



Fair focus

McColley campaigns in Wood County

SECOND NEWS A6



New name

Express usher in another coach

SPORTS B1

One of America's Great Newspapers

THE BLADE

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting

\$1.50 • 24 PAGES

TOLEDO, OHIO, FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2026

UPDATES AT toledoBlade.com FINAL

NEARLY A CENTURY'S WORTH OF COMPANIONSHIP



THE BLADE/REBECCA BENSON

Toledo, Spain, Mayor Carlos Velázquez, left, and Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz share a handshake Thursday at Toledo Spain Plaza as part of a sister city visit.

Sister takes tour of Glass City

Toledo, Spain, dignitaries visiting Ohio counterpart

By ALICE MOMANY

BLADE POLITICS WRITER

About two months ago, Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz found himself walking through a historic cathedral in the city of Toledo, Spain.

On Wednesday, Mayor Carlos Velázquez, of Toledo, Spain, found himself at a table in Toledo, Ohio, signing a hot dog bun at Tony Packo's.

"There are wonderful cultural differences between the two communities," Mr. Kapszukiewicz

said, referencing the contrast between the two events.

But Mr. Velázquez jokingly equated the two as "the same experience."

The Spanish mayor, along with members of his administration and city council, arrived in Toledo Tuesday with an itinerary jam-packed with must-do activities.

Mr. Kapszukiewicz said he believes this is the first visit from a mayor of Toledo, Spain, to its Ohio counterpart since 1997.

The visit was coordinated by the Association of Two Toledos and marked 95 years of the two Toledos becoming sister cities.

The relationship between the cities is the first documented sister city relationship, but the connection dates back even further. The Blade, which was first published in 1835, was named after the steel-bladed sword produced in Toledo, Spain.

"In 1931, when our two cities formed an alliance, it was the first time any two

cities in the world had ever done anything like that ... and I think about 1931 in the period between the World Wars and the Great Depression, and there was tension in the world, there was hostility," Mr. Kapszukiewicz said. "And yet the citizens of our cities, to their credit, their instinct was the opposite."

"They were trying to make friends, trying to learn from each other, and baked into our DNA as

See CITIES, Page A4

Senate vote holds Fauci in contempt

Department of Justice officials review referral

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A Senate committee voted along party lines Thursday to hold Dr. Anthony Fauci in contempt of Congress over his refusal to answer questions at a hearing on his handling of the coronavirus pandemic, setting up a referral to the Justice Department for potential investigation over whether the country's longtime top infectious disease official properly exercised his constitutional rights.

A department spokesman confirmed Thursday evening that the department had received the contempt referral, is "reviewing it and will work with the Senate accordingly."

The vote approving the contempt resolution came a week after Mr. Fauci invoked his Fifth Amendment



Fauci

right against self-incrimination more than 100 times when he appeared before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, an episode that raised fresh legal questions about the ability of Congress to compel testimony from a previously pardoned witness.

Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, the committee chairman who pressed for the contempt finding, said that constitutional protection did not apply because Mr. Fauci last year received a pardon from Democratic President Joe Biden and thus did not

See FAUCI, Page A3

ALLEGED KILLER OF KEI'MANI LATIGUE

Jones charged with raping more victims

By DAVID PATCH

BLADE STAFF WRITER

A man already charged with capital murder for his daughter's disappearance and death last year was indicted Thursday on 13 new charges, including rape and kidnapping.

The new charges against Darnell Jones, 35, relate to three separate incidents, including two accusing him of kidnapping and raping other juveniles.

As part of the ongoing investigation of Kei'mani Latigue's disappearance and death last year, "our law enforcement partners uncovered evidence related to these earlier offenses that led to the additional charges," Lucas County Prosecutor Julia Bates said after the grand jury proceeding Thursday.



Jones

"We remain determined to seek justice not only for Kei'mani Latigue, but also for the additional victims

affected by these indictments," Mrs. Bates said.

The indictment for the oldest of the three new allegations specifies conduct between June 30, 2013, and June 30, 2015, involving a child whose age ranged at that time from 4 to 6 years old.

For that indictment, a Lucas Grand jury handed up dual counts of first-degree rape with sexually violent predator specifications, dual counts of first-degree

See JONES, Page A4

Ramaswamy unveils data center plan

GOP hopeful aiming to protect water, farmland

By ALICE MOMANY

BLADE POLITICS WRITER

Data centers are one of the hottest topics on the campaign trail this election season, and Republican gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy is the latest candidate to share how he would regulate the developments if elected as Ohio's governor.

Mr. Ramaswamy hasn't shied away from the topic,

even calling the developments a "good thing." On Thursday, however, he said certain conditions must be met before the developments can proceed.

Those requirements, according to a news release from his campaign, include eliminating electricity bills, cutting property taxes for homeowners, and

See PLAN, Page A4



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republican Ohio gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy has called data center developments a 'good thing' with certain conditions.

INSIDE

Back to school

Whitmer's new middle school set to welcome students Aug. 19.

Second News | Page A6

Full speed ahead

Labor productivity accelerated at a fast pace in the second quarter.

Business | Page A8

COMING SUNDAY

What to expect from Rockets soccer this fall.

AND



A Toledo teacher and chef shares the remarkable journey that shaped her life — and her cooking.

ALSO

How duck stamps help preserve America's wetlands.

Weather
HI 84° LO 68°
Page B10



Business | A8
Classified | B6
Comics | B8
Crossword | B5
Horoscope | B6
Lottery | A3
Obituaries | A7
Opinion | A10
Peach Plus | B7
Second News | A6
Sports | B1
Today's log | A7
TV listings | B9

TO SUBSCRIBE CALL
419-724-6300 OR 1-800-245-3317
Copyright © 2026 The Blade



7 37148 24579 5
Recycled and recyclable

Ukraine hits Russian oil sites in long-range drone attacks

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine hit more oil facilities deep inside Russia in overnight attacks, President Volodymyr Zelensky said Thursday, as Kyiv kept up its campaign to undermine Moscow's wartime economy and embarrass the Kremlin.

The repeated strikes have caused fuel shortages and rattled Russians. Ukrainians, meanwhile, are enduring barrages that Kyiv's depleted air defenses are struggling to counter.

The Kyiv region observed an official day of mourning Thursday after a Russian missile and

drone blitz killed 17 people the previous day, prompting an increasingly urgent push by Ukraine and its allies to find new air defense supplies.

Mr. Zelensky said he met with senior officials on how to accelerate development of Ukraine's own ballistic weaponry, similar to its innovation in drone technology.

"Developing one's own ballistic capabilities and creating a new anti-ballistic system is a task that only a tiny minority of countries worldwide have managed to accomplish," he said in a social media post. "Ukraine has this capability."

Mr. Zelensky said he expects the program to produce results this year and next after it overcomes "key challenges," including procuring critical components, technological cooperation with partner countries, and choosing where to build the armaments.

Ukrainian forces hit a refinery in Russia's Bashkortostan region, more than 800 miles from the front line, as well as a refinery in the Yaroslavl region, almost 400 miles from the border, he said on social media.

Yaroslavl Gov. Mikhail Yevrayev confirmed an

See UKRAINE, Page A2