



## Holi celebrated across the globe

On March 18, more than one billion people around the world celebrated Holi (pronounced hoe-lee). Known as the festival of colors, the holiday marks the end of winter and the beginning of spring for people who follow the Hindu religion. Holi also signifies the triumph of good over evil and dark over light.

Hindus have been celebrating Holi since at least the 4th century. At festivals, people sing and dance around bonfires, throw water and water balloons at fellow revelers, and toss brightly colored powder at one another. Each color has a different traditional meaning. For example, red represents love and green symbolizes new beginnings.

Last year, Holi festivals were limited due to the pandemic, but many restrictions have now been lifted. This year, in India, large and festive crowds gathered in the streets. One of the biggest Holi celebrations in the US is in Spanish Fork, Utah, where thousands of people gather in front of an important Hindu temple to enjoy the day.



Celebrating Holi in Bangladesh



A family from Ukraine arrives in Israel.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was created in 1950 to help people after World War Two.

## Countries take in Ukrainians

As Russia's invasion of Ukraine approached the one-month mark, more than 3.5 million Ukrainians have fled their country by train, by car, and on foot to escape the violence. Nations around the world are opening their doors to what the United Nations has called the largest flow of refugees since World War Two (1939–1945).

Most refugees are women, children, and the elderly because Ukrainian men between ages 18 and 60 must stay and serve in the military. Of Ukraine's neighboring nations, Poland has taken in more than 2 million refugees, but the mayors of its two largest cities said they cannot accommodate any more without running out of resources. More than 500,000 people have been accepted in Romania, more than 300,000 each in Moldova and Hungary, and more than 250,000 in Slovakia.

After what can be a difficult and dangerous journey to the border, refugees are given shelter, food, and clothing, often provided by governments and humanitarian groups. Individuals are pitching in as well, providing hot meals, strollers, toys, and transportation. Many refugees have continued their journey to other countries across Europe and as far away as Mexico and Israel, where local groups and citizens are helping them get settled. In Naples, Italy, more than 200 children and staff members gathered to welcome two Ukrainian children to their elementary school.

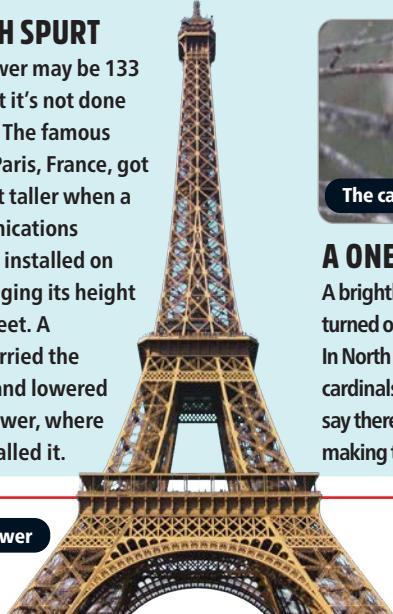
Only a handful of refugees have come to the US due to restrictions on immigration into the country. President Joe Biden has said he will change that, and polls show that the majority of Americans are in favor of admitting more Ukrainian refugees.



## IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

### A GROWTH SPURT

The Eiffel Tower may be 133 years old, but it's not done growing yet. The famous structure in Paris, France, got about 20 feet taller when a new communications antenna was installed on top of it, bringing its height to 1,082.68 feet. A helicopter carried the antenna up and lowered it onto the tower, where workers installed it.



The Eiffel Tower



The cardinal

### A ONE-IN-A-MILLION SIGHTING

A brightly colored bird in an Illinois backyard turned out to be an extremely rare yellow cardinal. In North America, there are about 12 million cardinals, known for their red feathers. Experts say there are only about 12 yellow cardinals, making this sighting truly one in a million.

### THE GIFT OF READING

Jennifer Williams is on a mission to give away one million books to kids who wouldn't otherwise have access to them, and she recently hit number 90,500. The fifth-grade teacher from Virginia, whose nickname is "the Book Lady," buys many of the books herself. "My goal is to make people's lives better," she said.



Jennifer Williams

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