

Billionaire blasts off, becoming the first person to fly his own ship to space. **Page A5**



Ex-assistant, A&M coach Childress is back on NU baseball staff. **Sports**

Omaha World-Herald

MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021 • SUNRISE EDITION • REAL. FAIR. ACCURATE.

OMAHA.COM

Omahans survey mess after hurricane-force winds

The storm set record for power outages in metro area; city crews to pick up tree debris curbside

REECE RISTAU AND NANCY GAARDER
World-Herald Staff Writers

With his chain saw idle for a moment, Ray Agosta happily took a break for the glass of ice water offered by his wife, Marilyn.

Before them Sunday afternoon were piles of downed tree limbs. Nearby, Sharon Street in northeast Omaha was still choked with limbs. If the tucked-away road was to be cleared and their 80-plus-year-old aunt's yard was to be cleaned up, it seemed up to these two 60-somethings.

"This is not easy," Marilyn

Agosta said. "If we were younger, it wouldn't be such a big deal. It's overwhelming."

As thousands of metro area residents faced another night without power, and as chain saws could be heard buzzing in neighborhoods, Omahans got some good news Sunday:

More than 80% of power outages were likely to be repaired by day's end, and the city's trash crews will pick up limbs curbside this week.

Numerous rules apply to the curbside pickup, so the service won't solve every problem residents face, but it will help, the Agostas said.

"We can get this to the curb," Ray Agosta said. "But we need some help with the big stuff."

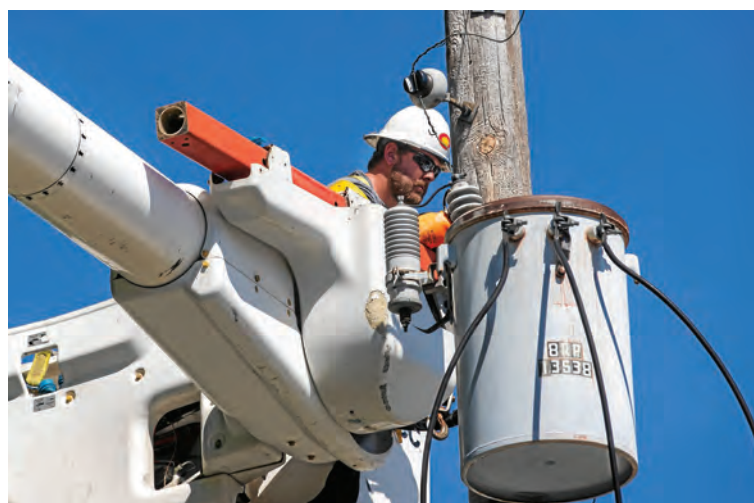
Still, progress with complete

power restoration could take until Friday, the Omaha Public Power District said late Sunday night. While the utility hopes to have 99% of the outages repaired by midnight Tuesday, the final 1%, perhaps 1,800 customers, could take until Friday, OPPD announced.

Parents of summer school students got some not-so-good news: The Omaha Public Schools canceled summer school and related programing for Monday because of power outages. The Meals2Go pickup was rescheduled to Tuesday.

As the Agostas surveyed their mess, many residents in densely treed parts of the metro area faced another night without power.

Please see **STORM**, Page A2



CHRIS MACHIAN, THE WORLD-HERALD

A worker from The L.E. Myers Co. repairs a powerline near 43rd Avenue and Pacific Street on Sunday. The storm early Saturday caused 188,000 power outages in OPPD's service area — 20% more than the previous record.

California native will lead Omaha Luminarium

Inaugural CEO is now an exec at San Francisco's Exploratorium, a model for science center here

HENRY J. CORDES
World-Herald Staff Writer

The leaders behind Omaha's riverfront science center have in many ways modeled the project after San Francisco's Exploratorium, regarded as one of the world's premier science museums.

Now an executive from the Exploratorium, Silva Raker, has been named the first CEO of Omaha's Kiewit Luminarium. And both Raker and the donor group behind the \$101 million center say they are ecstatic with the match.



Raker

"We're thrilled she's joining us in Omaha," said Rachel Jacobson of Heritage Services, the organization of local philanthropists that has spearheaded the project. "She'll bring such a wealth of knowledge and tremendous passion for the mission."

As a senior development director for the Exploratorium, Raker actually for the past three years led a team from the San Francisco museum that helped plan, design and develop exhibits for the Omaha center.

The more Raker thought about it, she ultimately decided the Luminarium was something she wanted to help lead into the future.

"I'm over the moon," the 61-year-old Raker said last week. "I fell in love with Omaha and this project."

Construction is already underway on Kiewit Luminarium, set to open at Lewis & Clark Landing in spring 2023. The privately funded center will feature hands-on, interactive exhibits intended to unlock curiosity and make science accessible for both children and adults.

Backers behind the Luminarium hope it will not only fill a gap on the Omaha cultural landscape, but also help inspire children's

Please see **LUMINARIUM**, Page A2

GREAT EIGHT IN OMAHA



Z LONG, THE WORLD-HERALD

Jim Furyk started the day atop the U.S. Senior Open leaderboard, and he finished there. His three-stroke victory Sunday at Omaha Country Club made him both a U.S. Open and U.S. Senior Open champion — the eighth golfer in history to accomplish that. **Full coverage in Sports.**

Shaking their heads at handshake's return



JONATHAN ERNST, POOL VIA GETTY IMAGES

President Joe Biden bumps elbows with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi after addressing a joint session of Congress on April 28. With the pandemic, many people went a year or more without clapping someone else's hands.

Some doctors would like the ritual gone for good

RICHARD CHIN
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

As we emerge from the pandemic, we're starting to see the return of an age-old ritual: the handshake.

Many of us went a year or more without clapping someone else's hands. But as vaccination rates go up and social distancing restrictions fall, we're starting to press the flesh again.

"I am shaking people's hands when they offer it to me," said Sheila Nezhad, a candidate for mayor of Minneapolis. Nezhad,

who recently started in-person campaigning, has been exchanging fist bumps, elbow bumps and the traditional grip-and-grin, even though it was a little disorienting at first to put 'er there.

"It kind of felt like getting back on the bike after having not ridden one for a while," she said.

Not everyone is happy that the handshake is making its way back. Though it's a deeply ingrained way of expressing friendship and respect, some medical experts wish it were gone for good.

"I don't think we should ever shake hands again, to be honest with you," White House health

Please see **HANDSHAKE**, Page A2

W-H's oldest carrier

Soon to be 86-year-old delivers the newspaper in Rising City and Shelby. **Midlands, Page A3**

Vaccine booster?

Fauci says it's "conceivable, maybe likely" that Americans will need another COVID shot. **Page A6**

Additions adding up

It's good to see NU programs making moves, Sam McKewon writes. **Sports**

Weather

High: 82 Low: 61
Partly sunny
Details: A4

Index

Classifieds ...B6 Obituaries ...B5
ComicsB8 PuzzlesB9
MidlandsA3 TV listingsA5

16 PAGES • \$2.00



6 59373 00001 0

Storm

From A1

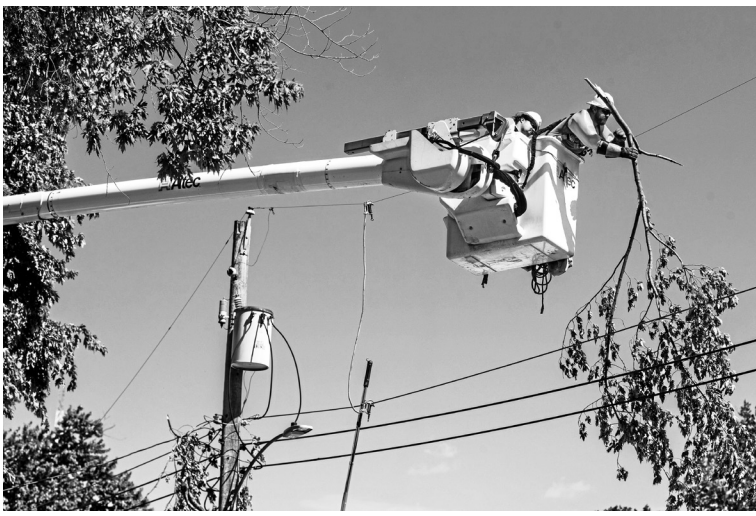
Some lucky residents were able to run extension cords to their neighbor's home to power their refrigerators and freezers. Others hauled coolers of food to friends' homes. Others fretted over the cost of pitching a freezer full of meat, given the uncertainty of when they might get power back.

There was a reason for the upheaval: It was a record-setting storm.

The storm was as powerful as any windstorm known to have struck Omaha, according to the National Weather Service, and it obliterated the previous record for power outages, according to the Omaha Public Power District.

Straight-line winds reached 96 mph early Saturday morning, similar to an EF-1 tornado or a Category 2 hurricane ripping through the metropolitan area. The last time the wind blew that strong in Omaha was Aug. 23, 2016, when a much smaller storm set the city's wind record, said weather service meteorologist Brian Smith.

Underscoring the storm's extraordinary power and reach, it caused 188,000 power outages in OPPD's service area. That is 20% more than the previous record, the 156,000 outages



CHRIS MACHIAN, THE WORLD-HERALD

Workers from The L.E. Myers Co. remove a tree limb from a powerline near 43rd Avenue and Pacific Street on Sunday. Tens of thousands of OPPD customers remained without power Sunday after Saturday's storm.

on June 27, 2008. (The historic snowstorm that pummeled a Halloween-decorated Omaha in October 1997 left 150,000 in the dark.)

As of 8:30 p.m. Sunday, about 40,000 OPPD customers remained without power, according to the district's outage map. Most were in Omaha, generally east of 120th Street.

The utility estimated that 85% of the outages would be restored by midnight Sunday, leaving some 30,000 still without power for a third day on Monday.

Crews have been working

around the clock, and OPPD set an internal record: deploying more workers than ever before to get power back online — 539 crew members, said Laura King-Homan, OPPD spokeswoman.

"That's the most people we've ever had working on a storm," she said. "That shows you the severity."

The utility repeated its warning that people not touch or approach power lines. Report downed lines at OPPD.com or by calling 800-554-6773. The City of Omaha's six debris

drop-off sites were busy Sunday and will remain open through Wednesday.

Victor Hogan, who hauled a pickup load to Levi Carter Park, said the drop-off site was "a huge help."

While people complained of long waits at some sites, James May, who was emptying his second pickup load Sunday afternoon at Levi Carter, said changes there had sped up the lines. In the morning, he had to wait about 40 minutes, but by the afternoon, with multiple drop stations in the parking lot, the line moved quickly.

"These storms are bound to happen," he said. Like the Agostas, he said curbside pickup was sorely needed. "There are a lot of people who need help."

The drop-off sites, open from dawn to dusk, are at Ta-Ha-Zouka Park in the Elkhorn area; Hefflinger Park at 112th Street and West Maple Road; Towl Park near 90th Street and West Center Road; the parking lot at 156th and F Streets; Levi Carter Park at the concrete boat ramp; and Al Veys Park at 6506 S. 60th St.

Most streets had been cleared of debris and were passable by Sunday.

But hazards remained, either from partially or fully blocked roads or from limbs dangerously dangling over sidewalks and streets. Carrie Murphy, a

spokeswoman for the city, said people can report problems with public trees or blocked roads to the Mayor's Hotline at 402-444-5555. Generally, public trees are those in the grassy area between the sidewalk and the street or in medians.

Curbside pickup is being offered this week only, unless something changes. The pickup will be done by crews with the city's trash hauler, FCC Environmental Services, as they make their regular rounds.

Tree debris can be put in yard waste bags or small bundles that have been tied together, but the city asks that people first completely fill their carts with yard waste before turning to bags or bundles. Crews will be manually loading bags and bundles into 96-gallon carts, and then activating the trucks' lifts to get the debris inside. Because of this extra work, residents should expect delays in trash pickup, according to the city.

Bundles should be no longer than 4 feet and weigh about 40 pounds or less. Prepaid stickers won't be required for yard waste bags.

Any limbs wider than 6 inches in diameter or longer than 6 feet should be taken to a drop-off site, the city said.

reece.ristau@owh.com, 402-444-1127, [@reecereports](https://twitter.com/reecereports)

Luminarium

From A1

interest in science, math, engineering and technology, helping Omaha develop the diverse STEM workforce needed for the city's future.

All money for the center is being raised by Heritage Services, the influential philanthropy organization that has been behind numerous major civic projects in Omaha over the past three decades.

When Heritage officials first started exploring building a science center in Omaha, they visited the Exploratorium, on San Francisco's waterfront. They learned the Exploratorium had a division that works with other science museums around the world to develop exhibits.

The founding leader of that global collaborations division: Raker.

Wanting to make the Omaha center world-class, Heritage officials decided to hire the Exploratorium to assist with the Luminarium's entire development, from feasibility to final design.

Raker began making regular trips to Omaha as the lead of the Exploratorium development team. The last trip she took before



HDR

This rendering depicts the Kiewit Luminarium, the new STEM-inspired science center that is planned for the riverfront at Lewis & Clark Landing.

the COVID-19 pandemic, and the first coming out of it, were both to Omaha.

From the moment she started working on the Omaha project, Raker said she was impressed by the commitment in the city to create a science center that would be first-class, cutting-edge, engaging and accessible to everyone.

The Omaha planners then last fall retained the services of a national search firm, Koya Partners, to help find the museum's first CEO.

Raker's first interview with Koya in December was not as a job can-

didate, but just to advise the firm on what they should be looking for in a candidate.

But by February, Raker began to wonder whether she herself would be interested in the job. Included in her thoughts were some big-picture considerations.

Emerging from the pandemic, Raker said, cultural institutions all across the country are facing two major challenges:

How can such institutions, which historically have been mostly White and affluent, embrace the racial reckoning that followed George Floyd's murder

and find ways to be more inclusive?

And how can they find new, more sustainable funding models, including new kinds of community support and corporate engagement?

Considering all the assets in Omaha, including a committed philanthropic sector and strong corporate sector, she began to think Omaha could lead the nation in embracing those challenges.

"I can't think of a better place to do it," she said. "The opportunity to create something really unique and be a model for the rest of the country was huge."

Raker threw her hat in the ring in March. The Omaha Discovery Trust Board, the nonprofit board created to run the Luminarium, voted Friday to hire Raker.

"I am thrilled to welcome Silva to Kiewit Luminarium as our inaugural CEO," said Trent Demulling, chair of the trust board. "Her passion for the mission, keen intellect, and extraordinary experience with innovative science learning make her an ideal choice to lead this institution."

Before joining the Exploratorium in 2010, the University of California, Berkeley zoology graduate had worked as a field biologist, spent 10 years developing products and programs for specialty retailer The Na-

ture Company, and served as chief operating officer and strategist for an experience travel company.

Raker will start her new job in August. Her move to Omaha will mark the first time the Eureka, California, native has lived outside California.

But she said in many ways it's appropriate that she's now moving to Nebraska. One of the most formative experiences of her youth happened in Nebraska more than four decades ago.

At age 15, she had the chance to attend a six-week summer program at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

Not only did the first airplane trip of her life and chance to explore the ecology of the Platte River expand her horizons, the experience helped inspire her to pursue a career in science.

Now Raker said she's looking forward to making the Luminarium the kind of place that will similarly instill in children a love of science and learning.

"To be part of creating a place that will do that is just wonderful," she said. "The meaning of that for me is really profound."

cordes@owh.com, 402-444-1130, twitter.com/henrycordes

Handshake

From A1

adviser Anthony Fauci said in April 2020. "Not only would it be good to prevent coronavirus disease, it probably would decrease instances of influenza dramatically in this country."

"It's never been safe," said Dr. Gregory Poland, a Mayo Clinic physician and professor specializing in infectious diseases and vaccines.

Handshaking carries the risk of transmitting a host of undesirable conditions, including norovirus, food poisoning and "hand-borne transmission of fecal bacteria," Poland said.

"We're not talking about a minor issue," he said. "Would you lick someone's hand?"

Handshaking may have started as an ancient custom to demonstrate to a stranger that you had no weapon in your hand. But "you

are, in fact, bearing at some level, a bioweapon" on your unwashed hand, Poland said.

"I'm not going to shake hands," said Dr. Mark Sklansky, a professor and pediatric cardiologist at UCLA. "I think it's really a bad habit."

Sklansky campaigned against disease-spreading handshakes before COVID-19, writing articles like "Banning the Handshake From the Health Care Setting," published by JAMA in 2014.

More recently he's been writing songs for music videos, urging people not to shake on it. (Sample lyric: "Dear kindhearted friend, I know you mean well extending your hand when we meet. But let me be open. Please listen to me. I'd prefer not to shake when we greet.")

We all seemed to agree to put a pause on handshaking during COVID-19.

"It's unfortunate that we needed a pandemic to shake some sense

into people on how disease is transmitted," said Sklansky, who's worried that the opportunity to kill the handshake is slipping through our fingers.

Recently, he's been at social gatherings where "sure enough, people reach out to shake my hand." (He won't.)

Even if there weren't a pandemic or colds or stomach flu to worry about, handshakes also carry the risk of a social gaffe.

Guides to giving a proper handshake make the maneuver sound as hard as mastering your golf stroke. Your grip should be firm. But not too firm. Don't swing your hand too vigorously. Don't offer a sweaty hand. No more than three pumps.

Get it wrong, and you could end up like Vice President Kamala Harris, who got grief for appearing to wipe her hand after shaking hands with South Korean President Moon Jae-in at the White House last month.

So much can go wrong with a

handshake. You have to wonder why we bother.

Clasping or shaking hands as a symbol of friendship, trust and hospitality was practiced by Babylonian kings and ancient Romans and promoted by 18th century Quakers as a more egalitarian greeting than bowing.

It's become an international ritual of agreement, respect and congratulations in modern business, politics and sports.

"A handshake has always been our personal olive branch," said Maralee McKee, founder of the Orlando, Florida-based Etiquette School of America.

While it's clearly culturally ingrained, David Givens, an anthropologist and director of the Center for Nonverbal Studies in Spokane, Washington, said our desire to shake on it may go deeper than protocol.

Scientists studying "social chemosignaling" are trying to determine if shaking hands is one way in

which we send subliminal chemical signals to each other, signals that help shape our behavior.

St. Paul-based etiquette expert Juliet Mitchell said that while the pandemic "didn't kill the handshake, we've got to acknowledge not everything is back to business as usual."

If you're not comfortable accepting an offered handshake, McKee and Mitchell advise being ready to respond with a polite refusal.

Instead of recoiling, keep your hands to your side, maintain eye contact, smile, nod or slightly bow while saying something gracious like, "I'm currently not shaking hands, but it's so very nice to meet you."

Then just move on, and don't over-apologize, Mitchell said.

If you want, you can offer an alternative gesture of greeting, which could range from a fist bump, an elbow bump, a namaste gesture or the wai gesture of Thailand.

CONTACT THE WORLD-HERALD

New subscriptions, delivery questions, online: 402-346-3363 or 800-234-6942

Hours:
Monday-Friday 6:30 a.m.-5 p.m.,
weekends 6:30 a.m.-11 a.m.,
holidays 6:30 a.m.-11 a.m.

Photo and story reprints, research and permission to republish: 402-444-1014; owhstore@owh.com

Newsroom: 402-444-1304

Classified advertising: 402-342-6633

Retail/Omaha.com advertising: 402-444-1425

MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021
VOL. 156, EDITION 240

Omaha World-Herald

Omaha Daily Herald founded 1865 • Omaha Daily World founded 1885
World-Herald 1889 • (USPS 408-280)

Published daily except Sunday at the Omaha World-Herald Building,
1314 Douglas St., Omaha, NE 68102-1811; 402-444-1000

Copyright © 2021, Omaha World-Herald

Periodical postage paid at Omaha, Neb., and at other mailing offices. Basic weekly home delivery subscription rate is \$19.00. Single copy rates are \$2.00 daily and \$4.00 Sunday. Fifty-two week mail subscription rates are \$530.40 daily only and Sunday only, \$988 daily and Sunday. For other rates, please contact us at 1-800-234-6942 or CirculationCustomerService@owh.com.

Both the weekend and Sunday-only home delivery subscriptions include delivery on the following 2021 holidays: New Year's Day Jan. 1, Independence Day July 5, Thanksgiving Nov. 25 & 26, and Christmas Dec. 24.

Vacation holds up to 30 days will continue to bill at regular rate while full digital access is maintained. Extended vacations of 31 days or more will not incur charges and all subscription benefits will suspend. A vacation pack (newspapers held and delivered upon return) of 14 days may be requested and will continue to bill at regular rate.

The Omaha World-Herald is a copyrighted publication. All of the information published herein, including, but not limited to, articles, photographs, graphics, illustrations, listings, labels and trademarks is protected by copyright and other intellectual property laws, both state and federal. You may not reproduce, publish, transmit, transfer, sell, create, make derivative works from, distribute, post on the Internet, publicly display or in any way commercially exploit any of the material or infringe upon the trademarks of the Omaha World-Herald without expressed written permission of the Omaha World-Herald.

Postmaster: Send change of address to Omaha World-Herald, the Omaha World-Herald Building, 1314 Douglas St., Suite 600, Omaha, NE 68102-1811. Please recycle this newspaper.

LOTTERIES To find the drawing results, check these websites: NElottery.com, IAlottery.com, powerball.com OR dial these hotlines: 800-224-5825 (Nebraska) • 515-323-4633 (Iowa)

SUBSCRIPTION OFFERS

All subscription offers available at <http://www.omaha.com>, including those advertised through our email promotions, on-site messaging, social media and any external means of promotion, are valid for new subscribers only. You must not have been a subscriber in the past thirty (30) days to register for a new subscription offer. I understand that delivery and billing will continue beyond the initial order period unless I contact the newspaper at the number listed below. Rates may change after introductory offer period.

AUTO-RENEWAL, CANCELLATION, REFUND AND PAPER RENEWAL POLICY

EZ Pay is a convenient electronic payment method that automatically renews your Digital Only or news subscription service (your "subscription"). If you register for EZ Pay or debit banking (ACH) payments, your subscription will continue unless you contact our customer care center to cancel your subscription. On the last day of your current term (your "Renewal Date"), your plan will automatically renew for the same term unless you choose to cancel more than twenty-one (21) days before your Renewal Date (your "Cancellation Date").

IF YOU DO NOT AFFIRMATIVELY CANCEL YOUR SUBSCRIPTION BEFORE YOUR CANCELLATION DATE, YOU WILL BE CHARGED FOR AN ADDITIONAL TERM FOR THE PLAN YOU INITIALLY SELECTED AT THE RATES IN EFFECT AT THE TIME OF RENEWAL. YOU MAY CANCEL YOUR SUBSCRIPTION AT ANY TIME BY CALLING 402-346-3363.

If you have provided us with a valid credit card number or an alternate payment method saved in your account and you have not cancelled by

your Cancellation Date, your subscription will be automatically processed up to fourteen (14) days in advance of your Renewal Date and the payment method you provided to us at or after the time of your initial subscription purchase will be charged.

We reserve the right to change your subscription rate at the next renewal period. If you are not satisfied with your subscription rate or service, you may cancel your subscription at any time. The full amount of any balance over \$5.00 will be returned. We do not provide refunds prorated for the remainder of the payment period for Digital Only subscriptions.

There is a one-time account set up fee of \$6.99 for all new subscribers. Subscribers who prefer to receive paper renewal notices in the mail will be charged \$4.99 each renewal notice - this fee is waived for subscribers who sign up to receive their renewal notices via email. If you wish to receive renewal notices via email, please contact us using the contact information found at omaha.com/contact.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Print subscribers get the benefit of newspaper home delivery and digital access. Therefore, if you register for a subscription plan, you are subject to the Auto-Renewal, Cancellation, Refund and Paper Renewal Policy described above, as well as the additional terms and conditions set forth below.

All subscriptions include unlimited digital access. To access these benefits, you must first provide your email address, register with omaha.com/services, and activate your account online. To activate your digital account visit omaha.com/activate.