



A sign-waving campaign drove home the always stop on red message at West Eau Gallie Boulevard and North Wickham on Aug. 6 during National Stop on Red Week. The Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization teamed with Melbourne police and fire departments and community partners in the effort. MALCOLM DENEMARK/FLORIDA TODAY

Son’s hit-and-run death drives mom’s ID mission

Wants kids to have them in case of emergencies

J.D. Gallop
Florida Today
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Isaiah Irizarry was riding his scooter in Viera, trying to make his way home on Father’s Day, when someone struck him on a darkened road in a pre-dawn hit-and-run crash.

Isaiah, a curly haired teen who loved to dance and play quick games of basketball at Viera High School, would be pronounced dead by doctors hours later.



Irizarry

But shortly after Florida Highway Patrol arrived at the horrific 4 a.m. crash at Viera Boulevard near Tralee Bay Avenue on June 21, troopers were able to find an identification card for the critically injured 15-year-old and notify his family within a short time to prepare them for the worst.

“They were able to know exactly who he was early on. Without his state ID card, he could have just been listed as a ‘John Doe,’ in the hospital,” said family friend Vicky Gainey, of Melbourne.

Now Gainey and Isaiah’s mother

have organized a traffic safety campaign — Isaiah’s IDea — to raise awareness about the importance of school-aged children having identification cards early on in case of emergencies.

“How important it was for Isaiah to have his ID in his back pocket,” said Deanna Irizarry, Isaiah’s mom, who said the Brevard County Sheriff’s Office quickly alerted her to the crash.

“Not only did they find me fast, but we were able to get to Arnold Palmer Hospital to see him. His friend was with him. He did CPR on him at the scene.”

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Fauci faces contempt resolution in Senate

Paul says pardon ends Fifth Amendment claim

Zachary Schermele
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – A Republican-led Senate committee voted Aug. 6 to hold Dr. Anthony Fauci, the federal official who led the government’s COVID-19 response in 2020, in contempt of Congress for refusing to answer questions during a July 29 hearing.

The panel advanced the resolution to the full chamber on an 8-5 vote, with two senators also voting no by proxy, to rebuke the infectious disease expert for asserting his Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination during congressional testimony.

Over several contentious hours during the July 29 hearing before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Fauci was repeatedly pressured by Republican lawmakers to discuss a number of both professionally and personally sensitive issues, ranging from his actions as the country’s top pandemic expert to his own revealing diary entries.

Fauci’s stonewalling, pleading the Fifth more than 100 times, enraged Republicans, most notably committee chair Sen. Rand Paul, R-Kentucky, who accused him of defying Congress.

“The sole reason he is calling me before this committee is to get me to say something, anything, that could vindicate his repeated public pledges that I end up, in his words, quote, ‘behind bars,’” Fauci told lawmakers. “Any reasonable person who has followed his unhinged obsession with me would readily come to the same conclusion.”



Paul

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Iran warning to Persian Gulf states aims to curb U.S. strikes

Parisa Hafezi and Samia Nakhoul
REUTERS

Iran has made a concerted diplomatic push with Persian Gulf states, warning them explicitly that Tehran will hit their oil, power and water plants unless they convince President Donald Trump to end U.S. strikes on Iran and instead seek a negotiated end to the war.

The warning envisaged attacks on the energy facilities, oil fields, refineries, electricity grids, water infrastructure, transportation networks and other strategic assets of Washington’s closest Arab allies, according to a senior Iranian official.

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Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi urged Washington’s Persian Gulf allies to use their influence with President Donald Trump to dissuade him from launching renewed strikes.

REUTERS

Blue Origin blames oxygen valve in New Glenn rocket explosion

Brooke Edwards
Florida Today
USA TODAY NETWORK

Just more than two months since the Blue Origin rocket explosion lit up the skies over Cape Canaveral, the company’s CEO said an oxygen valve on one of the engines was to blame.

Blue Origin was conducting a static fire test of the engines on the New Glenn rocket’s first stage booster on May 28. As the engines fired on Launch Complex 36, the booster burst into flames, creating an enormous billowing fireball. Turns out an oxygen valve on one of those BE-4 engines was the cause. “The anomaly originated at the main oxygen valve on one of the BE-4

engines, which was later confirmed by hardware recovery and inspections,” Blue Origin CEO Dave Limp wrote to X on Aug. 5. “Extensive component-level and engine hotfire tests have been conducted to understand the failure mode better and inform mitigations.

“The path forward is clear. We’re making small modifications to the valve that can be quickly retrofitted to existing engines. We’re manufacturing the updated hardware, which will be ready by the end of this month,” Limp wrote. “In parallel, we’re working through the remaining fault tree analysis.”

On the night of the explosion, the rocket was being tested ahead of an

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