



WIKINEWS PRINT EDITION

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29 killed in Algerian floods

Floods in the Algerian town of Ghardaïa, a UN world heritage site, have killed at least 29 people according to local officials including Ali Belkhir, the head of public health for the north African country. Belkhir confirmed that "following these floods, we can sadly declare that 29 people have died." He also said that 84 people were injured, although the Algerian interior ministry has since lowered the toll to 48. Six hundred homes were also flooded in the incident, and several hundred people were evacuated by helicopter.

SpaceX rocket successfully orbits on fourth attempt



Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX) successfully launched and sent into orbit a Falcon 1 rocket, which was launched yesterday at 23:15 UTC from the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site at Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific Ocean.

University of Calgary scientist Keith cracks carbon capture conundrum

A University of Calgary research team developed a new method

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for extracting carbon dioxide (CO2) directly from the air — a fundamental shift in carbon capture technology enabling capture of the most common greenhouse gas from so-called diffuse sources like aircraft, trucks and automobiles that represent half of the greenhouse gases emitted globally.

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Wikinews interviews Donald K. Allen, independent candidate for US presidency

While nearly all mainstream coverage of the 2008 Presidential election has focused on the Democratic and Republican candidates, the race for the White House also includes



independents and third-party candidates. These prospects represent a variety of views that may not be acknowledged by the major party platforms. Wikinews has reached out to these candidates throughout the campaign and now presents an interview with Donald K. Allen of Youngstown, Ohio, an independent presidential candidate who registered with the Federal Election Committee in January 2007.

Wikipedia Current Events

Russian news agencies report the head of the Akhalkalaki separatist administration, Anatoli Margiev

Wikipedia Current Events

managed to jump out of a car as he was driving to Tskhinvali.

- Two teenagers have blown up a mine at the territory of the military base in Gori, Georgia.
- Seven Russian soldiers were killed as a result of an explosion in breakaway South Ossetian capital, Tskhinvali.
- PACE calls for international probe into 2008 South Ossetia war.
- US President Bush signs the US\$ 700,000,000,000 bailout bill after it is passed by the House.
- Australia began withdrawing Chinese-made Kirin milk tea from shops after discovering it contained melamine in tests.
- Greece announces it will follow Ireland's lead and guarantee all bank deposits in the country.

Mother, daughter accused of stealing of husband's \$3.5 million lottery ticket.

On April 4, 2008 Bobbi-jo Arnold, accompanied by her mother Mary Patricia Moore and other family members, claimed a \$3.5 million lottery ticket win in Toronto. On October 2 the two women were arrested by Ontario Police. Both are facing charges including fraud over \$5000, possession of property obtained by crime, false pretenses and uttering a forged document. They allegedly stole the ticket from Moore's, then, husband.

The family dispute has led to Ms

Moore (59) filing for divorce from her husband of ten years, Gerald Moore (81), in August. Mr Moore alleges Ms Arnold received the ticket from her mother, who took it from his bedside table. He further alleges his wife "manipulated" his medications to leave him incapable to grasp what was occurring. The Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation is also named in Mr Moore's civil suit for alleged negligence in investigating Ms Arnold's claim.

The bail judge's order requires Ms Moore to live with her daughter Arnold in a home she purchased with the lottery winnings, and not with her husband. As well, both women are ordered not to leave Essex County, Ontario and to surrender their passports to the police.

Nebraska teacher sentenced to 6 years for sex with student

Kelsey Peterson, a former Nebraskan teacher has been sentenced to 6 years in prison for transporting a minor across state lines to have sex. She traveled to Mexico with a 13-year-old boy with whom she previously had an affair. Peterson took the boy to Mexico in October 2006 after accusations that she was having an affair with the boy surfaced. She was arrested in Mexico when the boy called his family in the United States.

She was charged with kidnapping and first degree sexual assault. Peterson's attorney claimed that the boy's birth certificate was possibly forged or doctored and that the boy was in fact at least 16. Given time already served and the possibility time-off for of good behavior, Peterson could be released in four years. However, her conviction was on federal charges and she may still be

prosecuted on state charges which could lead to additional time in jail.

The child was an illegal immigrant at the time of the affair and kidnapping. The child has been since been put on humanitarian parole which means that he will not be deported for the foreseeable future. The child's attorney wants the boy and his family to obtain visas, and eventually to become United States citizens.

Hurricanes may be associated with sunspots

A recent study suggests that hurricane intensity may be linked to the number of sunspots on the sun. Decrease in the number of sunspots may be related to increase in hurricane intensity. James Elsner and Thomas Jagger of Florida State University in Tallahassee after examining the past 100 year hurricane records of the United States and Caribbean conclude that their intensity may be linked to 10 to 12 year solar magnetic activity cycles. Data from the National Hurricane Center, Miami, Florida was used in the study.

Sunspots are areas in sun with increased magnetic activity. The number of sunspots vary during the solar cycles. The number of sunspots is predicted by NOAA to be the lowest in 2008 in a 11 year cycle. This decrease in the number of sunspots may related to increased hurricane intensity on earth.

Increased solar activity will allow more ultraviolet rays to reach earth, that can warm the relatively colder upper atmosphere. This decreases the temperature difference between the upper and lower regions of the atmosphere. Decreased solar activity reverses

this phenomenon. More the temperature difference between upper and lower atmospheric regions, the higher will be the hurricane intensity.

Establishing a link between sunspots and hurricane intensity can provide a valuable tool for predicting storms. Other scientists however question the statistical basis of the study and the physical processes attributed to changes in hurricane activity. "This is something worth investigating, but they made too many assumptions for me to just accept their conclusion at this point," says Judy Curry of Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta.

Study estimates first human HIV infection 100 years ago

An eight year study, published in scientific journal Nature, claims the HIV-1 virus that leads to AIDS could have infected humans around 1908 in Africa. Scientists found traces of the HIV-1 genome collected in 1960 from a woman who lived in Léopoldville, presently called Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. An earlier study had also isolated the virus from a 1959 blood sample of a male from Léopoldville. Study of both the samples and estimate of the rate at which the virus mutates over time has led the researchers to conclude that the human strain could have been around since 100 years.

The study, co-sponsored by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, was carried out by Michael Worobey of the University of Arizona in Tuscon, Arizona and colleagues from the United States, France, Belgium, Australia, Democratic Republic of the Congo

and Denmark.

"HIV is one of these pathogens that you could almost think of as living on the edge of extinction. It means there are things we could do to actually make it so that it doesn't have a chance of spreading." —Michael Worobey, University of Arizona in Tucson

Earlier estimates of this nature had indicated the age of infection in humans between 1915 and 1941. The present study pushes the date of the infection back to sometime between 1884 and 1924, with a more focused estimate at 1908. Earlier studies have suggested that HIV-1 virus was spread from chimpanzees to humans in Cameroon.

"Now, for the first time, we have been able to compare two relatively ancient HIV strains. That helped us to calibrate how quickly the virus evolved and make some really robust inferences about when it crossed into humans, how the epidemic grew from that time, and what factors allowed the virus to enter and become a successful human pathogen," Dr. Worobey said.

"HIV is one of these pathogens that you could almost think of as living on the edge of extinction," Worobey continued. He believes that had HIV not been carried to a city, it may not have survived the jump to humans.

"It means there are things we could do to actually make it so that it doesn't have a chance of spreading," Worobey said.

The first human infection could have happened around the time when the colonial cities were established in Africa. Rapid urbanization in colonial Africa

around the beginning of the twentieth century may be responsible for the spread of the AIDS pandemic. It is estimated that several thousand people were infected by 1960s. Today, HIV infection is reported in 33 million people and has killed 25 million. Researchers opine that an understanding of the origin and pathways for human infection of the virus could help in developing a vaccine to fight it.

Wikipedia Current Events

Both of Russia's main stock exchanges, the MICEX and RTS, suspend trading of stocks "for technical reasons" as the markets rallied after a 1-1/2 day trading halt that ended earlier in the morning.

- Trading is suspended for a second time in a day at the RTS stock exchange as Russian equities tumble. The dollar-denominated stock index was last down 7.8% in intraday trading. At MICEX, index fell 6.2% in intraday trading.

- Investigators in the United States announce that they have found human remains in what is believed to be the wreckage of Steve Fossett's plane, which went missing over California a year ago.

- United States government announces sale of billions of dollars of arms to Taiwan to keep a balance with China's massive arms buildup aimed at Taiwan.

- Russia's foreign minister calls for international action to halt piracy in Somalia

Today in History

1830 – A provisional government in Brussels declared the creation of the independent and neutral state of Belgium, in revolt against the

United Kingdom of the Netherlands.

1910 – Manuel II, the last King of Portugal, fled to Gibraltar when a revolution erupted in Lisbon and his palace was shelled. The Portuguese First Republic was proclaimed the next day.

1957 – Soviet spacecraft Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite to orbit the Earth, was launched by an R-7 rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome near Tyuratam, Kazakh SSR.

1985 – Software developer Richard Stallman founded the Free Software Foundation to support the free software movement.

2003 – A suicide bomber killed 21 people and injured over 50 others inside the Maxim restaurant in Haifa, Israel.

October 04 is Independence Day in Lesotho (1966); Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi (Catholicism); World Animal Day

Quote of the Day

The quicker humanity advances, the more important it is to be the one who deals the first blow.
~ Ernst Kaltenbrunner

Word of the Day
moronic adj

1. (medicine) Having a mental age of between seven and twelve years.
2. (slang) Behaving in the manner of a moron; idiotic, stupid.

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