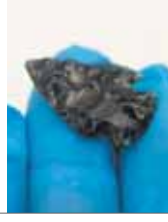




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FINAL

## HELP IS ON THE WAY, MISSISSIPPI GOVERNOR SAYS



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Homes in Rolling Fork, Miss., sit in ruins on Sunday following a weekend tornado that ripped through several towns in Mississippi and other parts of the South. At least 25 people were killed and dozens of others were injured.

# Tornado recovery begins in South

Volunteers, agencies aid displaced as region faces more storms

BLADE NEWS SERVICES  
ROLLING FORK, Miss. — Help began pouring into one of the poorest regions of the country Sunday after a deadly tornado tore a path of destruction for more than an hour across a long swath of Mississippi, even as new storms Sunday struck across the South.  
At least 25 people were killed and dozens of others were injured in Mississippi as the massive storm ripped

through more than a half dozen towns late Friday.  
One man was killed in Alabama after his trailer home flipped over several times.  
"Everything I can see is in some state of destruction," said Jarrod Kunze, who drove to the hard-hit Mississippi town of Rolling Fork from his home in Alabama, ready to help "in whatever capacity I'm needed."  
Mr. Kunze was among volunteers working Sunday at a

staging area, where bottled water and other supplies were being readied for distribution.  
Search and recovery crews resumed the daunting task of digging through flattened and battered homes, commercial buildings, and municipal offices after hundreds of people were displaced.  
The storm hit so quickly that the sheriff's department in Rolling Fork barely had time to set off sirens to warn the community of 2,000 resi-

dents, Mayor Eldridge Walker said.  
"And by the time they initiated the siren, the storm had hit and it tore down the siren that's located right over here," Mr. Walker said, referring to an area just blocks away.  
The mayor said his town was devastated.  
"Sharkey County, Mississippi, is one of the poorest counties in the state of

See **TORNADO**, Page A3

## GOAL IS TO AMEND OHIO CONSTITUTION

# Debate starts over merits of Aug. election

Move comes amid effort to get abortion issue on ballot

By **JIM PROVANCE**  
BLADE COLUMBUS BUREAU CHIEF

COLUMBUS — State lawmakers saw expensive, low-turnout August special elections as a bad thing when it was about passing local tax levies, but it's a different story now for some who want to ask voters to put off their summer vacations to vote on a statewide ballot issue.

The motivation for the move varies depending on whom you talk to, but for some it is about making it tougher to enact a constitutional right to abortion access that could come to a vote on Nov. 7.

Secretary of State Frank LaRose, a Republican and Ohio's top elections official, last year testified in favor of a bill to do away with August special elections. The bill passed in a lame-duck session and was signed by Gov. Mike DeWine.

"Simply put, an August special election is the last thing election officials should be dealing with as they ready themselves for an important

November election that begins with the start of early voting in October," he said. "These unnecessary 'off-cycle' elections aren't good for taxpayers, election officials, or the civic health of our state. It's time for them to go."

Some Republican lawmakers proposed resurrecting an August special election for a statewide ballot issue. They plan to ask voters, presumably on Aug. 8, to amend the constitution to require that all future proposed constitutional amendments get at least 60 percent of the vote to take effect. If passed in August with the approval of a simple majority of voters as required currently, the new higher threshold would be in place in the general election if the proposed Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety makes the ballot.

Supporters are currently working to gather the roughly 413,000 valid signatures of

See **ELECTION**, Page A4

# Voter photo ID rules raise concerns in Ohio

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS — As Ohio's primary approaches, a strict new photo ID requirement is stirring concerns for military veterans and out-of-state college students, in Amish communities, and among older voters.

Other Republican-led states are moving in the same direction as they respond to conservative voters unsettled by claims of fraud and persistent conspiracy theories over the accuracy of U.S. elections.

Critics characterize such requirements as an overreaction

that could end up disenfranchising eligible voters.

Ruth Kohake is among those caught up in the confusion over Ohio's law, which is going into effect this year.

The retired nurse from Cincinnati gave up her driver's license and her car in 2019. Now 82, she thought she might never have to set foot in another state license agency.

But Ohio now requires an unexpired photo ID in order for someone to vote, and she will have to get that at the

See **ID**, Page A4

# Personal finances strain U.S., poll says

Half of lower-income households struggling with debt, inflation

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Personal finances are a major source of stress for about half of the lower income households in the United States, a new poll shows, illustrating the toll of high inflation and economic uncertainty on those who can least afford it.

About half of U.S. adults in households earning less than \$60,000 annually and about 4 in 10 of those in households earning \$60,000 to \$100,000 say they're very stressed by their personal finances, according to the new poll from the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Re-

search.  
That compares with only about 25 percent of those in higher income households.  
Beverly Lucas, 76, of Cary, N.C., said she sees how inflation has hemmed in the lives of her fellow senior citizens on fixed incomes.  
"There's no comfort zone in

their finances — no vacation. They're just getting by," she said. "Medications are expensive. Groceries. No one's living large or having fun. They should be having fun."

Ms. Lucas, a retired Christian education teacher who

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University of Toledo recreation therapy students helped some people with that on Sunday.  
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# Parked cars are top targets of gun theft

40,000 firearms stolen since '20

NEW YORK TIMES

NASHVILLE — In a country awash with guns, with more firearms than people, parked cars — or in many cases, parked pickup trucks — have become a new flashpoint in the debates over how and whether to regulate gun safety.

There is little question about the scope of the problem.

A report issued in May by the gun control group Everytown for Gun Safety analyzed FBI crime data in 271 U.S. cities, large and small, from 2020 and found that guns stolen from vehicles have become the

■ How should gun owners store their guns in the home? Page B1.

nation's largest source of stolen firearms — with an estimated 40,000 guns stolen from cars in those cities alone.

In some cities, organized groups of young people have swept through neighborhoods and areas around sports arenas, looking for weapons left under car seats or in unlocked center consoles or glove compartments.

See **GUNS**, Page A5



A report analyzed FBI crime data in 271 U.S. cities, large and small, from 2020 and found that guns stolen from vehicles have become the nation's largest source of stolen firearms — with an estimated 40,000 guns stolen from cars in those cities alone.

NEW YORK TIMES

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