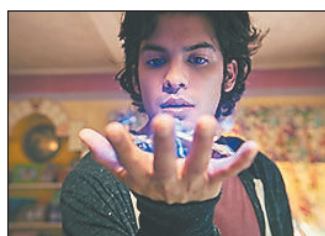


PEOPLE

A peek into the lives of the names you know



"Blue Beetle"

New movie at No. 1

NEW YORK (AP) — The DC superhero film "Blue Beetle" led weekend ticket sales with a modest \$25.4 million opening, according to studio estimates Sunday, dethroning "Barbie" from the top spot after a record-setting run that left movie theaters colored pink for a month.

The "Barbie" phenomenon is far from over. Greta Gerwig's film, which earlier this week became the highest grossing Warner Bros. release ever domestically, nearly managed to stay No. 1 again with \$21.5 million in its fifth weekend. It's up to \$567.3 million in North America and an eye-popping \$1.28 billion globally.

The other half of "Barbenheimer" also continues to perform remarkably well for a movie so far into its run.

Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" took in \$10.6 million in its fifth week. With a \$285.2 million domestic total, "Oppenheimer" now owns the distinction of being the biggest box-office hit never to land No. 1 at the weekend box office. The previous record-holder for that unlikely stat is 2016's "Sing," which grossed \$270.3 million in the shadow of "Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" and "Hidden Figures."

Universal Pictures' "Oppenheimer" has done even better overseas. Its global gross stands at an estimated \$717.8 million through Sunday.

"Blue Beetle," starring Xolo Maridueña, came in on the lower side of expectations and notched one of the lower debuts for a DC Comics movie. Though earlier planned as a streaming-only release, Warner Bros. elected to put "Blue Beetle," the first DC movie to star a Latino superhero, into theaters in the late summer, a typically quiet period at the box office.

The production price tag of about \$105 million was lower for "Blue Beetle" than the average superhero film. It's one of the last releases produced under an earlier regime at DC Studios, which James Gunn and Peter Safran took the reins of last year.

Discounted tickets

NEW YORK (AP) — Still haven't seen "Barbie" or "Oppenheimer"? This Sunday, you'll be able to catch up for \$4 a ticket in movie theaters nationwide.

Theater owners announced Monday that the second annual National Cinema Day will be held Sunday, Aug. 27. For one day, all movies — in all formats and at all showtimes — will be \$4 at participating theaters. More than 3,000 theaters are participating, which accounts for most of the cinemas in the U.S., including the leading chains AMC and Regal.

It's the second straight year theaters are trotting out the one-day event at the tail end of summer. Last year's inaugural National Cinema Day, put on by the Cinema Foundation, a nonprofit affiliate of the National Association of Theater Owners, was judged an enormous success. An estimated 8.1 million moviegoers bought \$3 tickets on Saturday, Sept. 3. The average movie ticket in 2022, according to NATO, cost \$10.53.

Britney Spears

Britney Spears has finally broken her silence on her split from Sam Asghari, who filed for divorce from the pop star earlier this week.

The "Stronger" singer, 41, took to Instagram on Friday with a suggestive dance video and a heartfelt caption to shed light on the couple's breakup.

"As everyone knows, Hesam (Sam) and I are no longer together ... 6 years is a long time to be with someone so, I'm a little shocked," wrote Spears, who married Asghari in June 2022. "I'm not here to explain why because it's (sic) honestly nobody's business!!! But, I couldn't take the pain anymore honestly!!!"

Spears then thanked those supporting her, noting she's "been playing it strong for way too long."

Local

Continued from Page 1—

The collaboration significantly raised the profile of the program that helps children get vision screening and glasses when necessary.

Serving as an advocate for the community is a role that has been a priority throughout generations of leadership at the Daily News, as well.

Jerry Huse — who served as the fourth-generation publisher of the Daily News before handing off the reins to his son, Bill, in 2013 — believed hometown newspapers could make a difference to the readers they serve.

"As an independent newspaper, you can do things in your community. We love our community. That's why I think those communities that do not have home ownership suffer. You can see the difference it makes in Norfolk," Huse said before his death in 2018.

During the five generations of Huse family ownership, the Daily News has consistently supported major community fund drives — for the Norfolk Family YMCA, various school bond proposals, the Norfolk Arts Center, City of Norfolk projects and many others. The newspaper's role was to educate readers on the details of a community fundraising effort, motivate readers to support the project, help with the solicitation of funds and then celebrate when a project is successful.

In many cases, a local newspaper's role as an advocate for the community can have a major impact on the lives of its citizens. That's something Allene Johnson sees every day as the director of the Norfolk Area Good Neighbors.

Johnson said she's not sure Good Neighbors would be in existence if the newspaper didn't hold true to its efforts to advocate for the community.

Each year, the Good Neighbors program hosts an annual Christmas drive to raise funds to keep it financially strong throughout the year. Those funds are used to help meet the needs of individuals and families who are struggling financially. For the past few years, the goal for the Christmas drive has been to raise \$75,000.

"Our numbers are tremendously going up," Johnson said of the quantity of individuals and families served by the program. In May, for example, the organization served 192 families. Those numbers were projected to increase as the summer went on.

Good Neighbors does not receive state or federal funding, so it relies on money raised through its Christmas drive, Johnson said. The fundraising effort is publicized almost exclusively — through stories and a publishing the list of donors — during the holiday season in the Daily News.

"Because of the way the Daily News does it — (donations are) in memory of or in honor of — it gives the public a chance to see who's giving. Most of our funds come from Norfolk, but there are outside areas, too. That, I feel, gets the whole community involved," she said of the donors list.

Sports

Continued from Page 1—

role as a community advocate — providing schools and their students with recognition and coverage of their many accomplishments.

Along with providing robust content regarding city and county government, education, the criminal justice system and breaking news, coverage of the athletic teams and student-athletes in those schools is one of the Daily News' biggest strengths.

Among those 59 high schools is Norfolk Catholic led by Jeff Bellar, its legendary football coach. Bellar is the all-time winningest football coach in the state of Nebraska with a career record of 369-75 (.831%).

"Local papers have been and are still outstanding for high school sports," Bellar said. "Young people work extremely hard in athletics to represent their team and school in competition, and being able to read about their successes and failures helps them grow as a person."

The Knights have won a state-leading 10 state football championships.

"As a longtime coach, I still enjoy reading the local newspaper on area athletics and area athletes," Bellar said. "The articles do much more than those writing them realize for many of us. I am sure many people feel the same about their local paper."

The Daily News has reported on Northeast Community College happenings since the school first opened in 1973.

Northeast competes at the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division I and II levels and is a member of the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference (ICAC).

Matt Svehla, the longtime Northeast women's basketball coach, is grateful for the relationship.

"As a college basketball coach for 25-plus years, the

Thunder

Continued from Page 1—

a mainstay in Wisner, the pull added three new features this year. Three tiers of new skyboxes provided extra seating along with the sets of bleachers plus berm-side space for lawn chairs. A Thursday show was added to the Friday and Saturday schedule, as well as a garden tractor pull.

About 70 individual garden tractor pulls or hooks roared down the track on Saturday morning, including exhibition

pulls, allowing children to try the sport for the first time. Five different classes were on the schedule for both kids and adults.

The new event was well-attended, especially for the first year, said David Novak of Howells, president of the Thunder by the River Association and a puller himself, known as the "Mean Farmer."

Tractors and trucks competed in 13 classes for the evening shows, with more than 90 hooks on Thursday evening, 133 on

Friday and 225 on Saturday.

Thursday's and Friday's attendance was good, Novak said, although Saturday's oppressive heat may have kept some away. The association gave out three pallets of bottled water to attendees.

"They all appreciated that," he said.

Despite the predicted heat, the number of competitors was the largest ever.

The 2024 Thunder by the River will be Aug. 15-17.

The stories in the newspaper help people see the positive impact they can make on those in need in their community, Johnson said. "I don't know how we would operate (without the newspaper). I really don't," she said.

Randy Hagedorn, executive director at the Norfolk Family YMCA, shares similar sentiments about the newspaper's role as an advocate for its community.

In 2019, the Norfolk Y wrapped up an \$11 million expansion project that more than doubled the size of the existing facility and included the addition of a field house, basketball courts and a suspended track.

Hagedorn said the expansion has allowed the Norfolk Y to improve the lives of more people — many of whom are children — because of the range of activities available.

"I think (the area) would be in tough shape mentally and physically, and people would not be as sound without the Y," Hagedorn said. "It's not just a physical thing. It's a mental thing. The things you can do here make you feel better."

Hagedorn said the newspaper was instrumental in helping educate the public as efforts got underway to fund construction of the addition.

"It's hard enough raising money, but the Daily News was there to tell the people what we were doing and what it was going to be, the big steps, and why we were doing it. That helped us tremendously. Word of mouth is one of the top things you can do, but if they can read it in the paper, that's a big plus."

Now that the addition to the Norfolk Y has been in operation for nearly five years, Hagedorn still turns to the newspaper to help tell the organization's continuing story.

"People aren't aware that we've got all of these classes or camps or a ton of things to do for the kids. We can put it on our Facebook page and do all of that however we want, but the Daily News really helps us by letting people know we're not just a swim and gym."

Austen Hagood, president of the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce, said he appreciates having a locally owned newspaper because its reporters are invested in the community.

"What's great about a locally owned newspaper is that it's facts. There's no spin on it, and unlike a conglomerate where you never see these writers, you know these writers. We're going to run into each other in the grocery store," Hagood said.

Hagood said he sees similar missions between the chamber and the newspaper. Both are dedicated to growing the community, as well as promoting and connecting the people who live and work within it.

"The newspaper — probably from the beginning of the chamber — has always helped the chamber because they've been that community voice ...," Hagood said. "It's always great to have a partner to help get the word out, and I think the paper has always done a great job of that."

in 1910. The Wildcats are a member of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference and compete in NCAA Division II.

For longtime Wayne State College volleyball coach Scott Kneifl, newspapers have always been a part of his life.

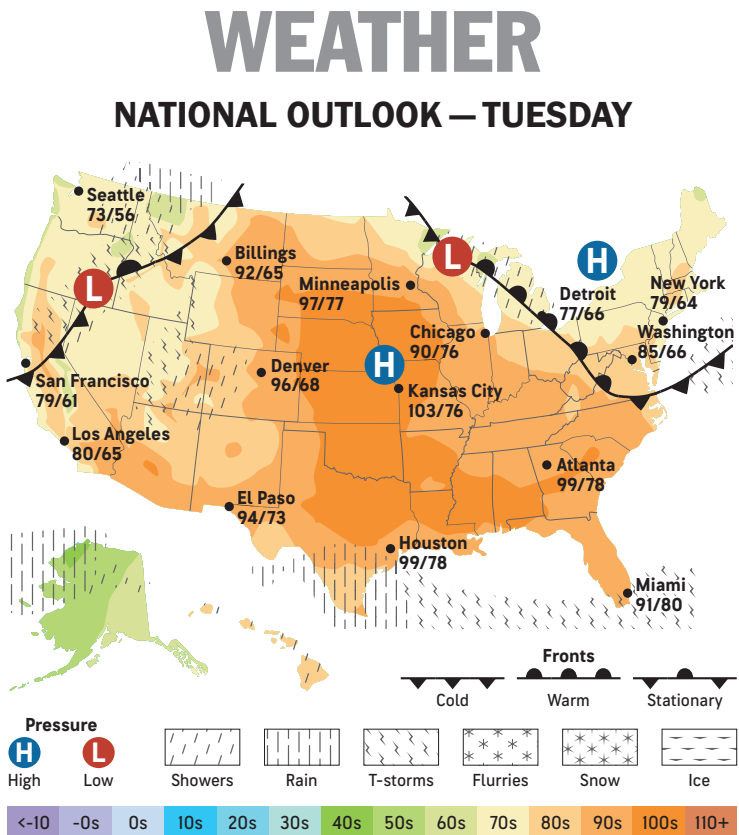
"I think it is imperative to support local newspapers," Kneifl said. "Newspapers have been very important to me and my family for as long as I can remember. Reading the paper and finding out what is going on nationally and locally is one of my favorite things to do."

About to begin his 18th season at WSC, Kneifl has a career record of 390-139 (.737%). He has guided the Wildcat program to 11 NCAA Division II tournament appearances, 15 20-win seasons, one NCAA Central Regional title and one NSIC tournament title.

"The Daily News has covered our program so well over my tenure at WSC, and I can't thank them enough for the coverage and support," Kneifl said. "I really enjoy going back and reading articles and looking at newspaper clippings from past teams and seasons. In a job where I'm always trying to look toward the future, this allows me to sit back and enjoy reading articles about former players and teams that we've had here at WSC."

From the first high school volleyball matches each year in late August to the boys state golf tournament in late May, the sports department at the Daily News covers 17 sports sanctioned by the Nebraska Scholastic Athletic Association. Add to that the American Legion baseball, summer softball and auto racing coverage the Daily News also provides.

Coverage of Norfolk schools — and the many others in Northeast and North Central Nebraska — is one of the prime examples of fulfilling the community advocate role that the Daily News has embraced since it began publishing.



MONDAY

Across the nation

	Hi	Lo	Prc
Albuquerque	90	68	31%
Anchorage	61	50	19%
Atlanta	94	73	0%
Baltimore	95	72	1%
Billings	91	64	13%
Boston	84	63	64%
Cheyenne	94	61	6%
Chicago	79	68	2%
Cleveland	82	69	0%
Dallas	109	84	15%
Denver	99	68	6%
Des Moines	96	75	2%
Detroit	85	63	0%
Duluth	68	60	91%
Honolulu	86	75	94%
Houston	101	82	33%
Indianapolis	92	72	4%
Kansas City	100	79	6%
Las Vegas	88	73	89%
Los Angeles	78	64	70%
Miami	89	81	95%
Milwaukee	78	68	13%
Minneapolis	89	73	16%
Nashville	96	73	2%
New Orleans	94	84	81%
New York	90	66	42%
Oklahoma City	107	76	6%
Orlando	93	75	27%
Philadelphia	92	70	5%
Phoenix	93	79	55%
Salt Lake City	84	69	44%
San Antonio	106	81	9%
San Diego	75	65	15%
San Francisco	75	65	29%
Seattle	77	53	5%
Sioux Falls	102	73	11%
St. Louis	100	75	2%
Washington	94	72	1%
Wichita	109	74	6%

SUNDAY

Across the state

	Hi	Lo	Prc
Ainsworth	81	69	
Albion	85	73	
Broken Bow	92	74	
Chadron	81	56	
Columbus	90	69	
Falls City	94	74	
Grand Island	93	76	
Hastings	95	77	
Imperial	100	64	
Kearney	91	76	
Lincoln	95	72	
McCook	99	67	
Norfolk	91	70	
North Platte	92	67	
Omaha	91	72	
O'Neill	83	71	
Scottsbluff	92	61	
Valentine	80	69	
Valley	91	71	
Wayne	88	65	

NORFOLK	NEBRASKA
Sunday's high temperature 91	Sunday's high temperature 100
Monday morning's low temperature 70	Monday morning's low temperature 56
Record: 102 in 1947	Record: 40 in 1950
Imperial	Chadron

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		4	8	2	3		
	8	3		9	6	4	
	4	6		7		9	
6	7	9		4	2	1	
2	4		7	1			
				6			
	6	5	8			3	
3	8			4	7		
7		5		3	6	4	8

Difficulty: ★ 8/21

SUDOKU: HOW TO PLAY

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9-by-9 grid with several given numbers.

The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3-by-3 box contains the same number only once.

ONLINE EXTRA
CELEBRATIONS NEWS

Celebrating a milestone day? Information on births, birthdays, anniversaries, weddings and engagements to be published in the paper may be submitted online.

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

- Newsman Harry Smith is 72.
- Singer Glenn Hughes (Deep Purple, Black Sabbath) is 71.
- Guitarist Nick Kane (The Mavericks) is 69.
- Actor Kim Cattrall ("Sex and the City") is 67.
- Actor Cleo King ("Mike and Molly") is 61.
- Singer Serj Tankian of System of a Down is 39.
- Singer Melissa Sisman of Dream is 39.
- Comedian Brooks Wheelan ("Saturday Night Live") is 37.
- Musician Kacey Musgraves is 35.
- Actor RJ Mitte ("Breaking Bad") is 31.