

USA TODAY 09.10.18



Browns don't win, but end their losing streak

After going 0-16 in 2017, Cleveland opens the NFL season with a late rally to tie Pittsburgh 21-21. In Sports TYROD TAYLOR BY USA TODAY

NEWSLINE

IN NEWS

Hurricane Florence strengthens again

Officials in Virginia, Carolinas prepare for "possibility of large-scale disaster"

Pence says he would take lie detector test

Vice president denies claim that officials met to discuss ousting Trump

IN MONEY

Are subscription box services a smart buy?

Regular deliveries can be convenient, but they can also cost a lot of money

IN SPORTS



ROBERT DEUTSCH/USA TODAY SPORTS

Tennis must address its double-standard

Christine Brennan: Serena's US Open final penalty raises issues of bias

IN LIFE

Burt Reynolds' five essential movie roles

Once the world's biggest star, actor showed his range in these portrayals

Brad and Angelina's divorce getting uglier

Hollywood power couple's split could end in a messy public spectacle

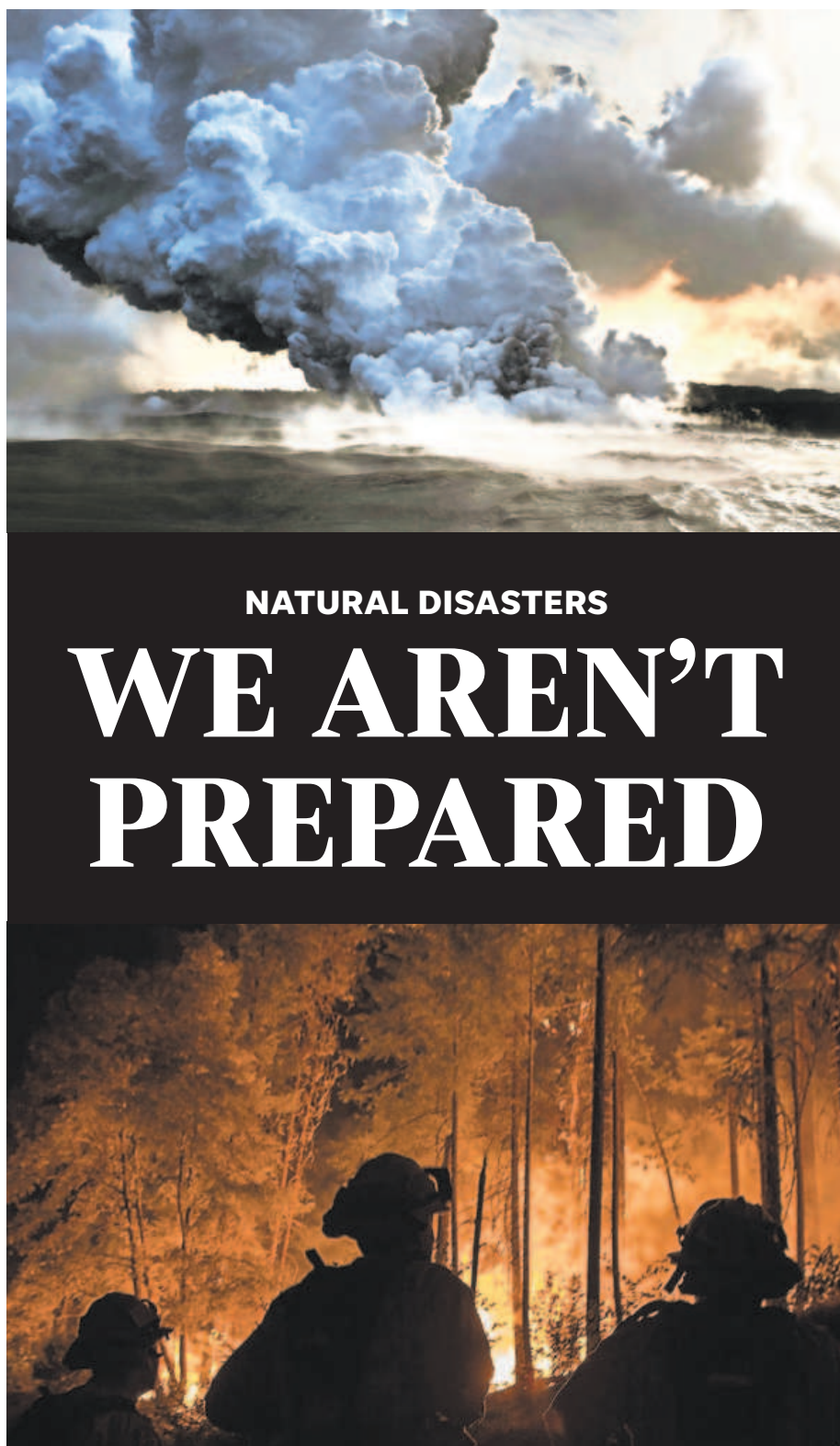


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USA SNAPSHOTS

69% of parents say they've taken their kids' cellphones away as a consequence of bad behavior.

SOURCE Ting Mobile survey of 1,565 U.S. parents with children under the age of 18 MIKE B. SMITH, ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ/USA TODAY



Natural disasters such as Kilauea volcano in Hawaii, top, and the Carr Fire in California have done nothing to hasten emergency preparedness, experts say. TOP, ROBERT HANASHIRO; BOTTOM, KELLY JORDAN/USA TODAY NETWORK

Unless an emergency affects them directly, Americans slow to respond

Rick Hampson USA TODAY

Will repeated exposure to vivid scenes of natural disaster — Western wildfires, a global heat wave, Hawaiian volcano eruptions, the 2017 hurricanes' anniversary and a suddenly active 2018 season — finally turn America into a go-bag nation, prepared for calamity and ready to flee it? Experience counsels skepticism. So does human nature.

The sight of a 30-story-high wave of fire consuming a Colorado subdivision, or a California "fire tornado" as long as three football fields, may rivet a national audience. But it probably won't change national attitudes about how to prepare for an emergency or when to evacuate.

Experts say people aren't really motivated by disaster until it comes to, or through, their door. "I don't know what it'll take," says Jay Baker, a retired Florida State University geographer who has studied evacuation behavior, "but disaster scenes are not enough."

Take the case of Lauren Sand. When she was a kid her family built a house on the west side of Los Ange-

In the first half of this year, six natural disasters each caused at least \$1 billion damage and killed a total of 36 people.

les. This was shortly after the Bel Air Fire of 1961, one of worst wildfires in California history.

When she moved into the neighborhood, the hillsides were still charred. On the next ridge, a row of chimneys marked where houses had stood before the fire.

As an adult, Sand created Grabbit

See PREPARATION, Page 2A

Clemency system may get overhaul

White House aims to add discipline to its process

Gregory Korte USA TODAY

WASHINGTON — When Alveda King was invited to the White House last month, the Atlanta pastor and niece of Martin Luther King Jr. brought with her a list of more than 90 names — all federal prison inmates seeking presidential clemency.



Alveda King

King's list was compiled with the help of her goddaughter Angela Stanton, an Atlanta author ("Lies of a Real Housewife") and reality show cast member (BET's "From the Bottom Up") who served time in prison herself for her part in a stolen car ring.

Last week, another reality television star — Kim Kardashian West — appeared at the White House, with the lawyer for Chris Young, a Tennessee man serving a mandatory life sentence for drug trafficking. Along with other

See CLEMENCY, Page 4A

USA TODAY EXCLUSIVE

Iran's Jewish community has some surprises

Rabbi says group is able to worship 'very freely'

Kim Hjelmggaard USA TODAY

TEHRAN, Iran — In a large room off a courtyard decorated in places with Islamic calligraphy and patterned tiles featuring intricate geometric shapes and patterns, men wearing tunics, cloaks and sandals recite morning prayers.

At the back of the room, three women sit together on a bench, hunched over ancient texts. Scarves cover their hair, as required by Iran's religious law. Birdsong floats into the cavernous space as the incantations grow louder and more insistent.

This is a synagogue. In Iran. In a nation that has called for Israel

See IRAN'S JEWS, Page 6A

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Learn more about a country that's near the top of U.S. foreign policy concerns yet is a mystery to many.

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What's inside?

Iran's Jews

Continued from Page 1A

to be wiped off the face of the Earth, the Iranian government allows thousands of Jews to worship in peace and continue their association with the country founded more than 2,500 years ago.

"We have all the facilities we need for our rituals, and we can say our prayers very freely. We never have any problems. I can even tell you that, in many cases, we are more respected than Muslims," said Nejat Golshirazi, 60, rabbi of the synagogue USA TODAY visited one morning. "You saw for yourself we don't even have any security guards here."

At its peak in the decades before Iran's Islamic Revolution in 1979, 100,000 to 150,000 Jews lived here, according to the Tehran Jewish Committee, a group that lobbies for the interests of Iranian Jews. In the months following the fall of Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi, Iran's second and last monarch, many fled for Israel and the United States.

It was a dispersion precipitated in part by the execution of Habib Elghanian, who was then one of Iran's leading Jewish businessmen and philanthropists. Elghanian also headed the Tehran Jewish Committee and had ties to the deposed shah. He was killed by firing squad after being accused by Iran's Islamic revolutionaries of spying and fundraising for Israel.

Few Jews remain

Today, 12,000 to 15,000 Jews remain in Iran, according to the committee.

It's a small minority in a nation of 80 million people. But consider: Iran is home to the Middle East's largest Jewish population outside Israel.

And, according to Golshirazi and other senior members of Iran's Jewish community, they mostly enjoy good relations with Iran's hard-line, theocratic government despite perceptions abroad that Iran's Islamic rulers might subject them to harsh treatment.

"The Muslim majority in Iran has accepted us," said Homayoun Sameyah Najafabadi, 53, who holds the role once held by Elghanian, chairman of the Tehran Jewish Committee.

"We are respected and trusted for our



Jews have been in Iran since about the eighth century B.C. They used to be scattered all over the country but are now largely concentrated in Tehran and other big cities such as Isfahan and Shiraz. FARHAD BABAEI FOR USA TODAY

About this story

■ President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal and reimpose sanctions hardened tensions between two countries at odds for decades. Trump says Iran must be forced to alter its behavior. Some fear he put the U.S. and Iran on a dangerous path to a potential war.

■ USA TODAY foreign correspondent Kim Hjelmgard gained exclusive access to travel to Iran this summer to explore the strained U.S.-Iranian relationship. Inside Iran is a timely look at a country few Western journalists get to visit.

expertise and fair dealings in business, and we never feel threatened," he said. "Many years ago, before the royal regime of Pahlavi, by contrast, if it was raining in Iran, Jews were not allowed to go outside of their houses because it was believed that if a non-Muslim got wet and touched a Muslim it would make them dirty."

Najafabadi said it may be difficult for Jews and others outside the country suspicious of Iran's treatment of religious minorities or its views on Israel to accept, but after the execution of Elghanian, Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran's first supreme leader, deliberately sought to improve relations between Jews and Muslims in the country for the nation's long-term stability.

He added that Jews, who have been in Iran since about the eighth century B.C., used to be scattered all over the country but are now largely concentrated

in Tehran and other big cities such as Isfahan and Shiraz. In all, he said, Iran is home to about 35 synagogues.

Najafabadi said most Jews in Iran are shopkeepers, although he said others work as doctors, engineers and in other highly skilled professions.

There are no Jews, however, in senior government positions. There's only one Jewish representative in the country's 290-member Parliament. His name is Siamak Moreh Sedgh.

Sedgh, 53, said one of the reasons Jews in Iran are able to live peacefully is that they consider themselves Iranians first – and Jews second.

"We're not an entity outside of the Iranian nation. We are part of it. Our past and our future. I may pray in Hebrew, but I can only think in Persian (Farsi, Iran's language)," said Sedgh, who is also a surgeon at a hospital in central Tehran.

Crucially, that affinity extends to the question of Israel.

"I don't think Israel is a Jewish state because not everyone in Israel lives according to the teachings of the Torah. This is what Jews in Iran believe," Sedgh insisted.

On Tehran's bustling streets, Jews are not very visible, partly because there are so few of them. USA TODAY did, however, spot a few men wearing kippahs as they hurried off to work in the morning.

Still, rights groups and experts believe Jews in Iran do face discrimination. Najafabadi, the committee chief, conceded that in some instances, Iranian Jews have had trouble getting access to the best schools with their Muslim peers.

In other cases, treatment of Jews has ended in brutal violence.

In 1998, Ruhollah Kadhodah Zadeh, a Jewish businessman in Iran, was hanged by the authorities after being accused of helping Iranians Jews emigrate. Two years later, 10 Jews in the southern city of Shiraz were jailed after they were accused of spying for Israel.

Then there's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Iran's former president, who drew international attention when he repeatedly denied the Holocaust in which 6 million Jews were murdered.

Meir Javedanfar, an Iranian Jew, says life has improved for Jews under Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. Javedanfar left the country for Israel in 1987 as a teenager and now teaches classes on Iranian politics at the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, north of Tel Aviv.

Javedanfar said, for example, that Jewish children in Iran are no longer required to attend school on the Sabbath, the traditional day of rest and religious observance among Jews that falls on a Saturday but is a regular workday in Iran.

"At the same time, the regime continues to hold Holocaust cartoon contests that are pretty anti-Semitic," he noted, referring to a provocative annual exhibition in Iran that mocks Jewish suffering while claiming to challenge Western ideas about free speech and Holocaust taboos.

He quickly pointed out: "The regime is not too concerned about its Jews as long as they don't become involved in politics and don't say anything positive about Israel."

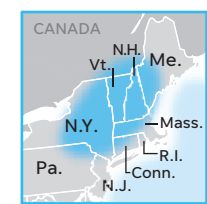
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FRONT & CENTER

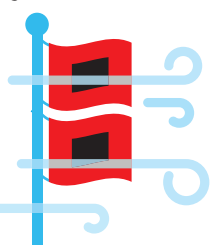


Heavy rain will soak portions of the Northeast today.

On this date in 1960, Hurricane Donna hit the Florida Keys.

How is a "major" hurricane defined?

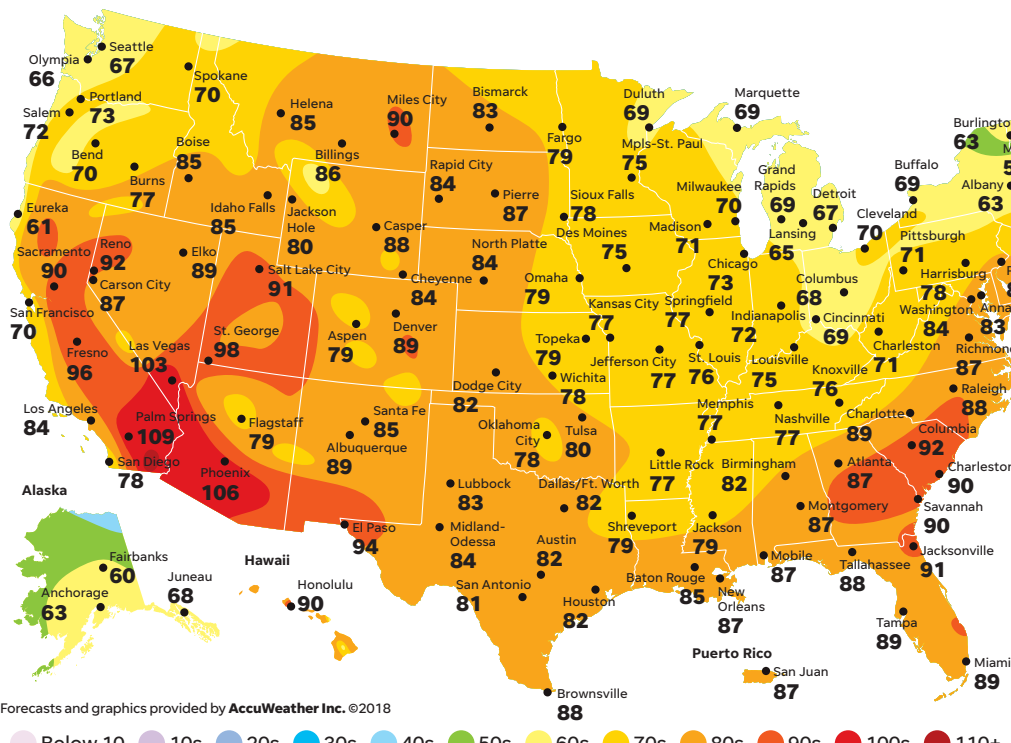
It has winds of at least 111 mph.



SOURCE NOAA, AccuWeather

Doyle Rice; Alejandro Gonzalez/USA TODAY @USATODAYWeather

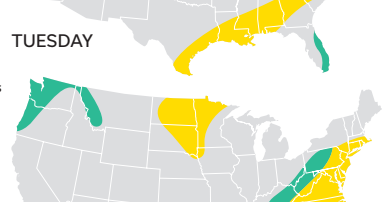
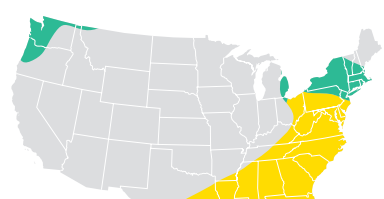
TODAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES



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EXTREMES
Note: For contiguous 48 states through 3 p.m. ET yesterday.
● HOTTEST: 107° Needles, Calif.
● COLDEST: 20° Bodie State Park, Calif.

TOP TRAVEL CITIES Air quality index (AQI)

CITY	MON	TUE	WED	AQI
ATLANTA	Stray t-storm 87/71	T-storms 88/72	T-storm 87/73	Good
BALTIMORE	Shower, t-storm 83/67	Shower, t-storm 79/66	T-storm 84/71	Good
BOSTON	Becoming rainy 68/65	Shower, t-storm 84/69	T-storm 76/66	Good
CHARLOTTE	Shower, t-storm 89/71	T-storms 89/71	T-storms 86/72	Good
CHICAGO	Partly sunny 73/56	Sunny, warm 78/60	Sunny, warm 81/60	Good
DALLAS/FT. WORTH	Partly sunny 82/68	Partly sunny 82/68	Shower 85/70	Moderate
DENVER	Partly sunny 89/59	Mostly sunny 82/60	Sunlit 82/58	Good
DETROIT	A little rain 67/56	Warmer 75/57	Sunny, nice 78/61	Good
HONOLULU	Partly sunny 90/73	Shower 89/78	Rain, wind 87/76	Good
HOUSTON	T-storms 82/70	T-storms 83/72	T-storm 86/73	Moderate
LAS VEGAS	Sunny, hot 103/75	Sunny, hot 102/75	Sunny, breezy 98/74	Good
LOS ANGELES	Mostly sunny 84/65	Clouds to sun 81/64	Clouds to sun 81/63	Moderate
MIAMI	Partly sunny 89/75	Spotty showers 88/74	T-storm 89/75	Good
MPLS-ST. PAUL	Mostly sunny 75/63	Partly sunny 80/67	Mostly cloudy 83/66	Good
NEW ORLEANS	T-storm 87/75	T-storms 85/75	T-storms 85/76	Good
NEW YORK	Rain, breezy 72/70	Shower, t-storm 81/72	T-storm 82/72	Good
ORLANDO	Stray t-storm 89/75	A.P.M. t-storm 89/74	T-storm 89/75	Good
PHILADELPHIA	T-storms 80/71	Shower, t-storm 82/70	T-storm 86/71	Good
PHOENIX	Sunny, warm 106/83	Sunny, warm 107/81	Partly sunny 105/79	Moderate
SALT LAKE CITY	Mostly sunny 91/63	Sunny 89/65	Sunny 84/62	Moderate
SAN DIEGO	Clouds to sun 78/65	Clouds to sun 77/64	Clouds to sun 77/67	Good
SAN FRANCISCO	Turning sunny 70/54	P.M. sun 68/54	Turning sunny 67/54	Moderate
SEATTLE	Mostly cloudy 67/56	Shower, hot 65/54	Spotty showers 65/53	Good
WASHINGTON	Shower, t-storm 84/70	Shower, t-storm 80/70	T-storm 85/75	Good

U.S. CITIES	TODAY	TUE	WORLD CITIES	TODAY	TUE
Akron, Ohio	70/57c	74/57pc	Beijing	86/64s	84/64c
Albany, N.Y.	63/61r	80/61c	Buenos Aires	64/53pc	67/54s
Albuquerque	89/64pc	89/64s	Cancun, Mexico	85/75t	82/77r
Allentown, Pa.	72/68r	81/67t	Dubai, UAE	107/85s	102/88s
Amarillo, Texas	84/59pc	87/61s	Frankfurt	82/53pc	81/56pc
Anaheim, Calif.	86/64pc	84/63pc	Hong Kong	87/79pc	90/79pc
Anchorage, Alaska	63/48s	64/49s	Istanbul	80/66t	77/67t
Aspen, Colo.	79/46pc	77/48s	Jerusalem	80/63s	83/66s
Atlantic City, N.J.	80/76r	84/72c	Johnannesburg	66/41s	71/45s
Austin, Texas	82/69t	84/69t	London	70/59pc	76/59pc
Bakersfield, Calif.	97/66s	95/65s	Mexico City	74/57t	74/58t
Baton Rouge, La.	85/70t	83/71t	Montreal	60/56r	70/57r
Birmingham, Ala.	86/54s	83/50s	Moscow	69/51pc	73/58r
Bismarck, N.D.	82/69t	87/71c	Mumbai, India	87/78pc	87/78c
Boise, Idaho	85/51s	77/49pc	Paris	78/53s	84/57s
Buffalo, N.Y.	69/59r	70/56pc	Rio de Janeiro	76/67c	76/67pc
Burlington, Vt.	63/59r	77/61r	Rome	82/64pc	84/65s
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	72/52s	84/72c	Seoul	83/61pc	81/63c
Charleston, S.C.	90/75pc	89/74pc	Singapore	84/77t	83/77c
Charleston, W.Va.	71/59t	77/62c	Sydney	68/51s	74/58s
Cheyenne, Wyo.	84/55pc	86/56pc	Toronto	64/57r	72/56pc
Cincinnati	69/55c	75/59pc	Tokyo	88/70r	78/69r
Cleveland	70/59sh	72/59pc			
Colorado Springs	85/57pc	88/60s			
Columbia, S.C.	92/77pc	93/72t			
Columbus, Ohio	68/56c	74/60pc			
Corpus Christi, Texas	85/71t	86/73t			
Dayton, Ohio	66/54c	74/58pc			
Daytona Beach, Fla.	89/74sh	88/75pc			
Des Moines, Iowa	75/58s	80/60s			
Duluth, Minn.	69/58pc	77/65pc			
Durham, N.C.	87/71pc	87/70t			
El Paso, Texas	94/68s	94/68s			
Fairbanks, Alaska	60/37pc	61/45s			
Flagstaff, Ariz.	79/44c	81/72t			
Fargo, N.D.	79/62s	83/57t			
Fort Myers, Fla.	89/74t	88/73t			
Fort Smith, Ark.	81/62pc	83/66pc			
Fort Wayne, Ind.	69/53sh	76/54pc			
Fresno, Calif.	96/63s	94/61s			
Grand Rapids, Mich.	69/53sh	76/54pc			
Green Bay, Wis.	70/51s	74/54s			
Greensboro, N.C.	82/69t	83/70t			
Greenville, S.C.	87/70pc	86/70t			
Harrisburg, Pa.	78/67t	80/67c			
Hartford, Conn.	64/63r	82/64t			
Indianapolis	72/55c	76/58pc			
Islip, N.Y.	72/58r	82/68c			
Jackson, Miss.	79/68t	82/70t			
Jacksonville, Fla.	91/72pc	91/73pc			
Kansas City, Mo.	77/59s	80/61s			
Key West, Fla.	89/79pc	88/81sh			
Knoxville, Tenn.	76/66t	82/68c			
Laredo, Texas	81/73t	87/74t			
Lexington, Ky.	71/58c	77/63pc			
Lincoln, Neb.	80/62s	83/63s			
Little Rock, Ark.	77/63pc	77/64pc			
Long Beach, Calif.	80/65pc	78/64pc			
Louisville, Ky.	75/59c	78/64pc			
Lubbock, Texas	83/60s	85/61s			
Madison, Wis.	71/51s	75/56s			
Manchester, N.H.	65/61r	80/65t			
Memphis, Tenn.	77/65s	78/67pc			
Milwaukee	70/56s	75/60s			
Mobile, Ala.	87/72t	86/72t			
Modesto, Calif.	91/56s	89/54s			
Montgomery, Ala.	87/70t	89/70t			
Myrtle Beach, S.C.	88/75pc	88/75t			
Nags Head, N.C.	85/76t	84/75t			
Nashville, Tenn.	77/62c	80/67pc			
Newark, N.J.	75/70r	84/68c			
New Haven, Conn.	70/69r	83/67c			
Norfolk, Va.	89/75pc	88/76t			
Oakland, Calif.	72/55pc	69/55pc			
Oklahoma City	78/60s	81/61s			
Omaha, Neb.	79/62s	83/63s			
Palm Springs, Calif.	109/75s	107/71s			
Pensacola, Fla.	87/64s	92/61t			
Pierre, S.D.	87/75sh	87/74t			
Pittsburgh	71/58t	73/60pc			
Portland, Maine	66/62r	76/62r			
Portland, Ore.	73/55c	67/54sh			
Providence, R.I.	67/65r	82/69c			
Raleigh, N.C.	88/72pc	87/70t			
Rapid City, S.D.	84/58s	81/50pc			
Reno, Nev.	92/52s	87/53s			
Richmond, Va.	87/70c	82/70t			
Rochester, N.Y.	67/61r	73/57pc			
Sacramento, Calif.	90/56s	86/54s			
San Antonio	81/71t	84/71t			
San Jose, Calif.	79/55s	77/53s			
Santa Fe, N.M.	85/54pc	86/55s			
Sarasota, Fla.	87/75t	88/75pc			
Savannah, Ga.	90/73t	90/74pc			
Scottsdale, Ariz.	104/80s	104/78s			
Shreveport, La.	79/64pc	81/67c			
Sioux Falls, S.D.	78/62s	82/65pc			
South Bend, Ind.	68/52c	75/54s			
Spokane, Wash.	70/47pc	66/45pc			
Springfield, Mo.	77/57s	80/57s			
Springfield, Ill.	77/53pc	81/58s			
St. Louis	76/59pc	80/59s			
St. Petersburg, Fla.	87/76t	89/76t			
Syracuse, N.Y.	61/60r	72/59c			
Tallahassee, Fla.	88/73t	90/74t			
Tampa, Fla.	89/78t	90/78t			
Toledo, Ohio	66/54sh	75/54pc			
Topeka, Kan.	79/58s	83/61s			
Tucson, Ariz.	100/75s	101/75s			
Tupelo, Miss.</					