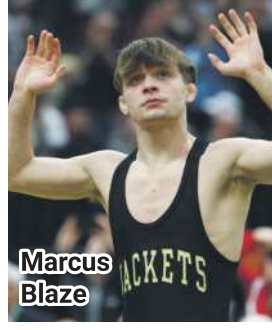




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Teen entrepreneurs make their case

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### PREDICTIONS FOR WESTERN LAKE ERIE



THE BLADE/ADDISON ANNIS

Ashley Brunton, of Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory, and NOAA oceanographer Richard Stumpf use a secchi disk to estimate algae concentrations of Lake Erie on Thursday.

## Algal bloom to be moderate

Scientists discuss forecast, research into toxins

By TOM HENRY  
BLADE STAFF WRITER

GIBRALTAR ISLAND — Expect a moderate-sized algal bloom in western Lake Erie again this summer.

In its official, annual forecast released Thursday, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said it expects the Summer 2026 algal bloom to be a 3.5 on its 10-point severity scale, but said it could be as low as a 3 and as high as a 4.5 depending on how much more rain and how hot the temperatures get in the coming weeks.

If the prediction holds, this year's bloom will be slightly larger than the 2025 bloom and similar to the 2024 bloom. It will



THE BLADE/ADDISON ANNIS

Researchers say this year's algal bloom in western Lake Erie will be slightly larger than last year's and will likely start in July.

likely start in July, according to Rick Stumpf, a NOAA oceanographer in the agency's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, who leads the forecast

modeling. The announcement was made inside the Ohio Sea Grant/Ohio State University Stone Laboratory research building on tiny Gi-

braltar Island near Put-in-Bay. Nearly 75 people attended in person, and as many as 222 people monitored via livestream, including scientists, journalists, public officials, and their staffers.

The forecast is a composite of research from NOAA, the University of Michigan, Heidelberg University, North Carolina State University, and Ohio Sea Grant.

The severity index is based on the bloom's biomass during its peak 30 days each summer. It does not represent the toxin level.

Moderate blooms have an index of 3 to 5. An index above 5 indicates more

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## U.S. can end Haitians' protections

Ohio leaders react to Supreme Court ruling

By DANNY ELDREDGE  
BLADE COLUMBUS BUREAU CHIEF

COLUMBUS — The Trump Administration can terminate Temporary Protected Status for Haitian immigrants living in Ohio and across the country, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a 6-3 decision on Thursday.

Justice Samuel Alito delivered the majority opinion, writing that the statute bars consideration of non-constitutional claims and that the sole constitutional issue raised will likely fail.

"Citing statements made by President Trump and former Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem, one set of respondents advances an equal protection claim that Haiti's TPS designation was terminated because of the racial makeup of that country's population," Justice Alito wrote.

"None of the cited statements by either the president or the secretary was overtly racial, and in substance all expressed policy views that could rest on race-neutral justifications."

Justice Alito said an individual can oppose TPS and support tighter restrictions on immigration for economic or other reasons that have nothing to do with race.

"Ironically, one of respondents' other arguments undermines the equal protection claim by offering a strong, race-neutral explanation for Haiti's termination: namely, that the current administration, which has terminated every TPS designation that has come up for renewal, simply opposes the TPS program, at

See COURT, Page A5

### 1 OF 2 BILLS REJECTED

## DeWine vetoes voter ID legislation

By DANNY ELDREDGE  
BLADE COLUMBUS BUREAU CHIEF

COLUMBUS — Legislation requiring voters to show a photo ID for mail-in ballots was vetoed by Gov. Mike DeWine on Wednesday night.

The governor also vetoed a bill that would have specified that submetering companies are not public utilities but are subject to other types of regulations.

Both the photo ID measure, House Bill 472, and the submetering legislation, House Bill 173, were passed during marathon voting sessions ahead of state lawmakers' summer recess.

**House Bill 472**  
In his veto message, Mr. DeWine said H.B. 472 is unnecessary because Ohio already does an excellent job running elections.

"House Bill 472 would

not discourage fraud, would not add any real security, and would create an additional and significant burden for Ohioans who vote by mail," the governor said.

Mr. DeWine also pointed to the opposition from Republicans and Democrats in the Ohio Association of Election Officials.

"This bipartisan group agrees that Ohio's election system is strong and 'is widely regarded as one of the most secure and well-administered in the nation. The success of that system is the result of careful planning, adequate resources, bipartisan administration, and the ability of election officials to implement changes thoughtfully and effectively,'" the governor

See ID, Page A4

## Toledo preparing for July 4 crowd

By KELLY KONG  
BLADE STAFF WRITER

Toledoans can expect a record crowd, bigger fireworks, and heightened security at the city's Fourth of July celebration this year.

While Independence Day festivities drew more than 80,000 attendees last

### Safety zone to be in place

year, Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz said he expects attendance at the Promenade Park celebration for America's 250th anniversary to exceed 100,000 people.

"That's exciting, but it

also provides some challenges," the mayor said. "There are some pretty significant changes to the way people experienced this same event last year."

The riverfront will not only be transformed into a

festival zone with music, food, and good company, but also the city's first special-event safety zone which has added rules and security.

"It makes it easier for our police to manage a large crowd," the mayor

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## INSIDE

### New economic era

A UT panel agrees America is ready for future economic changes as AI grows.

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### Lions arrest

A Detroit Lions cornerback is arrested in connection with a robbery, kidnapping.

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### COMING SUNDAY

Toledo theater fest fosters community, not competition.

AND



Local chef shares his story at national culinary convention.

ALSO

Learn who locally is committing to MAC schools.

## Earthquakes in Venezuela kill around 235, injure 4,300

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LA GUAIRA, Venezuela — Venezuelans searched for survivors beneath collapsed buildings Thursday and rescue teams raced to northern areas rocked by a pair of powerful earthquakes that officials say killed around 235 people and left at least 4,300 people injured.

"Unfortunately we have received around 235 patients who arrive without vital signs or die when they arrive at our health facilities," Health Minister Carlos Alvarado told state media Thursday.

More were feared dead from earthquakes reach-

ing magnitude 7.5 that struck Wednesday evening.

In cities across northern Venezuela, panicked residents poured out into the streets and searched for the missing in the debris. Injured children, animals, and civilians covered in dust and blood were pulled out of concrete rubble.

One mother sobbed and collapsed in grief as the bodies of her 3- and 10-year-old children were wrapped in blankets and carried away. Others screamed the names of missing loved ones. Some stood in silent shock.

The coastal region of La Guaira — north of the capital, Caracas — suffered some of the heaviest damage and casualties, and it's there that the country's main airport was damaged and closed, complicating aid efforts.

Retired schoolteacher Juan Alberto Mendaño climbed through wreckage in La Guaira and past a dead body when he spotted a woman who was trapped and signaling with her hand for help.

"May God rescue her as quickly as possible," Mr. Mendaño said. "When we

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