

Groton Daily Independent

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Sunday, Oct. 20

United Methodist: Conde worship, 8:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 10 a.m. (practice and snack), Sing in church at 10:30 then dismiss for Sunday School; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion: St. John's at 9 a.m., Zion at 11 a.m., Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 10:30 a.m., with confirmation/Milestones; No Sunday School, Choir, 6 p.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m.; SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.

Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460



Monday, Oct. 21

Senior Menu: Beef noodle stroganoff, mixed vegetables, fruit cocktail, cookie, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: French toast.

School Lunch: French bread pizza, cooked carrots.

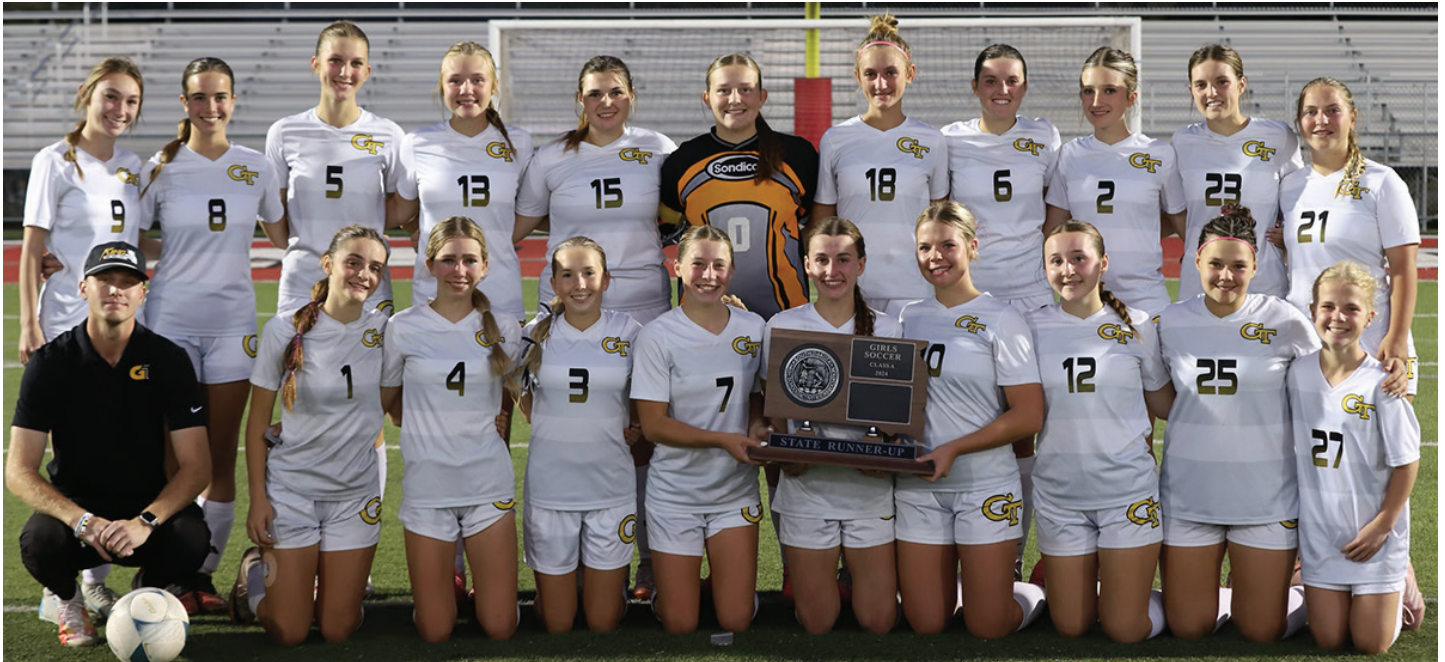
Volleyball hosts Langford (7th/8th grade match, 4 p.m., in the Arena; JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow).

Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Groton Community Center

Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.

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Girls Soccer finish as State Runner Up

Groton Area's girls soccer team completed a 9-2-1 season with a runner-up finish in the state Class A high school girls soccer championship on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2024, at Yankton High School. Sioux Falls Christian won, 1-0. Pictured in back, left to right, are Kayla Lehr, Gretchen Dinger, Taryn Taphagen, Emerlee Jones, Mia Crank, Jaedyn Penning, Faith Traphagen, Brooklyn Hansen, Brenna Imrie, Kennedy Hansen and Carly Gilbert; in front, left to right, are Coach Matt Baumgartner, McKenna Tietz, Ryelle Gilbert, Addison Hoffman, Laila Roberts, Jerica Locke, Elizabeth Flieds, Sydney Locke, Avery Crank and Amelia Ewalt. (Photo by Paula Johnson)



Groton Area's Kennedy Hansen was selected as a defensive player of the game.

(Photo by Paula Johnson)

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GIRLS SOCCER WELCOME HOME CELEBRATION



Sunday, October 20th
4pm in the GHS Arena

Five Touchdowns and 41 Points Make it Four Straight for Wolves Football

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University football team returned to .500 on Saturday, winning their fourth straight. The 34-point victory over Southwest Minnesota State from Dacotah Bank Stadium saw the Wolves record season highs in rushing yards, passing yards, rushing touchdowns, total offense, and tackles for a loss.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 41, SMSU 7

Records: NSU 4-4 (4-3 NSIC), SMSU 0-7 (0-6 NSIC)

Attendance: 4301

HOW IT HAPPENED

The Wolves scored early and often, notching ten points in the first, 21 in the second, seven in the third, and three in the fourth

Southwest Minnesota State broke through with their lone touchdown at 11:23 in the fourth after trailing 38-0

Jeremy Caruso was the bookends for the Wolves scoring front, opening the game with a 34-yard field goal and closing out the contest with a 40-yarder

Following Caruso's first three points, Hank Kraft recorded his second receiving touchdown of the year season on an 11-yard pass from Daniel Britt at 2:54 in the first

Three Wolves scored in the second, led off by Colton Hackel with a 3-yard run on the Wolves 75-yard drive midway through the quarter

The ball was back in the Mustangs hands, however that didn't last long as Kegan Mountain grabbed his fourth interception of the season and ran it back for 55 yards and a touchdown at 4:48; Northern's first defensive touchdown of the season

Kraft closed out the half for the Wolves on a 32-yard run at 1:04; his third rushing touchdown of the season and second score of the evening

Just over a minute into the second half Daniel Britt broke through rushing 68-yards to the endzone for the Wolves fourth touchdown of the contest and longest rush of the season

The two teams closed out the third scoreless and the fourth quarter saw the Mustangs 1-yard rushing score and Caruso's sixth field goal of the season

The Northern State offense led the contest with 20 first downs, 277 yards rushing, 180 yards passing, and 457 yards of total offense; they averaged 7.7 yards per rush and 13.8 yards per reception, scoring on three of the four times they entered the red-zone

The NSU defense notched 11.0 tackles for a loss of 43 yards, 4.0 sacks, one forced fumble, and one interception; they held the Mustangs to 2-of-11 on third down and 0-2 on fourth

Britt was in a groove for the Wolves recording 126 yards passing and 71 yards rushing with two touchdowns; he averaged 14.2 yards per rush and completed 11-of-18 passing attempts

Noah Smith and Wyatt Block each rushed for 60-plus yards, notching 69 and 66 respectively, with Block adding 52 yards receiving

Five Wolves tallied five or more tackles led by Charlie Larson with eight in the win

Gabe Gutierrez held the Mustangs at bay with 3.0 tackles for a loss, two of which were sacks, followed by Matthew Baker and Max Van Landingham with 2.0 tackles for a loss apiece

Van Landingham added a forced fumble on his sack that was recovered by sophomore Jake Adams

Lynden Williams added six tackles, five of which were solo stops, while the trio of Baker, Adams, and Elijah Jopp recorded five tackles each

Tom Ellard punted for 128 yards, averaging 42.7 yards per punt with a 57-yard long and two inside the 20
Caruso tallied 11 points for the Wolves in the win and added 457 yards on kickoffs with three touchbacks

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NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Daniel Britt: 126 yards passing, 71 yards rushing, 1 rushing TD, 1 passing TD, 61.1 pass completion%

Noah Smith: 69 yards rushing, 40 kick return yards

Wyatt Block: 66 yards rushing, 52 yards receiving

Gabe Gutierrez: 3 tackles, 3.0 tackles for a loss, 2.0 sacks

Charlie Larson: 8.0 tackles

Jeremy Caruso: 2 field goals (34 & 40 yards), 5-of-5 PAT, 57.1 yards per kickoff

UP NEXT

Northern State travels to Concordia-St. Paul next Saturday, October 26. Kickoff is set for 12 p.m. against the Golden Bears.

No. 23 Wolves Trounce Beavers on the Road

Minot, N.D. – The No. 23 Northern State University volleyball team rolled to a road victory at Minot State University on Saturday afternoon. The Wolves downed the Beavers with set scores of 25-16, 25-19, and 25-11.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 3, MiSU 0

Records: NSU 13-4 (5-4 NSIC), MiSU 1-16 (0-10 NSIC)

Attendance: 127

HOW IT HAPPENED

The Wolves took full control, hitting .286 with a match leading 39 kills, 39 assists, 41 digs, nine aces, and eight blocks

They hit a set high .353 in the second with 16 kills

12 Wolves played in the contest with Abby Brooks and Hanna Thompson notching a team high eight kills

The pair hit .462 and .438 respectively and combined for five blocks

Keri Walker dished out 35 of the team's 39 assists and recorded a team leading 11 digs alongside Abby Meister

Mia Hinsz led the team with three aces, while Reese Johnson and Sara Moberg each tallied a pair

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Abby Brooks: 8 kills, .462 attack%, 4 blocks

Hanna Thompson: 8 kills, .438 attack%, 5 digs

Keri Walker: 35 assists, 11 digs

Abby Meister: 11 digs

UP NEXT

Northern State is set for three matches next week from Wachs Arena against UMary, St. Cloud State, and Minnesota Duluth. The Wolves will face the Marauders at 6 p.m. on Tuesday. The Huskies and Bulldogs then come to town on Friday and Saturday for 6 p.m. and 3 p.m. for a pair of top-25 contests.

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15 N Main St. - Ste. 101
Downtown Groton

Call/Text Paul: 605-397-7460

Call/Text Tina: 605-397-7285



Living Heart Fitness Center
Senior Citizens 65+
Physical Therapy.

\$20 a month



Single Rate: \$31.86 per month when signing up for an annual membership or pay annually at \$280.37! (And you get to lock in this rate as long as we own the fitness center!) Special ends Oct. 26, 2024.

Type	Month-to-Month	Annual Agreements	
	Paid Monthly	Paid Monthly	Paid Yearly
Student	\$35.15	\$29.82	\$255.60
Single	\$40.48	\$35.15	\$319.50
Couple	\$59.78	\$54.45	\$575.10
Family	\$72.43	\$67.10	\$702.26
Daily Fee	\$5.00		

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**We'll be publishing each ballot measure in the GDI.
Today it's Constitutional Amendment H**

2024 Statewide Ballot Measures

Underscores indicate new language.

~~Overstrikes~~ indicate deleted language.

Constitutional Amendment H

Title: An Amendment to the South Dakota Constitution Establishing Top-Two Primary Elections.

Attorney General Explanation: Currently, to appear on the general election ballot, major party candidates for the following offices must participate in a partisan primary election: Governor, State Legislature, U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and elected county offices. Only members of the candidate's party may vote for that candidate unless that party has opened the primary to voters not affiliated with the party.

Minor party candidates may be chosen by primary or party convention.

Unaffiliated candidates (independents) are only required to file nominating petitions to appear on the general election ballot.

For the listed offices, this amendment requires one primary election wherein all candidates run against each other in their respective races, including major and minor party and unaffiliated candidates. A candidate may list any party next to their name on the ballot regardless of party affiliation or registration. All voters may vote for any candidate. The two candidates receiving the most votes advance to the general election. If there is more than one candidate to be elected to an office, the number of candidates advancing to the general election is twice the number to be elected.

Primary elections may be held for other offices.

The amendment may be challenged on constitutional grounds.

Vote "Yes" to adopt the amendment.

Vote "No" to leave the Constitution as it is.

Fiscal Note: Open primaries would require printing additional ballots at a cost of \$0.47 per ballot. The additional cost statewide to counties would currently be approximately \$23,667 for each primary election. The share of the total cost for each county will vary. There is no expected cost to state government.

Full Text of Constitutional Amendment H:

Be it enacted by the People of South Dakota:

That Article VII of the Constitution of South Dakota be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

§ 4. A primary election held for the office of governor, a legislative office, a county office, the United States Senate, or the United States House of Representatives shall be open to all candidates and all qualified voters without regard to the candidates' or voters' party registration or affiliation, or lack thereof.

In a primary election covered by this section, each candidate must be listed on a single primary ballot regardless of the candidate's political party. A voter may vote for any primary candidate regardless of the voter's party affiliation or lack thereof. The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes cast in a primary election advance to the general election. If more than one candidate is to be elected to an office at the general election, the number of candidates advancing from the primary election is twice the number to be elected in the general election.

The general election ballot may only include those candidates advancing from the primary election. The legislature may, by law, establish procedures for replacing a candidate who advanced from the primary election but will not participate in the general election due to death, withdrawal from the race, or disqualification.

A candidate may select the name of a political party to be listed next to the candidate's name on the primary ballot. The same political party designation shall appear next to the candidate's name on the general election ballot if the candidate advances to the general election. Both the primary and general election ballots must state that a candidate's indicated political party designation does not constitute or imply an endorsement of the candidate by the political party designated.

The legislature may establish any necessary procedures to implement this section.

If any provision of this section or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity will not affect any other provision or application of the section that can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end the provisions of this section are severable.

2025 DOG LICENSES DUE BY 12/31/2024



Licenses due by December 31, 2024

Fines start January 1, 2025

Spayed/Neutered dogs are \$5 per dog,
otherwise \$10 per dog

Proof of rabies shot information is **REQUIRED!!**

Email proof to city.kellie@nvc.net

fax to (605) 397-4498 or bring a copy to City Hall!!

Please contact City Hall as soon as possible if you no longer have a dog(s) that
were previously licensed!

Questions call (605) 397-8422

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Working to Protect & Promote Traditional American Values

- ✓ Pro Police
- ✓ Pro Constitution
- ✓ Pro Family



Visit the Campaign Site
ManhartForHouse.com



Paid for by Manhart for State House

MANHART

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 1

facebook.com/ManhartLogan | ManhartForHouse.com

General Election - Nov. 5
Absentee Voting has begun

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

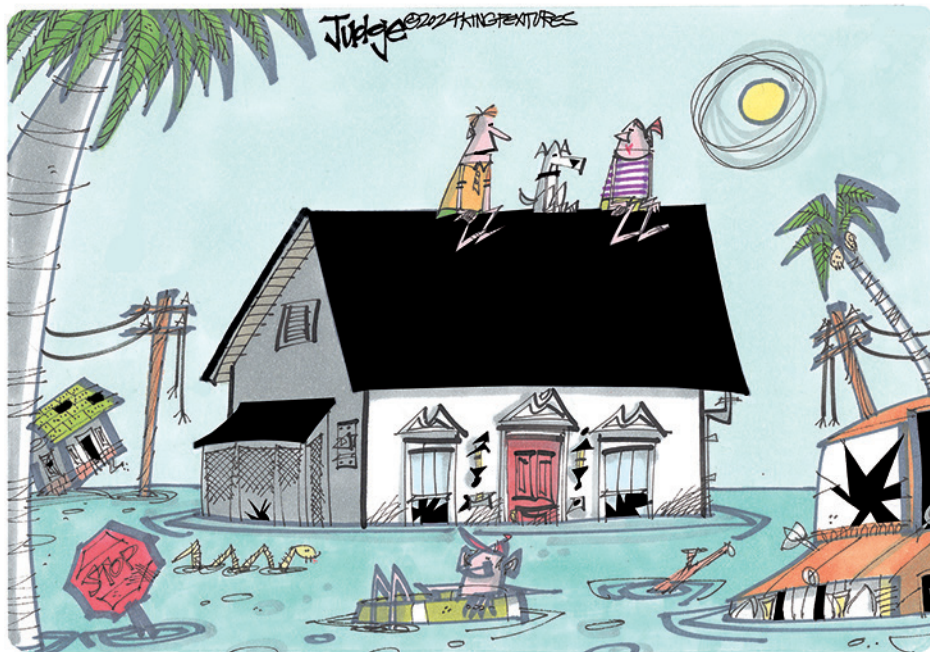


*“Now acquaint yourself with Him,
and be at peace; thereby good will
come to you. Receive, please,
instruction from His mouth,
and lay up His words
in your heart.”*

❧ JOB 22:21-22 ❧

Detail of “Old Man Reading the Bible” by Julius Komjati (1928)

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“IT’S BEEN AN HOUR... SHOULDN’T WE BE HAVING ANOTHER HURRICANE BY NOW?”

BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of 2 Timothy (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From Luke 6, what did Jesus tell His disciples to do to those who cursed them? *Smile, Walk away from, Laugh, Bless them*

3. What instrument did David play for Saul that caused the evil spirit to depart? *Drum, Harp, Tambourine, Flute*

4. From John 3, who lifted up the serpent in the wilderness? *Paul, Peter, John the Baptist, Moses*

5. What horrible things did Ezekiel see filling a valley? *Serpents, Locusts, Dry bones, Demons*

6. Who was the father of James and John? *Zebedee, Nahum, Haggai, Hizkiah*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Bless them, 3) Harp, 4) Moses, 5) Dry bones, 6) Zebedee

Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey's latest book, "Test Your Bible Knowledge," available in bookstores and online.

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AS SOON AS DALE TAKES DOWN SOJAS, AN IMPERIAL GUNSHIP RIPS THE ROOF OFF.



"THE HEIRS" ARE DONE. AURA TAKES SOJAS PRISONER HERSELF.



HE FINALLY SEES SHE'S MING'S ONE TRUE HEIR.

THIS WAS HER PLAN -- USING US TO FLUSH THESE JOKERS OUT. SHE'S GOING TO PIN HER BROTHER'S MURDER ON THEM...



...AND FINALLY PARDON ME FOR THE CRIME I DIDN'T COMMIT.



I SAY IF SHE PARDONS BOK AND BONES TOO, WE'VE GOT A DEAL.

WE LEAVE THE CAPITAL FREE AND CLEAR.

NEXT WE HAVE TO RESCUE BOK AND ZARKOV...



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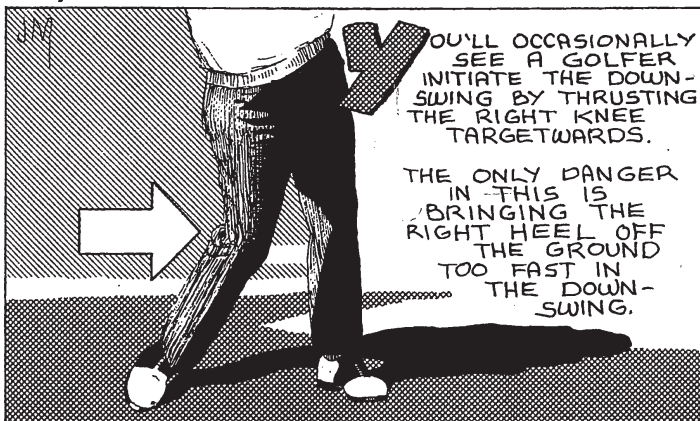
...BUT RIGHT NOW... IT'S JUST US. ME AND DALE.

AND THE OPEN SKY.



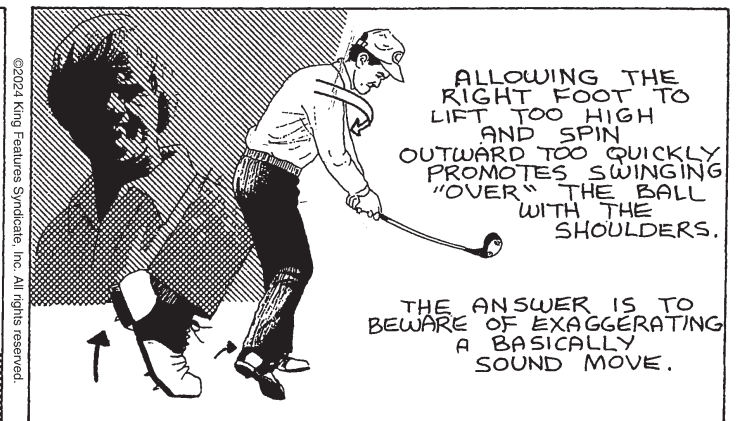
NEXT: MEANWHILE...

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



YOU'LL OCCASIONALLY SEE A GOLFER INITIATE THE DOWN-SWING BY THRUSTING THE RIGHT KNEE TARGETWARDS.

THE ONLY DANGER IN THIS IS BRINGING THE RIGHT HEEL OFF THE GROUND TOO FAST IN THE DOWN-SWING.



ALLOWING THE RIGHT FOOT TO LIFT TOO HIGH AND SPIN OUTWARD TOO QUICKLY PROMOTES SWINGING "OVER" THE BALL WITH THE SHOULDERS.

THE ANSWER IS TO BEWARE OF EXAGGERATING A BASICALLY SOUND MOVE.

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Two-Year-Old Incision Occasionally Secretes Fluid

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 69-year-old, very active male. My left Achilles tendon severed two years ago, but it was surgically repaired. I had an 8-inch incision that has totally healed, with the exception of one small area about the size of the lead of a pencil. It's 3 inches above my heel. This small area would close up for a few days, then reopen with small amounts of off-white fluid oozing from the little hole.

Sometimes I apply Iodosorb, which keeps the area dry for a while. But, for whatever reason, showers seem to make the incision release fluid. I apply a bandage over the wound for most sporting or exercise events, just

so that it doesn't get rubbed by the top of my shoe. Is there any solution to this, or do I just have to live with it? -- R.M.

ANSWER: The Achilles tendon is a thick, tough piece of connective tissue between the calf muscles and the heel bone. It can rupture under extreme trauma (often sports injuries), in people who have weakness of the tendon, or due to treatment with antibiotics that are in the quinolone class, such as ciprofloxacin. When repairing the tendon, the surgeon uses sutures or wires to put it back together.

A residual wound defect is quite concerning to me. The foreign material in the tendon is at a high risk for infection. It's possible that there is an infection, which led to a fistula (an abnormal connection) between the tendon.

I definitely recommend going back to see the surgeon. They may want to do further testing (possibly imaging) to see if there is any evidence of an infection in the repaired tendon.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a 63-year-old man in generally good health. Recently, we moved into a new home with a pool. When I floated on my back, I noticed a 6-by-2-inch bulge from my breastbone to my navel. I contacted my doctor, who said it was rectus diastasis.

I researched online, and there doesn't appear to be anything that can be done to correct it. Apparently, it doesn't pose a serious problem. Am I correct that I should just live with it? -- G.B.

ANSWER: Correct. The left and right halves of your abdominus rectus muscle (your "abs") are normally connected in the middle by tough fibrous tissue. Instead of them being held tightly together, they can be separated by a centimeter or so (called congenital rectus diastasis) in some people. Sometimes, the muscles can also separate during adulthood when people's abdomens start to get larger, whether it's through pregnancy, weight gain or other reasons. The area can bulge out with increased abdominal pressure.

Nothing needs to be done, and although there are elective cosmetic surgeries to correct it, I've never had a patient want one. Most of the time, I make the diagnosis when I'm doing an abdominal exam, and the patient isn't even aware that they have it. (Or they think that everyone has it.)

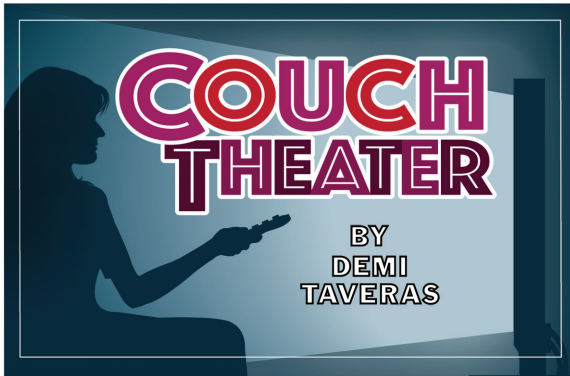
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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Ariana DeBose stars as Chef in "House of Spoils." (Courtesy of MovieStillsDB)

"Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" (PG-13) -- Thirty-six years after Michael Keaton first stunned audiences with his performance as the titular green-haired jokester in the classic film "Beetlejuice," Keaton dons his striped wardrobe once again for a sequel you don't want to miss! Winona Ryder and Catherine O'Hara reprise their respective roles as Lydia and Delia Deetz, but this time, the original cast is joined by scream queen Jenna Ortega ("Wednesday"), Monica Bellucci ("Spectre"), and Willem Dafoe ("Kinds of Kindness"). With improved visual effects and compelling storylines, this sequel is just as entertaining as, if not more than, the original! Out now to rent. (Apple TV+)

"Teacup" (TV-MA) -- If you haven't yet found the perfect horror series to get you into the Halloween mood, why not give this new series a try? Based on the novel "Stinger" by Robert R. McCammon, "Teacup" takes place on a ranch in rural Georgia, where the Chenoweth family resides in unison with multiple neighbors and their animals. When dark omens begin to appear in the woods, the Chenoweths naturally begin to panic. But they are unable to leave the farm due to a spray-painted line in the grass that causes those who cross it to reach a very untimely death. Yvonne Strahovski ("The Handmaid's Tale") leads this eight-episode series, and the first four episodes are out now to stream! (Peacock)

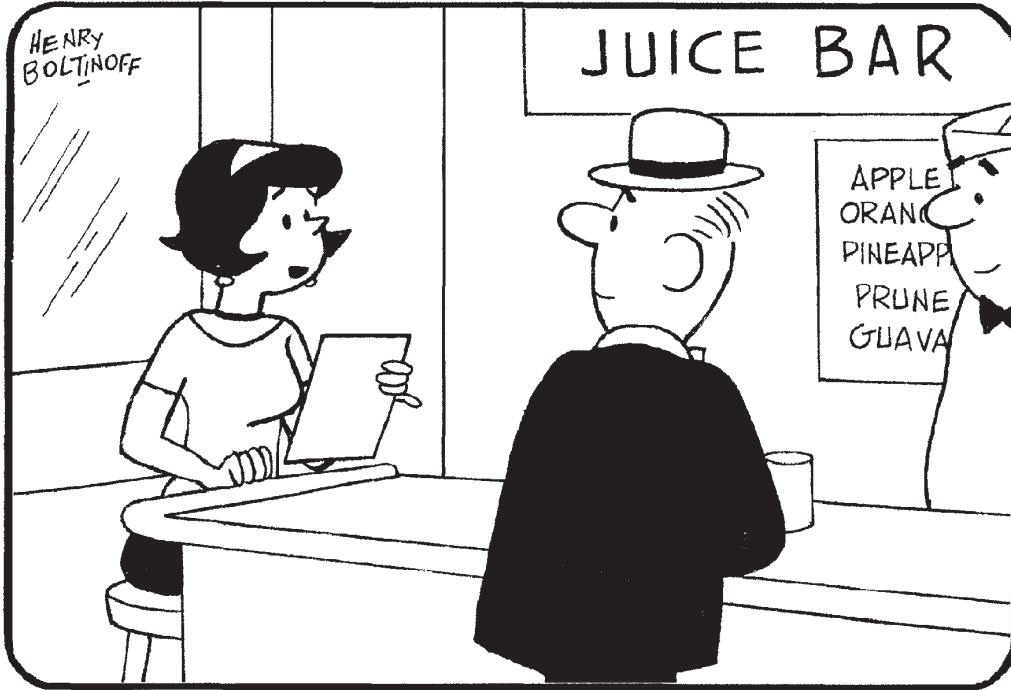
"House of Spoils" (R) -- Academy-Award-winning actress Ariana DeBose ("West Side Story") leads this supernatural film produced by horror powerhouse Blumhouse Productions. DeBose's character is solely known as Chef, a culinary connoisseur who opens a fine-dining restaurant in an isolated estate in the middle of nowhere. Easier said than done, Chef realizes, as she learns how to deal with the challenging aspects of owning her own eatery, like finding reliable staff, working to impress her investor, managing her anxiety, and fighting an evil spirit that seems to be lurking in every corner of the state. Will Chef let her dreams spoil right in front of her? See for yourself! (Amazon Prime Video)

"The Menendez Brothers" (R) -- Lyle and Erik Menendez have garnered a lot of traction during the month of October, due to Ryan Murphy's dramatized series "Monsters" that covered the brothers' story. Now Netflix is letting them tell their story through a documentary film, more than 30 years after the murders of their parents first took place. In the doc, which is out now, Lyle and Erik call in from prison to explain their sides of what occurred that August night in 1989 and why their claims of abuse weren't taken seriously by the jury during both trials. Family members, lawyers, jurors and reporters who were involved with the case weigh in with their points of view, while lead prosecutor Pamela Bozanich still maintains that the brothers are lying about the abuse and deserve to be incarcerated. (Netflix)

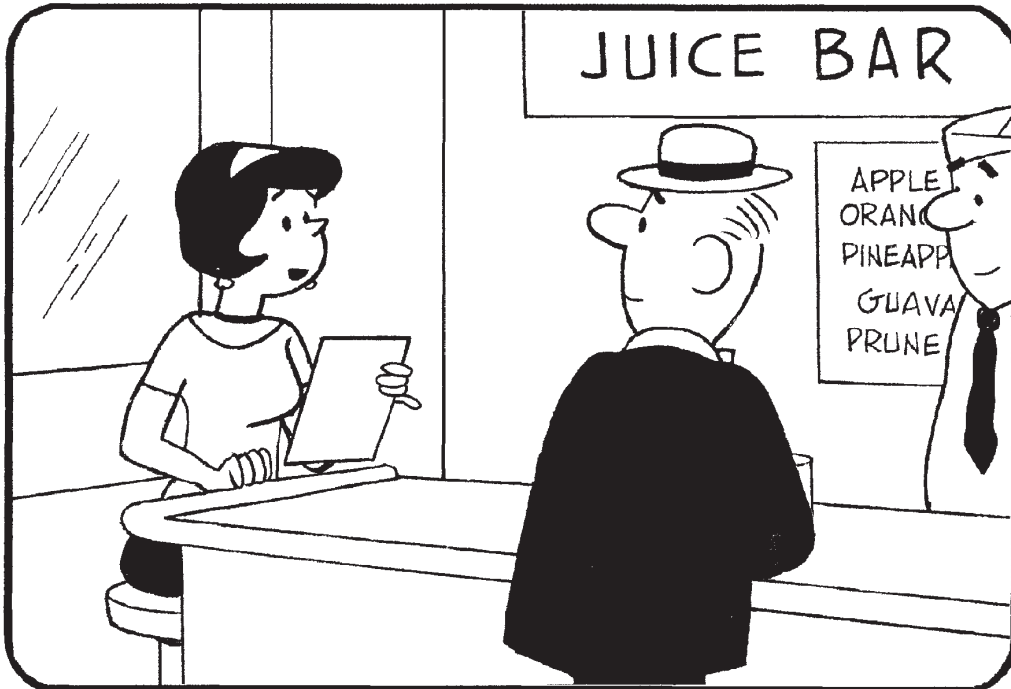
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

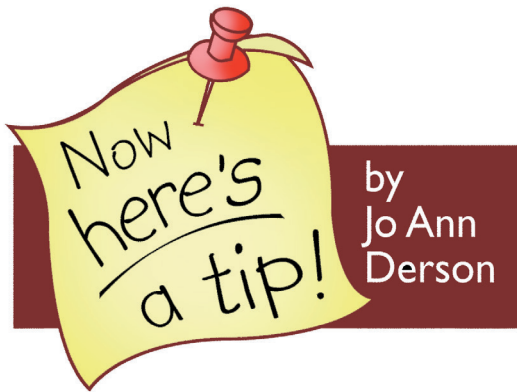


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Differences: 1. Man is moved. 2. Tie is different. 3. Menu sign is different. 4. Hat is smaller. 5. Hair is different. 6. Stool is different.

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* Medication labels can fade, so when you get yours, put a piece of clear tape over the instructions. This way, you'll always be able to read the instructions.

* "During the holidays (the height of baking season for me), I keep a large plastic saltshaker filled with flour and a bit of dry rice. The rice helps the flour to shake out without getting clumped up, and I use it to dust cake pans, rolling pins, kneading boards, etc." -- W.F. in Canada

* "One of the household cleaners I prefer comes in a spray bottle, and it's on the expensive side. I make sure to get all of the liquid out by adding some regular glass marbles to the bottle. It displaces the liquid up, ensuring it finds the bottom of the sprayer's suction tube." -- T.H. in Mississippi

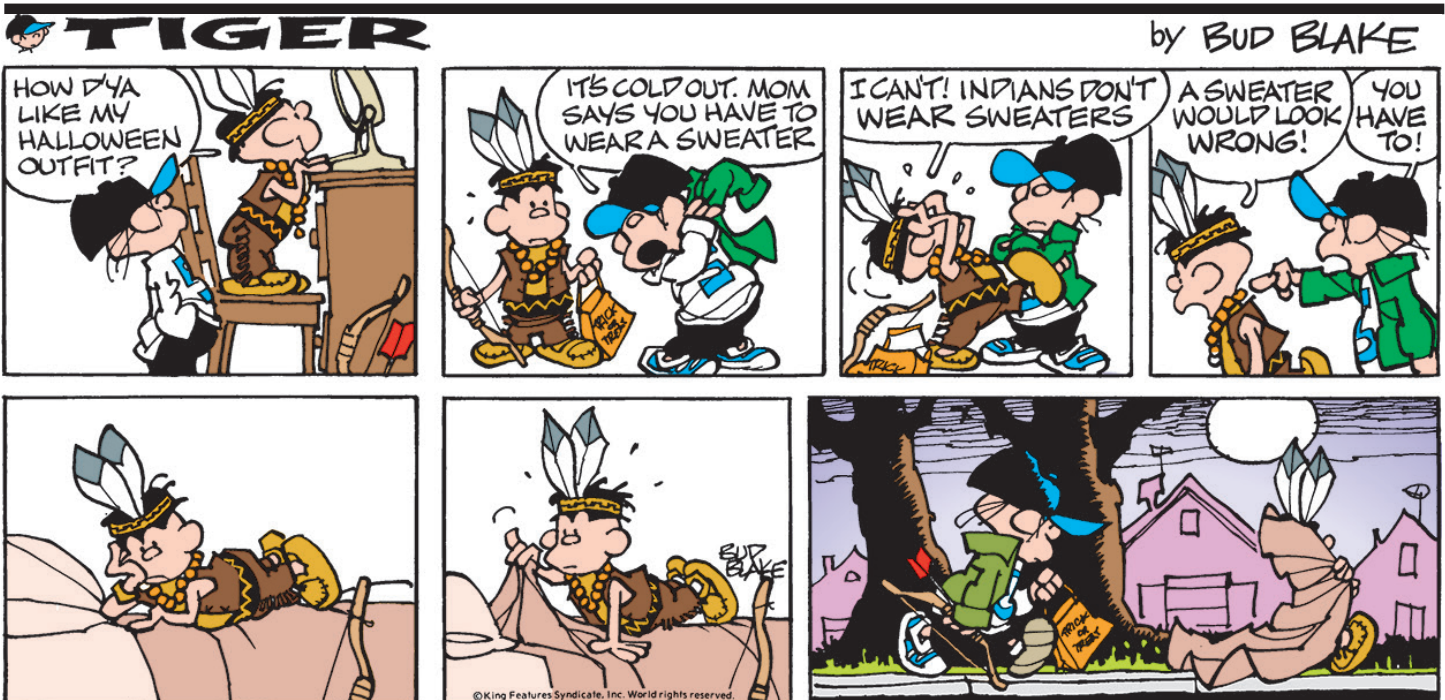
* "Stack pucks in the holes of a cardboard soda six-pack carrier. Tell your coach. And to keep them bouncy, store them in your freezer (as long as your mom says it's OK)." -- via e-mail

* Keep the fog off your glasses by cleaning them with shaving cream. It will prevent mist-ups when you come in from the cold.

* Save your citrus peels and dry them. You can use them for kindling in your fire. They contain flammable oils, and they smell pretty good, too.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Pop singer
Celine
- 5 "It's c-c-cold!"
- 8 Cicatrix
- 12 Vicinity
- 13 Fib
- 14 Sharpen
- 15 Huge kudos
- 17 Assess
- 18 Blue
- 19 Shadowed
- 21 Pretended
- 24 Decorate
- 25 Rascallions
- 26 Campus cafeteria offering
- 30 Carnival city
- 31 Long skirts
- 32 Oklahoma tribe
- 33 '80s arcade game
- 35 Castle defense
- 36 Eyeglass frames
- 37 Smooths, as wood
- 38 Source of gum arabic
- 41 Numerical prefix
- 42 Composer Bartok
- 43 Performance bonus
- 48 Japanese noodle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15				16					17			
			18				19	20				
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30				31						32		
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			36					37				
38	39	40					41					
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49				50			
51					52				53			

- 49 "Rocks"
- 50 Rights org.
- 51 Head, to Henri
- 52 Fine, at NASA
- 53 Detail
- DOWN**
- 1 River blocker
- 2 A Gershwin brother
- 3 British ref. work
- 4 Italian port
- 5 Huff and puff
- 6 Wardrobe malfunction
- 7 Check
- 8 Tempura choice
- 9 Furnace fuel
- 10 Pay to play
- 11 Clarinet insert
- 16 Scepter
- 20 Feels unwell
- 21 Mattress option
- 22 Writer Kingsley
- 23 Music genre for BTS
- 24 Plano's state
- 26 Abba-inspired musical
- 27 Lake bird
- 28 Slightly
- 29 Forget-me- (flowers)
- 31 1102, to Nero
- 34 Esoteric
- 35 Rum cocktail
- 37 Hindu honorific
- 38 Border on
- 39 Give up
- 40 Oodles
- 41 Arduous journey
- 44 Author Umberto
- 45 Agt.'s cut
- 46 Hearty brew
- 47 "Tasty!"

— King Crossword —

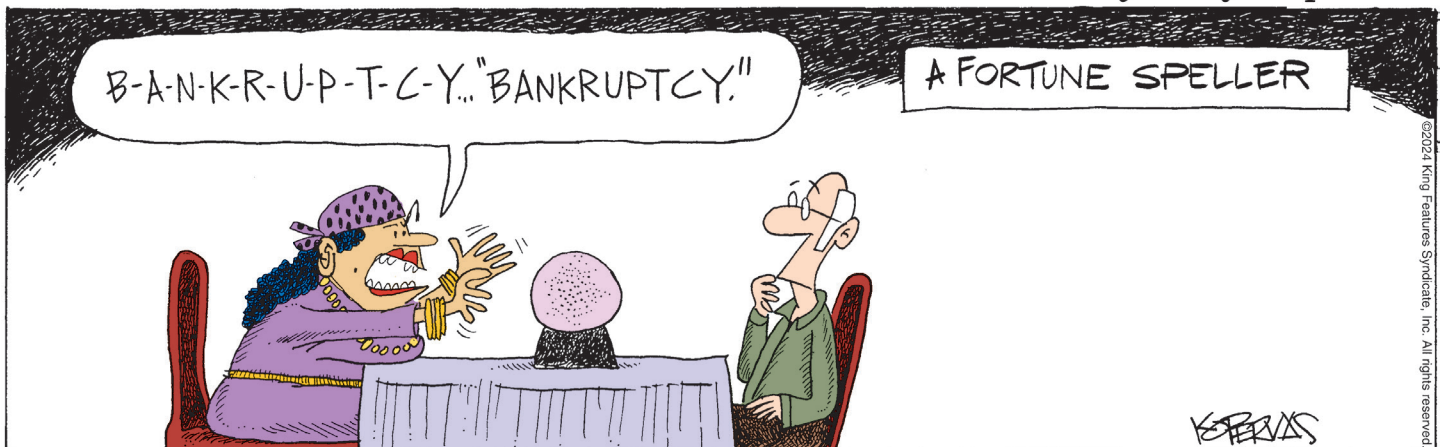
Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

D	I	O	N		B	R	R		S	C	A	R
A	R	E	A		L	I	E		H	O	N	E
M	A	D	P	R	O	P	S		R	A	T	E
			L	O	W		T	A	I	L	E	D
F	A	K	E	D		T	R	I	M			
I	M	P	S		M	E	A	L	P	L	A	N
R	I	O		M	A	X	I	S		O	T	O
M	S	P	A	C	M	A	N		M	O	A	T
			R	I	M	S		S	A	N	D	S
A	C	A	C	I	A		T	R	I			
B	E	L	A		M	E	R	I	T	P	A	Y
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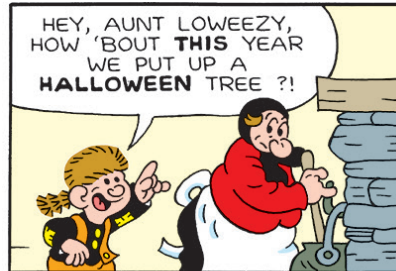
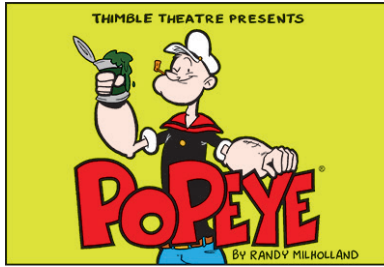
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



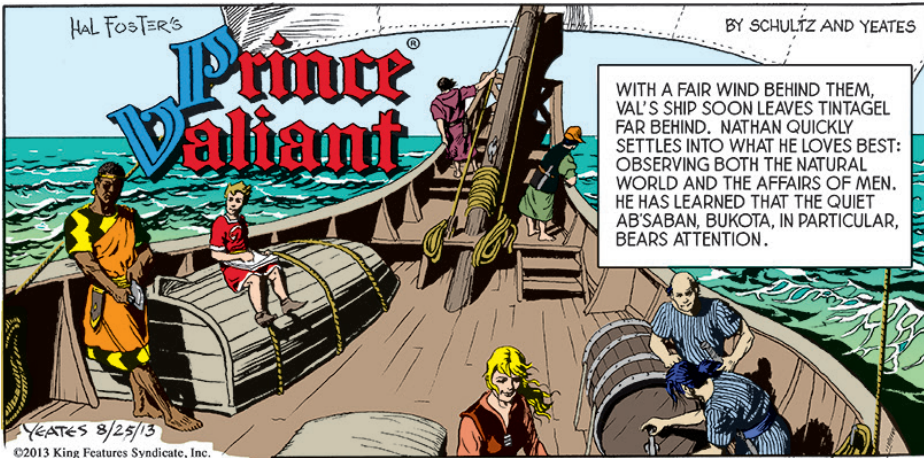
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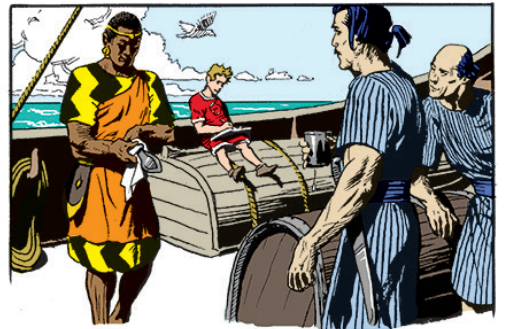


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WITH A FAIR WIND BEHIND THEM, VAL'S SHIP SOON LEAVES TINTAGEL FAR BEHIND. NATHAN QUICKLY SETTLES INTO WHAT HE LOVES BEST: OBSERVING BOTH THE NATURAL WORLD AND THE AFFAIRS OF MEN. HE HAS LEARNED THAT THE QUIET AB'SABAN, BUKOTA, IN PARTICULAR, BEARS ATTENTION.



WITH THE DECK ALMOST VACANT, HE WATCHES THE AFRICAN SIDLE UP TO KAREN'S TWO EASTERN GUARDS. BOGRAM AND GURYAN, WITHOUT MUCH PROTECTING NECESSARY ON SHIPBOARD, HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO THEMSELVES.



"GENTLEMEN, LET US BE CLEAR. I KNOW YOUR BROTHER ATTEMPTED MISCHIEF ON THIS VERY SHIP BEFORE DEPARTURE. I KNOW PRINCE VALIANT TRUSTS YOU NOT. I KNOW THAT, AS YOU ARE HIS DAUGHTER'S MEN, CHOSEN BY HER HUSBAND, HE WILL TREAT YOU VERY CAUTIOUSLY..."



"... I, HOWEVER, WILL NOT ACT CAUTIOUSLY, IF I EVEN SO MUCH AS SMELL MISCHIEF..."

"... AND KNOW THAT I SLEW A MAN-EATING LION, IN ITS DEN, ON MY FOURTEENTH BIRTHDAY."



LATER, BUKOTA VISITS WITH NATHAN: "I ASSUME YOU NEITHER SAW NOR HEARD ANYTHING OF INTEREST TODAY." NATHAN GRINS BROADLY: "OF COURSE NOT!"

NEXT:
All at sea

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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PICKERING

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Free Covid tests available again

Here we go again. Another winter, another Covid variant. This one is called XEC, and it's emerging as a common one right now, taking over from variant KP.3.1.1. It's time to get out those at-home Covid test kits and keep them handy.

The problem with the test kits is that all the free kits we've ordered the past few years are now expired and don't have any additional extension dates. Some of us, to keep the tests on hand at home, have spent a lot of money at the drug stores to buy some. Now, thankfully, the government is releasing millions of kits from their stockpile to be sent out for free to those who want them.

If you'd like to order free test kits, don't delay. Go online to [CovidTests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) and, as in prior years, you can sign up to receive four test kits. Those will be delivered by the Post Office.

Brace yourself when you receive your test kits -- the expiration dates will likely have come and gone. However, they've already extended the dates for all the test kits they're sending out right now. The dates won't be far out, but should get you through several months of testing.

To check the expiration dates of the tests you receive, go back to the [CovidTests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) ordering site and click on "FDA's list of extended expiration dates." Scroll down to find your tests and mark the box with the new expiration dates.

We're told that the older tests kits will still be effective on the current Covid variations that are out there now.

If you or a family member should test positive and wonder how you'll pay for treatment, scroll down that same [CovidTests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) page and see the link to available treatment options and the patient assistance programs.

Stay healthy!

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1. Name the wide receiver who threw a 43-yard touchdown pass for the Pittsburgh Steelers in their 21-10 win over the Seattle Seahawks in Super Bowl XL. (Hint: He played quarterback for the Indiana Hoosiers.)

2. In pickleball, the non-volley zone extending 7 feet from either side of the net is known by what common household name?

3. Defenseman Don Sweeney played 1,051 games from 1988-2003 with what NHL team? (Hint: He was named general manager of this team in 2015.)

4. All 87 crew and passengers -- including 22 athletes, trainers and doctors from the U.S. amateur boxing team -- perished in March 1980 when their plane crashed while attempting to land in what country?

5. Name the bowler who had televised perfect 300 games in Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) Tour title events in 2001 and 2021.

6. Right-handed pitcher Bryan Haas, who started Game 4 of the 1982 World Series for the Milwaukee Brewers, was better known by what nickname?

7. What Villanova Wildcats player made a three-point shot at the buzzer to seal a 77-74 win over the North Carolina Tar Heels in the 2016 NCAA men's basketball championship game?



by Ryan A. Berenz

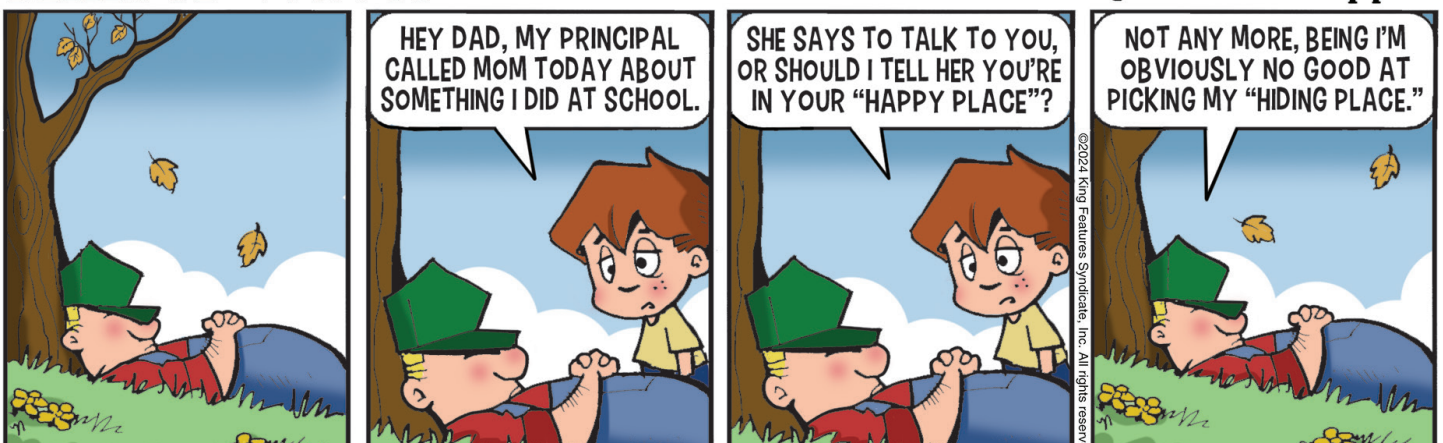
Answers

1. Antwaan Randle El.
2. The kitchen.
3. The Boston Bruins.
4. Poland.
5. Liz Johnson.
6. "Moose."
7. Kris Jenkins.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Why is my cat scratching so much?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I noticed that my long-haired cat, Charlie, is scratching many times per day. He also is shedding more than usual -- mostly undercoat, rather than hair. What's going on? I can't see any evidence of fleas on his coat or skin. -- Dan in Colorado Springs

DEAR DAN: Fleas are often the first thing we think of when a cat starts scratching incessantly, but other conditions could be causing skin irritation. And it may be hard to see lesions or hot spots, especially in long-haired cats. Charlie's undercoat is coming out because he's really scratching those spots.

The best thing to do is take Charlie to the veterinarian. Some itching issues have an external cause and can be

eased pretty quickly. But some chronic conditions and diseases have itching as one symptom, and only your vet can diagnose these.

Make sure to tell the veterinarian where exactly Charlie is scratching the most. The vet, with an assistant holding Charlie still, will check these areas more closely for broken skin, lesions, rash and evidence of fleas. They'll also take skin scrapings and fur samples to see if mites are to blame or if there's a bacterial or yeast infection. Blood samples should be taken to test for underlying medical conditions and/or specific allergies. They may send you home with specimen kits to collect urine and poop and bring them in for analysis, too.

The vet will advise you on whether to use a prescription or over-the-counter medication to ease Charlie's itching. When the tests come back (some may be same-day, others may need to go to a lab), they'll know the best treatment path to take.

Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

* Golf legend Jack Nicklaus earned his nickname, the "Golden Bear," thanks to his size and blond hair. Conveniently, it was also the name of his high school mascot.

* The Statue of Liberty wears a size 879 shoe.

* When Americans moved out of one house and into another in the early 20th century, they would burn all their old dishcloths so that none of the bad energy that had been wiped up in the old house would move with them into their new abode.

* "Horizontal refreshment" was a 19th-century slang term for sex.

* The term "mortician" was invented as part of a PR campaign by the funeral industry, which felt it was more customer-friendly than "undertaker." The term was chosen after a call for ideas in *Embalmer's Monthly*.

* It would take 76 workdays (if you work an eight-hour day) to read every online privacy policy you agree to in an average year.

* Sorry, Scotland: Persians invented bagpipes.

* Walt Disney World is the second-largest buyer of explosives in America, following only the U.S. Department of Defense, but don't worry -- most of them are in the form of fireworks.

* A Canadian police officer named Ward Clapham created a program giving "positive tickets" to people who do good deeds.


* Harriet Tubman was the first woman to lead a U.S. military raid.

* Great white sharks rarely survive in captivity. Experts suspect the electricity in buildings interferes with the animals' electrosensory systems, though that hasn't stopped some aquariums from trying, and failing, to display them.

* Marie Curie remains the only person to earn Nobel Prizes in two different sciences.

* Instead of mowing the lawn, Google rents goats to eat the grass at its headquarters.

Thought for the Day: "A good example has twice the value of good advice." -- Albert Schweitzer
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The Garden Bug

The ghost plant

Monotropa uniflora lacks chlorophyll pigments and appears white. It grows in the decaying debris of dark, dense-growth forests across the Northern Hemisphere. Each stem bears a single delicate flower that hangs downward, which protects its pollen from the rain and lets insect pollinators access it. The clear fluid from its stems has been used to treat eye problems, skin problems, seizures and pain by Native Americans and traditional medicine practitioners. – Brenda Weaver

Source: [medium.com](https://www.medium.com)



by Freddy Groves

Proposed: grants for veteran legal assistance

It's only been proposed at this point, but it's a great idea: The Department of Veterans Affairs is considering handing out grant money to those who can help veterans change their discharge status, ask for a review of records for the purpose of making corrections and give legal help when it comes to accessing VA programs. If it goes through, doors would swing wide open to veterans who've had problems getting all their benefits due to

discharge status.

Those who didn't have an honorable or general discharge can already take advantage of a different ruling that came about in April 2024. With that one, records can be reviewed to see if there's any wiggle room to being able to provide the veteran with what's needed. Targeted veterans in that regulation are those who perhaps had difficulties ("compelling circumstances") due to harassment or assault, struggled with mental or physical health, faced discrimination or experienced anything else that might have caused the behavior that led to the dishonorable or bad conduct discharge. While being approved in this process won't change the discharge status, it can open the door to getting needed benefits. (If you were turned down before, apply again.)

In the last decade, 57,000 veterans with the wrong discharge status were granted eligibility for benefits. The new proposed program will add in the legal help that might be necessary to get through the steps with a military service discharge review board, a board that changes or corrects military records or a determination of characterization of service.

To read the fine print on the proposal, go to the Federal Register at www.federalregister.gov and search for the Oct. 2, 2024, file titled "Legal Services for Veterans-Legal Assistance for Access to VA Programs Grant Program."

If you were in the Reserves, you might or might not be eligible for the legal assistance. To read the specific definitions, scroll down the page noted above to section 81.15 Eligible Individuals.

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Wishing Well®

5	4	3	5	8	5	7	2	3	7	3	6	3
B	S	D	E	A	K	F	Y	I	L	S	B	P
6	4	8	7	4	8	4	8	2	8	2	3	6
U	T	B	O	E	U	P	N	O	D	U	L	S
2	8	2	5	6	8	6	2	8	6	7	8	3
P	A	L	I	I	N	N	A	T	E	W	D	A
6	4	7	6	3	2	6	4	8	2	3	5	4
S	C	E	S	Y	N	T	A	E	A	K	N	R
8	2	6	7	4	6	4	6	7	6	3	2	6
L	C	H	R	E	R	F	I	S	V	I	R	E
8	3	8	6	7	8	7	2	4	8	4	2	5
I	N	G	S	A	H	R	U	U	T	L	I	D
4	7	3	7	3	7	4	2	3	7	3	2	3
L	R	D	I	N	V	Y	S	E	E	S	E	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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1. U.S. STATES: Which is the least populated state?
2. TELEVISION: Which character on "The Office" has a heart attack during a fire drill?
3. HISTORY: Why is Delaware's nickname The Diamond State?
4. LITERATURE: Which children's book features the characters Tweedledee and Tweedledum?
5. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of The Bahamas?
6. MOVIES: What is the name of the villain in "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre"?
7. SCIENCE: Which unit measures food energy?
8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of swimming ducks called?
9. MUSIC: Where does the pop group name The Bee Gees come from?
10. PSYCHOLOGY: What irrational fear is represented in the condition called globophobia?

Answers

1. Wyoming.
2. Stanley.
3. Thomas Jefferson said it was a "jewel" among states because of its strategic location.
4. "Through the Looking-Glass."
5. Nassau.
6. Leatherface.
7. The calorie.
8. A raft or a paddling.
9. The Brothers Gibb.
10. Fear of balloons.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

South Dakota: Prosperous and Free

Over the past several years, South Dakota's economy has consistently been the strongest of any state in the country. We recently received two updates that underscore just how strong our economy continues to be, even with the sluggish economy under the Biden-Harris Administration.

South Dakota once again led the nation in income growth in 2023 according to the Federal Reserve. Additionally, their data shows that we have the second-best growth over the last five years for growth in real median household income. That means our incomes are rising faster than inflation, which isn't the case for many states across the country.

We also received an accolade from the free market Cato Institute, which recognized us as tied for 4th out of all states for fiscal policy. They gave us an A and said the following about South Dakota:

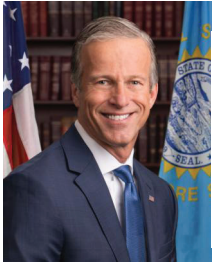
"Kristi Noem of South Dakota has defended her state's low-tax policies since her election in 2018. As one of the freest states in the nation, South Dakota enjoys net domestic in-migration, while most of its neighbors suffer out-migration. Noem cut the general sales tax rate from 4.5 percent to 4.2 percent – a significant reduction, as the state has no income tax and relies heavily on sales taxes. Noem consistently proposes flat budgets."

South Dakota is setting an example for wise fiscal management. We still have a AAA credit rating and one of the only fully-funded pension plans in the country, and we are looking forward to delivering a balanced budget once again in the upcoming legislative session.

Our unemployment rate remains the lowest in the nation at 2.0%, and last year we even broke the record for lowest unemployment rate for a state in American history. Our jobs market remains the strongest in America – Freedom truly Works Here!

Behind all of these statistics are people – South Dakota families who are able to put food on the table, keep a roof over their heads, and grow towards their American Dream.

The rest of the nation could certainly stand to follow South Dakota's example. By getting government out of the way and allowing people to utilize their Freedom in pursuit of the American Dream, we can bring incomes up, costs down, and get the United States of America back to work!



JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

Celebrating South Dakota's Unofficial State Holiday

As the crisp fall temperatures begin to break through, an unmistakable anticipation builds in the air for our state's unofficial holiday. The days and nights get cooler, the leaves change colors, and South Dakotans start counting down the days to the third Saturday in October: the start of pheasant season.

Growing up in Murdo, my family and I always looked forward to getting out in the fields and bagging some roosters. My dad passed this tradition on to us, hunting with us into his nineties. We have proudly passed it down to our kids, and I look forward to sharing this heritage with my grandkids someday, too.

A morning in the field is made better with good bird dogs and good company, and coming together at the end of a long day offers a perfect opportunity to thank God for His many blessings and hopefully enjoy a plate full of pheasant. One of the things I cherish most are these moments with friends and family in our great outdoors.

In food plots, sloughs, and shelterbelts across our state, shouts of "rooster!" can be heard all season as locals and visitors alike take part in our famed pastime. For more than a century since that first hunting season commenced, generations of South Dakotans have taken up the mantle of providing suitable habitat for ringnecks and other wildlife, and it's this spirit of conservation that has sustained our state's proud tradition for so long and made South Dakota the "pheasant capital of the world."

In Washington, I'm working to preserve and modernize the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a historic program that has helped keep our pheasant population bountiful. I've introduced bipartisan legislation to strengthen CRP, and I will continue fighting to support this and other land conservation efforts in the U.S. Senate.

This season, I hope you enjoy some quality time with family and friends, take in the rich beauty of our wonderful state, and, of course, bag a limit of birds. To hunters across South Dakota, here's to a safe and successful hunt.

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Life on the Hill

By Jack Jerde, Washington, D.C. Intern

When I applied to intern in Congressman Dusty Johnson's office in the summer of 2024, I never anticipated receiving the offer to work in D.C. As a bison rancher from rural northwest South Dakota, I'm quite the D.C. outsider, and I wasn't sure what to expect.

Initially, I anticipated that my responsibilities would primarily involve answering phones and logging messages; however, I was asked to complete a multitude of interesting projects. I've written memos, joined meetings, and led tours of the Capitol building, among many other things. It's a very fast-paced and exhilarating environment. I can't think of a day I haven't enjoyed coming to work. I was also pleasantly surprised at how welcoming the staff is. Everyone here is friendly and eager to help with any questions you might have. Building strong relationships and staying engaged has made my time here even more rewarding.

Throughout my internship so far, I've refined my writing and speaking skills while gaining a thorough understanding of the many intricacies of federal government. From the outside, it can be easy to view the federal government as a faceless, monolithic structure that is often criticized for inefficiency and a lack of innovation. However, this experience has shown me the vitality of the people make these institutions run and inspired me to continue seeking to work in public service. In my experience, I found that our institutions are run by surprisingly small teams who work tirelessly and employ significant creativity to serve their constituents back home.

To the aspiring congressional interns out there, embrace the discomfort of not having much expertise at the beginning of the internship. I remember feeling nervous on my first few days. With time, you'll ease into your duties. I'd also encourage you to pursue as many opportunities as possible to talk to the professionals you meet. As an intern, you will learn a lot about the federal government, and the connections you'll make are priceless. Lastly, make the most of every week as if it's your last. It seems like yesterday I was being shown around the office and introducing myself to staff members. The few months you spend as an intern can shape your future in ways you can't imagine.

I would highly recommend this internship to any young person with ambitions to serve in politics. I've made many lifelong friends and have made some amazing memories along the way. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be part of this incredible team. I'm excited to carry forward the lessons I've learned and face the world with renewed passion and purpose.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

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You Break It, You Fix

Every once in a while, I hear or see something that reminds me of my father. He's been gone for over 15 years, but his memory is still fresh in my mind.

His most famous saying, that I remember, was, "It's better to ask for forgiveness than for permission." He lived that to the very end of his life.

Another saying of his was, "You break it, you fix it." He was quite serious about this one, especially when it came to his children. If we ever broke anything, which was quite often, he made us fix it, at least to the best of our ability.

I've been married to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage for over 53 years, and that is one of her savings. "If you break it, you have to fix it."

At first, I assumed she was joking about this. But the first time I broke something, I discovered that she wasn't joking about it at all. I had to fix what I had broken, and I don't quite remember what it was now.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can fix anything and everything. If something is broken, it kicks her in high gear, and she has to find a way to fix it. Usually, she finds a way to fix whatever is broken.

I remember several years ago, the front bumper of my truck was loose. I think one of the bolts had broken, and I didn't quite know what to do. I casually mentioned to her that the front bumper of my truck was broken.

That's all I had to do, and she was out there within 30 minutes, fixing it. I was stunned because I didn't think it was fixable. But she took a big paperclip and put it on the place where the bolt had been broken. It was fixed. It's been fixed for over five years now.

I sit on the other side of the table. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can fix everything and anything, while I can break anything and everything.

There is nothing that I cannot break and have broken down through the years.

That's why The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and Yours Truly have a wonderful marriage. We are partners in the strictest sense of the word. I don't do what she can do, and she surely doesn't do what I can do.

I can break anything, and she can fix anything, which has made our relationship very amenable from the beginning.

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If I had not been so busy in ministry, we could have made a good business out of flipping houses. I know how to handle a checkbook, and she knows how to handle home repairs. We could've made a fortune over the years.

Usually, the wife breaks things, and the husband fixes them. I'm unsure how our relationship developed, but we are the opposite.

I'm not upset at what she can do, and she's not upset about what I can do. Well, most of the time.

She knows all the builder stores in the area. I'm not even sure of the names of these stores, but she knows them and even knows the people who work there. These are only second to the thrift stores in the area.

Last week we were doing something across town, and she mentioned that she needed to stop at one of those building stores to get something for a project she was working on. Of course, I agreed.

As we walked in, I realized that this was my first time in such a store. But as we were walking around, I noticed that she knew everybody, and everybody knew her. She knew exactly where everything in that store was.

A customer happened to stop her and asked if she knew where a certain gadget was. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage told her exactly where to go and recommended a certain brand of that gadget. I had no idea what she was talking about.

I'm not very smart about gadgets and fix-it-up tools, but I am pretty smart about finances.

Once, we went into the bank to do a little business, which I needed there. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage went with me, and as we talked, she had no idea what we were talking about. Finance is not her strong point. I know more about finances than I do about fixing up anything.

It boils down to this: I can break anything, she can fix anything, and I can pay the bill. What more do you need for life to be happy?

After 53 years of marriage, we have come to an understanding of our position. When anything is broken, I'm not allowed to touch it. That is the responsibility of the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. We accept our situation and respect each other's strengths and weaknesses. The motto in our house is simply this: "I break it, she fixes it."

I thought about a Bible verse, James 1:5-6, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed."

I do not base my life on my wisdom, rather on God's wisdom that He gives abundantly to all who believe in Him.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: How are efforts to electrify school buses coming along so that our young people aren't exposed to noxious exhaust fumes?

-- Will Durk, Waterbury, CT

Over 21 million children ride the school bus each day, making student transportation the largest U.S. mass transit system. Some 90 percent of these buses run on diesel, a known carcinogen with serious public health and ecological impacts. Pollution from diesel fumes has been directly linked to increased asthma and reduced cognitive development in children, excessively affecting low-income communities. Says Jessica Keithan, co-founder and director of the Texas Electric School Bus Project, "We're poisoning our kids on the way to school."

Thankfully, advocacy groups across the U.S. have been making great strides in addressing electrification of school buses, from involving underserved communities and educating policymakers to working with school districts on this issue—and prompting action.

The U.S. government has made significant investments to help school districts transition to electric. Through its Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act signed into law in 2021, the Biden-Harris administration created the Clean School Bus Program, a \$5 billion Environmental Protection Agency- (EPA) funded grant program to replace diesel-run buses with zero-tailpipe-emission, electric vehicles. To date, this program has successfully integrated over 12,000 electric buses into school districts nationwide.

In addition to this noteworthy investment, states across the nation have adopted their own laws to replace diesel-fueled school bus fleets with electric. California, New York and Illinois lead the "charge."

There are inherent roadblocks in mass electrification of school buses. More than 800 school districts have at least one electric school bus in service, but many simply don't have the budget available to commit to more. According to the U.S. House of Representatives Majority Staff Report Examining the EPA's Clean School Bus Program, the long-term fuel maintenance savings are barely worth the up-front investment in electric school buses, which cost an estimated \$350,000 per bus, on top investment needed in a charging infrastructure. The EPA program tremendously assists districts, but it's only due to run through 2026 or once the \$5 billion is depleted. Also, the politics behind going electric could reduce funding opportunities depending on who is in the White House next year. "If Trump is elected, the fact is that we would lose this funding," says Leah Stokes, an associate professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

With or without funding, school bus electrification needs to be made more affordable. Shifting from diesel to electric will only happen when leaders at every level understand and rally behind it..



Washington Governor Jay Inslee cut the ribbon for the first electric school bus in his state at Franklin Pierce High School in Tacoma back in June 2019. Credit: Governor Jay Inslee.

of the Texas Electric School Bus Project, "We're poisoning our kids on the way to school."

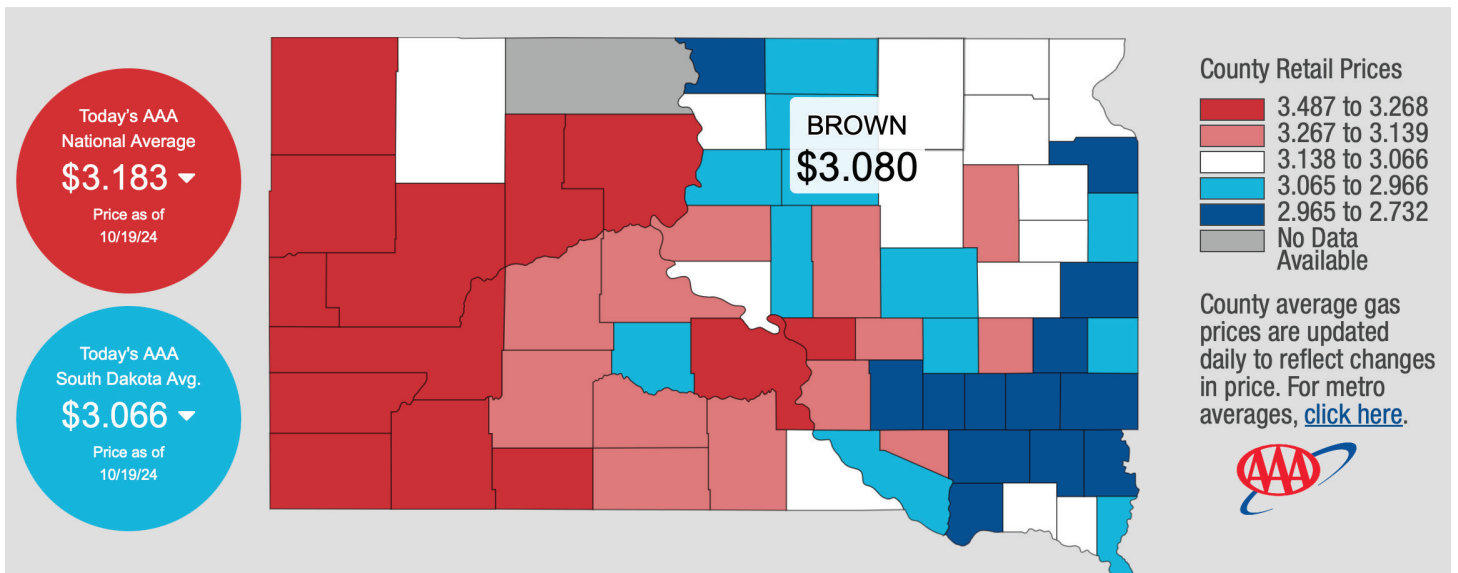
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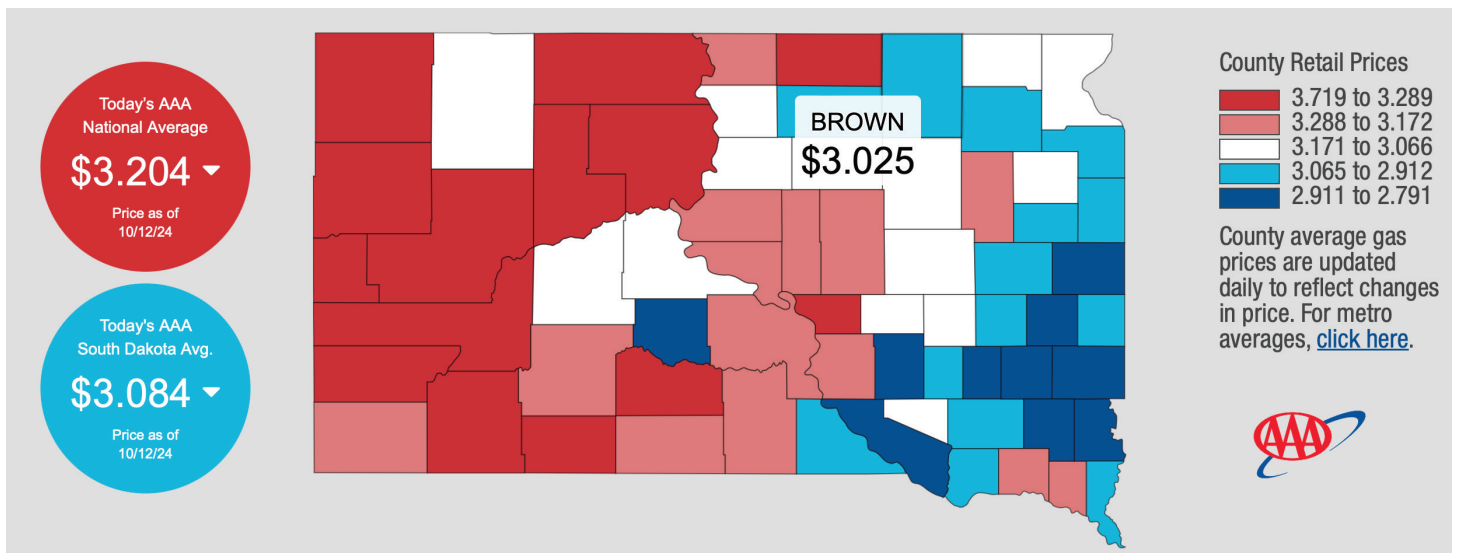
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$3.066	\$3.283	\$3.698	\$3.327
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.078	\$3.284	\$3.701	\$3.322
Week Ago Avg.	\$3.084	\$3.285	\$3.697	\$3.321
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.112	\$3.307	\$3.720	\$3.294
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.571	\$3.760	\$4.220	\$4.359

This Week



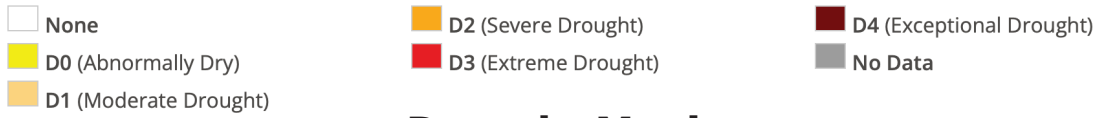
Last Week



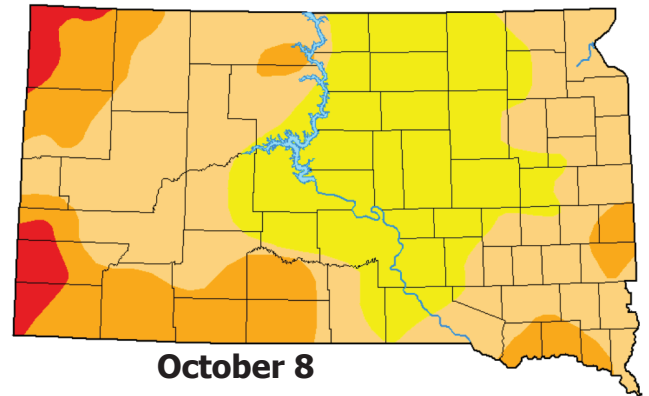
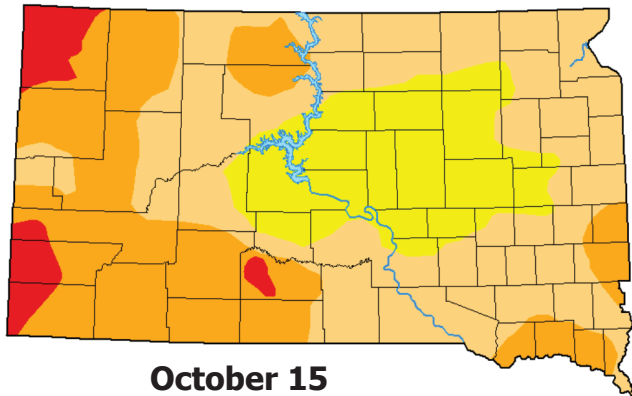
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Drought Classification



Drought Monitor



The dry pattern continued over the High Plains with only a small area of North Dakota recording any precipitation this week. The warm temperatures continued as well with most areas 4-8 degrees above normal and even greater departures of 8-12 degrees above normal in the plains of Wyoming and Colorado and portions of western Nebraska and South Dakota. Degradation took place from North Dakota to Kansas and into the plains of Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. Moderate and severe drought were expanded in North Dakota, mainly in the south and west portions of the state. South Dakota had moderate and severe drought expand in the northern, southern, and western portions of the state and had extreme drought expand in the northwest and a new area in southern portions of the state. Nebraska and Kansas both had severe and moderate drought expand over many areas of the state. Kansas had extreme drought expand in the far southeast. Moderate and severe drought expanded over eastern Colorado and abnormally dry conditions expanded over portions of northeast Colorado and into Wyoming and Nebraska. Eastern Wyo-



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Native American cultural site forgotten in Iowa, preserved in South Dakota

Iowans now pushing state for archive center at Blood Run

BY: CAMI KOONS, IOWA CAPITAL DISPATCH - OCTOBER 19, 2024 9:50 AM

LYON COUNTY, Iowa – In the far northwest corner of Iowa, a mown trail winds among burial mounds and artifacts of the Oneota people, a cultural grouping of Native American nations who lived, farmed and traded along the Big Sioux River for centuries.

Despite the well-documented, significant history of the place, most Iowans would be hard pressed to find the Blood Run National Historic Landmark, or even know it exists.

The site is dotted with large earthen mounds known to hold Oneota remains and artifacts. About 200 of the estimated over 1,000 acres of cultural significance are protected by the state, and marked with brown and yellow signs from the Department of Natural Resources that read, "Removal or disturbance of any cultural resource is prohibited."

But, just beyond the sign and a barbed-wire fence, the same mounds can be seen on private property, under the stubby remains of a just-harvested corn field.

Jim Zangger, who voluntarily mows the paths in the site and is part of a group of Iowans advocating to better preserve Blood Run, looked across the fence on a windy, October afternoon.

"You could probably walk over to that mound right now and find artifacts," Zangger said.

Zangger grew up in the area and has been around the project for years, including the period when then-Gov. Terry Branstad was working with former South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard to establish a bistate park across the Big Sioux River to preserve the site.

South Dakota followed through with its plan and opened Good Earth State Park in 2013. It has a visitor's center with Oneota archives on display and informational displays throughout its trails about the people who lived, traded and farmed on the land just outside of present-day Sioux Falls.

On the Iowa side, visitors might find the trail down a rough gravel road, or a single historical landmark



Some Iowans are pushing to further recognize the Blood Run National Historic Landmark in northwestern Iowa. (Cami

Koons/Iowa Capital Dispatch)

sign, despite years of Lyon County natives pushing for something better.

"We were pretty much just relying on the state to do everything, and the state hasn't done it," Zangger said.

Now, Zangger, other community members, archeologists, tribal nations and history enthusiasts are pushing to establish something more significant on the Iowa site.

History of the site

Oneota refers to a group of tribes who held similar beliefs and followed similar ways of doing things. Oneota culture is often identified by a style of pottery that has shells ground into the clay, according to the State Historical Society of Iowa.

Oneota cultural nations include: Winnebago, Ioway, Oto, Missouri, Omaha, Ponca, Kansa and Osage. Traces of this culture have been found across the Midwest as large, typically unfortified villages, though the Blood Run site is regarded as one of the largest, and one of just a handful with mounds.

It is estimated that occupation at Blood Run began around the year 1500 and swelled to populations as high as 6,000 of primarily Omaha and Ioway people, according to the book, "Blood Run the 'Silent City'" written by archaeologist Dale Henning and Gerry Schnepf, founder of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.

The village was popular for trade between nations. An informational video shown at Good Earth State Park said songs, goods and pipes made of stone from red catlinite found at quarries in Pipestone, Minnesota were commonly traded items.

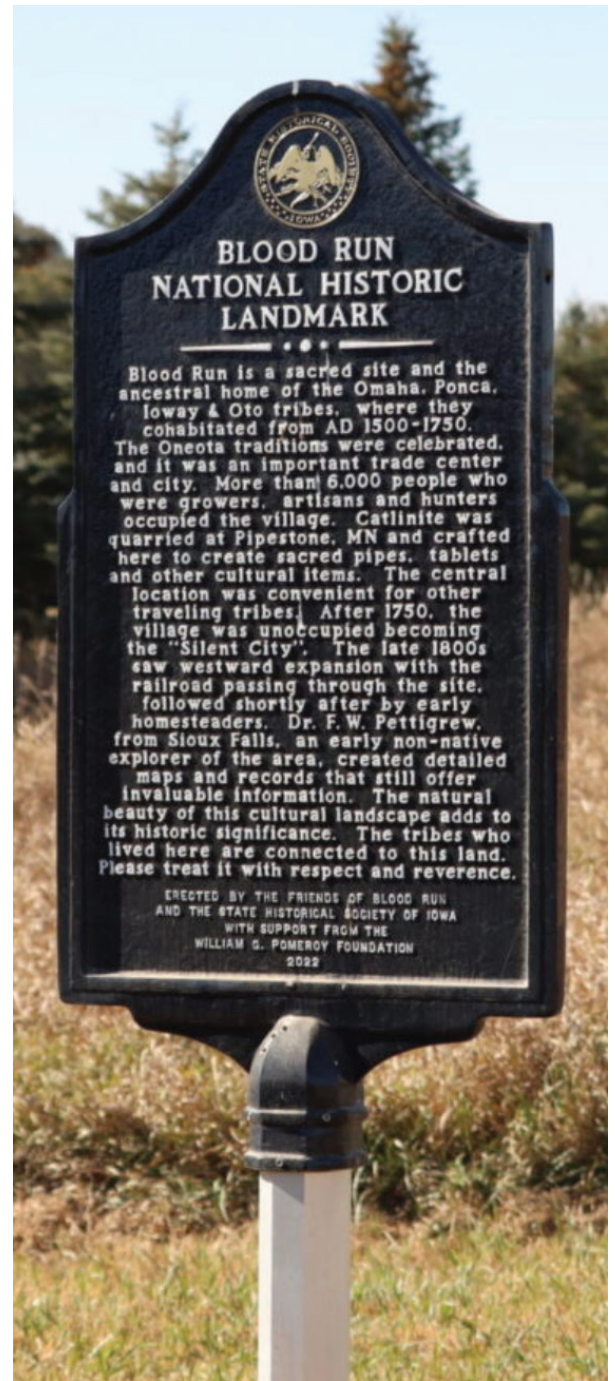
It is believed, according to the book, that pressure from the Sioux caused the village to disband and move further west into South Dakota in the early 1700s.

Published accounts of the site date back as early as 1860, though the most notable account comes from South Dakota's first U.S. senator, Richard Pettigrew. He and his brother mapped out traces of nearly 80 homes nestled between mounds, shortly before many of the stones were removed for quarrying to build the Rock Island Railroad.

"Quarrying over the past century has unearthed many artifacts while destroying considerable archaeological evidence," the State Historical Society of Iowa document reads. "Thousands of artifacts have been dug out and then spread along with gravel over county roads, destroying forever the stories those objects could have told."

There are many mysteries about the people who lived at Blood Run. Historians, tribal leaders and archaeologists are still perplexed by the massive, divot-covered boulders around the site.

Gravel quarrying at Blood Run in the mid-1980s uncovered artifacts which spurred several archaeological digs, and eventually, the State Historical Society purchased around 200 acres of the site in 1987.



A sign describing the Blood Run National Historic Landmark in Lyon County, Iowa, was dedicated in 2022.

(Cami Koons/Iowa Capital Dispatch)

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It had previously been listed as a National Historic Landmark in 1970 and in 2000, the National Park Service conducted a feasibility study, and according to Schnepf, determined it would be suitable for a national park, stretching across the river into both states.

According to Schnepf, this is when the states became more motivated to expand the project and build a bistate park, with the long term goal of gaining national park status.



Former Iowa governor still interested in preserving site

No one is sure why boulders at Blood Run were carved with hundreds of small divots. (Cami Koons/Iowa Capital Dispatch)

Branstad said he was, and remains, very interested in seeing the Blood Run site and the "tremendous" Native American history preserved.

"When I was governor, I actually recommended money to purchase more of that land," Branstad said.

But opposition from local landowners effectively squashed the initiative on the Iowa side, while South Dakota was successful in building Good Earth.

"I give them credit for what they've done, and I'd like to see us do more," Branstad said. "I also understand and respect the viewpoint of the landowners ... I know the importance of preserving farmland, but I also think this is a very significant historical site."

Branstad continues to work with Schnepf on his efforts to recognize the site and the archives of Oneota culture.

Rediscovering the 'Silent City'

The current push, led by Schnepf and the Friends of Blood Run and supported by Branstad, is to build an Oneota Archival and Research Center.

This would help to bring displaced Oneota artifacts from around the country to a central location at Blood Run. Schnepf said it would work "like a bank" that would allow for research, preservation and tribal nations to access certain archives for events.

This solves a problem Zangger mentioned while walking through the site. Without a headquarters, artifacts discovered on the site end up in the archives at the University of Iowa, scattered about at various tribal nation's archival centers, or in a landowner's private collection.

The archive center would also have an agricultural research portion to study and demonstrate the farming techniques of the Oneota nations.

Schnepf presented the project at an October Iowa Natural Resource Commission meeting and asked commissioners what they want their role in this project to be.

"I don't have an answer, I'm just saying we're ready to sit down and talk," Schnepf said.

His presented documents estimate a total project cost of \$9.7 million, raised by both public and private funds. Schnepf additionally has support from nine tribal nations and three casinos.

The ongoing struggle with the site has been finding willing landowners, but Schnepf said the council is in the process of buying a 300-acre tract of land within the National Historic Landmark boundaries of Blood Run.

Commissioner Laura Foell expressed interest in the project at the Oct. 10 meeting and said she planned to make a trip to visit the site. A decision by the commission was not made on the informational item.

In the meantime, folks like Zangger and Steve Simons, both members of Friends of Blood Run, are doing their part to protect and promote the historical and archeological landmarks in their community.

They host community events like an annual race on the trails, regular school visits out to the site and voluntarily maintain the site. It's in their backyards, so it's hard to forget about the assets at Blood Run.

"We're the people that keep the state agencies coordinated and remind them, 'Hey, we're still up here, let's get something done,'" Zangger said.

Cami Koons is an Iowa Capital Dispatch reporter covering agriculture and the environment. She previously worked at publications in Kansas and Missouri, covering rural affairs.

COMMENTARY

Public's prison investment met with problems and secrecy by DANA HESS

The South Dakota Legislature has set aside \$569 million for the creation of a new men's prison in rural Lincoln County. Since construction costs rarely go down, it's safe to say that South Dakota will likely pay even more for what will be the most expensive capital project in state history.

Given the recent spate of unfortunate stories about strife in the prisons, it looks like that system, far from being run by professionals, is under the care of the Keystone Kops.

This year the prison system has been the subject of a series of lockdowns, though no one outside the prison walls, or, it seems, within the prison walls, is sure how many. It has seen criticism about a lack of transparency from citizens who serve on the Corrections Commission. Assertions about a variety of problems in the prison system have led to the formation of a citizen group to investigate those claims and work for change.



A drawing of the planned men's prison in rural Lincoln County. (Courtesy

of Department of Corrections)

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The prisons saw bouts of violence and concerns about contraband, prompting the lockdowns. According to the Department of Corrections, a lockdown at the state penitentiary and its maximum security Jameson Annex turned up "handmade weapons, other items that can be fashioned into or used as weapons and unauthorized electronic equipment."

A 17-day lockdown ended on Oct. 2. Asked by South Dakota Searchlight how many lockdowns have been implemented this year, a DOC spokesman said that the department doesn't track the number or duration of lockdowns. That's quite a convenient policy for a department that's been under scrutiny all year.

While the homemade weapons and other contraband were offered as a justification for the latest lockdown, there has been no indication that anyone in a position of responsibility within the prison system would be held to account for allowing the infractions to happen on their watch.

Members of the Corrections Commission, who by law are tasked with advising the DOC on matters of justice and public safety, have seen their role diminished to just overseeing the spending authority of prison industries. Recent developments at the prisons show that perhaps the commission's advice is needed now more than ever.

The tumultuous year at the prisons prompted the formation of South Dakotans Impacted by Incarceration. The group's first 90-minute public meeting saw members voice concerns about the denial of prescription medications, inedible food, higher prices at the commissary and the lack of support in three important areas: mental health resources, support for reentry into society and access to post-secondary education.

Of course, there are two sides to every story. However, DOC officials have resolutely refused to share their side. Multiple attempts by South Dakota Searchlight to get comments about the prison situations have been met with silence.

DOC Secretary Kellie Wasko told members of the Legislature's Government Operations and Audit Committee that she didn't want to air prison problems at Corrections Commission meetings that are open to the public. Wasko said she'd rather discuss the issues with the legislative committee behind closed doors.

Some lawmakers have already said they would offer legislation in the next session to bolster the role of the Corrections Commission and create a citizens' commission to address the concerns of inmates, family members and members of the communities where incarcerated individuals are released.

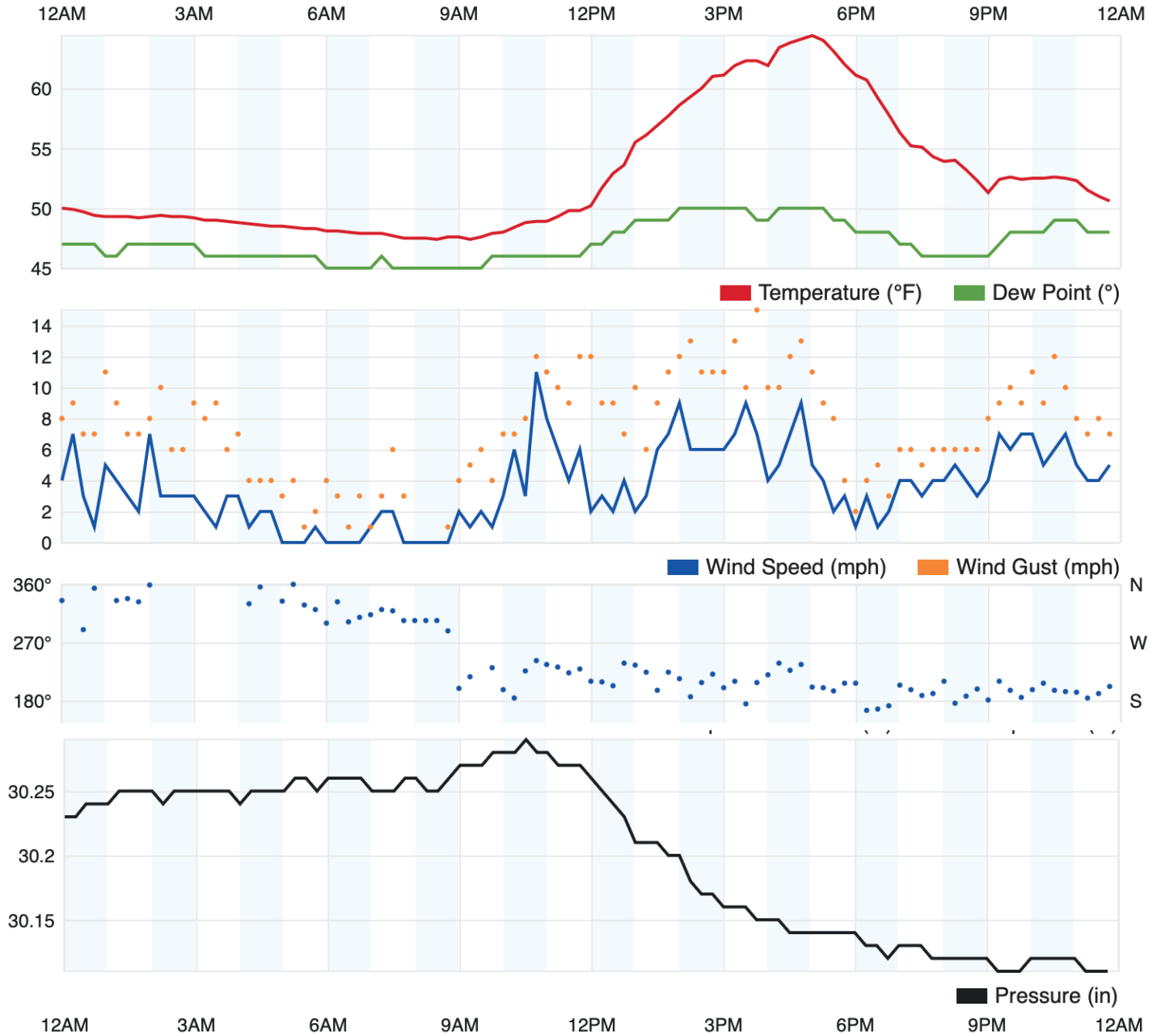
While those sound like worthwhile endeavors, lawmakers should consider another issue. Given the lockdowns, violence, upheaval and lack of transparency in the prison system this year, lawmakers need to decide if this DOC leadership team is really the right group to be handed more than half a billion dollars in taxpayer funding to build a new prison.

Dana Hess spent more than 25 years in South Dakota journalism, editing newspapers in Redfield, Milbank and Pierre. He's retired and lives in Brookings, working occasionally as a freelance writer.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



High: 77 °F

Patchy Fog
then Sunny

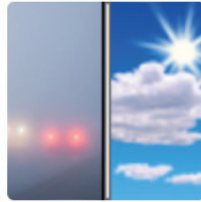
Tonight



Low: 50 °F

Mostly Clear
then Patchy
Fog

Monday



High: 78 °F

Patchy Fog
then Mostly
Sunny

Monday Night



Low: 51 °F

Decreasing
Clouds

Tuesday



High: 68 °F

Sunny



Today



Highs: 74-78 °F

Lows: 45-56 °F

Monday



Highs: 74-81 °F

Lows: 45-56 °F



Above average temperatures are expected the next couple days with highs in the 70s to around 80. Expect some increasing clouds Monday afternoon.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 64 °F at 4:59 PM

Low Temp: 47 °F at 7:57 AM

Wind: 15 mph at 3:41 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 10 hours, 44 minutes (lost 21 minutes since last Sunday)

Today's Info

Record High: 87 in 1947

Record Low: 12 in 1930

Average High: 57

Average Low: 31

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.51

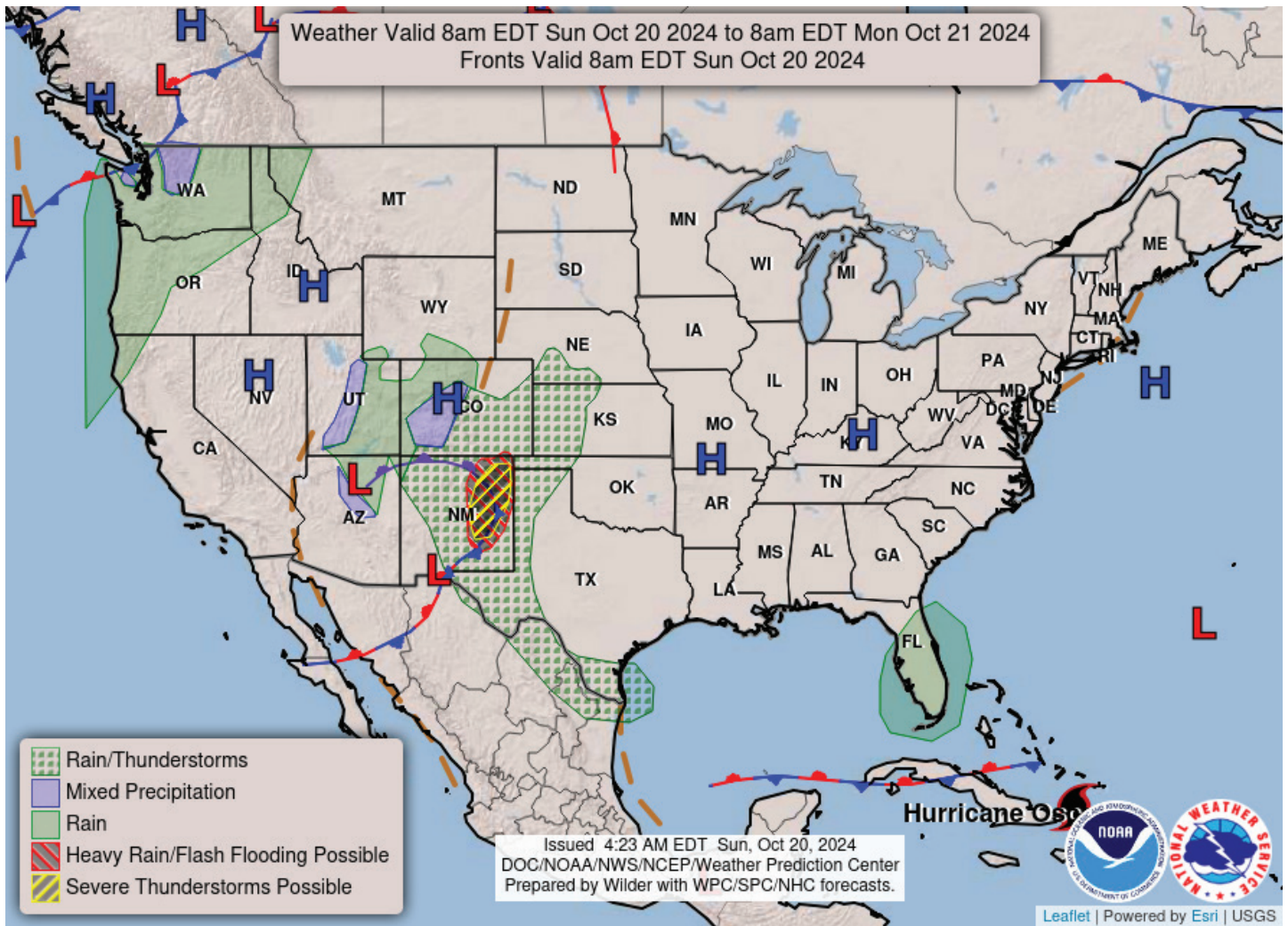
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.02

Average Precip to date: 19.84

Precip Year to Date: 19.77

Sunset Tonight: 6:39:13 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:56:13 am



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Today in Weather History

October 20, 1936: Heavy snow across the region brought snowfall totals upwards of 5 inches in Newcastle and Sundance with 5.5 inches reported in Dupree and 10 inches in Faith. Aberdeen saw 2 inches, while Mobridge had three inches from this event.

1770: An exceedingly great storm struck eastern New England causing extensive coastal damage from Massachusetts to Maine, and the highest tide in 47 years.

1956: While not a record, Esperanza Base in Antarctic warmed to 57.2 degrees on this date. The all-time warmest day at this base occurred on March 24, 2015, when the temperature reached 63.5 degrees. As of now, the 63.5 degrees has not been verified to be the warmest temperature recorded on the continent of Antarctica.

1983: Remnants of Pacific Hurricane Tico caused extensive flooding in central and south central Oklahoma. Oklahoma City set daily rainfall records with 1.45 inch on the 19th, and 6.28 inches on the 20th.

1987 - Cold arctic air invaded the Upper Midwest, and squalls in the Lake Superior snowbelt produced heavy snow in eastern Ashland County and northern Iron County of Wisconsin. Totals ranged up to 18 inches at Mellen. In the western U.S., the record high of 69 degrees at Seattle WA was their twenty-fifth of the year, their highest number of record highs for any given year. Bakersfield CA reported a record 146 days in a row with daily highs 80 degrees or above. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Unseasonably warm weather continued in the western U.S. In California, afternoon highs of 96 degrees at Redding and Red Bluff were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Forty-nine cities reported record low temperatures for the date as readings dipped into the 20s and 30s across much of the south central and southeastern U.S. Lows of 32 degrees at Lake Charles LA and 42 degrees at Lakeland FL were records for October, and Little Rock AR reported their earliest freeze of record. Snow blanketed the higher elevations of Georgia and the Carolinas. Melbourne FL dipped to 47 degrees shortly before midnight to surpass the record low established that morning. Showers and thunderstorms brought heavy rain to parts of the northeastern U.S. Autumn leaves on the ground clogged drains and ditches causing flooding. Up to 4.10 inches of rain soaked southern Vermont in three days. Flood waters washed 600 feet of railroad track, resulting in a train derailment. (The National Weather Summary)(Storm Data)

2004: Typhoon Tokage blasting across Japan triggers flash floods that wash away entire hillsides, killing 55 people and leaving at least 24 people missing.



WHERE AM I GOING?

A well-respected theologian was leaving London for a lecture series in another city. As he sat looking out the window, the conductor asked for his ticket.

Searching frantically through his pockets, he discovered that he had lost it.

Wanting to be helpful, the conductor said, "It's alright. Don't worry."

"No, it's not alright," said the theologian. "I don't know where I'm going."

Many have the same problem. They start on life's journey not knowing where they are going or where or when it will end. In fact, a dear friend once said to me, "If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there." He realized I was without a plan.

Not David. He knew where to find directions. In Psalm 25 he said, "Show me the path I should walk, O Lord, point out the right road for me to follow."

With all of his knowledge and wisdom, success and power, David still waited on the Lord for direction. He constantly looked to God for guidance no matter where he was or what he was doing. How wise!

If it was important for David to do this, how much more so for us. When he realized that he needed God's guidance, he would discovered it by meditating on His Word, going to Him in prayer and listening for His voice. Instead of demanding answers, he waited for His directions.

Prayer: We pray, Father, that we will patiently look to You to lead us, guide us, and guard us in paths of righteousness for Your sake and our success! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Psalm 25:1-5

We all need the encouragement, comfort, and peace that comes through God's grace. Our daily devotionals, known as Seeds of Hope, have been a means through which thousands of people have experienced this grace. Each devotional comes from God's Word and we pray this good "seed" finds good soil in your heart. Our aim is that the Seeds of Hope will be a great source of daily encouragement to you and that God will use them to draw you near to Him

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.18.24

4 9 26 39 58 23

MegaPlier: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$205,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.19.24

3 10 28 34 47 4

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$12,190,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.19.24

10 14 24 45 46 9

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 50 Mins
12 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.19.24

3 6 14 27 34

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$68,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.19.24

19 39 53 57 68 16

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
10.19.24

7 16 19 45 64 25

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$456,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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Upcoming Groton Events

- 07/04/2024 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/09/2024 FREE SNAP Application Assistance 1-6pm at the Community Center
- 07/14/2024 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
- 07/17/2024 Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar at the Groton Legion 11am-1pm
- 07/17/2024 Pro Am Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/25/2024 Dairy Queen Miracle Treat Day
- 07/25/2024 Summer Downtown Sip & Shop 5-8pm
- 07/25/2024 Treasures Amidst The Trials 6pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church
- 07/26/2024 Ferney Open Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Start
- 07/27/2024 1st Annual Celebration in the Park 1-9:30pm
- 08/05/2024 School Supply Drive 4-7pm at the Community Center
- Cancelled:** Wine on 9 at Olive Grove Golf Course 6pm
- 08/08/2024 Family Fun Fest 5:30-7:30pm
- 08/9-11/2024 Jr. Legion State Baseball Tournament
- 08/12/2024 Vitalant Blood Drive at the Community Center 1:15-7pm
- 09/07/2024 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 09/07-08/2024 Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport
- 09/08/2024 Sunflower Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10am
- 10/05/2024 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
- 10/11/2024 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
- 10/31/2024 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
- 10/31/2024 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
- 11/16/2024 Groton American Legion "Turkey Raffle" 6:30-11:30pm
- 11/28/2024 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm
- 12/01/2024 Groton Snow Queen Contest, 4:30 p.m.
- 12/07/2024 Olive Grove 8th Annual Holiday Party with Live & Silent Auctions 6pm-close
- 04/12/2025 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt at the City Park 10am Sharp
- 05/03/2025 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 05/26/2025 Memorial Day Services Groton Union Cemetery with lunch at Legion Post #39, 12pm
- 07/04/2025 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/09/2025 Legion Auxiliary Salad Luncheon
- 07/13/2025 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
- 09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
- 11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm

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News from the **AP** Associated Press

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Hot Springs, 25-12, 25-15

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Langford, 25-12, 25-9

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Philip, 25-12, 25-15

Bishop Heelan Catholic, Sioux City, Iowa def. Sioux Falls Jefferson, 21-10, 21-17

Brandon Valley def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-21, 20-25, 21-25, 25-14, 15-7

Bridgewater-Emery def. Scotland, 25-16, 25-12

Bridgewater-Emery def. Viborg-Hurley, 26-24, 25-16

Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-17, 26-24

Canton def. Sioux Falls Christian, 25-18, 25-18

Dakota Valley def. Dell Rapids, 25-20, 25-18

Dell Rapids def. Canton, 25-13, 25-16

Dell Rapids def. Tri-Valley, 25-20, 25-14

Elk Point-Jefferson def. Canton, 25-16, 22-25, 25-16

Elk Point-Jefferson def. Madison, 25-18, 25-21

Faith def. New Underwood, 25-14, 25-10

Faith def. Wall, 25-17, 21-25, 25-14

Kadoka def. Bison, 25-5, 25-3

Kadoka def. Lemmon High School, 25-14, 25-8

Kadoka def. Pine Ridge, 25-10, 25-4

Langford def. Philip, 25-23, 25-18

Oelrichs def. Wakpala, 2-0

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Rapid City Central, 25-15, 25-18, 25-7

Sioux Falls Washington def. Sioux Center, Iowa, 25-18, 25-19

Tripp-Delmont-Armour def. Colome, 25-23, 25-7

Tripp-Delmont-Armour def. Scotland, 19-25, 25-14, 25-23

Viborg-Hurley def. Tripp-Delmont-Armour, 25-23, 20-25, 25-20

Viborg-Hurley def. Wessington Springs, 27-29, 25-23, 25-19

Wall def. Jones County, 25-21, 16-25, 25-21

Wall def. New Underwood, 25-16, 25-19

Dakota Valley Conference Tournament=

First Round=

Castlewood def. Dell Rapids St Mary, 25-20, 25-15

Colman-Egan def. Deubrook, 25-10, 25-20

Second Round=

Colman-Egan def. Dell Rapids St Mary, 25-14, 25-21

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Deubrook, 25-20, 21-25, 25-21

Third Round=

Colman-Egan def. Castlewood, 25-16, 22-25, 25-18

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Dell Rapids St Mary, 25-23, 25-23

Fourth Round=

Deubrook def. Dell Rapids St Mary, 12-25, 25-18, 25-22

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Castlewood, 27-25, 25-21

Third Place=

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Castlewood def. Deubrook, 25-22, 25-21
Championship=
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Colman-Egan, 25-21, 25-23
DeSmet Dakota Valley Conference Tournament=
Arlington def. Estelline-Hendricks, 16-25, 25-16, 25-13
DeSmet def. Arlington, 25-17, 25-23
DeSmet def. Iroquois-Lake Preston, 25-19, 25-12
DeSmet def. Oldham-Ramona-Rutland, 25-15, 25-15
Estelline-Hendricks def. DeSmet, 25-21, 26-24
Estelline-Hendricks def. Iroquois-Lake Preston, 25-15, 25-23
Estelline-Hendricks def. Oldham-Ramona-Rutland, 25-17, 25-15
Miller Invitational=
Miller def. Dupree, 25-8, 25-4
Miller def. Hot Springs, 25-16, 25-17
Championship=
Miller def. Aberdeen Roncalli, 25-17, 25-19
Panhandle Conference Tournament=
Edgemont def. Hyannis, Neb., 25-18, 25-16
Semifinal=
Edgemont def. Crawford, Neb., 25-18, 25-19
Third Place=
Edgemont def. Morrill, Neb., 25-14, 25-21
Redfield Pheasants Classic=
Pool A=
Potter County def. Aberdeen Christian, 21-25, 25-20, 25-22
Potter County def. Redfield, 17-25, 25-22, 27-25
Redfield def. Aberdeen Christian, 21-25, 25-11, 25-19
Pool B=
Florence-Henry def. Timber Lake, 23-25, 25-18, 25-19
Warner def. Florence-Henry, 25-9, 25-10
Warner def. Timber Lake, 25-11, 25-8
Tournament Play=
Aberdeen Christian def. Timber Lake, 25-23, 25-10, 25-18
Redfield def. Florence-Henry, 25-22, 25-20, 25-19
Warner def. Potter County, 25-10, 25-11, 25-8

Some high school volleyball scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press
PREP FOOTBALL=
Clark-Willow Lake 18, Webster 6
Crazy Horse 50, McLaughlin 0

Some high school football scores provided by Scorestream.com, <https://scorestream.com/>

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Pierre runs for 153 yards, 2 TDs; South Dakota gets first road win against Youngstown State, 27-17

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio (AP) — Charles Pierre Jr. ran for two touchdowns and a career-best 153 yards, and South Dakota beat Youngstown State 27-17 on Saturday night for its first win at the Penguins' Stambaugh Stadium.

South Dakota (6-1, 4-0) entered 0-6 on the road against Youngstown State (2-6, 1-6). The Coyotes, ranked fourth in the FCS coaches poll, shut out the Penguins in the second half and have won five straight.

Beau Brungard threw a 15-yard touchdown pass to Brandan Serrano in the first quarter, and he ran for an 11-yard score early in the second to give the Penguins a 14-0 lead.

The 'Yotes answered with Aidan Bouman's 48-yard touchdown pass to Quaron Adams. Pierre's 21-yard TD run tied it 14-all. Andrew Lastovka's 39-yard field goal just before halftime gave the Penguins a 17-14 lead.

Pierre broke loose on a 50-yard touchdown run with 5:10 remaining in the third quarter. Pierre finished with 21 carries to match his career high.

Will Leyland kicked field goals from 23 and 35 yards in the second half for the 'Yotes while Lastovka missed from 51 and 47 yards.

Bouman was 12-of-18 passing for 223 yards.

Brungard completed 22 of 31 passes for 208 yards and added 69 yards on the ground on 16 carries.

Israeli strikes on northern Gaza leave at least 87 dead or missing, Palestinian officials say

By WAFSA SHURAFU and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli strikes on multiple homes in the northern Gaza Strip overnight and into Sunday left at least 87 people dead or missing, the territory's Health Ministry said.

It said another 40 people were wounded in the strikes on the town of Beit Lahiya, which was among the first targets of Israel's ground invasion nearly a year ago.

Israel has been carrying out a large-scale operation in northern Gaza for the last two weeks, saying Hamas has regrouped there. Palestinian officials say hundreds of people have been killed and that the health sector in the north is on the verge of collapse.

The United States is meanwhile investigating an unauthorized release of classified documents that assess Israel's plans to attack Iran, according to three U.S. officials. A fourth U.S. official said the documents appear to be legitimate.

The documents, attributed to the U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency and marked top secret, indicate that Israel was moving military assets in place to conduct a military strike in response to Iran's ballistic missile attack on Oct. 1.

The U.S. officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

The U.S. is urging Israel to press for a cease-fire in Gaza following the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar last week. But neither Israel nor Hamas has shown any renewed interest in such a deal, after months of negotiations sputtered to a halt in August.

US urges Israel to scale back Lebanon strikes

Iran supports Hamas and the Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon, where a year of escalating tensions boiled over into all-out war last month. Israel sent ground troops into Lebanon at the start of October.

On Saturday, a drone targeted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's house, causing no casualties, as part of a barrage of incoming projectiles across the country's northern border. It wasn't clear if the house was hit.

Israel has meanwhile ramped up strikes on southern neighborhoods of Beirut known as the Dahiyeh, a crowded residential area. Hezbollah has a strong presence there, but it is also home to large numbers of civilians and people unaffiliated with the militant group.

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U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, has called civilian casualties in Lebanon “far too high” in the Israel-Hezbollah war and urged Israel to scale back some strikes, especially in and around Beirut.

Medics warn of a catastrophic situation in Gaza

Among the dead from the strikes in Beit Lahiya were two parents and their four children, and a woman, her son and her daughter-law and their four children, according to Raheem Kheder, a medic. He said the strike flattened a multi-story building and at least four neighboring houses.

There was no immediate comment on the strikes from the Israeli military.

Mounir al-Bursh, director general of the Health Ministry, said the flood of wounded from the strikes compounded “an already catastrophic situation for the health care system” in northern Gaza, in a post on X.

Doctors Without Borders, the international charity known by its French acronym MSF, called on Israeli forces “to immediately stop their attacks on hospitals in North Gaza” after the Health Ministry said Israeli troops had fired on two hospitals over the weekend.

The military said it was operating near one of the hospitals but had not fired directly at it, and that it was looking into the other incident.

“The ever-worsening escalation of violence and non-stop Israeli military operations that we have been witnessing over the past two weeks in northern Gaza have horrifying consequences,” said Anna Halford, an emergency coordinator for MSF.

“When hospitals are attacked, their infrastructure destroyed, and the electricity cut off, the lives of patients and medical staff are under threat.”

Internet connectivity went down in northern Gaza late Saturday and had not yet been restored by mid-day Sunday, making it difficult to gather information about the strikes and complicating rescue efforts.

Large Israeli operation in northern Gaza enters third week

Israel has been carrying out a major operation in Jabaliya, also in northern Gaza, for the last two weeks. The military says it launched the operation against Hamas militants who had regrouped there.

Over the course of the war, Israeli forces have repeatedly returned to Jabaliya, a densely populated urban refugee camp dating back to the 1948 war surrounding Israel’s creation.

The north has already suffered the heaviest destruction of the war, and has been encircled by Israeli forces since late last year, following the deadly Hamas’ attack on Israel.

Israel ordered the entire population of the northern third of Gaza, including Gaza City, to evacuate to the south in the opening weeks of the war and reiterated those instructions earlier this month. Most of the population fled last year, but around 400,000 people are believed to have remained in the north.

Palestinians who fled the north at the start of the war have not been allowed to return.

On Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led militants blew holes in Israel’s security fence and stormed in, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. Around 100 captives are still being held in Gaza, a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Israel’s offensive in Gaza has killed over 42,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, who do not distinguish combatants from civilians. The war has destroyed large areas of Gaza and displaced about 90% of its population of 2.3 million people.

Juan Soto’s 3-run homer in 10th sends Yankees past Guardians 5-2 and into World Series for 41st time

By TOM WITHERS AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Juan Soto was supposed to be the difference maker, the one who pushed the New York Yankees back to the top.

They’re one step away.

Soto hit a three-run homer with two outs in the 10th inning and the Yankees advanced to their 41st World Series — and first in 15 years — by beating the Cleveland Guardians 5-2 in Game 5 of the AL Championship Series on Saturday night.

Baseball’s biggest brand is going back to October’s main stage.

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Soto, who was acquired in a seven-player trade from San Diego in December, pushed the Bronx Bombers into position with one big swing.

This was why he came, for this moment and for so many more.

"Obviously he put up an amazing season statistically speaking, but in the biggest moments, that's what he does," said Yankees manager Aaron Boone. "And it shouldn't be taken for granted."

The Yankees, who missed the playoffs a year ago, will try to win their 28th title against either the New York Mets or Los Angeles Dodgers. Game 6 of the NL Championship Series is on Sunday at Dodger Stadium.

With the score tied 2-2 in the third consecutive tight game in three nights at Progressive Field, Austin Wells walked with one out in the 10th and Alex Verdugo followed with a grounder to Guardians second baseman Andrés Giménez, whose soft toss to the bag was dropped by rookie shortstop Brayan Rocchio for an error.

Hunter Gaddis struck out Gleyber Torres and had Soto in a 1-2 count before New York's stylish outfielder, who fouled off four pitches, sent a towering shot over the wall in center."

"Just an at-bat for the ages," Boone said.

Soto danced down the first-base line and paused to celebrate with his teammates before circling the bases.

"I was just saying to myself, 'You're all over that guy. You're all over that guy. He ain't got anything,'" said Soto, who moved alongside Boone as the only New York players to homer in an extra-inning, series-clinching win.

Luke Weaver got the final three outs with Lane Thomas flying out to right field for the last one, which was caught by Soto — naturally.

When he got to New York, there were those who wondered how he would fit in. Could he handle the searing spotlight of playing in the Big Apple where every game is dissected like a season? Could he co-exist alongside Aaron Judge?

Not only has Soto fit in. He's led the charge.

"He's just easy to be around," Boone said. "You bring a superstar player in, how is he going to look? What's he going to be like? He's just one of the guys. That's been rewarding to see, man, I don't have to go out of my way to worry about him. He's good. I feel like I've developed a great relationship with him, but he's one of the guys."

The 25-year-old Soto is eligible for free agency this winter, and Yankees fans chanted "Re-sign Soto!" during the postgame festivities. He's expected to get a contract upwards of \$600 million, and his heroics in Game 5 may have raised his price.

"I think we should re-sign Soto," said third baseman Jazz Chisolm Jr. "\$700 million, final offer!"

Giancarlo Stanton hit a two-run homer and was named ALCS MVP as the Yankees took care of the Guardians in five games. It wasn't easy.

New York won the first two at Yankee Stadium without much fanfare or any major drama. However, it was a different story in Cleveland as all three games at Progressive Field were nail-biters.

The Guardians rallied to win Game 3 on two, two-run homers in their last two at-bats, and the Yankees held on to win Game 4 after blowing a four-run lead.

"This was a rollercoaster and we were able to just keep punching back," Stanton said. "We know there's much more work to do and it's only uphill from here and we got to get it done."

Cleveland just didn't have enough and a surprising season under first-year manager Stephen Vogt ended just short of a World Series. The franchise remains without a title since 1948, baseball's current longest drought.

"There's only one team that gets to win the last game of the year, and unfortunately it's not going to be us," Vogt said. "But we accomplished a lot as a group. We got better. We worked extremely hard. I couldn't be more proud of this group. We just didn't get quite as far as we wanted to."

The Yankees are back in the World Series, back where their fans expect them to be every year.

The club's 82-80, fourth-place finish in the AL East last season led to some "soul searching as an organization" during the winter, according to Boone, who has been widely criticized but is one of just three

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managers to take New York to playoffs in six of his first seven seasons.

While the team's core stayed mostly intact, getting Soto in a blockbuster trade on Dec. 7 — New York sent five players to San Diego for the three-time All-Star — accelerated the team returning to title contender.

"That was a good day," Boone said with a laugh before the game.

Stanton's 446-foot rocket into the left-field bleachers tied it at 2 in the sixth and chased Tanner Bibee, who had struck out New York's dangerous DH in his first two at-bats and held the Yankees scoreless for the first five innings.

It was Stanton's fourth homer in this series — his third in three days — and his 16th in the postseason, moving him into fourth place on the club's career list behind Bernie Williams (22), Derek Jeter (20) and Mickey Mantle (18).

"That's as good a swing that you can put on a ball," Boone said.

For Boone, who is from one of baseball's royal families, finally eased the pressure after falling short of expectations. It took seven years, but he's finally got the Yankees back where they belong.

"We've had some great groups, some great camaraderie, some great clubhouses," Boone said. "This group is as close as I've ever seen, and they trust each other. They lean on each other. They love each other. They play for each other."

Like Soto, Chisolm was an outsider before joining the Yankees in a July trade from Miami. But from the moment he arrived, he knew he joined something special.

"I thought I was just going to come to baseball team," he said. "But came into a family."

TRAINER'S ROOM

Yankees: LHP Nestor Cortes (elbow strain) had another successful live batting practice session. The reliever remains on track to join the Yankees on their World Series roster. Boone said Cortes would throw again early next week. Cortes went 9-10 with a 3.77 ERA in 30 starts.

Trump kicks off a Pennsylvania rally by talking about Arnold Palmer's genitalia

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

LATROBE, Pa. (AP) — Donald Trump's campaign suggested he would begin previewing his closing argument Saturday night with Election Day barely two weeks away. But the former president kicked off his rally with a detailed story about Arnold Palmer, at one point even praising the late, legendary golfer's genitalia.

Trump was campaigning in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, where Palmer was born in 1929 and learned to golf from his father, who suffered from polio and was head pro and greenskeeper at the local country club.

Politicians saluting Palmer in his hometown is nothing new. But Trump spent 12 full minutes doing so at the top of his speech and even suggested how much more fun the night would be if Palmer, who died in 2016, could join him on stage.

"Arnold Palmer was all man, and I say that in all due respect to women," Trump said. "This is a guy that was all man."

Then he went even further.

"When he took the showers with other pros, they came out of there. They said, 'Oh my God. That's unbelievable,'" Trump said with a laugh. "I had to say. We have women that are highly sophisticated here, but they used to look at Arnold as a man."

Trump senior adviser Jason Miller told reporters before the speech that Trump planned to preview his closing argument against Vice President Kamala Harris and "start to get into that framing." Candidates have traditionally used their final days on the campaign trail to sum up for the electorate why they deserve to win the White House.

Trump eventually hit many of his favorite campaign themes but didn't offer much in the way of new framing of the race or why he should win it. He instead boasted of creating strong tax policies and a strong military during his first term in office.

He slammed Harris as "crazy" and added a profanity.

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"You have to tell Kamala Harris that you've had enough, that you just can't take it anymore, we can't stand you anymore, you're a s— vice president," Trump said to roars of the crowd. "The worst. You're the worst vice president. Kamala, you're fired. Get the hell out of here."

He also criticized Harris for suggesting during her unsuccessful run for president in 2020 that she'd support a ban on hydraulic fracking, which is important to Pennsylvania's economy and a position Harris' campaign says she no longer supports.

Trump invited on stage members of a local steelworkers union that endorsed him. He donned a construction hat with his name on it.

He also said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called him amid Israeli's ongoing war with Hamas in Gaza.

"He said, 'It's incredible what's happened,'" Trump said of the Netanyahu call before moving to a criticism of President Joe Biden, saying that the Israeli prime minister "wouldn't listen to Biden."

Trump praised the raucous crowd, which was outside and at an airport, but also made a point of suggesting that there was more conspicuous security around him following two assassination attempts, saying, "They give you a little extra security nowadays, you notice?"

"I got more machine guns than I've ever seen -- look at these guys," he said referring to security. He was interrupted by cries from the crowd of "USA! USA!" before continuing, "We've got more guys, and every one of them is like central casting too, holy s—."

Then he tied it back to Latrobe's native son, adding, "They look like Arnold. Can't look better than Arnold."

The US is investigating an unauthorized release of classified documents on Israel's attack plans

By ZEKE MILLER, MIKE BALSAMO, ERIC TUCKER and TARA COPP Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is investigating an unauthorized release of classified documents that assess Israel's plans to attack Iran, three U.S. officials told The Associated Press. A fourth U.S. official said the documents appear to be legitimate.

The documents are attributed to the U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency, and note that Israel was still moving military assets in place to conduct a military strike in response to Iran's blistering ballistic missile attack on Oct. 1. They were sharable within the "Five Eyes," which are the U.S., Great Britain, Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

The documents, which are marked top secret, were posted to the Telegram messaging app and first reported by CNN and Axios. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

The investigation is also examining how the documents were obtained — including whether it was an intentional leak by a member of the U.S. intelligence community or obtained by another method, like a hack — and whether any other intelligence information was compromised, one of the officials said. As part of that investigation, officials are working to determine who had access to the documents before they were posted, the official said.

The U.S. has urged Israel to take advantage of its elimination of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar and press for a cease-fire in Gaza, and has likewise urgently cautioned Israel not to further expand military operations in the north in Lebanon and risk a wider regional war. However, Israel's leadership has repeatedly stressed it will not let Iran's missile attack go unanswered.

In a statement, the Pentagon said it was aware of the reports of the documents but did not have further comment.

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment over the leak of the two documents.

The documents first appeared online Friday via a channel on Telegram, claiming they had been leaked by someone in the U.S. intelligence community, then later the U.S. Defense Department. The information appeared entirely gathered through the use of satellite image analysis.

One of the two documents resembled the style of other material from the U.S. National Geospatial Intelligence Agency leaked by Jack Teixeira, an Air National Guardsman who pleaded guilty in March to leaking highly classified military documents about Russia's war on Ukraine and other national security secrets.

The Telegram channel involved in the leak identifies itself as being based in Tehran, Iran's capital. It previously published memes featuring Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and material in support of Tehran's self-described "Axis of Resistance," which includes Middle East militant groups armed by the Islamic Republic.

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame turns up stardom to induct Cher, Foreigner, Mary J. Blige, Ozzy and more

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Hollywood stars Julia Roberts and Zendaya bookended Saturday's inductions into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, giving a little stardom to an eclectic lineup that included pop icon Cher, heavy metal's Ozzy Osbourne, hip-hop soul queen Mary J. Blige, soft rockers Foreigner and 83-year-old soul icon Dionne Warwick.

It was a five-hour-plus show that also honored hip-hop trailblazers A Tribe Called Quest, punk pioneers the MC5, the effortless dance music of Kool & the Gang, the soft rock of Foreigner, the beach bum tunes of Jimmy Buffett and the jam band fusion of Dave Matthews Band.

Dua Lipa opened the show singing Cher's "Believe" before the 78-year-old icon joined her onstage, giving way to Zendaya who noted that Cher is the only woman to have a No. 1 hit on a Billboard chart in each of the past seven decades. "Cher has got the goods," Zendaya said before Cher performed a rocking version of "If I Could Turn Back Time."

In her speech, Cher thanked her mother for instilling in her to always get back up after defeat. "I never give up," she said. "I'm talking to the women — down and out, we keep going."

Roberts helped induct Dave Matthews Band — she's a self-avowed superfan and she appeared in the band's video for the 2005 single, "Dreamgirl." Roberts, wearing a band T-shirt, said the appeal of the group is "spontaneous abandon," adding the first time she danced with her husband was to one of their songs.

The jam band, with their mix of funk, folk-rock, jazz, blues and pop, then played "Ants Marching" — asking the crowd to sing the chorus — "Crash" and "So Much to Say." The arena was still full when they hit the stage after midnight, with the crowd singing along and swaying.

Matthews hugged Roberts, handed out the trophies to his bandmates, and called the class of 2024 impressive. "We're swimming in very deep water here," he said. He thanked the current and former band members and the bar owner who gave them a home in Charlottesville, Virginia. When he thanked the fans, they roared back.

Dr Dre inducted Blige, who is credited with creating a completely new category of music — hip-hop soul. The nine-time Grammy-winner's best-known song is "Family Affair" from her triple-platinum 2001 album "No More Drama." "When you listen to Mary, you understand you're not alone in heartbreak," Dre said.

Blige, wearing shiny black hat, a sparkly dress and long black gloves and boots, sang a mix of her hits, including "Love No Limit," "Be Happy" and "Family Affair." At the end of her set, a dancer brought up a cloak to wrap around her, in an echo of James Brown. "Move with grace. Trust the journey," she advised. "You are worthy."

Chuck D inducted Kool & the Gang, saying "This is a long-due celebration." The band had 12 Top 10 hits on the Billboard Hot 100 including the 1980 chart-topper "Celebration" as well as "Cherish," "Get Down On It," "Jungle Boogie," "Ladies Night" and "Joanna." They've been eligible for the hall since 1994.

The Roots helped the band do a medley of hits that got the crowd grooving led by Robert "Kool" Bell — bass guitarist, co-founder and last original member — and longtime singer James "JT" Taylor. Confetti shot into the arena and Taylor asked the crowd to use their cellphone lights as he read off the names of 10 members who were critical to the band's success.

Warwick arrived at the ceremony only a few days after attending a memorial to her longtime friend

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and collaborator, Cissy Houston. Teyana Taylor called her "truly one of a kind" as well as telling off the teleprompter operator for not putting "Ms." before her name. Jennifer Hudson sang "I'll Never Love This Way Again" and was joined by Warwick, who also sang "Walk On By."

Warwick said this year was the third time she was nominated for the Hall. "I am so pleased to be here," she said. "I'm just going to say this and get off the stage: Thank you, thank you, thank you."

Dave Chappelle helped induct A Tribe Called Quest — Q-Tip, Jarobi, Ali Shaheed Muhammad and the late Phife Dawg — the lone hip-hop group to make the cut this year. Chappelle said the group incorporated "jazz and soul in a way hip-hop had never seen." Queen Latifah, Busta Rhymes, Common, The Roots and De La Soul were on hand to perform a medley of Tribe hits, including "Bonita Applebum," "Scenario" and "Can I Kick It?"

Sammy Hagar introduced Foreigner, and thanked their fans for their tenacity to demand inclusion. The English-American rockers — with hits like "Cold as Ice," and "Waiting for a Girl Like You" — topped the charts in the 1970s and '80s but never made it into the Hall — much less a ballot — until last year, despite being eligible for more than 20 years.

Hagar noted that Foreigner currently tours without any original members. "That's how good the songs are," he said. "Who deserves this more than Foreigner?" Demi Lovato and Slash joined the touring Foreigner for "Feels Like the First Time" and Hagar then took lead for "Hot Blooded." Kelly Clarkson thrilled with a powerful "I Want to Know What Love Is" but the arena erupted when original singer Lou Gramm joined her.

Saturday's induction ceremony was at the Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse in Cleveland, where the Hall has promised to return to every few years. A TV special with performance highlights will air on ABC on Jan. 1.

Roger Daltrey of The Who inducted Frampton. "It's about bloody time!" he said. "Peter has had the most amazing career of all time. It's probably easier to name the people he hasn't worked with than the people he has," Daltrey said.

Frampton earned his way into the Hall in large part on the strength of his 1976 live double album "Frampton Comes Alive!," buoyed by the hit songs "Show Me the Way" and "Baby, I Love Your Way." Daltrey noted Frampton has always played with a wide smile.

A fittingly grinning Frampton — who played at last year's ceremony to honor Sheryl Crow — brought on Keith Urban to trade licks on "Do You Feel Like I Do" and showed why he is considered one of rock's great guitarists. He hooked up his famous talk box effect and the crowd roared.

Dave Matthews — before his band's inducement — helped honor Buffett with an acoustic version of the late singer-songwriter's "A Pirate Looks at Forty." James Taylor then came out to call Buffett — who popularized beach bum soft rock with the escapist song "Margaritaville" — "larger-than-life but at the same time right-sized and always authentic." Taylor, Kenny Chesney and Mac McAnally then performed Buffett's "Come Monday."

Musician-actor Jack Black toasted Osbourne, saying that "heaven opened up above me" when he first listened to the album "Blizzard of Ozz." Black called Osbourne "the Jack Nicholson of rock" and joked that his reality TV show "The Osbournes" was possibly "the most evil thing he ever did."

Osbourne, seated in a throne, credited the late guitarist Randy Rhoads and his wife, Sharon, for his career and life. This is the second time Ozzy has entered the Hall, the first time being in 2006 with the seminal metal band Black Sabbath. A tribute band to the Prince of Darkness — including Jelly Roll, Billy Idol, Maynard James Keenan, Wolfgang Van Halen, Steve Stevens and Robert Trujillo — played "Crazy Train," "Mama, I'm Coming Home" and "No More Tears."

The In Memoriam section included tributes, among others, to Kris Kristofferson, Cissy Houston, David Sanborn and Liam Payne. Dave Matthews Band performed "Burning Down the House" from the Talking Heads as fans filled out.

A drone targets the Israeli prime minister's house during new barrages with Hezbollah

By ADAM SCHRECK and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's government said a drone targeted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's house Saturday, with no casualties, as fighting with Lebanon-based Hezbollah and Gaza -based Hamas showed no pause after the killing of the Hamas mastermind of last year's Oct. 7 attack.

Israel's military said dozens of projectiles were launched from Lebanon a day after Hezbollah announced a new phase in fighting. Netanyahu's office said the drone targeted his house in the Mediterranean coastal town of Caesarea. Neither he nor his wife was there. It wasn't clear if the house was hit.

"The proxies of Iran who today tried to assassinate me and my wife made a bitter mistake," Netanyahu said.

Hezbollah didn't claim responsibility but said it carried out several rocket attacks on Israel. The barrage came as Israel is expected to respond to an attack earlier this month by Iran, which backs both Hezbollah and Hamas.

Israel in turn carried out at least 10 airstrikes on Beirut's southern suburbs known as Dahiyeh, a heavily populated area home to Hezbollah's offices, Lebanese authorities said. Israel's military said it struck Hezbollah targets.

The U.S. defense secretary, Lloyd Austin, called civilian casualties in Lebanon "far too high" in the intensifying Israel-Hezbollah war and urged Israel to scale back some strikes, especially in and around Beirut.

In Gaza, Israeli forces fired at hospitals in the Palestinian enclave's battered north, and strikes killed more than 50 people, including children, in less than 24 hours, according to hospital officials and an Associated Press reporter there.

"The possibility of war in the region remains a serious concern," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said while visiting Turkey. Group of Seven defense ministers warned against escalation and "all-out war."

New exchange of airstrikes

Israel's military said about 200 projectiles were fired from Lebanon, a day after Hezbollah said it planned to send more guided missiles and exploding drones. The militant group's longtime leader, Hassan Nasrallah, was killed in an Israeli airstrike in September, and Israel sent ground troops into Lebanon this month.

A 50-year-old man was hit by shrapnel and killed in northern Israel, and four other people were wounded, Israel's medical services said.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said an Israeli airstrike on an apartment in eastern Baaloul village killed five people, including the mayor of nearby Sohmor village. An Israeli military official confirmed that the IDF struck targets in the Bekaa Valley.

Lebanon's health ministry said an Israeli airstrike hit a vehicle on a highway north of Beirut, killing two people. Israel also said it killed Hezbollah's deputy commander in the southern town of Bint Jbeil. The army said Nasser Rashid supervised attacks against Israel.

Israel has issued near-daily warnings for people to leave buildings and villages in parts of Lebanon. The fighting has displaced more than 1 million people, including around 400,000 children.

Israel drops leaflets showing Sinwar's body

Israel's military on Saturday dropped leaflets in southern Gaza showing Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar dead, blood running down his forehead. "Sinwar destroyed your lives," it said. "Whoever lays down his weapons and returns the kidnapped people to us, we will allow him to leave and live in peace."

Sinwar was the chief architect of the raid on Israel more than a year ago that killed about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and kidnapped another 250. About 100 hostages remain in Gaza.

Israel and Hamas have signaled resistance to ending the war after Sinwar's killing. Hamas has reiterated that the hostages won't be released until there is a cease-fire and Israeli troops withdraw. Netanyahu says Israel's military will fight until the hostages are released, and will remain in Gaza to prevent a severely weakened Hamas from regrouping.

Israel's retaliatory offensive in Gaza has killed more than 42,000 Palestinians, according to local health

authorities, who don't distinguish combatants from civilians but say more than half the dead are women and children.

More strikes pounded Gaza on Saturday, and Palestinian communications company Paltel said they knocked out internet networks in the north.

The Palestinian Health Ministry said Israeli strikes hit the upper floors of the Indonesian Hospital in Beit Lahiya, and forces opened fire at it, causing panic. The U.N. said two patients died due to a power outage and lack of supplies in recent days.

Israel's military said it was operating near the hospital and "there was no intentional fire directed at it."

The military also said it was looking into the matter after Al-Awda hospital in Jabaliya, northern Gaza, said strikes hit the top floors, wounding several staff members. It later said the military hit its ambulances and courtyard, wounding four people, including a medic.

Three houses in Jabaliya were struck overnight, killing at least 30 people, more than half women and children, said Fares Abu Hamza, head of the health ministry's ambulance and emergency service. At least 80 were wounded.

Palestinian residents said Israel's military was forcing hundreds of displaced people to leave Jabaliya and head to Gaza City.

"The occupation evicted us at gunpoint," said Umm Sayed, a mother of three. "Tanks and heavy armed forces were encircling us." She said many young men were taken apparently for interrogation, and most were later released.

Israel's military described it as an evacuation and said it detained militants for questioning.

A U.N. school sheltering displaced people west of Gaza City was hit, killing several people, according to the Hamas-run civil defense first responders.

"What is this? There is a clinic and there are children," said Bashir Haddad, a displaced person there, according to AP video. A boy collected body parts on a piece of cardboard.

Elsewhere in central Gaza, at least 10 people were killed, including two children, when a house was hit in the town of Zawayda, according to the al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah. Another strike killed 11 people from the same family in the Maghazi refugee camp, the hospital said.

The war has destroyed vast swaths of Gaza, displaced about 90% of its population of 2.3 million people, and left them struggling to find food, water, medicine and fuel.

In Israeli footage of the last minutes of Hamas leader's life, some see a symbol of defiance

By SARAH EL DEEB and FATMA KHALED Associated Press

The world's final glimpse of Hamas' leader was rough and raw, showing him wounded and cornered as he sat in a bombed-out Palestinian home and faced down the Israeli drone filming him, hurling a stick at it.

For Israel, the scene was one of victory, showing Yahya Sinwar, the architect of Oct. 7, broken and defeated.

But many in the Arab and Muslim world — whether supporters of Hamas or not — saw something different in the grainy footage: a defiant martyr who died fighting to the end.

Clips from the released drone footage went viral on social media, accompanied by quotes from Sinwar's speeches in which he declared that he would rather die on the battlefield. An oil painting of a masked Sinwar sitting proudly on an armchair was widely shared, apparently inspired by the last image of him alive.

"By broadcasting the last minutes of the life of Yahya Sinwar, the occupation made his life longer than the lives of his killers," Osama Gaweesh, an Egyptian media personality and journalist, wrote on social media.

In Gaza, reactions to Sinwar's death were mixed. Some mourned his killing, while others expressed relief and hope that it could bring an end to the devastating war triggered by the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel that he is said to have directed. Across the Arab and Muslim world, and away from the devastation in Gaza, opinions varied.

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One thing, though, was clear. The footage was hailed by supporters and even some critics as evidence of a man killed in confrontation who at least wasn't hidden in a tunnel surrounded by hostages as Israel has said he was for much of the last year.

Three days after he was killed, Israel's military dropped leaflets in south Gaza, showing another image of Sinwar lying dead on a chair, with his finger cut and blood running down his forehead. "Sinwar destroyed your lives. He hid in a dark hole and was liquidated while escaping fearfully," the leaflet said.

"I don't think there is a Palestinian leader of the first rank who died in a confrontation (like Sinwar), according to what the leaked Israeli version shows," said Sadeq Abu Amer, head of the Palestinian Dialogue Group, an Istanbul-based think tank.

Sinwar's demise was different

Unlike Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh, who was killed in his hotel room in Iran, or the leader of Lebanon's Hezbollah group Hassan Nasrallah, bombed in an underground bunker by dozens of massive munitions, Sinwar was killed while apparently fighting Israeli forces, more than a year after the war began.

Iran, the Shiite powerhouse and a main backer of Hamas, went further. It contrasted Sinwar's death with that of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Tehran's archenemy.

In a statement by Iran's U.N. Mission, it said Saddam appeared disheveled out of an underground hole, dragged by U.S. forces while "he begged them not to kill him despite being armed." Sinwar, on the other hand, was killed in the open while "facing the enemy," Iran said.

In a strongly worded statement, the Cairo-based Al-Azhar, the highest seat of Sunni Muslim learning in the world, blasted Israel's portrayal of Sinwar as a terrorist. Without naming Sinwar, the statement said that the "martyrs of the resistance" died defending their land and their cause.

In Israel, the army's Arabic-speaking spokesperson, Avichay Adraee, described Sinwar as "defeated, outcast, and persecuted." Many celebrated the news of the killing of the architect of the Oct. 7 attack.

Video posted online showed a lifeguard on a Tel Aviv beach announcing the news to applause, while Israeli media showed soldiers handing out sweets. Residents of Sderot, a town that was attacked by Hamas militants, were filmed dancing on the streets, some wrapped in Israeli flags. On Telegram, some shared pictures of a dead Sinwar, likening him to a rat.

But there were also protests from families of hostages and their supporters who want Israeli leaders to use the moment to bring the hostages home.

Some are energized, not demoralized

Susan Abulhawa, one of the most widely read Palestinian authors, said the images released by Israel were a source of pride. Israel "thought that publishing footage of Sinwar's last moments would demoralize us, make us feel defeat," she wrote on X. "In reality, the footage immortalizes Sinwar and galvanizes all of us to have courage and resolve until the last moment."

In the Palestinian territories and Lebanon, some remembered him with respect, while others expressed anger.

"He died as a fighter, as a martyr," said Somaia Mohtasib, a Palestinian displaced from Gaza City.

For Saleh Shonnar, a resident of north Gaza now displaced to the center, tens of thousands of Palestinians were killed. "Hundreds, tens of senior leaders were martyred and replaced with new leaders."

In Khan Younis, Sinwar's birthplace, mourners in a bombed-out mosque recited the funeral prayer for a Muslim when the body is missing. Israel has kept Sinwar's body. Dozens of men and children took part in the prayers.

And in Wadi al-Zayne, a town in Lebanon's Chouf region with a significant Palestinian population, Bilal Farhat said that Sinwar's death made him a symbol of heroic resistance.

"He died fighting on the front line. It gives him some sort of mystical hero aura," Farhat said.

Some Palestinians took to X to criticize Sinwar and dismiss his death in comparison to their own suffering. One speaker on a recorded discussion said there is no way of telling how he died. Another blamed him for 18 years of suffering, calling him a "crazy man" who started a war he couldn't win. "If he is dear, we had many more dear ones killed," one yelled.

In the long run, the think tank's Abu Amer said that the effect of the support and empathy for Sinwar

after his death is unlikely to change the Arab public's view of Oct. 7 and what followed.

"Those who supported Oct. 7 will continue to, and those who opposed Oct. 7 — and they are many — will keep their opinions, even if they show sympathy or admiration for him. Most Palestinians are now focused on ending the war," he said.

At least 7 dead after ferry dock gangway collapses on Georgia's Sapelo Island

By RUSS BYNUM Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — Authorities said at least seven people were killed Saturday when part of a ferry dock collapsed on Georgia's Sapelo Island, where crowds had gathered for a fall celebration by the island's tiny Gullah-Geechee community of Black slave descendants.

Eight people were taken to hospitals, at least six of them with critical injuries, and crews from the U.S. Coast Guard, the McIntosh County Fire Department, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and others were searching the water, according to Natural Resources spokesperson Tyler Jones. The agency operates the dock and ferry boats that transport people between the island and the mainland.

A gangway at the dock collapsed, sending people plunging into the water, Jones said. A team of engineers and construction specialists planned to be on site early Sunday to begin investigating why the walkway failed, he said.

"There was no collision" with a boat or anything else, Jones said. "The thing just collapsed. We don't know why."

Helicopters and boats with side-scanning sonar were used in the search, according to a Department of Natural Resources statement.

Among the dead was a chaplain for the state agency, Jones said.

There were at least 20 people on the gangway when it collapsed, he said. The gangway connected an outer dock where people board the ferry to another dock onshore.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp said he and his family were "heartbroken by today's tragedy on Sapelo Island."

"As state and local first responders continue to work this active scene, we ask that all Georgians join us in praying for those lost, for those still in harm's way, and for their families," Kemp said on the social platform X.

President Joe Biden said federal officials were ready to provide any assistance needed.

"What should have been a joyous celebration of Gullah-Geechee culture and history instead turned into tragedy and devastation," Biden said in a statement. "Jill and I mourn those who lost their lives, and we pray for the injured and anyone still missing. We are also grateful to the first responders at the scene."

Sapelo Island is about 60 miles (97 kilometers) south of Savannah, reachable from the mainland by boat.

The deadly collapse happened as island residents, family members and tourists gathered for Cultural Day, an annual fall event spotlighting the island's tiny community of Hogg Hummock, home to a few dozen Black residents. The community of dirt roads and modest homes was founded after the Civil War by former slaves from the cotton plantation of Thomas Spalding.

Hogg Hummock's slave descendants are extremely close, having been "bonded by family, bonded by history and bonded by struggle," said Roger Lotson, the only Black member of the McIntosh County Board of Commissioners. His district includes Sapelo Island.

"Everyone is family, and everyone knows each other," Lotson said. "In any tragedy, especially like this, they are all one. They're all united. They all feel the same pain and the same hurt."

Small communities descended from enslaved island populations in the South — known as Gullah, or Geechee in Georgia — are scattered along the coast from North Carolina to Florida. Scholars say their separation from the mainland caused residents to retain much of their African heritage, from their unique dialect to skills and crafts such as cast-net fishing and weaving baskets.

In 1996, Hogg Hummock, also known as Hog Hammock, was placed on the National Register of Historic

Places, the official list of the United States' treasured historic sites.

But the community's population has been shrinking for decades, and some families have sold their land to outsiders who built vacation homes.

Tax increases and zoning changes by the local government in McIntosh County have been met by protests and lawsuits by Hogg Hummock residents and landowners. They have been battling for the past year to undo zoning changes approved by county commissioners in September 2023 that doubled the size of homes allowed in Hogg Hummock.

Residents say they fear larger homes will lead to tax increases that could force them to sell land their families have held for generations.

Harris says Trump is 'cruel' as she spotlights abortion restrictions in Georgia during early voting

By CHRIS MEGERIAN and CHARLOTTE KRAMON Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris said Saturday that Republican former President Donald Trump was "cruel" for how he talked about the grieving family of a Georgia mother who died after waiting 20 hours for a hospital to treat her complications from an abortion pill, as she put combating restrictions on reproductive care at the center of her pitch to voters.

At a rally in Atlanta, Harris blamed Amber Thurman's death on Georgia's abortion restrictions that took effect after the Supreme Court in 2022, with three Trump-appointed justices, overturned *Roe v. Wade*. It comes as Harris is looking to the issue to propel support to Democrats, who have pledged to restore a national right to abortion if they win the White House and enough seats in Congress.

"Donald Trump still refuses to take accountability, to take any accountability, for the pain and the suffering he has caused," Harris said.

Thurman's story features at the center of one of Harris' closing campaign ads, and her family attended her Atlanta rally, with her mother holding a photo of her daughter from the audience. Harris showed a clip of Trump saying during a recent Fox News Channel town hall, when he was asked about the Thurman family joining a separate media call, "We'll get better ratings, I promise."

"A grieving family, a grieving family, sharing the memory of their daughter with our nation. Where is the compassion?" she asked. "What we see continually from Donald Trump is exactly what that clip shows," Harris added. "He belittles their sorrow, making it about himself and his television ratings. It is cruel."

Before Harris became the Democratic nominee, Ian Summer, 19, planned on voting against Trump — but he wasn't enthusiastic about President Joe Biden. Since Harris stepped into the race "she's brought great energy," Summer said. Summer is worried about restrictions on abortion access under Trump. "The fact that I could have a wife in the future that may not be able to receive the care that she needs, that's a very scary thing," he said.

Early voting is also underway in Georgia. More than 1.2 million ballots have been cast, either in person or by mail. Democrats hope an expansive organizing effort will boost Harris against Trump in the campaign's final weeks. Harris referenced that former President Jimmy Carter recently voted by mail days after his 100th birthday.

"If Jimmy Carter can vote early, you can too," Harris said.

Roderick Williams, 56, brought his three daughters to Harris' Atlanta rally. His youngest daughter was born around the time former President Barack Obama entered office, and he hopes they can witness history again by seeing Harris become the first Black woman to be president.

"It's important for them to see that anything's possible," Williams said.

Harris was joined at the rally by hometown music icon Usher, drawing again on star power as she looks to excite voters to the polls. Earlier Saturday she appeared with Lizzo on Saturday in the singer's hometown of Detroit, marking the beginning of in-person voting and lavishing the city with praise after Trump recently disparaged it.

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"All the best things were made in Detroit. Coney Dogs, Faygo and Lizzo," the singer joked to a rally crowd, pointing to herself after listing off the hot dogs and soda that the city is famous for.

She said it was time to "put some respect on Detroit's name" noting that the city had revolutionized the auto and music industries and adding that she'd already cast her ballot for Harris since voting early was "a power move."

Heaps of praise for the Motor City came after Trump, the former president, insulted it during a recent campaign stop. And Harris continued the theme, saying of her campaign, "Like the people of Detroit, we have grit, we have excellence, we have history."

Arms wide open as she took the stage, Harris let the crowd see she was wearing under her blazer a "Detroit vs. Everybody" T-shirt that the owner of the business that produces them gave her during a previous stop in the city earlier in the week. She also moved around the stage during her speech with a hand-held mic, not using a teleprompter.

More than 1 million Michigan residents have already voted by mail in the Nov. 5 election, and Harris predicted that Detroit turnout for early voting would be strong.

"Who is the capital of producing records?" Harris asked when imploring the crowd to set new highs for early voting tallies. "We are going to break some records here in Detroit today."

She slammed Trump as unstable: "Somebody just needs to watch his rallies, if you're not really sure how to vote."

"We're not going to get these 17 days back. On Election Day, we don't want to have any regrets," the vice president said.

Lizzo also told the crowd, "Mrs. Commander-in-Chief has a nice ring to it."

"This is the swing state of all swing states, so every last vote here counts," the singer said. Then, referencing her song of the same title, Lizzo added, "If you ask me if America is ready for its first woman president, I only have one thing to say: 'It's about damn time!'"

Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Whatley said in a statement that Harris needed Lizzo "to hide the fact that Michiganders were feeling good under President Trump – real wages were higher, prices were lower, and everyone was better off."

Talona Johnson, a product manager from Rochester, Michigan, attended Harris' rally and said that Harris "and her team are doing the things that are required to make sure that people are informed."

"I believe she's telling the truth. She's trying to help the people," said Johnson, who said she planned to vote for Harris and saw women's rights as her top concern.

"I don't necessarily agree with everything that she's put out, but she's better than the alternative,"

In comments to reporters before the rally, Harris said she was in Detroit "to thank all the folks for the work they are doing to help organize and register people to vote, and get them out to vote today. She also called Detroit "a great American city" with "a lot of hard-working folks that have grit and ambition and deserve to be respected."

The vice president was asked about whether the Biden administration's full-throated support for Israel in its war with Hamas in Gaza might hurt her support in Michigan. Dearborn, near Detroit, is the largest city with an Arab majority in the nation.

"It has never been easy," Harris said of Middle East policy. "But that doesn't mean we give up."

Mail carriers reach tentative contract with USPS that includes pay raises and air-conditioned trucks

By DAVID SHARP and NICK PERRY Associated Press

Some 200,000 mail carriers have reached a tentative contract deal with the U.S. Postal Service that includes backdated pay raises and a promise to provide workers with air-conditioned trucks.

The new agreement, which still needs to be ratified by union members, runs through November 2026. Letter carriers have been working without a new contract since their old one expired in May 2023. Since then they have continued working under the terms of the old contract.

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Both the union and the Postal Service welcomed the agreement, which was announced Friday.

"Both sides didn't get everything they wanted. But by bargaining in good faith, we ended with an agreement that meets our goals and rewards our members," Brian Renfroe, the president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, told The Associated Press. "To make that happen, the Postal Service had to recognize the contributions of members to the Postal Service and the American people."

Among other improvements, the deal increases the top pay and reduces the amount of time it takes new workers to reach that level, Renfroe said. He credited Postmaster General Louis DeJoy and his deputy for bargaining in good faith throughout the arduous process.

The Postal Service said the agreement supported its 10-year "Delivering for America" mission to modernize operations and adapt to changing customer needs.

"This is a fair and responsible agreement that serves the best interest of our employees, our customers and the future of the Postal Service," said Doug Tulino, the deputy postmaster general and chief human resources officer.

As part of the agreement, all city carriers will get three annual pay increases of 1.3% each by 2025, some of which will be paid retroactively from Nov. 2023. Workers will also receive retroactive and future cost-of-living adjustments.

There is also a commitment from the Postal Service to "make every effort" to provide mail trucks with air-conditioning.

In the summer the Postal Service began rolling out its new electric delivery vehicles, which come equipped with air-conditioning. While the trucks won't win any beauty contests, they did get rave reviews from letter carriers accustomed to older vehicles that lack modern safety features and are prone to breaking down — and even catching fire.

Within a few years, the new fleet will have expanded to 60,000, most of them electric models, serving as the Postal Service's primary delivery truck from Maine to Hawaii.

Under the tentative contract agreement, the Postal Service must discuss with the union any plans to buy new mail trucks that don't have air-conditioning.

This is the second contract negotiated since DeJoy was appointed in 2020. It is expected to take several weeks for union members to ratify it.

Rural mail carriers are not covered by the contract because they are represented by a different union.

Singer Zayn postpones US tour after the death of his former bandmate Liam Payne

By NICK PERRY Associated Press

English singer Zayn Malik on Saturday postponed a planned tour to the U.S. following the death of his former One Direction bandmate Liam Payne.

Zayn, as the singer often goes by, said on the social platform X that he made the decision "Given the heartbreaking loss experienced this week."

He said the dates for the U.S. leg of his "Stairway to the Sky" tour would be rescheduled for January and he would post the new dates within the coming days.

Zayn had gigs scheduled next week in San Francisco and Las Vegas, and the following week in Los Angeles, Washington D.C. and New York.

"Your tickets will remain valid for the new dates," Zayn wrote. "Love you all and thank you for your understanding."

Payne, 31, was found dead Wednesday after falling from a hotel balcony in Buenos Aires. His death prompted an outpouring of shock and sadness from friends, collaborators and fellow musicians.

Payne's sister Ruth Gibbins was the latest to share her thoughts in an Instagram tribute.

"I don't believe this is happening. Many times have I poured my heart out publicly with pride about Liam but never much about life as his sister," she wrote.

She said her brother was "born with music in his veins" and that what she loved most about him was

his ability to make her laugh.

"I don't feel this world was good enough or kind enough to you," she wrote.

One Direction was the internet's first boy band with a level of fame comparable to Beatlemania. Band members in their teens had to cope with their sudden fame and then navigate a breakup while trying to build solo careers.

The exact circumstances of Payne's death remain unclear although Argentine authorities said there were suspicious elements and drugs were possibly involved. The results of toxicology tests are expected in the coming weeks. Payne had acknowledged struggling with alcoholism, saying in a YouTube video posted in July 2023 that he had been sober for six months after receiving treatment.

NYC officials envision turning Fifth Avenue into a grand boulevard

By PHILIP MARCELO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Manhattan's famed luxury store row Fifth Avenue is in line for a major makeover.

New York City officials unveiled a plan this week to transform a central portion of the thoroughfare between Bryant Park and Central Park into a more pedestrian-centered boulevard.

They propose doubling the size of sidewalks, reducing traffic lanes from five to three, as well as adding seating areas and hundreds of trees and planters, among other improvements.

The vision is to emulate iconic strolling and shopping boulevards such as the Champs-Élysées in Paris.

"As we celebrate the 200th anniversary of one of the most famous streets in the world, New Yorkers can look forward to a brand-new Fifth Avenue that will return the street to its former glory as a pedestrian boulevard," Madelyn Wils, interim president of the Fifth Avenue Association, which runs the local business improvement district, said in a statement. "Reversing the century-old trend of putting cars first, this visionary design will transform our overcrowded avenue into a spacious and green corridor for shoppers and workers, visitors and New Yorkers, and everyone on Fifth."

The plan would cost more than \$350 million and be paid through a mix of public and private financing, according to Mayor Eric Adams' administration and the Future of Fifth Partnership.

Officials said the project represents the avenue's first major redesign and could pay for itself in less than five years through increased property and sales tax revenue.

But some transit advocates have voiced concerns, saying the plan does not give enough consideration to the needs of the public bus system or the city's many cyclists.

A public meeting will be held later this month on the plan, and construction could begin in 2028.

Officials say Fifth Avenue is roughly 100 feet wide, with just two 23-foot sidewalks, even though pedestrians make up 70% of all traffic on the corridor.

Some 5,500 pedestrians traverse its blocks on average each hour, a number that swells to 23,000 people an hour during the holidays, officials said.

"People across the globe identify Fifth Avenue as a premier destination for strolling and shopping," Meera Joshi, the city's deputy mayor for operations, said in a statement. "But its larger-than-life reputation means that its sidewalks have reached their capacity, hosting more people per hour in peak seasons than Madison Square Garden."

The Fifth Avenue plan was among other ambitious plans for roadways city officials revealed this week.

They also proposed capping stretches of the Cross Bronx Expressway, a major highway that cuts through the borough of the Bronx.

City officials said the proposals would build parks and greenspaces atop the covered highway, helping restore urban neighborhoods hollowed out by the expansion of the national highway system and the development of suburbs.

"This is a historic opportunity to right the wrongs of the past and reconnect communities once again," Joshi said.

Video published by Ukraine allegedly shows North Korean soldiers in Russia

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — A video purporting to show dozens of North Korean recruits lining up to collect Russian military fatigues has been released by Ukrainian officials, who say it shows the introduction of troops sent by Pyongyang into the conflict.

The video, published by Ukraine's Center for Strategic Communications and Information Security, which operates under the Culture and Information Ministry, allegedly shows North Korean soldiers standing in line to pick up bags, clothes and other apparel from Russian servicemen. The Associated Press couldn't verify the video independently.

"We received this video from our own sources. We cannot provide additional verification from the sources who provided it to us due to security concerns," said Ihor Solovey, the head of the center.

"The video clearly shows North Korean citizens being given Russian uniforms under the direction of the Russian military," he said. "For Ukraine, this video is important because it is the first video evidence that shows North Korea participating in the war on the side of Russia. Now not only with weapons and shells but also with personnel."

The center claims the footage was shot by a Russian soldier in recent days. It didn't say how the footage was obtained. The location is unknown.

It comes after the head of Ukrainian military intelligence, Kyrylo Budanov, claimed in local media that about 11,000 North Korean infantrymen were currently training in eastern Russia. He predicted they would be ready to join fighting by November. At least 2,600 would be sent to Russia's Kursk region, where Ukraine launched an incursion in August, he was quoted as saying.

"The emergence of any number of new soldiers is a problem because we will simply need new, additional weapons to destroy them all," Solovey told AP. "The dissemination of this video is important as a signal to the world community that with two countries officially at war against Ukraine, we will need more support to repel this aggression."

The presence of North Korean soldiers in Ukraine, if true, would be further proof of intensified military ties between Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Last summer, they signed a strategic partnership treaty that commits both countries to provide military assistance. North Korean weapons have already been used in the Ukraine war.

Israel unearths Hezbollah's web of tunnels in southern Lebanon

By TIA GOLDENBERG and BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israeli forces have spent much of the past year destroying Hamas' vast underground network in Gaza. They are now focused on dismantling tunnels and other hideouts belonging to Hezbollah militants in southern Lebanon.

Scarred by Hamas' deadly raid into Israel last year that sparked the war in Gaza, Israel says it aims to prevent a similar incursion across its northern border from ever getting off the ground.

The Israeli military has combed through the dense brush of southern Lebanon for the past two weeks, uncovering what it says are Hezbollah's deep attack capabilities — highlighted by a tunnel system equipped with weapons caches and rocket launchers that Israel says pose a direct threat to nearby communities.

Israel's war against the Iran-backed militant group stretches far inside Lebanon, and its airstrikes in recent weeks have killed more than 1,700 people, about a quarter of whom were women and children, according to local health authorities. But its ground campaign has centered on a narrow patch of land just along the border, where Hezbollah has had a longstanding presence.

Hezbollah has deep ties to southern Lebanon

Hezbollah, which has called for Israel's destruction, is the Arab world's most significant paramilitary force. It began firing rockets into Israel a day after Hamas' attack. After nearly a year of tit-for-tat fighting with Hezbollah, Israel launched its ground invasion into southern Lebanon on Oct. 1 and has since sent

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thousands of troops into the rugged terrain.

Even as it continues to bolster its forces, Israel says its invasion consists of "limited, localized and targeted ground raids" that are meant to destroy Hezbollah infrastructure so that tens of thousands of displaced Israelis can return home. The fighting also has uprooted more than 1 million Lebanese in the past month.

Many residents of southern Lebanon are supporters of the group and benefit from its social outreach. Though most fled the area months ago, they widely see the heavily armed Hezbollah as their defender, especially as the U.S.-backed Lebanese army does not have suitable weapons to protect them from any Israeli incursion.

That broad support has allowed Hezbollah to establish "a military infrastructure for itself" within the villages, said Eva J. Koulouriotis, a political analyst specialized in the Middle East and Islamic militant groups. The Israeli military says it has found weapons within homes and buildings in the villages.

Hezbollah built a network of tunnels in multiple areas of Lebanon

With Israel's air power far outstripping Hezbollah's defenses, the militant group has turned to underground tunnels as a way to elude Israeli drones and jets. Experts say Hezbollah's tunnels are not limited to the south.

"It's a land of tunnels," said Tal Beerli, who studies Hezbollah as director of research at The Alma Research and Education Center, a think tank with a focus on northern Israel's security.

Koulouriotis said tunnels stretch under the southern suburbs of Beirut, where Hezbollah's command and control are located and where it keeps a stockpile of strategic missiles. She said the group also maintains tunnels along the border with Syria, which it uses to smuggle weapons and other supplies from Iran into Lebanon.

Southern Lebanon is where Hezbollah maintains tunnels to store missiles — and from where it can launch them, Koulouriotis said. Some of the more than 50 Israelis killed by Hezbollah over the past year were hit by anti-tank missiles.

In contrast to the tunnels dug out by Hamas in the sandy coastal terrain of Gaza, Hezbollah's tunnels in southern Lebanon were carved into solid rock, a feat that likely required time, money, machinery and expertise.

An Israeli military official said that using prior intelligence, Israel had found "hundreds and hundreds" of underground positions, many of which could hold about ten fighters and were stocked with rations. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with military rules, said troops were blowing up the tunnels found or using cement to make them unusable.

Israel's military on Saturday said troops had found and destroyed over 50 tunnel shafts in southern Lebanon but did not say over what period of time.

The group used tunnels during the monthlong 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war, but the network has been expanded since, even as a United Nations cease-fire resolution compelled Lebanese and U.N. forces to keep Hezbollah fighters out of the south.

In mid-August, Hezbollah released a video showing what appeared to be a cavernous underground tunnel large enough for trucks loaded with missiles to drive through. Hezbollah operatives were also seen riding motorcycles inside the illuminated tunnel, named Imad-4 after the group's late military commander, Imad Mughniyeh, who was killed in Syria in 2008 in an explosion blamed on Israel.

Hezbollah's tunnels could be hindering Israel's mission

Israeli troops are pushing through southern Lebanon using tanks and engineering equipment, and air and ground forces have struck thousands of targets in the area since the invasion began.

The military recently said it found one cross-border tunnel that stretched just a few meters into Israel but did not have an opening. Israel also exposed a tunnel shaft that was located about 100 meters (yards) from a U.N. peacekeepers' post, although it wasn't clear what the precise purpose of that tunnel was.

Israel says the tunnels are stocked with supplies and weapons and are outfitted with lighting, ventilation and sometimes plumbing, indicating they could be used for long stays. It says it has arrested several Hezbollah fighters hiding inside, including three on Tuesday who were said to have been found armed. The Israeli military official said many Hezbollah fighters appear to have withdrawn from the area.

Lebanese military expert, Naji Malaeb, a retired brigadier general, said he assessed that Hezbollah's tunnels were preventing Israel from making major gains. He compared that achievement to the war in Gaza, where Hamas has used its tunnels to bedevil Israeli forces and stage insurgency-like attacks.

Israeli authorities insist the mission in Lebanon is succeeding. It says it has killed hundreds of Hezbollah fighters since the ground operation in Lebanon began, though at least 15 Israeli soldiers have been killed during that time.

Israel has encountered Hezbollah's tunnels before. In 2018, Israel launched an operation to destroy what is said were attack tunnels that crossed into Israeli territory. Beerli said that six tunnels were discovered, including one that was 1 kilometer (1,000 yards) long and 80 meters (87 yards) deep, crossing some 50 meters (yards) into Israel.

Israel believes Hezbollah was planning an Oct. 7-style invasion

For Israel, the tunnels are evidence that Hezbollah planned what Israel says would be a bloody offensive against communities in the north.

"Hezbollah has openly declared that it plans to carry out its own Oct. 7 massacre on Israel's northern border, on an even larger scale," Israeli military spokesman Rear. Adm. Daniel Hagari said the day troops entered Lebanon.

Israel has not released evidence that any such attack was imminent but has expressed concern that one might be launched once residents return.

Former Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed by Israel last month while in an underground bunker, had signaled in speeches that Hezbollah could launch an attack on northern Israel.

In May 2023, just months before Hamas' attack, Hezbollah staged a simulation of an incursion into northern Israel with rifle-toting militants on motorcycles bursting through a mock border fence bedecked with Israeli flags.

Hezbollah officials have at times framed calls for an attack against Israel as a defensive measure that would be taken in times of war.

Judges punishing Jan. 6 rioters say they fear more political violence as Election Day nears

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Over the past four years, judges at Washington's federal courthouse have punished hundreds of rioters who stormed the U.S. Capitol in an unprecedented assault on the nation's democracy. On the cusp of the next presidential election, some of those judges fear another burst of political violence could be coming.

Before recently sentencing a rioter to prison, U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton said he prays Americans accept the outcome of next month's election. But the veteran judge expressed concern that Donald Trump and his allies are spreading the same sort of conspiracy theories that fueled the mob's Jan. 6, 2021, riot.

"That sore loser is saying the same things he said before," Walton said earlier this month without mentioning the Republican presidential nominee by name. "He's riling up the troops again, so if he doesn't get what he wants, it's not inconceivable that we will experience that same situation again. And who knows? It could be worse."

Walton, a nominee of President George W. Bush, is not alone. Other judges have said the political climate is ripe for another attack like the one injured more than 100 police officers at the Capitol. As Election Day nears, judges are frequently stressing the need to send a message beyond their courtrooms that political violence can't be tolerated.

"It scares me to think about what will happen if anyone on either side is not happy with the results of the election," Judge Jia Cobb, a nominee of President Joe Biden, said during a sentencing hearing last month for four Capitol rioters.

Judge Rudolph Contreras lamented the potential for more politically motivated violence as he sentenced

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a Colorado man, Jeffrey Sabol, who helped other rioters drag a police officer into the mob. Sabol later told FBI agents that a "call to battle was announced" and that he had "answered the call because he was a patriot warrior."

"It doesn't take much imagination to imagine a similar call coming out in the coming months, and the court would be concerned that Mr. Sabol would answer that call in the same way," Contreras, a President Barack Obama nominee, said in March before sentencing Sabol to more than five years in prison.

Trump's distortion of the Jan. 6 attack has been a cornerstone of his bid to reclaim the White House. The former president has denied any responsibility for the crimes of supporters who smashed windows, assaulted police officers and sent lawmakers running into hiding as they met to certify President Joe Biden's 2020 victory.

Trump has vowed to pardon rioters, whom he calls "patriots" and "hostages," if he wins in November. And he said he would accept the results of the upcoming election only if it's "free and fair," casting doubts reminiscent of his baseless claims in 2020.

Judges have repeatedly used their platform on the bench to denounce those efforts to downplay the violence on Jan. 6 and cast the rioters as political prisoners. And some have raised concerns about what such rhetoric means for the future of the country and its democracy.

"We're in a real difficult time in our country, and I hope we can survive it," Walton said this month while sentencing a Tennessee nurse who used a pair of medical scissors to smash a glass door at the Capitol.

"I've got a young daughter, I've got a young grandson, and I would like for America to be available to them and be as good to them as it has been to me," he added. "But I don't know if we survive with the mentality that took place that day."

More than 1,500 people have been charged with federal crimes related to Jan. 6 siege, which disrupted the peaceful transfer of presidential power for the first time in the nation's history. Over 1,000 rioters have been convicted and sentenced. Roughly 650 of them received prison time ranging from a few days to 22 years.

Justice Department prosecutors have argued in many cases that a prison sentence is necessary to deter convicted Capitol rioters from engaging in more politically motivated violence.

"With the 2024 presidential election approaching and many loud voices in the media and online continuing to sow discord and distrust, the potential for a repeat of January 6 looms ominously," prosecutors have repeatedly warned in court filings.

Prosecutors argue that defendants who have shown little or no remorse for their actions on Jan. 6 could break the law again. Some rioters even seem to be proud of their crimes.

The first rioter to enter the Capitol texted his mother, "I'll go again given the opportunity." A man from Washington state who stormed the Capitol with fellow Proud Boys extremist group members told a judge, "You can give me 100 years and I'd do it all over again." A Kentucky nurse who joined the riot told a television interviewer that she would "do it again tomorrow."

A Colorado woman known to her social media followers as the "J6 praying grandma" avoided a prison sentence in August when a magistrate judge sentenced her for disorderly conduct and trespassing on Capitol grounds. Rebecca Lavrenz told the judge that God, not Trump, led her to Washington on Jan. 6.

"And she has all but promised to do it all over again," said prosecutor Terence Parker.

Prosecutors had sought 10 months behind bars. After her April trial conviction, Lavrenz went on a "media blitz" to defend the mob, spread misinformation, undermine confidence in the courts and boost her celebrity in a community that believes Jan. 6 "was a good day for this country," Parker said.

Magistrate Zia Faruqui sentenced Lavrenz to six months of home confinement and fined her \$103,000, stressing the need to "lower the volume" before the next election.

"These outside influences, the people that are tearing our country apart, they're not going to help you," Faruqui told her.

American despair: In Arizona, high home prices and limited prospects shape voters' presidential pick

By AAMER MADHANI and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

MESA, Ariz. (AP) — Karl Peterson has been living the cruel inverse of the American dream. His rent keeps getting higher, but his apartments keep getting smaller.

Peterson left the Midwest nine years ago for the epicenter of an economic boom, only to gradually learn that endless sunshine and desert views are increasingly among the few bargains left in Arizona. Peterson married his wife, Tani, and they struggled to save for a home, moving through four apartments as their rent nearly tripled from \$625 to \$1,800 a month.

He does not believe that either presidential nominee, Democrat Kamala Harris or Republican Donald Trump, is addressing the paradox of a country that has never been this wealthy even as so many people see themselves left behind. His trust in government is running low. The negatives of inflation and national division are easier to glimpse than are signs of hope.

Voters like Peterson are at the fulcrum of the electorate in Arizona and the handful of other key states that will decide which candidate wins the White House and which party controls Congress.

"I don't think they're addressing what's really going on with me, with my family," said Peterson, who figures he will need to leave Mesa, east of Phoenix and the state's third-largest city, for Indiana or Wisconsin if he ever hopes to attain the middle-class promise of owning his own home.

Promises by both parties to "help the middle class" ring hollow to many voters who have heard those commitments before, only to see the pressures on housing, education, career, parenthood and the tending of their own aging parents mount.

Harris has pledged \$25,000 for first-time homebuyers and tax breaks for new parents. The Trump campaign says mass deportations of migrants living in the U.S. without permanent legal permission will free up housing and that higher tariffs will create job opportunities. Voters are focused on the inflation of the past three years, but Federal Reserve data reveal a deeper gap in which the United States has so much wealth that it can be easy for anyone to feel worse off than their neighbors.

Being — and staying — middle class in a nation of millionaires

Fed data released late last year point toward this complicated reality.

In 2022, when many voters felt inflation was strangling the economy, for the first time the average U.S. household was worth more than \$1 million. Yet there is a difference between meeting that average and being the typical household, despite gains since 2019. The median household had a net worth of just \$192,900. That's the level at which half are above and half are below.

Plenty of Americans can look at their personal finances and see reasons for comfort, even if they mostly register despair when asked about the health of the country as a whole. Nearly 6 in 10 described their own economic situation as good, even as 7 in 10 said the nation was on the wrong track, according to a September poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs.

John Akers, 34, is one who feels lucky with how the economy has treated him, but worries too many of his family and friends are being left behind.

He and his wife have seen their fortunes improve over the past several years as their high-end audio-visual business has thrived, and the fixer-upper they bought in 2015 in Phoenix has proved to be a wise investment.

At the same time, some of their aging relatives have struggled with rising costs, and a few close friends are thinking about ditching Arizona to find cheaper housing. It's left him wondering if Washington is too focused on hot-button cultural issues.

"No matter what, we're going to have polarization at the end of this election," said Akers, who plans to vote for Trump. "The political conversation is too often pitting the middle class against each other, and there's been too little focus on the issues that matter, like inflation and housing costs."

Arizona's economic gains make it a swing state

In some ways, Arizona's Maricopa County is proof of America's vitality and ability to generate wealth out

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of seemingly nothing but grit, hard work and applied intelligence.

The state's 11 electoral votes could make the difference in who wins the presidency, yet the area's success is overshadowed by fierce political hostilities and a sense that in a warming, costlier world, things are bound to get harder.

The county was once nothing but desert, so vast and with so few people before World War II. But the land was cheap and once water and air conditioning arrived, the cities of Phoenix, Scottsdale, Chandler, Glendale, Tempe and Mesa spread across the once dry sandstone.

Tech companies like Intel, TSMC, Google and others arrived, as developers said the time it took to get approval for a new housing development in the county increased. Out of the biggest counties nationwide, Maricopa posted the largest percentage job gains so far this year, according to the Labor Department. Home prices have nearly doubled since 2016, according to Zillow.

The population surge — Phoenix is now the fifth largest U.S. city — also has fostered competing political beliefs in which the one source of unity is a mutual frustration with government leadership.

A little more than half of Arizona voters said the government should do more to solve people's problems, according to AP VoteCast, a sweeping survey of the electorate, while less than half said the government was already doing too much. That year, about one-third of the state's voters identified as "moderates" — a group whose votes could be critical to the outcome of the Nov. 5 election.

Voters see reasons to doubt both candidates' commitment to help

Abel Ramirez, 32, is an assistant pastor at the Baptist church where Karl Peterson worships. Ramirez voted for Trump in 2020, firmly opposes abortion, questions the credibility of the 2020 election that Democrat Joe Biden won, and believes Biden's administration is too supportive of LGBTQ+ rights.

His family lives in a manufactured home in a mobile home park and he figures that once all his kids are in school, his wife can work full time and he can take on a second job so they can buy a house. But he's dismayed by a politics geared toward hurting rivals instead of helping voters.

"When it comes to helping the citizen, helping a guy that's got to go to work every day to provide for their family, I'm not hearing too much about it," Ramirez said. He is considering not voting in this election.

Samantha Lopez, who voted for Biden in 2020, believes the federal government needs to spend more on education, secure abortion rights and do more to expand Americans' access to health care.

A student at Arizona State University, Lopez recently moved back to her parents' home about 15 miles from campus after it became clear to her that it would be too difficult to keep up with rent and groceries while paying for school.

"The future feels really unpredictable right now," said Lopez, who is uncertain how she will vote, between serving customers earlier this year at her part-time job at a downtown Phoenix doughnut shop.

It's all about the housing market

Maricopa County is a microcosm of the boom that has driven American prosperity over the past two presidencies, powering through the Great Recession's housing bust and pandemic era shutdowns. But that boom also destabilized people's confidence in the real estate market that helped drive the growth

More people moved into the area than its cities and neighborhoods could absorb, pushing prices up in ways that made mortgage rates of 6%-plus troubling. Homeowners felt they could not afford to sell and buy a new property. Renters felt that the promise of middle-class stability was increasingly out of reach.

"Many voters see home prices and 30-year mortgage rates and compare that to the experience of their parents and grandparents and say 'I'm never going to own a home,'" said Glenn Farley, director of policy and research at the nonprofit Common Sense Institute Arizona. "Until those things are brought back under control, voters are going to continue to be sour."

Other worries also overshadow progress. The country is more educated and more diverse, yet there are persistent worries about mass shootings, crime, personal liberties, illegal immigration, climate change and the capacity of the government to fix any of it.

Why do so many Americans feel bad about the economy? Blame our politics

Americans are finding firsthand that prosperity is not the same as opportunity.

The University of Michigan's consumer sentiment index, a well-regarded barometer of confidence in the

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economy, is lower now than during the height of the 2020 pandemic. The index, with Biden in power, shows that people also think about the economy based on their political identity. with Democrats comparatively optimistic and Republicans decidedly bleak.

When Republican John Giles was elected mayor of Mesa in 2014, his goal was to have a place where his children and grandchildren could live.

It's easy to overlook the city in the shadow of Phoenix, but Mesa's population of 511,648 makes it larger than Atlanta, Miami or Minneapolis. The closing of Williams Air Force Base three decades ago led Mesa to recruit leading companies and Giles treats his state of the city addresses like a CEO at a tech rollout, recreating scenes from the time-travel movie "Back to the Future" and hanging out with shock rocker Alice Cooper.

But Giles made headlines by endorsing Harris and speaking at the Democratic National Convention in August, saying that her policies would be more helpful for his city than would Trump's. Giles sees the negativity swirling around the population as a byproduct of the politics in which ideologically driven media elevates conspiracy theories and consistently seeks to perpetuate division instead of rewarding problem-solving.

"I always used to think the political spectrum was a pendulum," he said. "There were these forces that would bring us back to seeing the flaws of extremism. But now there's a lot of people making a lot of money promoting extreme political thought. To be successful at that, you have to fan people's fears and tell them that they're unhappy."

He looks at the economic data — 4.1% unemployment, new computer chips plants opening in Arizona, record levels of factory construction spending, a higher stock market and inflation easing — and confesses that he's never been one who could overlook the facts and toe the Republican Party line.

"President Biden should be hoisted on our shoulders and walked to the top of the mountain," he said.

Plenty of new wealth, but a great sense of uncertainty

As economist Farley, who once worked for former Republican Gov. Doug Ducey, sees it, Arizona packed in generations of wealth creation in less than a decade. Its chief virtue was always its proximity to California and ability to capture both people and employers who found that state's taxes and cost of living to be too high.

Farley said Arizona had a reliable climate and affordable electricity costs, adding 20,000 businesses in under eight years as posh steak houses opened in Paradise Valley, the small Phoenix suburb that is the state's richest city, and Waymo had driverless Jaguar sedans ferrying people through Scottsdale. But that growth also came with the need for a larger services sector with more people working for lower wages and inequality became clearer.

"We're not the growth state anymore, but we're not the mature state," he said.

The pandemic also changed Arizona's economy.

After the Great Recession, it was adding roughly 40,000 people a year on average from other states. But when the pandemic hit, the prospect of bigger homes brought in roughly 100,000 people in 2020, more than what the housing market could absorb. Median home prices in Maricopa County jumped to a peak of \$500,767 in July 2022, leaving many renters unable to buy a home.

Trevor Cowling, the assistant pastor at the Baptist church in Mesa, bought his 1,500 square foot home in 2020 for \$225,000 with a 3.1% mortgage rate. Mortgage rates more than doubled, until easing recently, as have the prices in his neighborhood.

"The Lord has taken care of us," said Cowling, who said he could not afford his home at current mortgage rates.

But housing is just one problem.

People in the middle class also feel they're no longer able to afford schooling or groceries as before.

Juvi Arvizu, 31, with a 5-year-old son in Phoenix, said shopping that used to cost her about \$120 a week now often costs \$200. After her divorce and with crime rising after pandemic, she moved to a smaller home in a safer neighborhood and decided to enroll her son in a public kindergarten, after having him in

a private preschool.

Arvizu voted for Democrat Hillary Clinton for president in 2016. Frustrated by the tenor of the 2020 race, Arvizu she skipped voting. She said she plans on voting in November, but is uncertain for whom.

Regardless who wins, she is skeptical that Washington will be delivering relief to working people like her anytime soon.

"It feels like things are only going to get a lot harder," Arvizu said.

France vows support for Ukraine's plan to end Russian invasion

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — France's foreign minister pledged his support for Ukraine's plan for ending the war with Russia, telling reporters in Kyiv on Saturday that he would work with Ukrainian officials to secure other nations' backing for the proposal.

Unveiled by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy earlier this week, Kyiv's "victory plan" hopes to compel Russia to end its invasion of Ukraine through negotiations.

The proposal is being considered by Ukraine's Western partners, whose help is vital for Kyiv to resist its bigger neighbor. A key element would be a formal invitation into NATO, which Western backers have been reluctant to consider until after the war ends.

"A Russian victory would be a consecration for the law of the strongest and would push the international order toward chaos," French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot said at a joint news conference with Ukrainian counterpart Andrii Sybiha. "That is why our exchanges should allow us to make progress on President Zelenskyy's victory plan and rally the greatest number possible of countries around it."

Since Russia launched a full-scale invasion on Feb. 24, 2022, France has been one of Ukraine's staunchest military, diplomatic and economic supporters in Europe, and is training and equipping what will become a full new brigade of Ukrainian soldiers for front-line deployment.

Zelenskyy said Saturday that he expects that the brigade would be in Ukraine by the end of November. "Brigade training is going ahead of schedule," he said.

French President Emmanuel Macron has also previously pushed for a policy shift from Ukraine's Western allies that could change the complexion of the war — allowing Kyiv to strike military bases inside Russia with sophisticated long-range weapons provided by Western partners, which include missiles from France.

Barrot also announced that France would deliver the first batch of Mirage 2000 combat jets to Ukraine in the first three months of 2025, with Ukrainian pilots and mechanics also trained to fly and maintain them.

"By resisting against the invader with exceptional courage, you are not only fighting for Ukraine's territorial integrity, but you are also holding a front line that separates Europe from Vladimir Putin's Russia, that separates freedom from oppression," the French minister said in Kyiv.

Russia and Ukraine exchange POWs

Barrot's visit coincided with a prisoner swap between Russia and Ukraine late Friday that included 190 prisoners of war traded by the two sides under a deal negotiated by the United Arab Emirates.

Among the 95 Ukrainians were 34 Azov fighters who defended Mariupol and the Azovstal steelworks, the fortress-like plant in the now-occupied city of Mariupol where their last-ditch stand became a symbol of resistance against Moscow's invasion.

"Ninety-five of our people are home again. These are the warriors who defended Mariupol and 'Azovstal,' as well as the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Chernihiv, and Kherson regions," Zelenskyy posted on X.

The head of the Azov Brigade, Denys Prokopenko, said on Facebook that 34 Azov fighters had been returned, but that another 900 remained in Russian captivity.

A well-known Ukrainian human rights activist and service member, Maksym Butkevych, was also among the 95 exchanged. His release was announced by the ZMINA Human Rights Center, the organization that he co-founded.

The swap follows the repatriation of 501 dead soldiers to Ukraine on Friday in what appeared to be the biggest repatriation of war dead since the full-scale invasion began.

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Most of the soldiers were killed in action in the eastern Donetsk region of Ukraine, mostly around the city of Avdiivka, which Russian forces captured in February after a long and grueling battle, Ukraine's Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War said in a statement.

Russia also received the bodies of 89 of its soldiers, Russian lawmaker Shamsayil Saraliyev told reporters. Elsewhere, the Russian Defense said that it shot down 16 Ukrainian drones over Russia's Bryansk, Rostov, and Belgorod regions in early Saturday.

Local social media channels shared images that appeared to show a blaze at a microelectronics factory in the Bryansk region. Russian authorities didn't confirm the strike.

More than 100 Russian drones and missiles were also launched over Ukraine overnight, with 98 drones and six guided air missiles sighted over the country, the Ukrainian air force said. It said that it had shot down 42 of the drones and 46 more had disappeared from radar. Four missiles were also shot down, officials said. They didn't specify the fate of the remaining drones or missiles.

Two Texas cities represent the divide between those who vote and those who could, but often don't

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

LEWISVILLE, Texas (AP) — Deep in the heart of Texas' sprawl, the city of Lewisville embodies the Lone Star State.

Bisected by Interstate 35 and ribboned with six- and eight-lane thoroughfares lined with chain stores, Mexican restaurants and pawn shops, Lewisville, 23 miles north of Dallas, is the prototypical slice of the nation's second most populous state. Its typical resident is about 36 years old, the same as in Texas. Similar to statewide, 6 out of 10 residents are not white, and about two-thirds of its voters cast ballots in the 2020 presidential election.

Next door is the city of Flower Mound, a swath of swanky subdivisions with names such as Teal Wood Oaks and Chaucer Estates. Flower Mound looks more like the electorate that has kept Texas dominated by Republicans for decades. It is wealthier than Lewisville, more than two-thirds of its residents are white, and 78% of them voted in 2020.

That discrepancy, between the diverse, potential electorate of Lewisville and the actual, heavily white electorate of Flower Mound, has been the subtext for the past two decades of U.S. politics.

For a long time, the presumption has been that closing that gap between Lewisville and Flower Mound — getting more people to vote and having the electorate better represent the country's actual population — would help Democrats and hurt Republicans. That's because a larger electorate would mean more minorities voting, and those groups historically lean Democratic.

That presumption helped spark the Great Replacement conspiracy theory among some conservatives, imagining a plot to import immigrants to substitute for more conservative white voters. It's been part of the fuel behind Republican-led efforts to make it tougher to vote, especially in Texas, which has some of the strictest election laws in the country. But this presidential election has flipped the script.

Republicans have built their field campaign for Donald Trump around reaching what they believe is a vast population of infrequent, conservative-leaning voters. His campaign is counting on support from younger, Latino and African American voters who are less likely to go to the polls.

Democrat Kamala Harris is relying on Black and Latino voters, but also on increasing her support among college-educated voters, a growing group that's both highly likely to vote and helped put Democrat Joe Biden in the White House in 2020.

Middle class 'ends up running everything'

The contrast is clear in the neighboring cities in north Texas.

In Flower Mound, Republicans who used to dominate voting in the suburb fear it's trending Democratic. In more diverse Lewisville, those who rarely vote or cannot are warming to Trump.

"I think Trump would make a difference," said Brandon Taylor, 35, who cannot vote because of criminal convictions but is trying to persuade his girlfriend, Whitney Black, to cast a ballot for the former president.

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"We need that extra vote," he told Black as the two, now homeless, sat on a bench outside Lewisville's public library.

Meanwhile, Martha Mackenzie, a retired Naval officer in Flower Mound, is a former Republican who left the party over Trump.

"I just can't get behind a lot of the BS behind Trump," McKenzie said, scoffing particularly at Trump's insistence that the 2020 election he lost to Biden was stolen from him.

There are, of course, plenty of Harris supporters in Lewisville and numerous Trump voters in Flower Mound. The contrast between the towns goes beyond partisan politics and more to an age-old adage voiced by Sally Ortega Putney on a recent night in a Flower Mound office park.

Putney, 59, and a handful of other volunteers were calling voters on behalf of the Democratic Party. She recalled spending hours outside Lewisville Latino markets trying, unsuccessfully, to find new voters.

"We got our hearts broken trying all sorts of different outreach. The lower class, they don't have the time, they're too busy trying to feed their kids," Putney said between calls that she and two other volunteers were making to voters.

She gestured around the room: "It's the middle class that ends up running everything, because we have the time to do it."

Republicans use their power to maintain control

For decades in Texas, Republicans have run things. The party has controlled the Legislature for more than 20 years and won every statewide race since 1994. As Texas has steadily grown more diverse, Republican margins have narrowed, but the GOP has taken steps to protect its hold on power.

Texas Republicans have drawn some of the most notorious gerrymanders in the country, reshuffling the lines of state legislative and congressional districts to protect GOP politicians and push the Democratic voters who could oust them into a few oddly shaped districts. That ensures Democrats remain the minority in the Legislature.

The Legislature in 2021 tightened election laws in response to Trump's false fraud claims. Lawmakers banned election offices from holding 24-hour voting after that had become popular in a major Democratic-leaning county and they prohibited anyone from sending mail ballot applications to eligible voters.

Since then Texas Republicans have continued to push back against a perceived menace of improper additional voters.

Attorney General Ken Paxton sued two of the state's largest and most Democratic-leaning counties to stop their voter registration drives, and his office raided the homes of leaders of Latino civil rights groups in what it said was an investigation of possible election fraud.

"There's no question that the design of a lot of Texas' election laws, both old and new, is rooted in the idea of demographic change and that new voters won't support the people in power," said Michael Li, senior counsel at the Brennan Center for Justice in New York, who grew up in Dallas and still watches the state carefully.

The GOP is more than 'a bunch of rich white people'

Texas has had recent experience with a surge of new voters, and it didn't turn out as badly for Republicans as the party feared.

In 2018, Democrat Beto O'Rourke challenged Republican Sen. Ted Cruz. The little-known congressman became a national phenomenon for his populist message and get-out-the-vote pushes. He lost 51% to 48%.

Jim Henson, a political scientist at the University of Texas, said the new voters who turned out in 2018 were evenly split between Republicans and Democrats — only slightly more Democratic than the normally conservative-leaning Texas electorate.

"There are untapped voters for both parties," he said.

Lacey Riley is one Republican who thinks Texas' voting laws are just "safeguarding the election," not making it tougher for new voters.

"I think everyone should vote," said Riley, chair of the Denton County Republican Party.

A Flower Mound resident, Riley said she's excited to see the GOP reaching new voters, including ones

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in Lewisville.

"The Republican Party has changed," she said. "It's not a bunch of rich white people."

Riley acknowledges that Flower Mound, which has a population of 80,000, is changing. She was stunned to watch a friend running for local school board get heckled in public for being conservative — something unthinkable in times past.

The city was founded in 1961 to prevent its patch of prairie from being swallowed by other fast-growing suburbs. For decades, it has prized slow growth and single-family housing, which has led to intense political fights over development.

A city with a history of low political engagement

In contrast, Lewisville dates to the 19th century and has a small downtown with a few historic buildings.

When the area began to grow, the city let various property owners do what they wanted with their land, leading to its hodge-podge of different types of development. While the city of 135,000 contains subdivisions that wouldn't look out of place in Flower Mound, about half its residential properties are apartment buildings that attract a younger, less wealthy and more diverse population.

Delia Parker Mims, the Denton County Democratic Party chair, lives in Lewisville. The level of political engagement is just lower in the town than in Flower Mound — so low that Mims failed to find enough people to form a local Democratic club and had to create a Lewisville-Flower Mound one to assemble a critical mass of members.

Mims, however, blames local Republicans who run the county for keeping turnout in Lewisville down by forcing voters to go to the polls at assigned precincts that often change location from election to election, rather than at central vote centers where anyone can vote.

Lewisville's comparative marginalization does not only come from its eligible voters not voting, though. One-fifth of its residents are foreign-born, and many are not citizens. That means they are shut out of the political process.

That is unnerving for some like Jose Colmenares, 56, a former Venezuelan university administrator who fled to Texas last year. He notes that one of the candidates in the presidential race, Harris, seems friendlier to migrants than Trump, who complains of an "invasion" of people from South America and promises mass deportations.

"All of us would support this candidate if we could," Colmenares said of Harris as he stood outside one of the city's Latino markets.

Same body shop, different views on presidential race

Alex Salguero came to Lewisville from Guatemala in 1994 and started working as a mechanic. He eventually opened his own body shop in a custom-built building on a downtown corner. He is aghast at the way Trump talks about immigrants — "it hurts our heart" — and said many Latinos in town feel that way, but were dispirited by the complexities of the U.S. election system.

He cited 2016, when Democrat Hillary Clinton won 3 million more votes than Trump nationally but lost because Trump beat her in the Electoral College.

"That's when you go back and say, 'Why did I vote?'" said Salguero, who remains a regular Democratic voter.

Ivan Barrera, 32, works in Salguero's shop and shares his boss' concern about the former president's rhetoric on immigration. Still, he is leaning toward Trump because Barrera normally votes Republican.

"I don't want nothing given to me," Barrera said, "because I know nothing was given to my parents growing up."

Barrera's trying to persuade his parents, Mexican immigrants who live outside Lewisville, to support Trump. There's a catch. His parents have been citizens for decades, but they still are not registered to vote.

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Today in History: October 20, MacArthur returns to the Philippines

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Oct. 20, the 294th day of 2024. There are 72 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 20, 1944, Gen. Douglas MacArthur returned to the Philippines during the Battle of Leyte (LAY'-tee) in World War II, fulfilling a promise he made after being ordered to evacuate the country two years prior by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Also on this date:

In 1803, the U.S. Senate ratified the Louisiana Purchase.

In 1947, the House Un-American Activities Committee opened hearings into alleged Communist influence and infiltration in the U.S. motion picture industry.

In 1967, a jury in Meridian, Mississippi, convicted seven men of violating the civil rights of killed civil rights workers James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner; the seven received prison terms ranging from three to 10 years.

In 1973, in what would become known as the "Saturday Night Massacre," special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox was dismissed and Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson and Deputy Attorney General William B. French III resigned.

In 1973, the Sydney Opera House was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1976, 78 people were killed when the Norwegian tanker SS Frosta rammed the commuter ferry George Prince on the Mississippi River near New Orleans.

In 1977, three members of the rock group Lynyrd Skynyrd, including lead singer Ronnie Van Zant, were killed along with three others in the crash of a chartered plane near McComb, Mississippi.

In 1990, three members of the rap group 2 Live Crew were acquitted by a jury in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, of violating obscenity laws with an adults-only concert in nearby Hollywood the previous June.

In 2011, Moammar Gadhafi, 69, Libya's dictator for 42 years, was killed as revolutionary fighters overwhelmed his hometown of Sirte (SURT) and captured the last major bastion of resistance two months after his regime fell.

Today's Birthdays: Japan's Empress Michiko is 90. Rock and Roll Hall of Fame singer Wanda Jackson is 87. Baseball Hall of Famer Juan Marichal is 87. Former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky is 84. Retired MLB All-Star Keith Hernandez is 71. Composer Thomas Newman is 69. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., is 69. Film director Danny Boyle is 68. Actor Viggo Mortensen is 66. Democratic nominee for president and current Vice President Kamala Harris is 60. Actor William Zabka is 59. Journalist Sunny Hostin (TV: "The View") is 56. Actor Kenneth Choi is 53. Rapper Snoop Dogg is 53. Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, is 52. Actor John Krasinski is 45.