jeep legacy draws devoted fans

SECOND NEWS A6



Max Clark

# Prospect payday

Toledo star's soaring valuation

SPORTS B1

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TOLEDO, OHIO, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026

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## TOLEDO DISTRICT BUDGET DEFICIT



THE BLADE/ADDISON ANNIS

Rylee Spitler, 10, a fifth-grade student at Harvard Elementary, holds a sign protesting the closure of Harvard Elementary during a demonstration outside of the Toledo Public Schools headquarters.

## Residents seek to save school

### Harvard Elementary among those set to be closed

By VINCENT LUCARELLI  
BLADE STAFF WRITER

Minerva Gale is remembering the good in Harvard Elementary School, even as it is under threat of closure.

"It is a small, intimate community," said Ms. Gale, who has a daughter in eighth grade at the South Toledo school. "She's always had smaller class sizes. She knows everyone."

Ms. Gale is a member of the parent-teacher organization at Harvard, located at 1949 Glendale Ave. She has been one of the leading voices behind a Change.org petition circulating online that hopes to save the school.

The petition, titled



THE BLADE/ADDISON ANNIS

Bob Druckenmiller and Dorothy Jenkins attend the protest aiming to save the nearly 100-year-old Harvard Elementary School on Tuesday.

"SAVE HARVARD ELEMENTARY 'The castle on the hill'" has more than 1,000 signatures and is

steadily rising. In addition to Harvard, Martin Luther King, Jr., Academy for Boys, Na-

■ Councilman eyes extending moratorium on demolitions. Page A4.

varre Elementary School, Pickett Elementary School, Spring Elementary School, Walbridge Elementary School, Westfield Achievement Academy, and the Heatherdowns Building are all slated for closure.

This proposal was floated by district administration last week as a means to fix a budget deficit of around \$70 million. It could be made official April 28 when it will go before the Toledo Public Schools Board of Education.

See SCHOOLS, Page A4

## Cease-fire with Iran extended

### Vance trip to Islamabad for talks put on pause

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — President Trump said Tuesday the United States is extending its cease-fire with Iran at Pakistan's request as he waits for a unified proposal from the Islamic Republic.

The announcement came as last-minute cease-fire talks between the United States and Iran looked uncertain and a two-week truce was set to expire Wednesday.

Earlier, the White House put on hold Vice President JD Vance's expected trip to Islamabad for a second round of talks as Tehran — at least for the time-being — has balked at further talks.

In a Truth Social post announcing the cease-fire extension, Trump said the U.S. military would "remain ready and able, and will

therefore extend the Cease-fire until such time as their proposal is submitted, and discussions are concluded, one way or the other." He said the United States would continue its blockade of Iranian ports.

Both countries have warned that, without a deal, they were prepared to resume fighting.

Pakistani leaders, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, worked intensively late Tuesday to get both sides to agree to a second round of cease-fire talks, according to two officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei told Iran's state TV there has been "no final decision"

See IRAN, Page A5

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## La., Va. deaths spur calls for prevention

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SHREVEPORT, La. — Two deadly domestic violence cases, one in Louisiana and the other in Virginia targeting Black mothers, have sparked a national conversation about domestic violence prevention resources and mental health care available to Black communities.

Many advocates in the aftermath of the headline-grabbing shootings have said the tragedies pointedly highlight troubling trends in which Black women are more likely to experience domestic violence — and they see the killings as an opportunity to confront how disparities in access to care and resources make some women and children more vulnerable to violence in the home.

On Sunday morning, a

man police identified as Shamar Elkins fatally shot seven of his children and another child in Shreveport, La. A relative has said Elkins was in the midst of separating from his wife, who was wounded in the attack.

And last Thursday, police found the bodies of former Virginia Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax and his estranged wife, Dr. Cerina Fairfax, in their suburban Washington home. Justin Fairfax shot his estranged wife and then himself, and their two children in the home at the time were unhurt, police said. Like Elkins, Fairfax was in the process of separating from his wife and had faced a judge's upcoming deadline to move from the house.

See VIOLENCE, Page A3

## Experts, activists reflect on Earth Day

By TOM HENRY  
BLADE STAFF WRITER

Earth Day has come to mean many things since April 22, 1970, when 20 million people took to the streets to demand the planet be saved before it was too late.

America's first Earth Day was for years known as the largest single-day protest in the nation's his-

### Work ongoing, they say

tory, drawing upon the experiences of college campus teach-ins related to unrest over the Vietnam War. About one of every 10 Americans participated.

While many people have grown weary of what they consider to be crass advertising and corporate green

-washing, many others continue to view Earth Day as an inspiring event and a time for reflection.

In the Toledo area, there continue to be a number of neighborhood cleanups, tree plantings, and other events meant to genuinely reconnect people to na-

ture.

The good, the bad One of those keeping an open mind is University of Toledo Lake Erie Center Director Tom Bridgeman, who has spent much of his career dedicated to tracking western Lake Erie's harmful algal blooms.

He knows there are

See EARTH, Page A12

## INSIDE

### Shining star

Owens Police Training Academy gets a star for going above and beyond the call of duty.

Second News | Page A6

### Cupboard full

The Walleye open their Kelly Cup playoff run Thursday with a solid roster that pleases coach Pat Mikesch.

Sports | Page B1

### Weather

HI 75° LO 50°  
Page B10

### Ford in a fix

Ford has issued more recalls in the last year than the rest of the automotive industry.

Business | Page A8

### Witchy sisters

Nicole Kidman and Sandra Bullock will be spelling again in *Practical Magic 2*.

Peach Plus | Page B7

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## Ohio considers rules for submetering

### Local renter details issues with energy

By DANNY ELDREDGE  
BLADE COLUMBUS BUREAU CHIEF

COLUMBUS — Losing electricity is an annoying situation for most people, but it can be even more aggravating when it's unclear who is responsible for fixing the problem.

That has been the experience of Jason Gorr, a Perrysburg resident who lives in an apartment complex with power supplied through Pioneer Energy Management — a submetering company.



THE BLADE/JEREMY WADSWORTH

and we didn't think too much of it. It took a while to get it back on, and we weren't too happy about that. They weren't too easy to get ahold of, but no harm, no foul — that hap-

pens," Mr. Gorr said. "Then it happened again, but there wasn't any wind," he continued. "We talked to Pioneer Energy Management, and they said that it's not their prob-

lem." Mr. Gorr said he was then referred to American Electric Power to address the issue.

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