

All-Nebraska soccer: The World-Herald's boys and girls teams are revealed. **Sports**



Taste of Omaha draws visitors for food, music and fun. **Midlands**

Sunday World-Herald

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026

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WHO chief visits heart of Ebola outbreak

Safe burials urged in Congolese area hit hardest by virus

ERIKAS MWISI, ANGE ADIHE KASONGO AND FISTON MAHAMBA
Reuters

BUNIA, Democratic Republic of Congo — The World Health Organization chief traveled Saturday to the Congolese province hardest hit by an Ebola outbreak, urging residents to seek treatment and practice safe burials as officials scramble to contain the fatal disease.

The outbreak — the 17th in Democratic Republic of Congo and the third-largest since Ebola was discovered half a century ago — is outpacing the global response, something WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus acknowledged this past week before traveling to Kinshasa on Thursday.

His visit came as Brazil said Saturday it was investigating a suspected Ebola case in Sao Paulo state involving a man who recently visited Congo. Authorities said the patient was in isolation at a specialist hospital.

After meeting Prime Minister Judith Suminwa Tuluka on Friday, Tedros flew Saturday to Bunia, capital of Ituri province, where the first cases were confirmed this month.

At a news conference alongside Congo's health minister, Tedros said the rare Bundibugyo strain has no approved vaccines or treatments, making early palliative care — including isolation, rehydration and pain management — critical.

“Seeking care early makes a real difference,” he said.

He also urged residents to practice safe burials, warning the bodies of Ebola victims are highly contagious. There were multiple attacks on health facilities by crowds seeking to reclaim bodies for traditional burials, in which family members handle the body without proper protective equipment.

“I understand how painful it is to lose someone and how much it means to honor them properly,” Tedros said. “While we grieve for those we have lost, we must do everything we can so that we do not lose another.”

The WHO said Friday there were 906 suspected cases of Ebola in Congo, including 223 suspected deaths under investigation.

Health Minister Samuel Roger Kamba said later Friday authorities identified 1,028 suspected cases, with 225 confirmed.

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Papillion shooting

A man leads authorities in a pursuit and dies after a shooting with law enforcement. **Midlands**

Chocolate alternative

A new chocolate alternative aims to be “indulgent and delicious” treat. **Money**

Weather

High: 82 **Low:** 65
A p.m. t-storm **Details:** A16

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CHRIS MACHIAN PHOTOS, THE WORLD-HERALD

Thousands of plants as well as original artwork will be featured in the new garden at the corner of 13th and Leavenworth Streets. It has a price tag of \$11.3 million.

Polina Gardens, a new jewel in Old Market, set to open

MARJIE DUCEY
World-Herald Staff Writer

Landscape architect Kim Cooper is as excited as Omahans to see what she calls a “little jewel” emerging next week at the edge of the Old Market.

Polina Gardens, which covers just over an acre between 12th and 13th Streets and Jones and Leavenworth Streets, will make its debut Wednesday. Free to the public, it will be open from 9 to 6 every day but Tuesday for the rest of the summer. Winter hours will vary.

It is named after Polina Schlott, a lead donor and advocate for the project along with her husband, Bob.

“I’m deeply grateful to Lauritzen Gardens, the designers, horticultural teams, supporters, donors and everyone whose passion and hard work helped bring this vision to life,” Schlott said. “Creating spaces that invite people to slow



The Polina Gardens was designed by Field Operations, the same company that did The High Line in New York.

down and reconnect with nature feels more important than ever.”

More than 120 trees and shrubs as well as 22,000 perennials have been planted in the L-shaped garden, which flows around the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts.

Two full-time horticulturists will care for the fenced property, a “satellite garden” that will be run by Lauritzen.

Polina Gardens

Polina Gardens is opening Wednesday in the Old Market.

Where: 727 S. 13th St.

Hours: Open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Monday (Closed Tuesdays)

Cost: Free

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The Polina Gardens will make its debut Wednesday. Visitors are welcome all days but Tuesdays.