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NO MERCY FOR INVASIVE SPECIES



THE BLADE/ADDISON ANNIS

Samuel Gifford, 10, of Maryland, looks for spotted lanternflies before squishing the invasive species during the Big Squish at Orleans Park in Perrysburg on Wednesday.

People drawn to battle bugs

Dozens squish spotted lanternflies in Perrysburg

By MIKE SIGOV

BLADE STAFF WRITER

They shook trees, they swatted, they squished, they stomped, and then they kept the bodies for the count.

"I am pretty sure I killed one adult spotted lanternfly," Alyssa Mills of Blissfield, Mich., said. "I like squishing lanternflies."

The rising Blissfield Elementary fourth grader was one of 53 people who took part in the Big Squish at Perrysburg's Orleans Park on Wednesday — just as the first adults were beginning to emerge — with the first adult lanternfly reported at the park on Tuesday, according to event organizers.

The 9-year-old is an old hand. In 2025 at the Toledo Zoo, she "squished a hun-



THE BLADE/ADDISON ANNIS

Scott Kirby of Perrysburg Street Tree Commission takes a picture of a spotted lanternfly in a testing trap during the Big Squish Wednesday.

dred," which won her a Girl Scout patch and free ice cream, she said.

"If anyone finds them, bring the bodies back

here," Lauren Rush, natural resources manager for the city of Perrysburg, instructed event participants at the information table.

"We want people to have fun. We want people to learn."

"We want to help you guys identify the important trees, especially the tree of heaven, an invasive species and the [lanternfly's] preferred host," she continued. "Unfortunately, we have lots of it here in this park. We're working on getting rid of it."

Besides Ms. Rush, Jonathan Shields, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' spotted lanternfly program manager, was on hand to answer questions.

There are numerous ways to deal with the lanternfly infestation, he said.

The most effective and safe ways residents can deal with it include using

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Ohio set to teach about cannabis

Women told not to use drug while pregnant

By DANNY ELDREDGE

BLADE COLUMBUS BUREAU CHIEF

COLUMBUS — There is no safe dose of cannabis during pregnancy, according to the director of the Ohio Department of Health.

"Pregnancy is a time when many women experience a range of symptoms including nausea, stress, and difficulty sleeping that they might be inclined to reach for cannabis to address," Dr. Bruce Vanderhoff said during the launch of a new educational campaign Thursday. "Cannabis is not the best answer."

Dr. Vanderhoff, along with Alisha Nelson, executive director of OneOhio Recovery Foundation, and other officials announced that the first phase of Ohio's statewide cannabis public education initiative will focus on pregnant women

and women who may become pregnant.

Ms. Nelson said the campaign will combine targeted digital advertising, social media, earned media, direct engagement with mothers, and educational toolkits for community partners. The information will encourage women to speak with a health-care provider before using cannabis products.

"Pregnancy is filled with excitement, but it can also bring uncertainty," Ms. Nelson said.

"Women are often navigating physical symptoms, emotional changes, and a constant stream of advice while trying to make the best decisions for themselves and their babies," she said. "This campaign meets expectant and

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CONTINGENT ON ISRAELI RELATIONS

Condition added to Saudi nuclear deal

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Trump on Thursday appeared to add a condition to the newly signed agreement with Saudi Arabia for a civilian nuclear program, saying the deal would require the kingdom to normalize its relations with Israel through the Abraham Accords.

When the deal was announced Wednesday, neither the U.S. Energy Department nor the Saudi government made any mention of it being contingent on the kingdom's relations with Israel.

Trump's social media post a day later asserting that the agreement was subject to the Saudis joining the accords was unexpected and almost certain to complicate any final approval.

The accords approved in 2020 expanded the number of Arab and Muslim-majority nations with diplomatic ties with Israel.

Getting Saudi Arabia to join would be a monumental diplomatic achievement. The Saudis have previously made clear that normalizing relations with Israel would first require the establishment of a clear path for Palestinian statehood.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has rejected the idea of Palestinian statehood as being untenable for his country's security.

The Republican President also said the pact does not allow for enrichment of uranium. Nonproliferation experts have raised

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House OKs war powers resolution

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The House on Thursday narrowly passed a resolution to halt U.S. military action in Iran, sending a warning to President Trump for the second time as the war has escalated and the future of the conflict is increasingly uncertain.

Trump warned on Iran action

The 214-208 vote requiring congressional approval for the war came just before the Senate narrowly rejected a similar resolution, 47-49. Though the votes forced by Democrats are largely symbolic, they

are meant as a signal to the Republican President that his support on Capitol Hill is chipping away as the war drags on and lawmakers in both parties have questioned his administration's end-game.

The war has had "no clear mission, no strategy, no end goal," said Washington Rep. Pramila Jayapal, a Democrat who led the resolution on the House floor.

The House resolution passed after a handful of

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Island shooting

A man was fatally shot at a Put-In-Bay bar, and a Michigan man faces charges.

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Tigers' time ticking

Tarik Skubal hopes to not only finish his season, but win the World Series.

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COMING SUNDAY

Funky Turtle Brewing Co. has a new home — and plans to become more than just a neighborhood brewery.

AND



The pipeline from Bowling Green to Toledo keeps flowing, with more Falcons signing with the Walleye this offseason.

ALSO

New coffee shop fills void in Rossford.

U.S. renews strikes after rebels attack Saudi tankers in Red Sea

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO — The U.S. military announced Thursday that it is conducting the 13th night of strikes against Iran as clashes escalate over shipping routes.

Earlier Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels said they attacked two Saudi oil tankers in the Red Sea, potentially widening the Iran war as international oil topped \$100 a barrel.

U.S. Central Command said the latest attacks concluded shortly before 5 a.m. local time. They were designed to "further degrade Iran's ability to threaten civilian mariners and commercial vessels

transiting regional waters" as the Americans push to regain control over the Strait of Hormuz and restore the flow of international shipping.

A short time later, Iranian state media reported explosions along the strait in Bandar Abbas and Qeshm, as well as to the northwest near Andimeshk and Omidiyeh.

Meanwhile, the Houthis threatened to shut down another key trade route, with the economy already reeling from Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

The threat came as Iran and the United States have stepped up attacks as they vie for control of the strait,

through which a fifth of the world's oil and gas transited in peacetime, setting off a scramble for alternative routes.

President Trump threatened "major military punishment" against the Houthis if their attacks on ships continue.

"If they do this again, the U.S. will hold Iran responsible, in that the Houthis are a Surrogate and/or Proxy of Iran, and major military punishment will be inflicted upon Iran and, of course, the Houthis, themselves," Trump wrote on social media.

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