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Minneapolis families mourn lost ‘angels’



Mourners visit a memorial near the Annunciation Church, where a deadly shooting took place the day before, on Aug. 28 in Minneapolis. TIM EVANS/REUTERS

Loved ones cope with loss after school shooting

Thao Nguyen
USA TODAY

Families describing “unimaginable loss” mourned for their slain children Aug. 28, the day after an attacker fired through the windows of a Minneapolis Catholic church and sent worshipers diving behind and under pews for cover. Jesse Merkel, the father of Fletcher

Merkel, 8, called the suspected shooter a “coward” who took his son’s life. “Please remember Fletcher for the person he was and not the act that ended his life,” Jesse Merkel said. “Give your kids an extra hug and kiss today.” The second child killed in the shooting was identified as 10-year-old Harper Moyski, according to a statement shared to news outlets on her family’s

behalf. The deadly shooting occurred at the church connected to Annunciation Catholic School, a private elementary school with about 395 students, just before 8:30 a.m. local time on Aug. 27, authorities said. According to Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O’Hara, the shooter approached the outside of the church building and fired inside toward the children sitting in pews.

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Kemp pursues deal with Brazilian companies

Dave Williams
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA - The Georgia delegation on a trade mission to South America this week is working on prospective deals with three companies, Gov. Brian Kemp told Capitol Beat Wednesday in an exclusive interview from Brazil. “This trip has exceeded my expectations,” Kemp said from São Paulo, where

he has spent the first part of the week before heading to Argentina on Thursday. “The meetings we’ve had have been high quality.” Brazil is one of Georgia’s major trading partners, accounting for \$748 million in exports last year. The Peach State’s business ties to Argentina are less extensive, with \$120 million in exports in 2024. “The U.S. has not paid enough

attention to South America,” Kemp said. “There’s real opportunities here we need to take advantage of. ... The Chinese are in Brazil. We need to make our presence known.” Kemp said two of the three prospective deals with Brazilian companies the Georgia delegation is working on would be located in rural Georgia. Throughout

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Lawmakers hear school leaders’ complaints

Ty Tagami
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA – When Georgia lawmakers asked what they could do to make the lives of educators a little easier, they got a predictable response: stop telling us what to do, especially if you will not pay for it. The first hearing on Tuesday of a state House study committee on reducing mandates for public school administrators revealed concerns about an old law that mandates high-stakes testing, an even older state funding formula that has not kept up with costs, and two new laws. The Early Literacy Act passed two years ago is an unfunded mandate that has forced school districts to cut back in key areas to pay for teacher retraining and new curriculum, said Mack Bullard, the superintendent in

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HEALTH SCORES

Black buildup near spouts, dispensers

Jennifer Miller
Augusta Chronicle
USA TODAY NETWORK

The following is a list of restaurants in Richmond and Columbia counties that were inspected Aug. 15-21, accompanied by their scores and, in some cases, the health infractions that lowered those scores. Disclaimer: On any given day, an establishment may have fewer or more violations than noted in its most recent inspection. An inspection conducted on any given day may not be representative of the overall, long-term conditions at the establishment. A few more recent follow-up inspections may not be included here.

Perfect scores

Here are food and drink establishments in Richmond County that passed recent food-service inspections between Aug. 15-21 without a single health violation:

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