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All Things Considered

Lebanon fighting throws doubt over U.S.-Israel ceasefire with iran

APRIL 8, 2026 · 4:55 PM ET

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6 Minute Listen

PLAYLIST TRANSCRIPT

The Middle East is experiencing relief, anger and uncertainty as the U.S., Iran and Israel dispute ceasefire terms.

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JUANA SUMMERS, HOST:

The announcement of a two-week ceasefire between the United States and Iran has brought mixed feelings across the Middle East, some relief, some anger and lots of uncertainty. Israel unleashed its biggest attacks in Lebanon since the war began, killing more than 250 people Wednesday, according to the Lebanese government. In response, Iran says it's closed the Strait of Hormuz. There's been a lot of confusion in the region about the parameters of the ceasefire and why Israel is still attacking. Joining us now are two NPR international correspondents. Daniel Estrin is in Tel Aviv and Lauren Frayer in Beirut. Hi there.

DANIEL ESTRIN, BYLINE: Hi, Juana.

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LAUREN FRAYER, BYLINE: Good evening.

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FRAYER: There was a roar of warplanes. The city shook with explosions today. The Israeli military says it struck 100 times in just 10 minutes. What has today been like for you?

FRAYER: I was not as relevant to you. You are. The city shook with explosions. I happened to be walking past a hospital. And doctors and nurses ran out into the street, all eyes sort of skyward, and then these big booms of the impact. Israel issued evacuation warnings for Beirut's southern suburbs, but then hit areas outside of that, like in central Beirut where I am, including near the seaside Corniche promenade.

Ambulances have been racing around hospitals asking for blood donation. You know, more than 1 million Lebanese have already been displaced by Israel's invasion. And Beirut has really swelled with all of these people fleeing attacks farther south, and some of them are being killed here now. I was on my way to interview some of those displaced people when I heard those warplanes sort of tear across the sky.

SUMMERS: What are people telling you?

FRAYER: Like many of us, they also stayed up all night waiting for President Trump's deadline, rejoiced at the announcement of a ceasefire, and then had their hopes shattered by today's attacks. I visited a family that fled Beirut's southern suburbs six weeks ago and have been sheltering in a vacant building in central Beirut. Here's Rama Dimashk. She's a 29-year-old math teacher. And she describes this roller coaster night of emotions.

SUMMERS: Do you have a sense of how Israelis are feeling today about the ceasefire deal that President Trump announced?

ESTRIN: We spoke with Israelis today at a cafe about it and not hearing a lot of satisfaction. Some Israelis don't see the point of this war, like one man, Uri Smollihe (ph), who told us he just thinks the ceasefire won't last, and sooner or later, he'll be back in shelters.

URI SMOLLIHE: I don't think it will last so long. But we need to enjoy our time without any alarms and any sirens ringing, you know, to have a few peaceful nights.

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ESTRIN: We also spoke with someone who supported the war, Yuval Kristal.

YUVAL KRISTAL: (speaking Hebrew) We and our partners store and access personal data, including browsing data or unique identifiers, on your device. Selecting

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ESTRIN: She's saying she woke up really angry and frustrated. She feels like everything was for nothing and that both Netanyahu and Trump came out as huge losers. And she says it's just a matter of time before Iran can attack Israel again.

And she just wished Israel would, as she said, finish the job now.

You know, Netanyahu was on TV this evening defending the ceasefire. But Israel's opposition leader says this was Israel's biggest diplomatic failure in history, that Israel has failed to achieve its objectives in the war, with the Iranian regime not defeated. This is going to be a huge issue that will play for months to come as Israel gears up for national elections.

ESTRIN: Well, Iran's foreign minister just posted on social media about what he called massacres in Lebanon. He pointed to the Pakistani prime minister's initial description of the ceasefires including Lebanon and said the ball is in the U.S.'s court, that the world is watching. The White House has said it does not consider Lebanon to be part of this ceasefire. President Trump told PBS he considers it, quote, a "separate skirmish."

SUMMERS: And, Lauren, given the massive violence in Lebanon today, what does this mean for the ceasefire in the wider Middle East?

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FRAYER: The White House says Vice President Vance is heading to Pakistan for talks Friday about this ceasefire. As Daniel mentioned, Pakistan helped negotiate this ceasefire. But Iran has suggested those talks might be canceled because of today's

violence. And Iranian media also say that Iran has now closed the Strait of Hormuz. The White House cast doubt on that, you know, says it would be unacceptable if true. But remember, you know, Trump said that the point of this ceasefire is to get that waterway open because so much of the world's oil supply goes through it.

SUMMERS: NPR's Lauren Frayer in Beirut and Daniel Estrin in Tel Aviv. Thanks to both of you.

ESTRIN: You're welcome.

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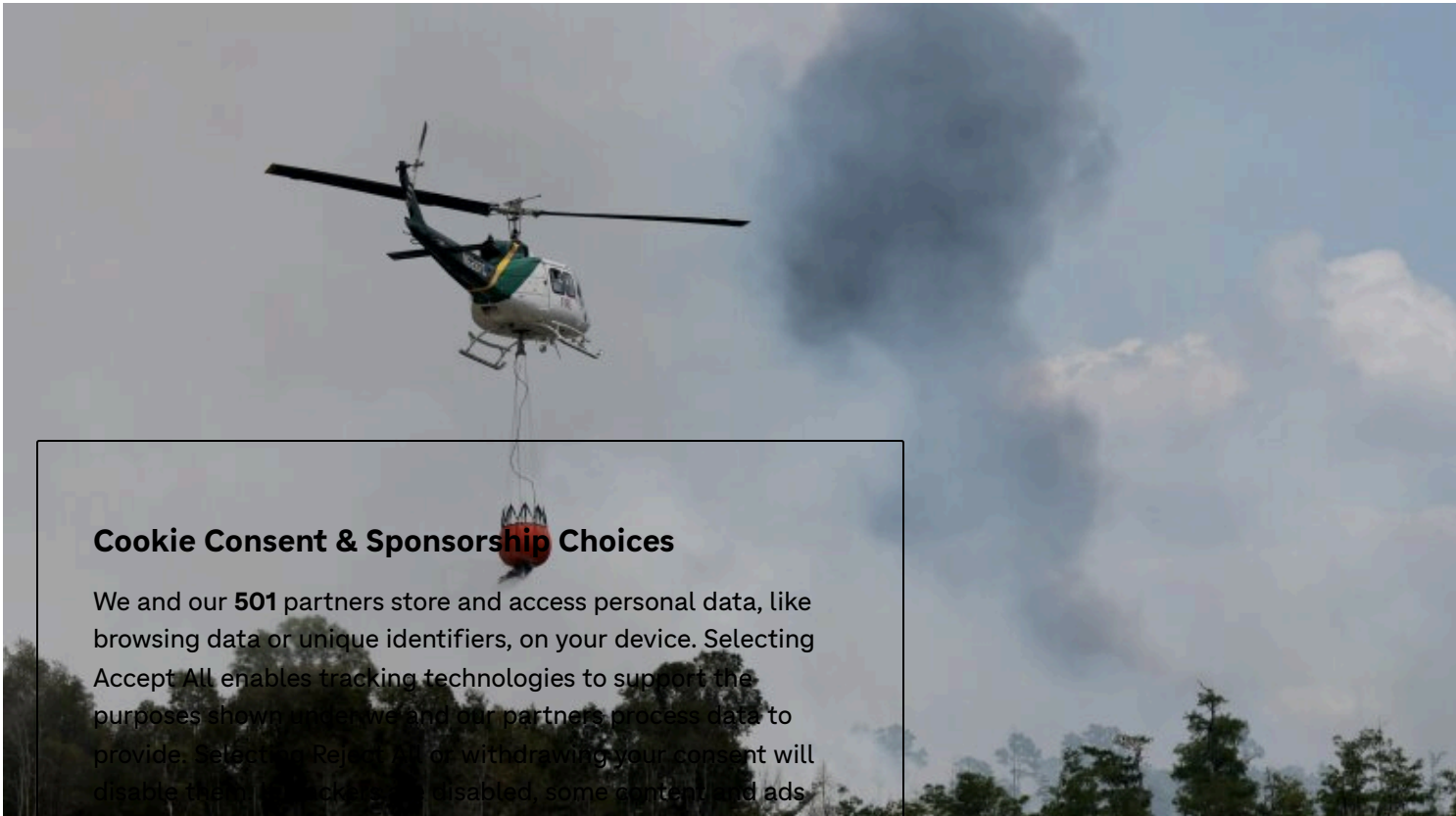
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ENVIRONMENT

'We're dry:' The new U.S. Wildland Fire Service prepares for extreme fire season

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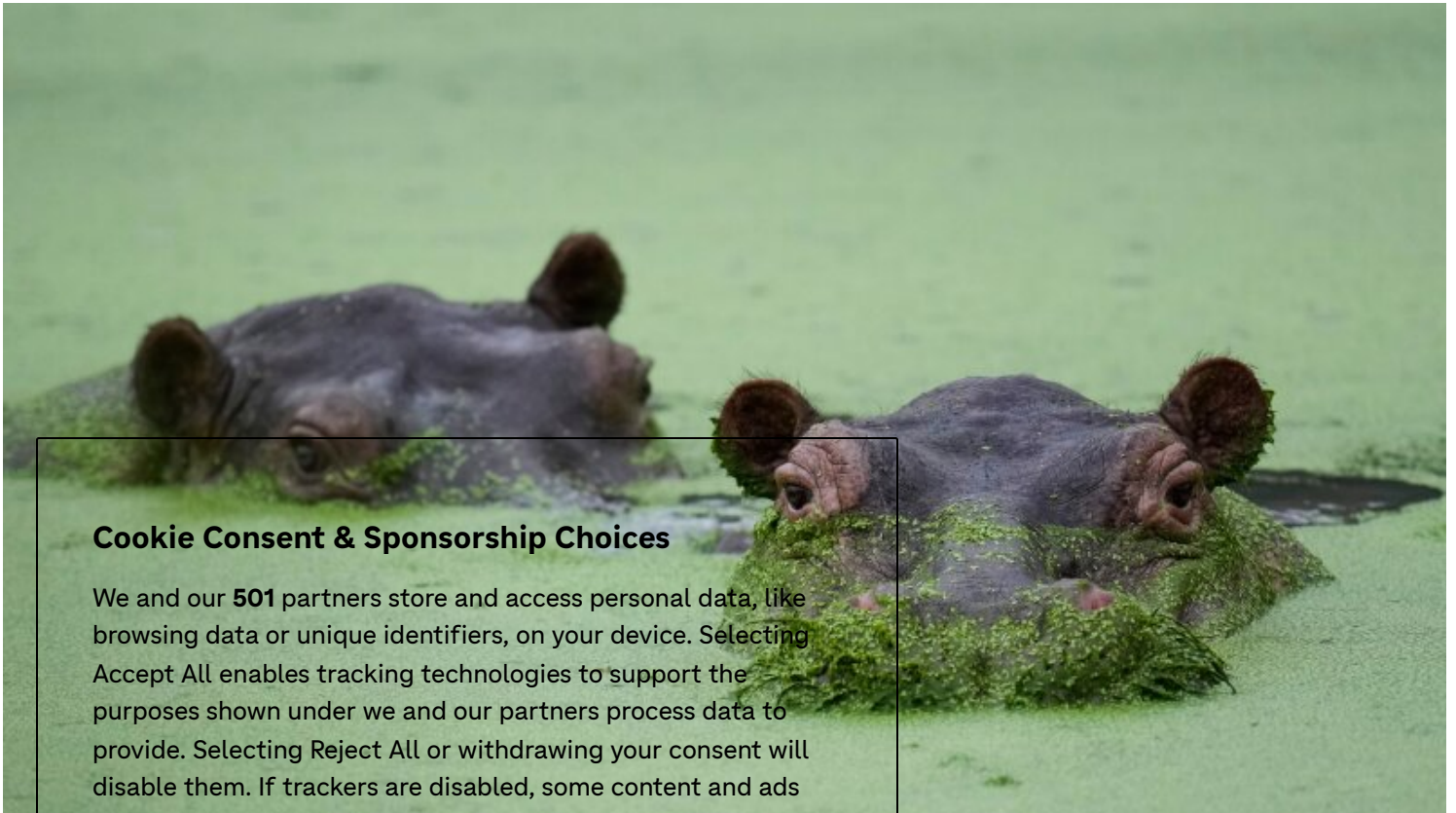
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2026 WORLD CUP: NORTH AMERICA

Soccer was once considered niche in the U.S. Then came the 1994 World Cup



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THE AMERICAS

Colombia's rogue hippos could find refuge in India

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BUSINESS

With Spirit in liquidation, here's what happens next to its planes

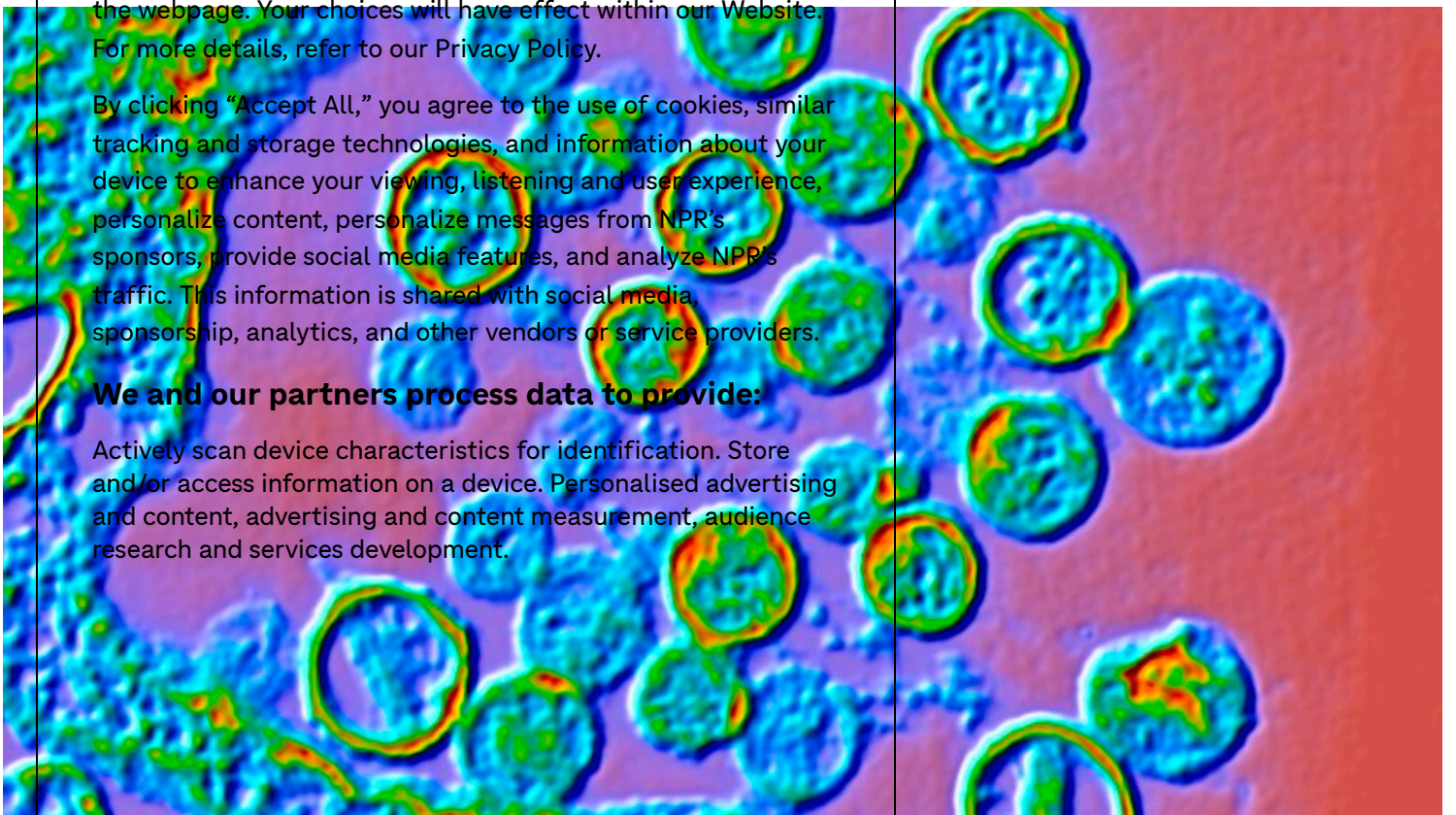


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Cancer warning labels on alcohol may motivate people to drink less, study says



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GLOBAL HEALTH

Is hantavirus the next COVID? Is the U.S. response on point? An outbreak update

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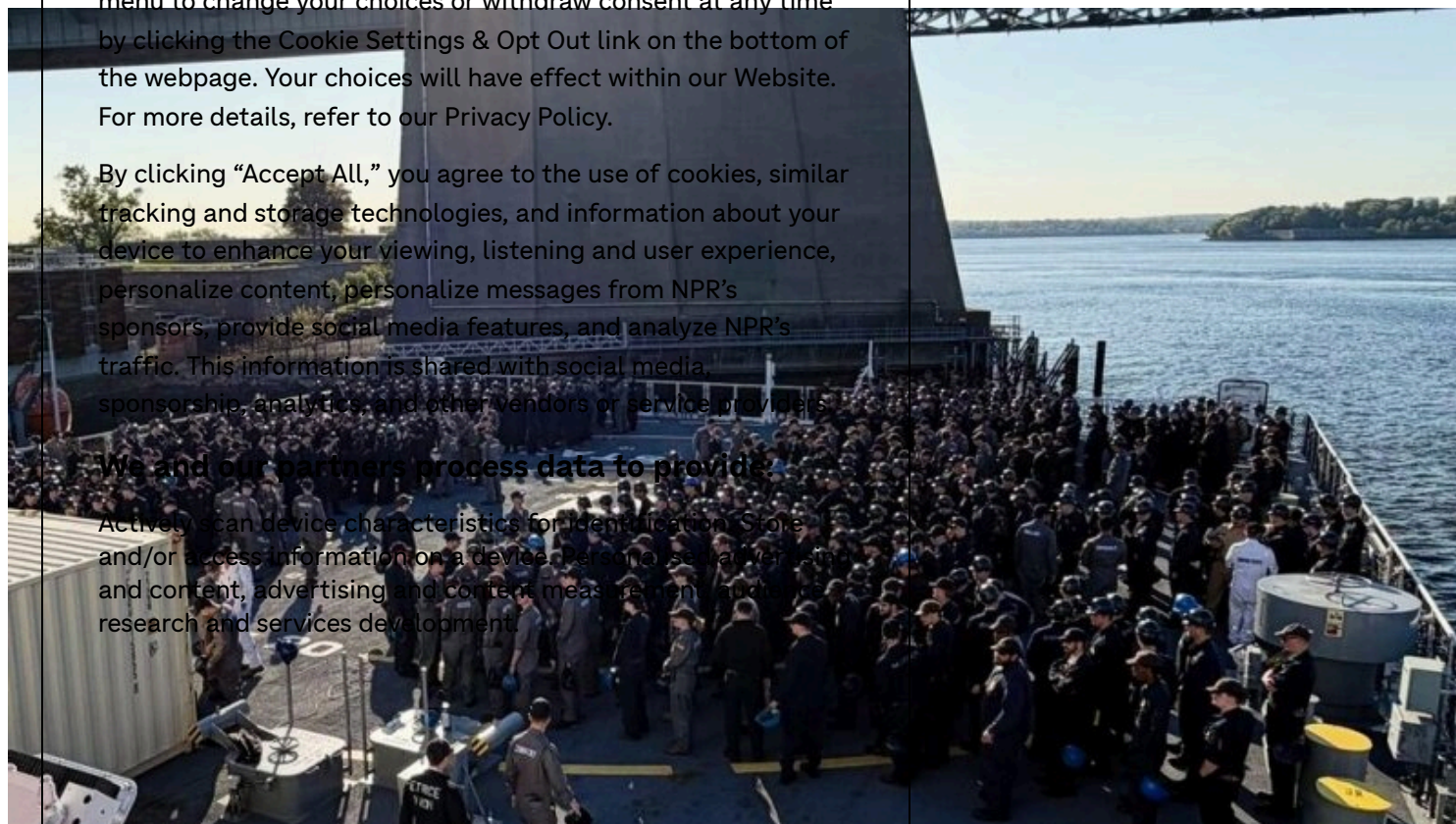
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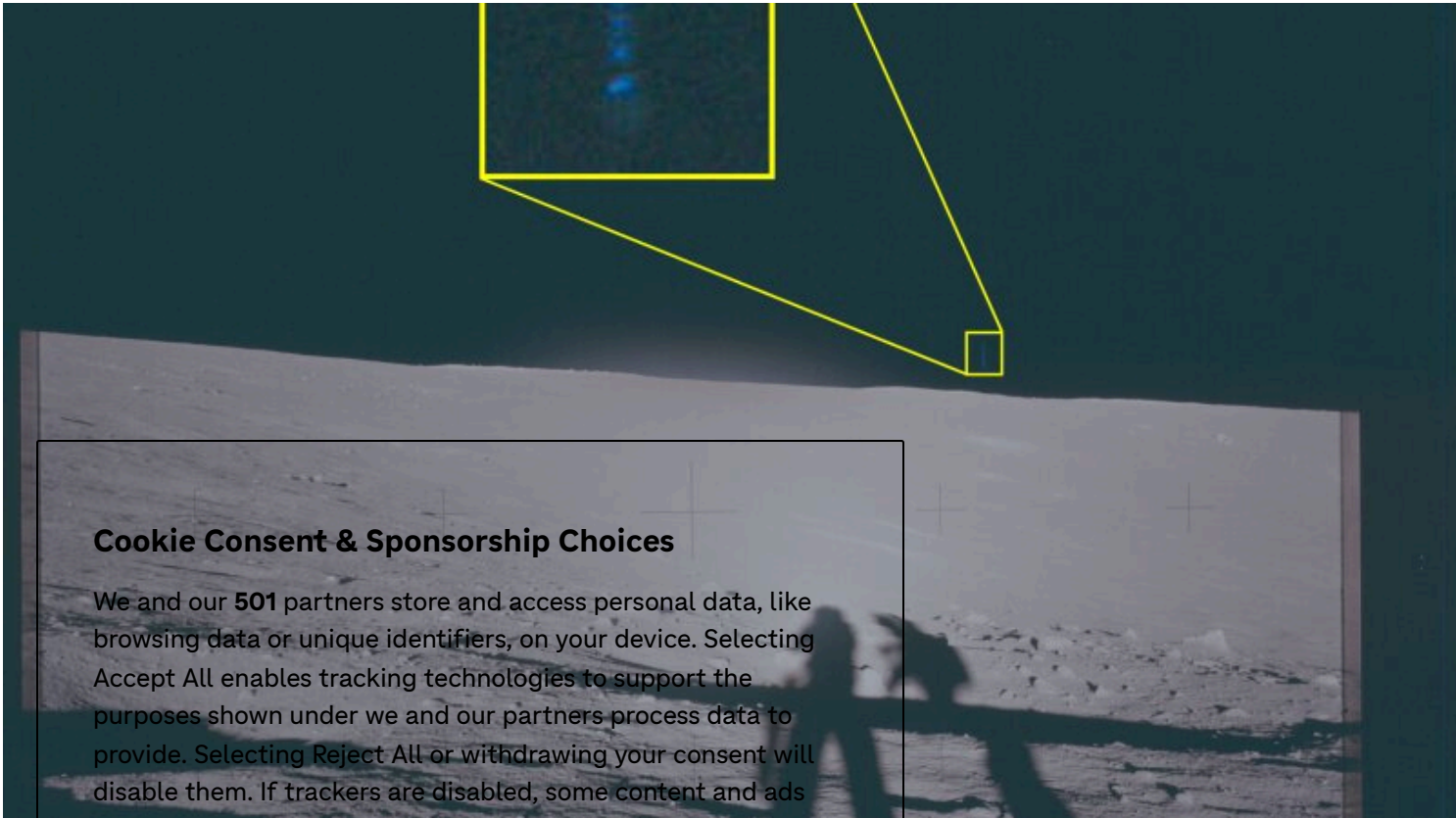
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ECONOMY

They graduate to six figure salaries, and grueling work



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NATIONAL

UFO files spanning decades are released by Defense Department

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WAIT WAIT...DON'T TELL ME!

'Wait Wait' for May 9. 2026: With Not My Job guest Bobby Lopez



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NEWS Frontier Airlines plane strikes and kills pedestrian

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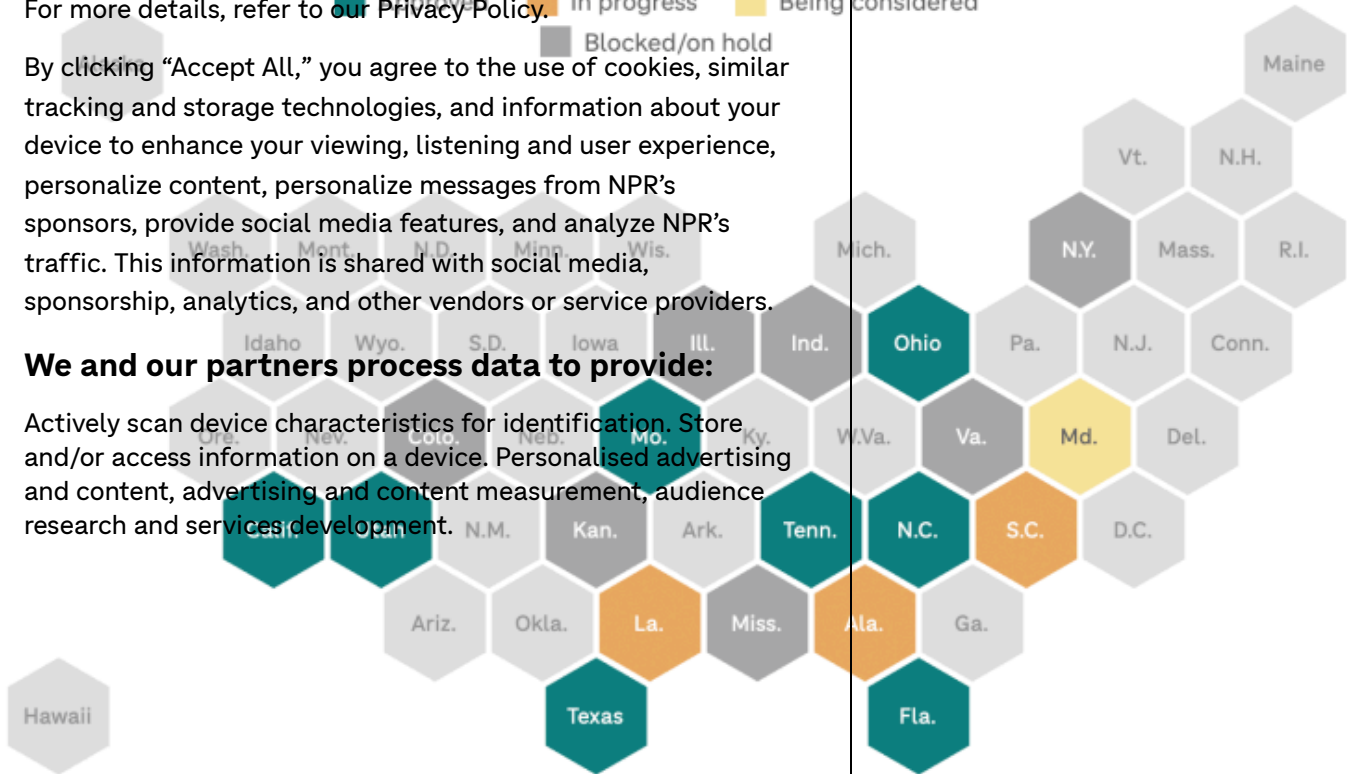
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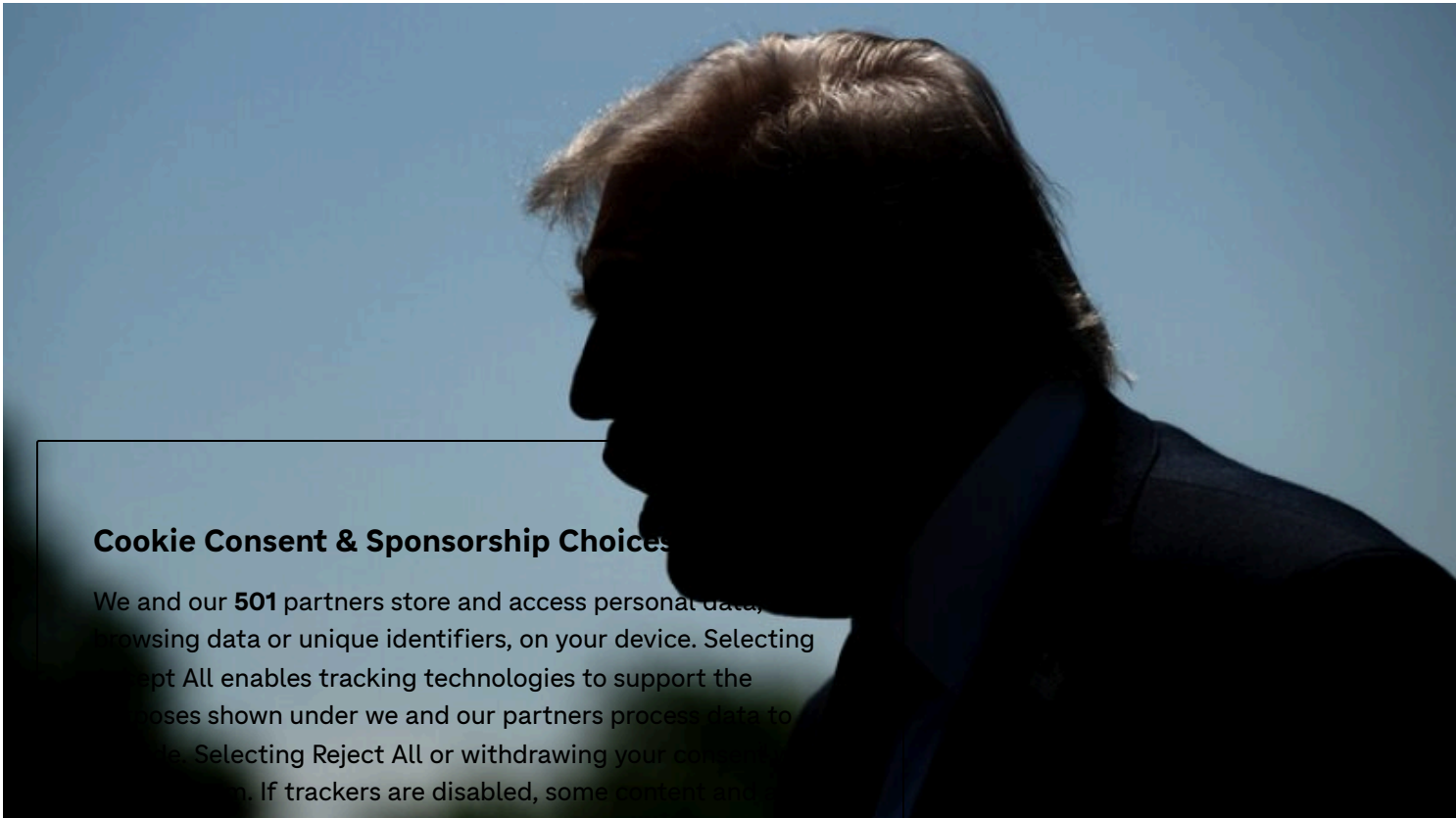
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ELECTIONS

Southern Republicans redistrict after Supreme Court rules, Dems lose big in Virginia



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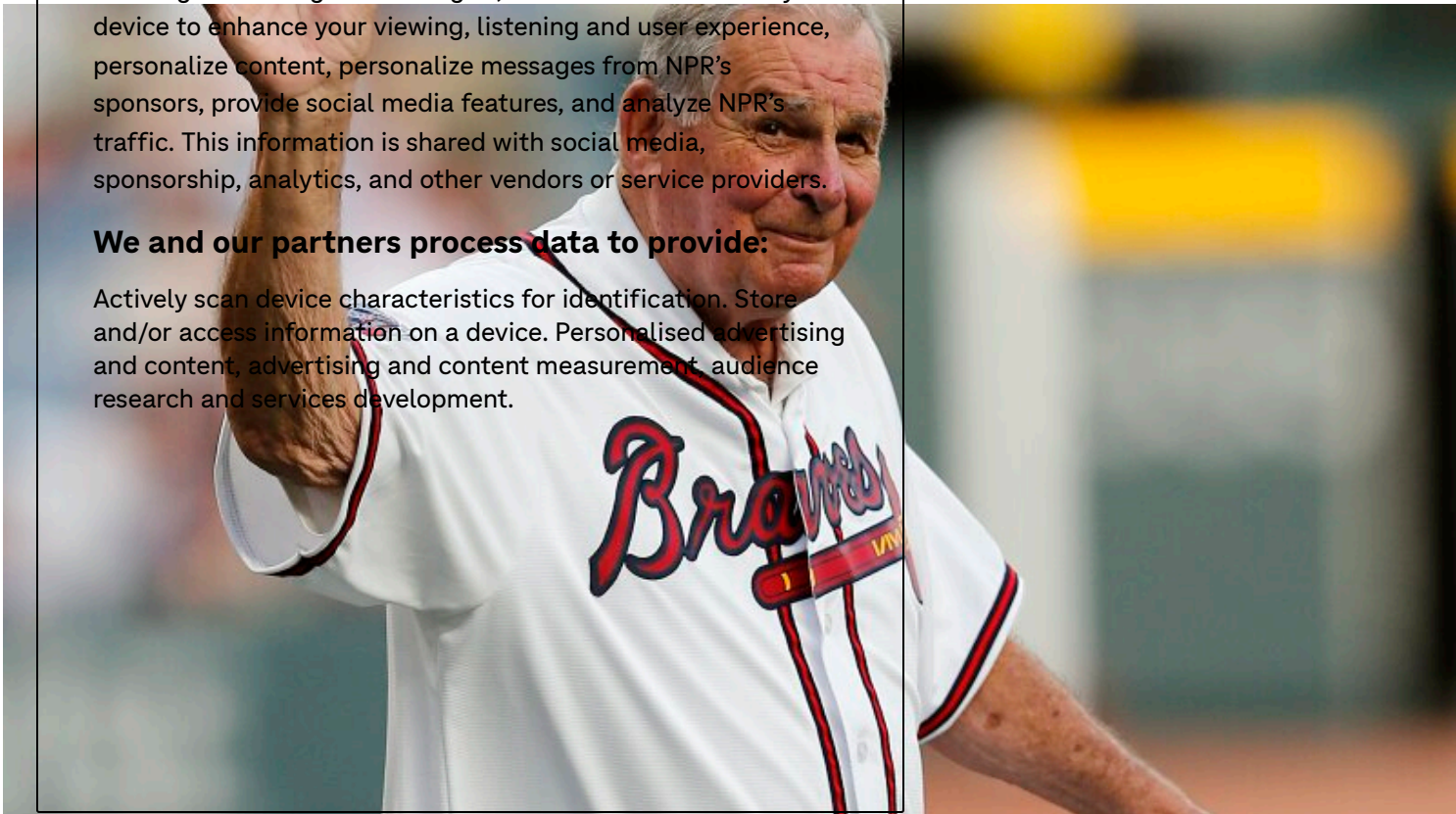
Trump's Truth Social lays bare narrow obsessions of an extremely online president

NPR Editors' Picks

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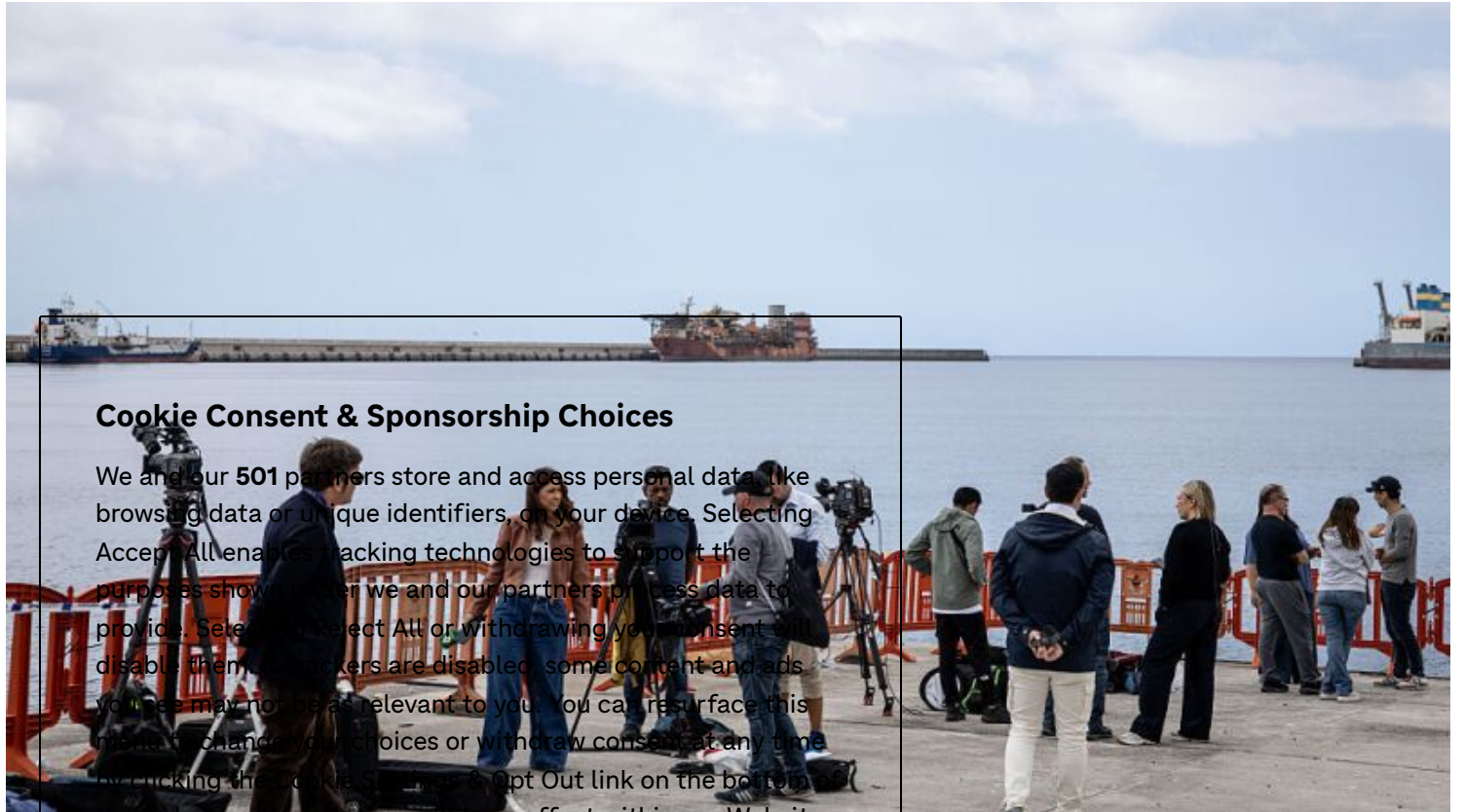
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OBITUARIES

Bobby Cox, Hall of Fame manager of Atlanta Braves, dies at age 84



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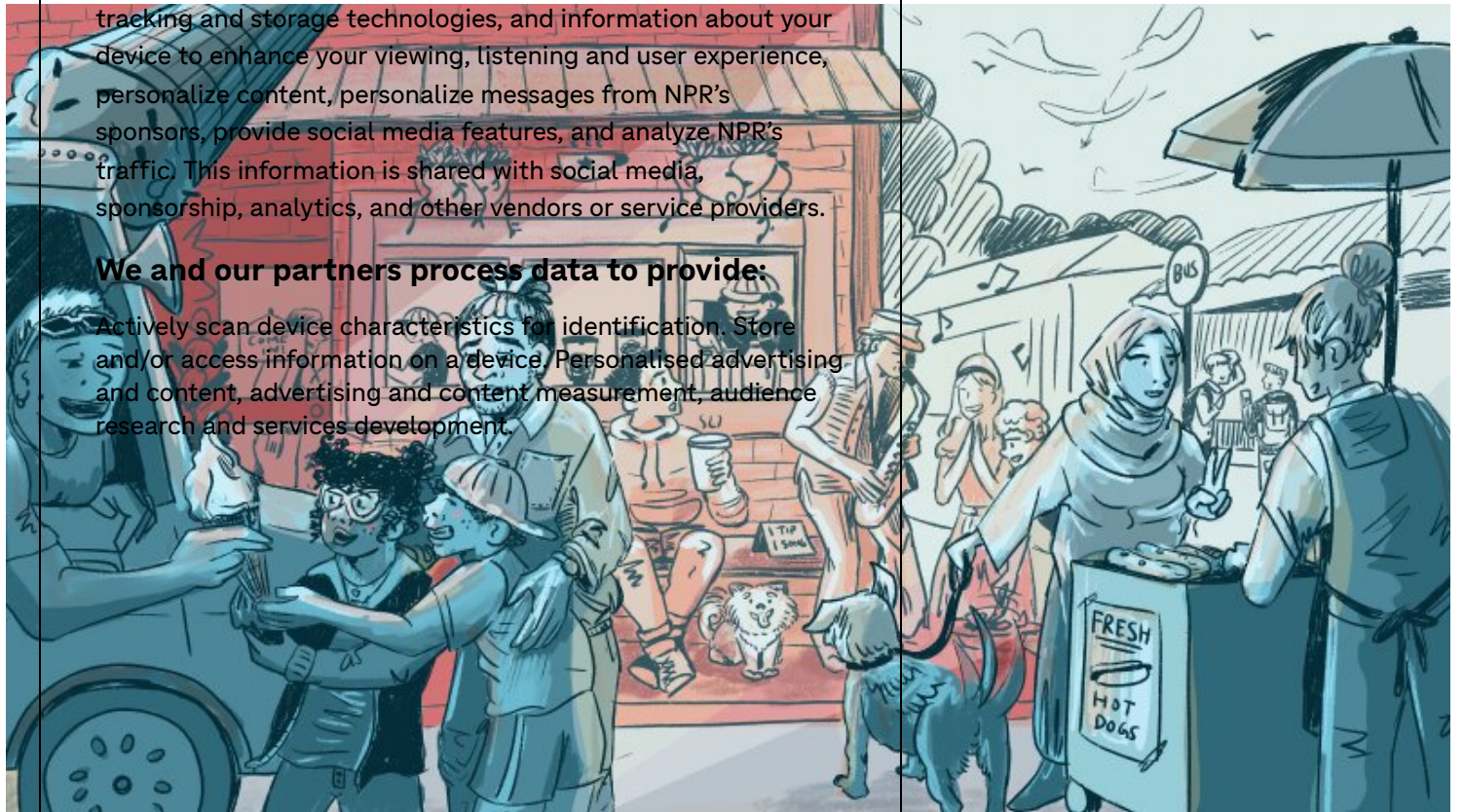
NEWS

CDC says threat of widespread outbreak of hantavirus remains low

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GLOBAL HEALTH

Why saying hello to strangers can be good for you



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EUROPE

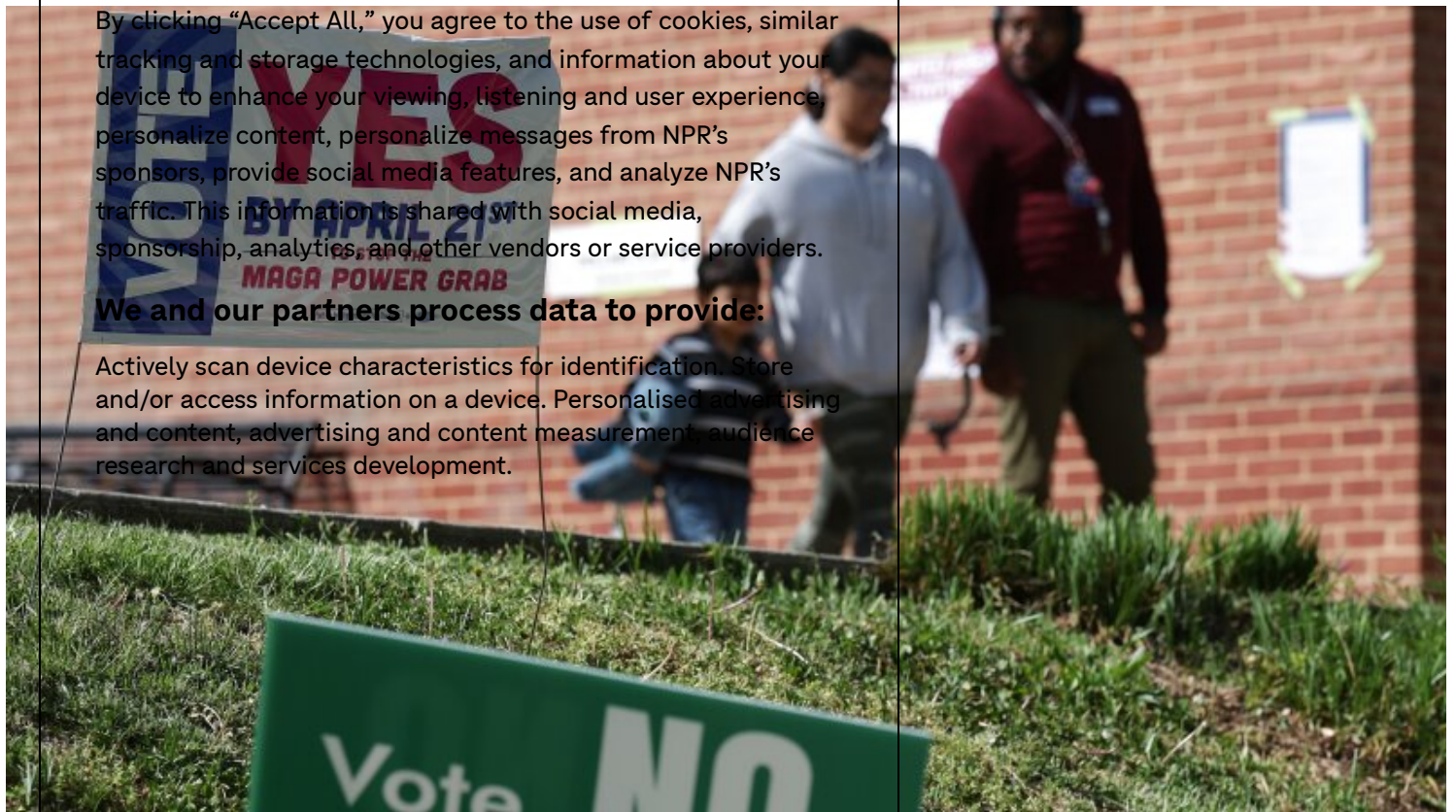
Moscow marks Victory Day with a Red Square parade under tight security

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ELECTIONS

National mood is against Republicans, but redistricting could help prop them up



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MUSIC

What is a radical? It's the question of M.I.A.'s vexing career

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