

# Groton Daily Independent

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**My relationship with  
God matters to me.  
Because when  
NOBODY else was  
there, God WAS!  
If you love God and  
are not ashamed  
of Him, Amen**



## Sunday, Oct. 27

United Methodist: Conde worship, 8:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with Milestones (Jr. K and Kindergarten), 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; 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.

## Monday, Oct. 28

Senior Menu: Tatertot hot dish, green beans, pineapple, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.

School Lunch: Turkey gravy, mashed potatoes.

Volleyball at Faulkton (JV at 6:30 p.m., varsity to follow)

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

Senior Citizens meet at noon for potluck, Groton Community Center

United Methodist: PEO Meeting (outside group), 7 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

**Groton Daily Independent  
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445  
Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460**

## NSU Football

### **Down to the Wire for the Fifth Straight, NSU Spoils CSP's Hopes at Home**

St. Paul, Minn. – A 21-point second half led the Northern State University football team to their fifth straight victory on Saturday over Concordia-St. Paul. The Wolves trailed by as much as 17 in the second quarter; closed out the half with a touchdown as time expired and rallied back in the third and fourth. The game-tying touchdown, a 2-yard rush by Wyatt Block, came with just 16 seconds left in regulation and Jeremy Caruso sealed the win with his fifth PAT of the afternoon.

#### **THE QUICK DETAILS**

Final Score: NSU 35, CSP 34

Records: NSU 5-4 (5-3 NSIC), CSP 2-6 (2-5 NSIC)

Attendance: 1163

#### **HOW IT HAPPENED**

The Golden Bears took a 14-0 lead in the first quarter on an opening 94-yard kickoff return for a touchdown and 1-yard rushing score

They extended that lead in the opening minutes of the second on a 22-yard field goal by Jeff Isotalo-McGuire

Daniel Britt broke through at 8:58 in the second on a 14-yard rushing touchdown and the Wolves again trailed by 14

Concordia added their third touchdown of the contest just five minutes later and the Wolves had the ball with three minutes to play in the half

Northern pushed the pace, trotting 75 yards down field as the half expired, capped off by a 10-yard receiving touchdown by Jacob Van Landingham

The two teams entered the locker room with Concordia-St. Paul on top 24-14

It was all Northern State in the third with a pair of rushing touchdowns by Britt and Wyatt Block, giving the Wolves their first lead of the contest, 28-24

The Golden Bears opened the fourth with their third touchdown of the contest from Jaylin Richardson and extended their lead on a 34-yard field goal at 3:28

Northern closed out the game like they closed out the half, moving 72-yards downfield for their fifth and final touchdown of the win, a 2-yard run by Block

CSP had the ball with 12 seconds to play, however Max Van Landingham stopped the attack with a 15-yard sack as time expired

The Northern State offense led the contest with 24 first downs, 278 yards rushing, and 410 yards of total offense

They completed 9-of-14 third downs, 1-of-2 fourth downs, and scored all five times they entered the red-zone

The Wolves offensive line did not give up a sack, while the Northern State defense recorded two

Britt had a day for the Wolves, passing for 131 yards and one touchdown, and rushing for 75 yards and two touchdowns

Block and Hank Kraft each tallied 100-plus yard rushing games with 102 and 101 respectively

Tanner Branson and Van Landingham led the receiving core with 38 yards apiece, as the Wolves saw seven players recorded a reception in the win

Jake Adams returned to the team lead with 16 tackles, including six solo stops, and was followed by Charlie Larson with 12

Lynden Williams notched seven tackles, including a team best 1.5 tackles for a loss, while Luke Gunderson notched six tackles, including one sack

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## **NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS**

Daniel Britt: 131 yards passing, 1 touchdown, 75 yards rushing, 2 touchdowns

Wyatt Block: 102 yards rushing, 2 touchdowns

Hank Kraft: 101 yards rushing, 8.4 yards per carry, 56 kick return yards

Jake Adams: 16 tackles

Luke Gunderson: 6 tackles, 1 sack for a loss of 9 yards

## **UP NEXT**

The Wolves close out their home slate, hosting nationally ranked Minnesota State next Saturday, November 2. Kickoff time is set for 2 p.m. in Dacotah Bank Stadium.

## **NSU Volleyball**

# **Two Career Highs and a School Record Propel No. 22 Wolves Past No. 25 Bulldogs**

Aberdeen, S.D. – The No. 22 Northern State University volleyball team bounced back Saturday afternoon against No. 25 Minnesota Duluth despite a slow start. The Wolves trailed by as much as eight in the first set and although they rallied, NSU fell 25-23. They rallied back to sweep the final sets with scores of 25-20, 25-22, and 25-22.

## **THE QUICK DETAILS**

Final Score: NSU 3, UMD 1

Records: NSU 15-5 (7-5 NSIC), UMD 12-9 (5-8 NSIC)

Attendance: 448

## **HOW IT HAPPENED**

Northern hit .186 in the match, including a set high .314 in the third

The led the contest with a single match season high of 17 blocks and 15 aces

The Wolves added 46 kills, 45 assists, and 65 digs, and defensively held the Bulldogs to a .169 attack percentage

Hanna Thompson led three Wolves in double figures with 14 kills, hitting .256 in the win

Natalia Szybinska and Morissen Samuels followed with 11 and ten kills respectively, while they each recorded six blocks

Abby Brooks led the team at the net with a career high 14.0 blocks, and added five kills

Keri Walker dished out 41 total assists and added seven digs, four blocks, and three aces

The defense with led by Abby Meister with 30 digs, while Sara Moberg tallied a new career high at the service line with seven aces

## **NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS**

Hanna Thompson: 14 kills, 2 digs, 1 block

Natalia Szybinska: 11 kills, 6 blocks, 3 digs

Morissen Samuels: 10 kills, 6 blocks, 2 digs

Keri Walker: 41 assists, 7 digs, 4 blocks, 3 aces

Abby Meister: 30 digs, 1 ace

Sara Moberg: 7 aces, 5 digs

Abby Brooks: 14 blocks, five kills

## **BEYOND THE BOX SCORE**

Brooks' 14 assisted blocks broke the Northern State single match record previously held by Jenna Reiff and Whitney Morsching with ten

## **UP NEXT**

Northern hits the road next weekend for a 4-game road trip. They will face Bemidji State and Minnesota Crookston next Friday and Saturday, and then travel to Sioux Falls and Wayne State the following weekend. Match start times are set for 6 p.m. against the Beavers and 2 p.m. against the Golden Eagles next weekend



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# GROTON

AN EXHIBIT IN THREE PARTS



OCT 5 - DEC 28, 2024

21 S. MAIN ST. ABERDEEN SD 605 626-7117 DACOTAHPRAIEMUSEUM.COM



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The room as filled to capacity plus during the Groton Day program held Saturday at the Dacotah Prairie Museum in Aberdeen. Created to augment the Spark! Places of Innovation traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian Museums on Main Street program, this exhibit celebrates the vibrancy of a local small town: Groton, SD. The exhibit is shown in three parts: Past, Present, and Future; and it fills three adjacent galleries on the museum's second floor.

(Photo by Alaina Perry)

The video of the Groton program held at the Dacotah Prairie Museum on Saturday can viewed in the GDILIVE video archives. After logging in, click on Archived Videos in the left menu bar, then click on 2024-25 School Year and look for the link under Saturday, Oct. 26.



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**Diane Warrington, who oversees the thrift store in Groton, said, "A big shout out to the people of Groton who donated their time, talent and gifts. We are so very blessed. Because of our past, and our present, Groton has a mighty good looking future. Thank you today to the Brown County Museum for their extraordinary work that you put together to get this exhibit going for us. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"** (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)



**Groton Mayor Scott Hanlon thanked the Groton community for making The Pantry and the Community Thrift Store a reality. Pat Miller talked about The Pantry. She said, "Kindness, giving and supporting your neighbors have been going on for years in the Groton community. It is a way of life. The Pantry is there to keep food on the table and keep your children fed. We have 60 to 90 family visits per month. Back to school shopping is another thing we sponsor. We had 60 students who came to fill their school bags. The Pantry will continue to be a staple in the Groton community."** (Photo by Alaina Perry)



In September, The Pantry - Groton, SD had 74 visits. That number included 65 children, 72 adults, and 39 seniors. 1,942 lbs. were given out with 1,888 lbs. donated to The Pantry - Groton, SD. There are 13 signed up for senior food boxes.

**Elda Stange, Groton's oldest resident at 100 years old, was on hand for the Groton Day at the Dacotah Prairie Museum.** (Photo by Alaina Perry)



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**PAST (Dacotah Gallery):** The impetus for development of an exhibit centered on the town of Groton was a 2023 donation 47 glass plate negatives, ca. 1890s, to the DPM Collection by Curt Rowell, from the estate of H.T. Foss. Forty digitally rendered photographic images reproduced from these negatives provide the viewer of the exhibit a detailed glimpse at buildings, people, and life in the early days of Groton. In addition to the digital reprints and collection artifacts, two enlargements produced using traditional gelatin silver darkroom processing will be shown (gelatin silver enlargements are loaned by photographer, archivist, and H.T. Foss Glass Plate Collection donor Curt Rowell). (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)



**PRESENT: (Prairie Landing Gallery)** Photojournalist Jay Kirschenmann of Aberdeen has spent the past year getting to know the businesses, people, and community events of Groton as a representative of Dacotah Prairie Museum. His research, photos, and interviews illustrating a year in the life of this Brown County community are presented in the Groton Present portion of the exhibit. (Photo lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)

**FUTURE: (Lamont Annex Gallery)** School children attending Groton Public Schools in grades 3-8 were invited to participate in an idea contest, the results of which are featured in this display. Students were challenged to create a poster illustrating and explaining their own unique vision or "bright idea to spark" Groton's future. (The winners are featured on the next four pages)



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**Staff Choice: Greyson Warrington, 5th grade – a stadium.** (Photo by Alaina Perry)



**Staff Choice: Hudson Eichler, 7th grade – bakery/meeting place.** (Photo by Alaina Perry)



**Dawson Feist, 7th grade – lights at the soccer field MAYOR'S CHOICE, MOST SUSTAINABLE.** (Photo by Alaina Perry)



**Wesley Borg, 8th grade - Cabela's MAYOR'S CHOICE, BIGGEST IDEA.** (Photo by Alaina Perry)



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**Gracelynn Mullner, 7th grade – homeless shelter MAYOR'S CHOICE, HONORABLE MENTION.** (Photo by Alaina Perry)



**Staff Choice: Leslee Davis, 3rd grade – coffee shop.** (Photo by Alaina Perry)



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**Staff Choice: Hayden Hubbard, 5th grade – vibrant and colorful main street.** (Photo by Alaina Perry)

**Staff Choice: Bless Moo, 4th grade – community garden.** (Photo by Alaina Perry)

## Those not present:

### STAFF CHOICE

Hazel Hill, 4th grade – outdoor movie theater

Knox Mulder, 6th grade – slim chicken with layout

Amelia Ewalt, 7th grade – recycling center

Luke Gauer, 8th grade – dirt bike rentals

Abby Fjeldheim, 8th grade - Baller Boutique

Madison Herrick, 8th grade – crafty cove

**MAYOR'S CHOICE, BEST DESIGN**



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**Hazel Nea, 4th grade – community center  
MAYOR'S CHOICE, HONORABLE MENTION.**

(Photo by Alaina Perry)



**Staff Choice: Ava Strom, 3rd grade – Hos-  
pital/Clinic.** (Photo by Alaina Perry)

## NOTICE OF SALE

November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 10:00 AM

State Nebraska Bank & Trust vs Brian Dolan & Kristen Dolan

(06CIV22-000424-01)

2012 Chevy Avalanche



An Execution of Judgement in the above referenced matter was received by the Brown County Sheriff's Office on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. The amount of the Judgment is \$33,157.48, \$260.50 Cost, \$373.39 Pre-Judgement interest, plus continuing costs, and interest, as provided by law. This amount does not include Sheriff's Office fees and costs related to this matter. The property to be sold pursuant to the Execution is: 2012 Chevy Avalanche, VIN 3GNTKFE79CG124632. Odometer Reading: 206,206.

**THIS PROPERTY WILL BE AUCTIONED AND SOLD TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, WITH THE SALE BEING FINAL, SOLD AS IS WITH NO WARRANTIES EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED. CASH IS REQUIRED ON THE DAY OF SALE.**

The sale will be held at the Brown County Court House, 101 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SE, Aberdeen, SD 57401 on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 10:00 AM.

DAVE LUNZMAN, SHERIFF OF BROWN COUNTY.

By: Nate Smith, Deputy, 605-626-7100 ext. 509.



## 2025 DOG LICENSES DUE BY 12/31/2024



LICENSE YOUR DOG.



**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](mailto: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



## Working to Protect & Promote Traditional American Values

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



Visit the Campaign Site  
[ManhartForHouse.com](https://ManhartForHouse.com)



Paid for by Manhart for State House

# MANHART

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE

### DISTRICT 1

[facebook.com/ManhartLogan](https://facebook.com/ManhartLogan) | [ManhartForHouse.com](https://ManhartForHouse.com)

**General Election - Nov. 5**  
**Absentee Voting has begun**

## State Cross Country Results

The State Cross Country Meet was held Saturday in Rapid City with Groton Area having three runners taking part in the event.

In the girls 5K race, Faith Traphagen finished 36th with a time of 20:59.24 and Rylee Gilbert finished 82nd with a time of 22:35.79.

In the boys 5K race, Jayden Schwan placed 107th with a time of 20:56.67

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## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

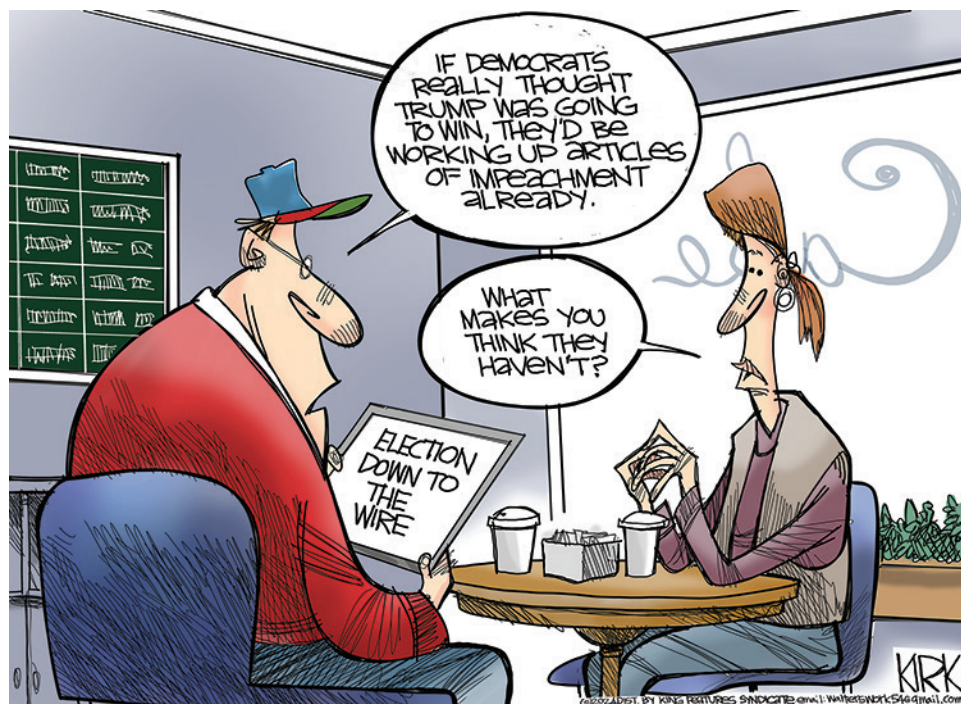


*There is no fear in love.  
But perfect love drives out fear,  
because fear has to do  
with punishment.  
The one who fears is  
not made perfect in love.*

❧ 1 JOHN 4:18 ❧

*Detail from "The Scream" by Edvard Munch (1895)*

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## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Matthew 12, when an evil spirit returns to a person, how many companions does it bring? 2, 3, 7, 16

3. Who called the city of Nineveh the mistress of witchcraft? *Ahab, Nahum, Lucifer, Peter*

4. In which book's 22:18 does it state, "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live"? *Exodus, Numbers, Isaiah, Hebrews*

5. From 1 Samuel 16, which king of Israel was tormented by an evil spirit? *Solomon, David, Elah, Saul*

6. What mark of the beast number comes from Revelation 13? 7, 333, 490, 666

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) 7, 3) Nahum, 4) Exodus, 5) Saul, 6) 666

*Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit [www.TriviaGuy.com](http://www.TriviaGuy.com).*

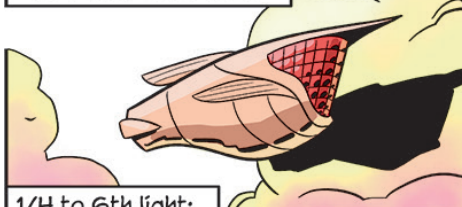


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Incident report – 1st CAPT. QUARA, Q.A.S. NORTHBRIGHT.



1/4 to 6th light: HANS ZARKOV's quarters found empty.

6th light 1/3: ZARKOV located in missile bay 3.



He loads an unknown device into an AG-IV.

He launches the missile and destroys the control bank's target coordinate data.



Guards move to apprehend [cont.]

[cont.] but are incapacitated by BOK, who has somehow escaped the brig.



6th 1/2: BOK and ZARKOV reach the loading chamber, leaping out into open air.



They are caught by hawkwoman ADRANE, evading pursuit.



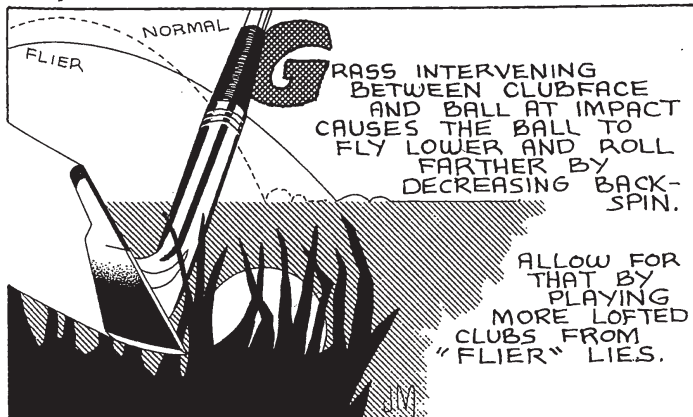
Current location: UNKNOWN.

NEXT: THE PRIDELANDS

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DAN SCHRADE  
10-27-24

## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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## Taking Preventative Measures Against Sun Exposure Is Essential

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have a question about suntanning. First off, I want to say that I get yearly skin cancer checks, love the sun, and hardly ever use suntan lotion. I monitor my time outside, so as not to get a sunburn. I see warnings about certain days being high ultraviolet (UV) days. Are they talking about UVA or UVB, and which one gives you a tan? -- S.K.

ANSWER: You're not going to like my answer, because all types of UV light exposure, whether they lead to a sunburn or suntan, cause damage to the skin and lead to an increased risk of skin cancer. A tan from sunlight leads to a small degree of protection against further UV light damage, but there is still ongoing skin damage with UV light exposure. Even people with very

dark skin are susceptible to skin cancer, although their risk is a lot less than others.

UVA light is more constant throughout the year and penetrates deeper into the skin. UVB light is stronger near the equator, at higher altitudes, and closer to the summer solstice. The UV index reported by the National Weather Service considers both UVA and UVB light in its calculations, as well as the time of year, altitude, and cloud cover.

Both UVA and UVB light cause the skin to tan, but tanning from UVA light alone (for example, in a tanning machine) doesn't provide any protection from the sun. So, while I am at least glad that you aren't exposing yourself enough to get burned, I don't agree with being out in the sun to get tanned.

I do recommend the liberal use of a sunscreen with protection against both UVA and UVB. It needs to be used in a large-enough quantity to provide protection -- approximately an ounce for an average-sized body, plus another teaspoon for the face and neck. I recommend a high-SPF sunscreen (30 or more). I buy mineral sunscreens such as zinc oxide or titanium dioxide for myself and my family. Finally, sunscreen needs to be reapplied regularly, especially when exercising or swimming.

Staying out of the sun, wearing sun-protective clothing, and wearing sunscreen will not only help you avoid cancer, but also help you avoid problems that I see in my older patients, who did what you did when they were young. Now they have thinned skin that bleeds easily, as well as "age spots" and other signs of skin damage from the sun, including wrinkles.

\*\*\*

DEAR DR. ROACH: I read your recent column on blood pressure. I want to know what the recommended blood pressure is for a completely calm person. In other words, what if my blood pressure is always higher during the day and only stays at the recommended pressure when I'm totally relaxed at night?

I read some comments from a longtime cardiologist, stating that you need to take many blood pressure readings during the day and get the average of these readings. -- J.J.

ANSWER: Normal blood pressure is considered to be less than 120 mm Hg systolic and less than 80 mm Hg diastolic. It is certainly recommended to be as relaxed as possible when you get your blood pressure taken at the doctor's office, since many people have "reactive" or "white coat" hypertension and will be treated unnecessarily based on office readings. However, a minority of people have "masked" hypertension, meaning that the office readings are normal when they actually have high blood pressure at home and at work.

What your cardiologist said about getting many readings is correct. The more readings, the better. Best of all is a 24-hour blood pressure monitor, which has been proven to be the most accurate. I recommend a certified blood pressure monitor for all my patients and consider their home readings to be more important than office readings.

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](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).

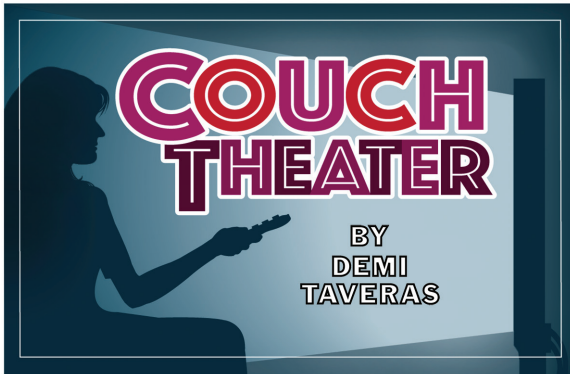
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**Kevin Bacon, left, and Darwin Del Fabro star in "They/Them."** (Courtesy of MovieStillsDB)

"Joker: Folie a Deux" (R) -- The box-office bomb that is the sequel to Todd Phillips' smash hit "Joker" will be available to rent on Oct. 29. How can such a successful start result in such a tragic finish? With Lady Gaga ("A Star Is Born") as Harleen "Lee" Quinzel opposite Joaquin Phoenix's

Arthur Fleck, it seemed like the pair would be a match made in hell! And although some fans were turned off about the sequel being a musical, surely with Gaga's pipes and Joker's imagination, it would be quite an entertaining love story! But, unfortunately, the film didn't come together well in the end, with the music failing to move the story forward and Gaga's talent being severely underused. (Apple TV+)

"Wizards Beyond Waverly Place" (TV-PG) -- A spin-off series to "Wizards of Waverly Place" (2007-2012) was announced earlier this year, and its first two episodes are hitting streaming on Oct. 29! From the same creators of another Disney Channel spin-off "Raven's Home," this series follows the oldest Russo, Justin (David Henrie), who lives a normal life with his wife and kids after retiring from teaching wizards. But when his sister, Alex (Selena Gomez), sends him a powerful young wizard named Billie to teach, Justin must go back to his warlock ways to teach the rebellious girl how to wield her power the right way. Janice LeAnn Brown ("Euphoria") plays Billie, while Maria Canals-Barrera, David DeLuise and Jake T. Austin guest star in their respective roles from the original series. (Disney+)

"Chris Brown: A History of Violence" (TV-MA) -- Hailing from the Investigation Discovery (ID) network that brought us "Quiet on Set," this documentary film zeroes in on R&B singer Chris Brown and the heap of legal issues that always seem to trail behind him. One of Brown's biggest legal issues that caused him to be shunned in the first place was his domestic violence case against fellow singer Rihanna back in 2009. Although he's since wriggled his way back into the public's graces, Brown has faced assault charges, sexual assault charges, restraining orders from ex-girlfriends, and allegations of being involved in a hit-and-run. The doc tracks much of his issues back to his childhood and even spotlights a new accuser with more allegations against Brown. Out now. (Max)

In Case You Missed It

"They/Them" (R) -- This 2022 slasher film (pronounced "they slash them") from Blumhouse is a riot, but not exactly in a good way. The movie follows a group of LGBTQ teens who arrive at Whistler Camp, a conversion camp run by the weirdly cheery Owen Whistler (Kevin Bacon). Owen labels the camp as a safe space where teens won't be "forcibly converted," but as the days go on, the activities get more sadistic, like forcing the kids to stay out in the woods alone and making them shoot animals. Meanwhile, a masked killer lurks closer and closer to the camp, plucking people off one by one. While the film's intentions seem to be in the right place, there are too many storylines happening without enough time to flesh them out and make any of it believable. Out now, but watch at your own risk! (Peacock)

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1. Which artist released an album titled "Tea for the Tillerman"?
2. Which artist was the first to release "You're No Good"?
3. The Swinging Blue Jeans only charted once. What was the song?
4. Which trio released "I'm So Glad That I'm a Woman"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Strolling along country roads with my baby, It starts to rain, it begins to pour."

Answers

1. Cat Stevens, in 1970. Stevens, born Steven Demetre Georgiou, changing his name to Yusuf Islam in 1978. In 2006 he began using only Yusuf, and in 2014 began performing as Yusuf / Cat Stevens.

2. Dee Dee Warwick, in 1963. This was followed by several other artists, including Betty Everett and Linda Ronstadt.

3. "Don't Make Me Over," in 1966. The song was first released in 1962 by Dionne Warwick. It was her version that put the song in the Grammy Hall of Fame.

4. Love Unlimited on their "Love Is Back" album in 1979. Love Unlimited was the backup group for Barry White.

5. "Laughter in the Rain," by Neil Sedaka, in 1974. The song charted in several places around the globe, including the Netherlands, the U.K., Yugoslavia, Canada, the U.S. and Australia.

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## GRIN and BEAR IT <sup>Wagner</sup>

### Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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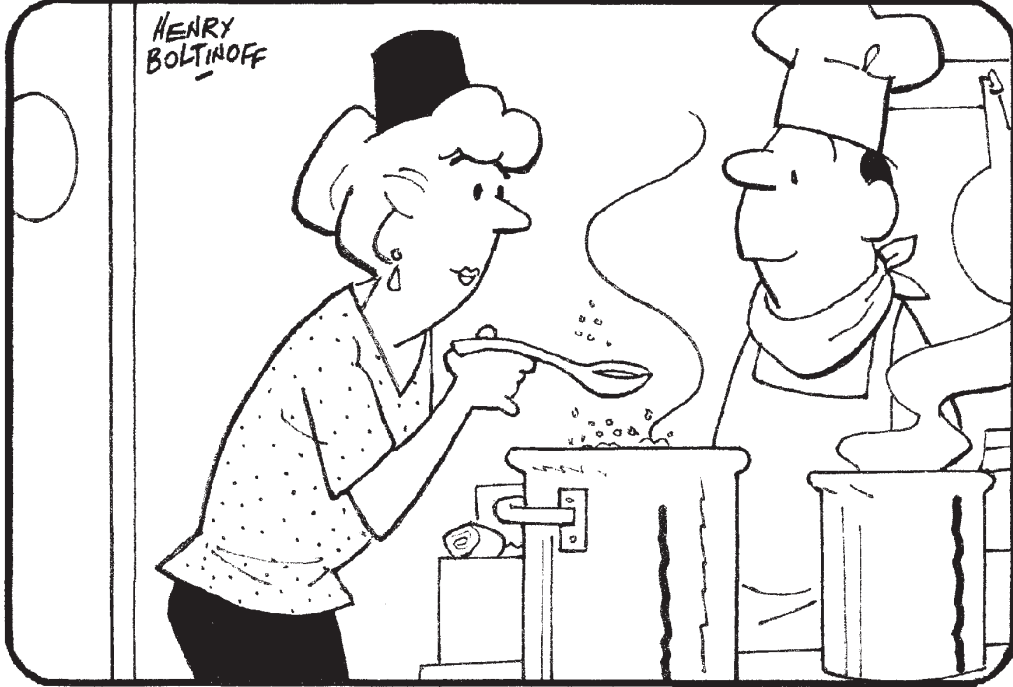
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"We didn't get many answers in our door-to-door poll, chief, but we got lots of candy."



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

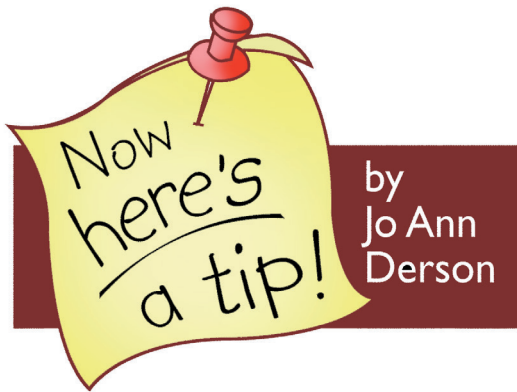


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Differences: 1. Spoon is longer. 2. Handle on pot is lower. 3. Neckline is different. 4. Hair bun is smaller. 5. Window in door is lower. 6. Outlet is added.

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\* If you run out of buttermilk, you can use an equal amount of yogurt, preferably nonsweetened, plain, but you can adjust the sugar in a recipe slightly if your yogurt is favorably flavored.

\* When entertaining, keep cold drinks in a cooler away from the kitchen. This keeps the floor space free for the cooks.

\* Soften brown sugar quickly by grating it on a fine hand grater. If you have a bit more time, add an apple to the container and seal tightly.

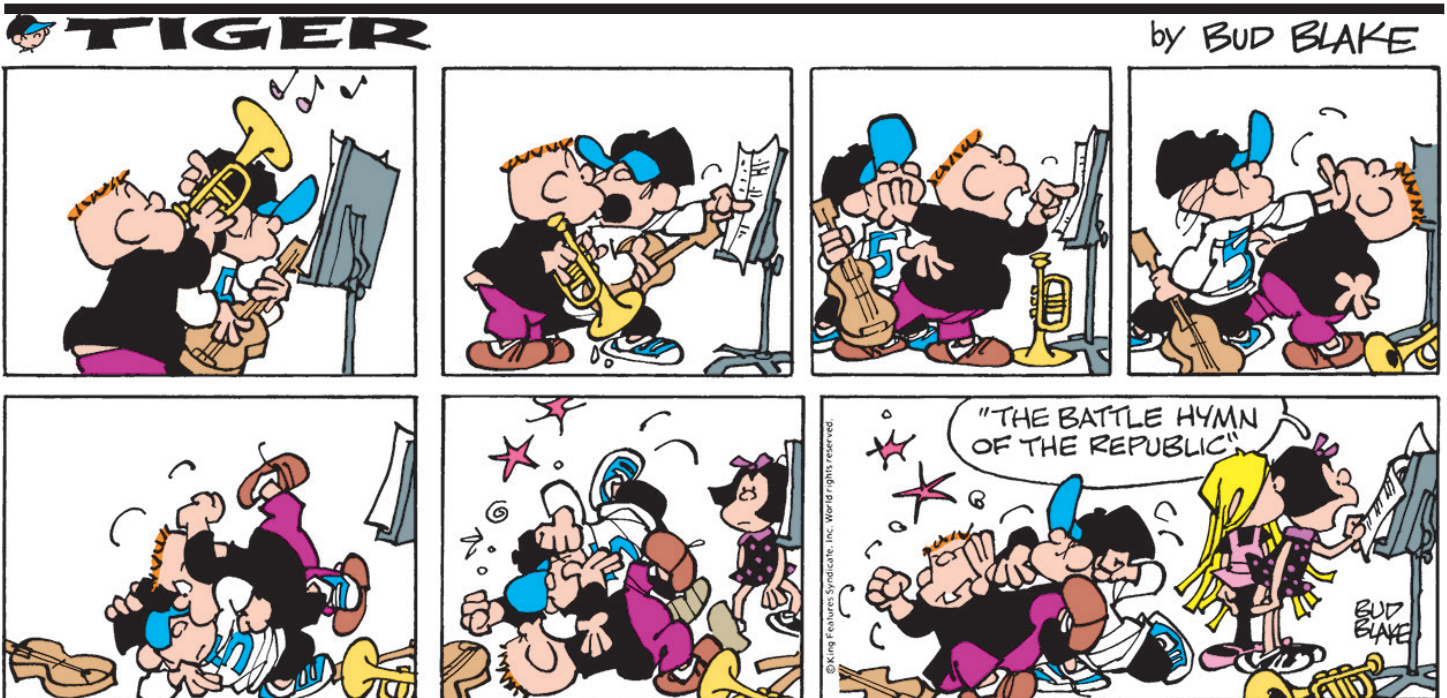
\* "Day-old bread makes excellent handmade croutons. Slice, spray with cooking spray and season with whatever spices on hand sound good. Toast in a 300 degree oven for 10 minutes or so. They are especially good with soups." -- S.S.D. in Maryland

\* Gotta keep those buns warm? Line your crockpot with foil and add the buns. Keep on low or warm, and place on the buffet. Yum.

\* "When making platters of fruit that may brown (apples, pears), coat slices with lemon juice. The acid keeps them from browning." -- T.P. in Washington

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

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Fringe benefit
- 5 "Humbug!"
- 8 Rocky out-crop
- 12 Jai —
- 13 Swelled head
- 14 Valentine border
- 15 Cooking area
- 17 Gray's subj.
- 18 Wedding setting
- 19 Riyadh residents
- 21 Pride parade letters
- 24 GI entertainers
- 25 Ganges wrap
- 28 Incursion
- 30 "Tasty!"
- 33 Actress Thurman
- 34 Orchestral strings
- 35 Director Ang
- 36 Prohibit
- 37 Gas co., for one
- 38 Printer's blue
- 39 Corn core
- 41 Cruising
- 43 Drag
- 46 New York's — Island
- 50 Pundit's piece
- 51 Causing annoyance

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15				16					17			
18							19	20				
			21		22	23		24				
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33				34						35		
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43	44				45			46		47	48	49
50					51	52	53					
54					55					56		
57					58					59		

- 54 Stallion's mate
- 55 Flightless bird
- 56 Revise
- 57 Org.
- 58 Trench
- 59 Pixels
- DOWN**
- 1 Brazilian rubber
- 2 Mideast airline
- 3 Harangue
- 4 Capital of Rwanda
- 5 Wager
- 6 Past
- 7 Beer ingredient
- 8 Santa —
- 9 Not by design
- 10 "Superfood" berry
- 11 Understands
- 16 Work unit
- 20 German car name
- 22 Author Harte
- 23 Shire of "Rocky"
- 25 Long lunch?
- 26 Docs' org.
- 27 Cattle farm workers
- 29 Misfortunes
- 31 — culpa
- 32 Gents
- 34 Rubik's brain-teaser
- 38 Phoned
- 40 From days of yore
- 42 "A mouse!"
- 43 "Brave New World" drug
- 44 IRS employees
- 45 Get ready, briefly
- 47 Chic beach resort
- 48 Monogram pt.
- 49 Pvt.'s superiors
- 52 Parisian pal
- 53 Fanatic

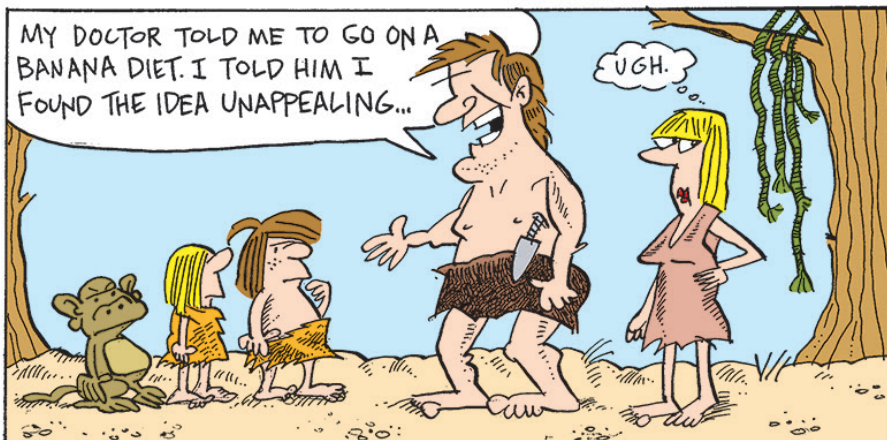
## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

P	E	R	K		B	A	H		C	R	A	G
A	L	A	I		E	G	O		L	A	C	E
R	A	N	G	E	T	O	P		A	N	A	T
A	L	T	A	R			S	A	U	D	I	S
		L	G	B	T		U	S	O			
S	A	R	I		R	A	I	D		M	M	M
U	M	A		C	E	L	L	I		L	E	E
B	A	N		U	T	I	L		C	Y	A	N
		C	O	B		A	S	E	A			
S	C	H	L	E	P			E	L	L	I	S
O	P	E	D		R	A	N	K	L	I	N	G
M	A	R	E		E	M	U		E	D	I	T
A	S	S	N		P	I	T		D	O	T	S

### Out on a Limb



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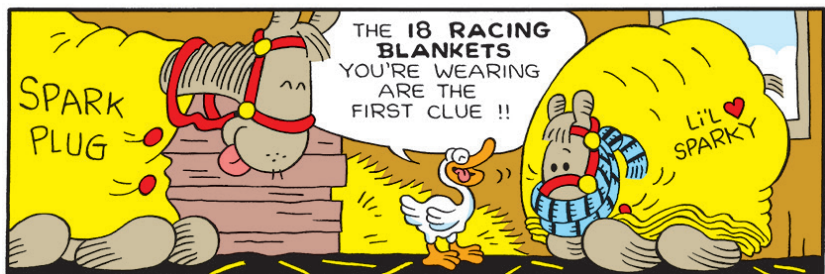
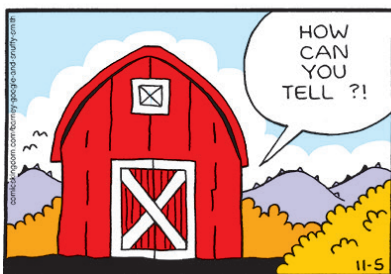
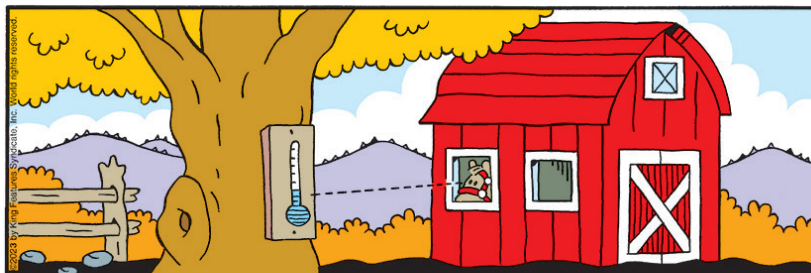
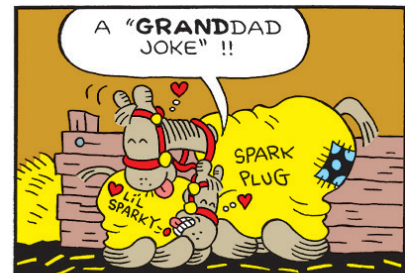
by Gary Kopervas





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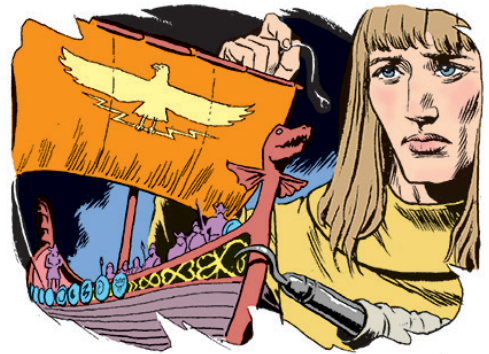
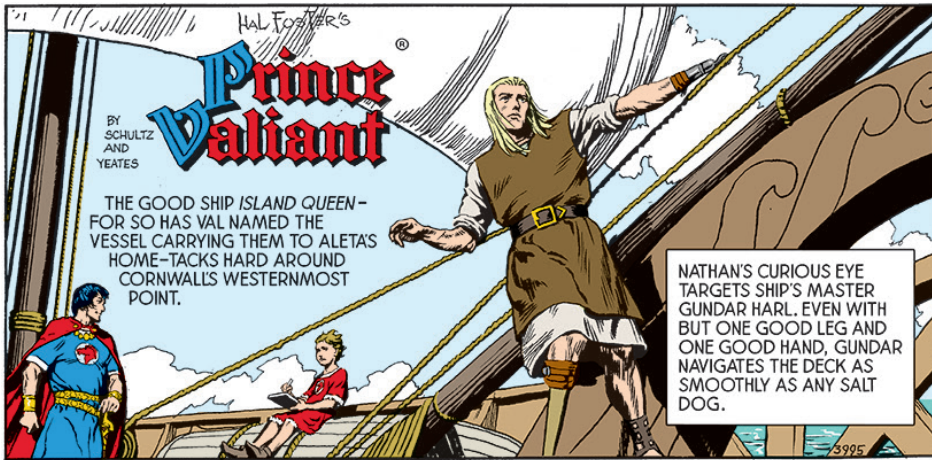
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NATHAN'S FATHER HAS TOLD HIM THE STORY OF THE YOUNG SAILOR, CRIPPLED AND FEARING HE WOULD NEVER RETURN TO THE SEA, BUT POSSESSING A GREAT SKILL FOR DESIGNING AND CRAFTING BOATS.



HE BECAME AN INNOVATIVE SHIPBUILDER, GAINED CONFIDENCE AND DEVELOPED STRUCTURES THAT ALLOWED HIM TO EVENTUALLY COMMAND HIS OWN GREAT VESSELS FOR KING ARTHUR.

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## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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PICKERING



## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### **Beware: listeria and salmonella**

The saga of listeria in sliced deli lunch meat continues, month after month. The list of affected items gets longer and longer as there is now an additional company subject to recalls due to listeria.

To stay current on the lunch meat recalls, go to [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) and search for "lunch meat listeria recall." That will give you several articles with information you need.

As if that's not enough, to be safe, do we need to change the way we prepare eggs? The Food and Drug Administration has now labeled the ongoing egg recall as a class 1, which means it's "reasonable" to assume that the eggs can cause serious health consequences or death.

To be safe from salmonella, they say, gone are poached and sunny side up eggs. Instead, to kill any possible salmonella, we need to scramble or hard boil our eggs and cook them thoroughly, with both the yolk and the egg firm.

To learn more, go to the FDA website ([fda.gov](https://www.fda.gov)) and search for "egg safety salmonella."

The latest food recalls cover a wide variety of products. There's dip that's being recalled because it potentially has mold contamination. And lactose-free milk that has tree nuts. There's dog food recalled for salmonella and listeria. And whole cantaloupes with salmonella.

But it's not all food. There's the drug remdesivir that has glass particles in it. And the dietary supplement tainted with dexamethasone (a corticosteroid) and chlorpheniramine (an antihistamine). And the baby powder with metal or chemicals in it.

On [recalls.gov](https://www.recalls.gov) -- a site that covers recalls from the FDA, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and [FoodSafety.gov](https://www.foodsafety.gov) -- there are recalls for consumer products, boats, medicine, cosmetics, food and more. At this writing, there are recalls of bicycle helmets, bathroom mirrors, yard tractors, playpens and so much more.

If there are certain products that concern you, sign up for email notifications on [Recalls.gov](https://www.recalls.gov).

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1. What is the nickname of the Australian women's national basketball team?

2. Name the cable TV channel that launched on December 31, 1995, and was dedicated primarily to auto racing and other motorsports.

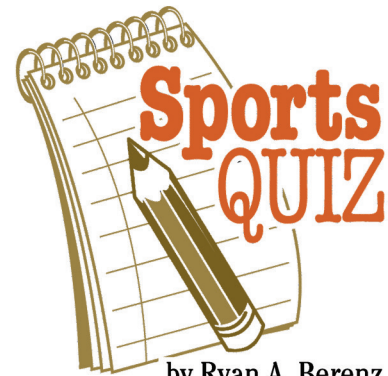
3. What golfer, at age 59, lost a four-hole playoff to Stewart Cink and finished second at the 2009 Open Championship?

4. Brothers Matt and Tim Hasselbeck both played quarterback for what college team?

5. Before it became the Michael Jordan Trophy in 2022, the award for the NBA's Most Valuable Player was named after what sports administrator?

6. Austria's Gudrun Pfluger, four-time winner of the women's World Mountain Running Championships from 1992-96, dedicated her post-athletic career to the study and conservation of what animals?

7. What St. Louis Cardinals third baseman hit two grand slam home runs in one inning in an April 1999 game? (Hint: His son debuted with the San Diego Padres in 2019.)



by Ryan A. Berenz

## Answers

1. The Opals.

2. Speedvision (rebranded as Speed Channel in 2002).

3. Tom Watson.

4. The Boston College Eagles.

5. Maurice Podoloff.

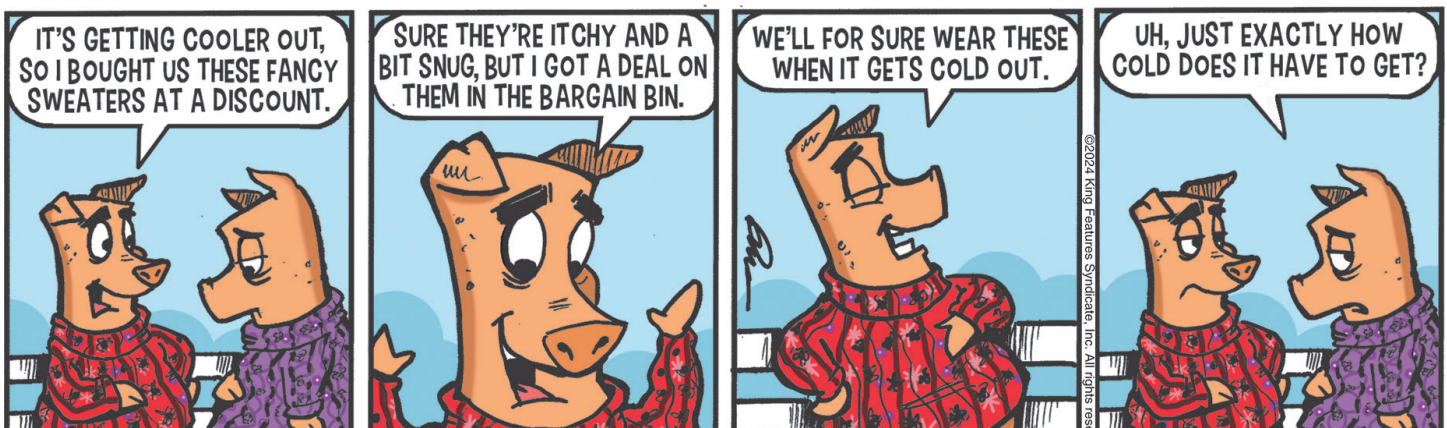
6. Wolves.

7. Fernando Tatis Sr.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





## Keep your pets safe this Halloween



DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Can you remind your readers that Halloween can present many dangers to pets? Thank you. -- Clara in Atlanta

DEAR CLARA: You're absolutely right! While it can be lots of fun to celebrate Halloween with your pet, owners need to protect them from risks that can endanger them during the fun.

If you're having a Halloween party, consider sending your pet to a friend or family member for the evening or give them a safe place to hang out while the guests are there -- like your bedroom or a back room. Make sure they have a comfy bed or blanket, water and toys.

You can bring a pet out to meet the party guests if they are well socialized and calm in group settings. Once your dog or cat (or rabbit or bird or iguana) has said hello to everyone, take them back to their safe room.

Costumes on pets are so much fun, but be sure that the costume isn't constrictive and that wearing it doesn't cause them anxiety. A few minutes at a time is recommended -- enough time to get some cute photos for your Instagram.

Keep all candies, cookies and sweet treats out of reach of your pets. Chocolate is especially dangerous for dogs. Likewise, if you have party snacks out, keep them up high. Avocado, onions and grapes are also dangerous foods for dogs and cats.

If you're trick-or-treating with your pet, keep them on a leash at all times. That includes cats! It's dark, the streets are unfamiliar and there are lots of strange characters walking around. Your pet can get scared and run off.

With advance preparation, you can have a safe, fun and happy Halloween!

Send your tips, comments or questions to [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com).

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## Strange BUT TRUE

- \* A California man who made a personalized license plate that said "No Plate" received more than 2,500 parking tickets.
- \* Omphalophobia is the fear of belly buttons.
- \* Avid readers won't be intimidated by a hefty novel, but they'll still surely be impressed by what's been deemed the largest book ever. Weighing more than 3,000 pounds and measuring 16.40 feet by 26.44 feet with 429 pages inside, the book, which is titled "This is Muhammad," was created in 2012 by 50 people working together in the United Arab

Emirates.

- \* Prior to 1949, tennis court grass was kept at 2 inches long -- that is, until a player was bitten by a snake. It's now typically maintained at a length of 8 mm.
- \* Scientists have found evidence of take-out restaurants in the remains of Pompeii.
- \* Japan has the highest density of vending machines worldwide, with approximately 5 million machines, or one machine for every 23 people. You can buy everything from live lobsters and bread in a can, to underwear and Buddhist amulets from a vending machine.
- \* The first European who learned to smoke from the natives was arrested back home because people thought he was possessed by the devil.
- \* Dolly Parton's parents paid the doctor who delivered her with a bag of cornmeal.
- \* The most expensive domain name ever sold was Voice.com, which was acquired for \$30 million in 2019.
- \* Caribbean sperm whales have their own accents.
- \* After an 8.0 magnitude earthquake hit Mexico City in 1985, nearly all newborn babies survived a collapsed hospital for seven days without nourishment, water, warmth or human contact.
- \* A flea can accelerate faster than a space shuttle.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "Life is a great big canvas, and you should throw all the paint on it you can." -- Danny Kaye  
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### Top pumpkin varieties

Baby Bear	Bushkin	Big Autumn
Baby Pam	Frosty	Big Tom
New England Pie	Funny Face	Baby Boo
Spooktacular	Harvest Moon	Jack-Be-Little
Sugar Treat	Spirit	Jack-Be-Quick
Winter Luxury	Young's Beauty	Munchkin
Autumn Gold	Aspen	Sweetie Pie

### Top pumpkin growers

Illinois	630 million pounds
Indiana	160 million pounds
California	120 million pounds
Michigan	90 million pounds

Sources: [www.ers.usda.gov](http://www.ers.usda.gov), [extension.illinois.edu](http://extension.illinois.edu) - Brenda Weaver





by Freddy Groves

## Pandemic fraud and scams

The Covid pandemic has been a pot of gold for thieves and scammers who want to exploit the critical needs of hospitals and doctors. As usual, however, the criminals aren't too bright.

There was the medical supply company that conspired to sell masks that were misbranded, trying to pass them off to hospitals as genuine National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)-approved N95 masks. The thieves gathered up their fake masks from miscellaneous sources and shipped them off at inflated prices. When NIOSH tested the masks, the scam was discovered because the masks couldn't pass the filtration tests.

A whole alphabet of federal agencies, including the VA's Office of Inspector General, came together in this effort to investigate and prosecute the thieves. Between the price gouging, the fake masks and the interstate commerce, the authorities had a good case for pandemic-related defrauding and conspiracy.

When the case goes to court, selling misbranded medical equipment alone could net the thieves a fine of a half a million dollars. Adding in the interstate commerce and price gouging could tack on additional fines and years in prison.

Then there was the guy who tried to sell millions of dollars of personal protective equipment to the VA. The scam was pretending the company was an authorized distributor of the PPE. They even generated a fake website and email address. The goods that were sent out were non-conforming and the masks were counterfeit.

Another guy stole gloves and PPE and sold them for a cool million dollars. Another scammer stole the relief funds he received, diverting \$180,000 of it for his own use.

In one scam, however, it almost wasn't worth the thief's time: A woman was given two paycheck protection loans for two businesses she owned -- except she didn't own a business. All she got out of the scam was \$41,000.

When are they going to learn? The thieves eventually get caught, and we have the VA OIG and other alphabet agencies to thank for it.

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## Wishing Well®

3	4	5	4	6	4	2	8	7	8	2	3	7
C	H	A	A	Y	S	N	F	R	O	O	O	I
2	6	3	5	6	4	2	7	6	3	8	4	5
T	O	N	S	U	T	E	F	C	S	R	E	H
3	2	4	2	7	2	5	7	6	8	5	2	3
I	M	N	P	T	T	O	R	O	G	R	A	D
4	8	3	7	2	8	6	7	3	6	7	4	6
D	E	E	E	T	A	P	P	R	E	A	E	B
4	6	3	5	3	6	7	4	2	5	6	4	6
C	E	C	T	H	T	I	I	I	J	T	S	E
5	4	7	6	5	8	5	4	7	8	5	7	8
O	I	R	R	U	H	R	O	E	E	N	D	A
3	5	8	4	3	2	3	5	2	4	3	2	3
O	E	D	N	I	O	C	Y	N	S	E	S	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. MOVIES: Who was the only actor to receive an Oscar nomination for work in a "Star Wars" movie?
2. GEOGRAPHY: What is a body of land with water on three sides called?
3. U.S. PRESIDENTS: In 1960, which two candidates participated in the first televised presidential debate in 1960?
4. FOOD & DRINK: What type of flower produces vanilla bean pods?
5. MUSIC: What was the name of blues musician Stevie Ray Vaughn's first Fender Stratocaster?
6. SCIENCE: What type of gas is absorbed by plants?
7. LITERATURE: What is the name of the submarine in "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Seas"?
8. TELEVISION: What is Clair Huxtable's profession in "The Cosby Show"?
9. ANATOMY: What is a more common name for the sternum?
10. ART: Which European city houses the Rijksmuseum?

### Answers

1. Alec Guinness.
2. A peninsula.
3. John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon.
4. Orchid.
5. Number One.
6. Carbon dioxide.
7. Nautilus.
8. Lawyer.
9. Breastbone.
10. Amsterdam

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South Dakota Governor

**Kristi Noem**



**South Dakota:** *Under God, the People Rule*

## Passing Along Freedom

Next year, we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence – America’s 250th birthday! When our Founding Fathers wrote that incredible document, they were in a war for their Freedom against Great Britain, the strongest military in the world at the time. They didn’t know that they would win – in fact, they knew that they might lose. So at the end of the document, they pledged “their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor” to support the principles that the Declaration stood for.

At that signing, Benjamin Franklin famously said, “we must all hang together or most assuredly we will all hang separately.” Our Founding Fathers knew how far they were willing to go to establish a constitutional republic built on Freedom and independence.

Every November, we as Americans have the opportunity to vote as part of this constitutional republic. We vote for local, state, and federal officials – we often vote on ballot measures that impact our lives and the lives of those around us. As the Declaration of Independence says, these votes provide the “consent of the governed” on which our entire government is built.

I think our South Dakota motto says it best: “Under God, the People Rule.”

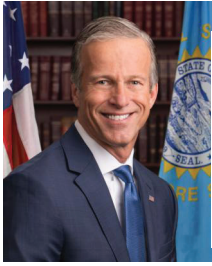
And that system is only possible if we vote. We cannot take it for granted that those around us will vote for us. We have been blessed with Freedom, and the flip side of that coin is personal responsibility to participate in our government.

Election Day is coming up on November 5, and early voting has been open for a couple weeks already. I am asking all of you to get out, do your part, and vote.

As President Reagan famously said, “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.”

We all have an opportunity to pass down Freedom to our kids and grandkids – but only if we participate and vote. We aren’t being asked to pledge “our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor,” but we should be willing to do our part to defend this great nation that we are so blessed to live in.

Get out and VOTE!



**JOHN THUNE**  
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

## **Biden-Harris Agenda Leaves America Worse Off**

For the last four years, it's felt as if the Biden-Harris administration has led us from one crisis to another. Their reckless spending kicked off a historic inflation crisis. Their open-border policies led to an influx of illegal immigrants crossing the southern border. And their weak foreign policy emboldened our adversaries to sow chaos around the world. By a number of important measures, this administration's agenda has left America worse off.

Every American has felt the impact of the inflation crisis that has come to define the Biden-Harris years. It started soon after Democrats forced through a \$1.9 trillion partisan spending bill despite warnings that this much money risked setting off an inflation crisis. Prices started to climb within a few weeks of the bill passing, eventually reaching a 40-year high. Today, prices are up 20 percent since President Biden and Vice President Harris took office, costing a typical family more than \$13,000 more per year just to maintain the same standard of living it enjoyed four short years ago.

The crisis at the southern border is another defining feature of the Biden-Harris administration. In its first days, their administration began dismantling the Trump administration's border security policies, and illegal border crossings soon began to surge. This administration has presided over four of the highest years for illegal border crossings ever recorded – more than 10 million illegal immigrants have crossed the border on its watch. Among these millions are terrorists and violent criminals who threaten public safety and national security. Yet President Biden and Vice President Harris allowed this crisis to rage for years unabated, refusing to even call it a crisis until earlier this year.

We have also seen the effects of the Biden-Harris administration projecting weakness on the world stage. Dating back to its disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Biden-Harris administration has failed to demonstrate strength to our adversaries. In the last few years, we've seen Russia invade Ukraine, Hamas terrorists attack Israel, as well as increasingly brazen actions from China, North Korea, and Iran. Today the world faces greater uncertainty and instability, and the Biden-Harris administration's foreign policy is unsuited to the growing challenges we face.

These crises and others have set America back. Life has gotten more expensive, our country has become less secure, and the world has become more chaotic. These problems won't be solved by doing more of the same. We need to shift gears to policies that grow our economy, secure the border, and demonstrate strength abroad.



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## Growing and Improving

### **BIG News**

It's pheasant season in South Dakota! I've been able to break out the orange vest (my favorite color) and enjoy the crisp fall air and golden prairie. It's one of my favorite traditions each year, spending time with family and friends in the hopes of a successful hunt.

We're blessed to have the world's best pheasant hunting in South Dakota. In 2023 alone, we harvested 1.2 million birds – more than every surrounding state combined. I'm hopeful for another bountiful harvest this season and for visitors and South Dakotans to enjoy the incredible landscape of our state.

### **BIG Idea**

Xiomara came to LifeScape as a young girl only able to move her toe to control her electric wheelchair, but now, she is able to stand on her own! The incredible work of both patients and providers at LifeScape has transformed and is transforming lives, like Xiomara.

LifeScape provides services for more than 4,000 children and adults with disabilities and medical rehabilitation needs. Their facilities include a specialty hospital, school, residential services, and outpatient therapies. This year, they began construction of a new campus in Sioux Falls to serve even more patients, and hopefully the 500 families on their waitlist.

It was a privilege to meet those who are a part of this facility.

### **BIG Update**

When you go to the grocery store, everything has a higher price tag – bread, milk, eggs, meat, flour, chips, and more. Over the past nearly four years, inflation has risen more than 20%, and we're losing hope that these prices will return to what they were pre-pandemic. Families across America are struggling to scrounge together the additional \$13,300 they need to buy the basics that they could buy three years ago.

Unnecessary bureaucratic red tape, reckless progressive spending, and high interest rates have slowed growth and skyrocketed prices. I've opposed more than \$13 trillion in unnecessary spending and the Biden Administration's regulations that make it harder for companies to invest and develop in America. We must encourage new and old businesses to grow and expand, improving the lives of individuals, families, and communities. America is the number one economy in the world, but we must take steps to ensure it stays that way.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

## Nothing Is More Satisfying Than Doing Nothing

We were facing a very severe hurricane, and everything was being shut down. The hurricane was to hit us on a Wednesday night. Because we were in the center of where that hurricane was supposed to come, we were not allowed to get out and drive on the streets.

I knew that I had to finish all my work by Tuesday. I had radio programs to record and write my syndicated newspaper column.

With due diligence, I got everything done by Tuesday afternoon. We still had electricity, so I was able to email my radio programs, and newspaper column. I was afraid that if I had waited for my normal routine, we would have lost electricity at the least, and I would not have been able to get it all done.

I've never done something like this before, but I did all my week's work on Monday and Tuesday. When I woke up Wednesday morning, I realized that I had nothing to do. All of the work for the week had already been finished, and I had nothing more to do.

Nothing like this has ever happened to me before. I'm the kind of person that likes to work every day. I go to my office every day and work and work and work. That's my MO. I like nothing better than working.

Now, I had the rest of the week with nothing to do. I suppose I could've continued working on one of my writing projects or read some books I was working on, but I had a little butterfly thought floating in my head.

What would it be like if I had nothing to do?

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage worked in her craft room, and was busy with her projects. Even if the electricity went out, she had something to do in her room.

I could've gone to my office, sat before my computer, and done some work.

Being the old geezer I am, I don't have the energy I had 10 years ago. It takes me longer to do things that I once could do with a snap of my finger.

What if I just spent the next three days doing nothing?

At one time, that would've been a terrible thought for me. But now I'm beginning to like that thought.

At the time, doing nothing seemed to be an excellent idea.

Having never done nothing before, I couldn't figure out how to do it or how to plan my day. I'm pretty good at planning my day, but then I realized that if I'm going to do nothing, there is nothing to plan.



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I did think about asking The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage how I should plan my nothing days. As I thought about that, I realized she would tell me what to do, and then I would have something to do rather than nothing. She is the great architect of doing things.

As I was planning my "Nothing Days," I realized that I couldn't think because that would be something. Oh boy, it is hard work to do nothing.

When I got up Wednesday morning, it started to rain, and there was a wind outside, so I decided to wear my pajamas all day. If I had changed into my daily pants and shirt, that would have been doing something, and I didn't want to do anything.

I walked out to the kitchen where The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was doing something. She was making breakfast.

She asked me, "Are you going to wear your pajamas all day?"

I looked back at her and said, "I have nothing to say."

Thus began my first day of doing nothing.

Without even thinking about it, I ate my breakfast and wobbled my way to my easy chair to sit down and continue doing nothing.

"Do you have any plans for today?" My wife asked.

"I have nothing to say."

She looked at me rather strangely and then walked back to her craft room to begin her projects for the day, whatever it was.

I just sat on my easy chair, leaned back, and enjoyed the moment.

One thing I've learned about these "Doing Nothing Days" is that they're very easy to start. Nothing demands that I do nothing, and I am unanimous in that.

I didn't even look at my watch because that would be doing something. And if I'm doing nothing, why must I know what time it is?

I enjoyed three splendid days of doing nothing.

By Friday, the hurricane was out of our area, but there were still driving restrictions because of some damage. But the hurricane was over; therefore, my days of doing nothing were ending, and I would soon be back doing something.

When I was in my easy chair, I tried hard not to think because that was doing something. But Friday morning, I could think a little and look back over those days with great appreciation.

I've learned that there comes a time when I should set aside a day to do nothing. Maybe we should have a national Do-Nothing Day. I would recommend one restriction: everybody would be able to pick the day they would do nothing. I think that would go a long way in benefiting our country today.

I reflected on Colossians 3:23, "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men."

## EARTHTALK™

Dear EarthTalk: What are some video games that educate young people about environmental issues?

-- Concerned parent, Skokie, IL

As the climate crisis gets more pressing, video games are emerging as powerful tools to educate young people about environmental issues. Games offer an interactive, engaging platform where players can explore complex challenges like climate change, conservation and sustainability. This trend harnesses the immersive nature of gaming to make learning more accessible and impactful, letting young players make decisions that mirror real-world environmental consequences of human actions.

One standout game in this genre is "Fate of the World" (available on PC and Mac), which places players in charge of managing the Earth's resources and climate while addressing the needs of a growing global population. It highlights the difficulty of balancing development with conservation and emphasizes how every decision—whether political, social or environmental—has consequences. It fosters critical thinking by allowing players to test strategies, from implementing renewable energy to enforcing strict regulations.

"Ice Flows," available on iOS, Android and the web, focuses on the effects of climate change in Antarctica. Players simulate the behavior of Antarctic ice sheets and observe how climate change affects global sea levels. This game introduces young players to polar environments, offering a tangible way to understand the consequences of global warming in one of the world's most vulnerable regions.

"Save the Rhino" tackles wildlife conservation. Available on iOS and Android, in this game players control animals like rhinos and elephants, bringing attention to the ongoing threat of poaching. This direct engagement with the animals themselves fosters empathy and a deeper understanding of the poaching crisis, showing players how conservation efforts can positively affect wildlife.

"Plasticity" (for PC) tackles a world overwhelmed by plastic waste. It encourages players to reflect on the long-term impact of plastic consumption and pollution by navigating a future dystopia caused by neglect, driving home the importance of individual and collective responsibility in addressing the crises.

By using interactive gameplay, simulations and storytelling, these games encourage critical thinking and problem-solving, making abstract concepts like climate change and resource management more tangible. The use of technology, such as AI and simulations, brings the consequences of human behavior to life in an immersive and engaging way. As this trend continues, the development of augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) technologies promises even more immersive environmental education experiences.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: [question@earthtalk.org](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).



**"Fate of the World" is one of several video games that help teach players about climate and environmental issues.**



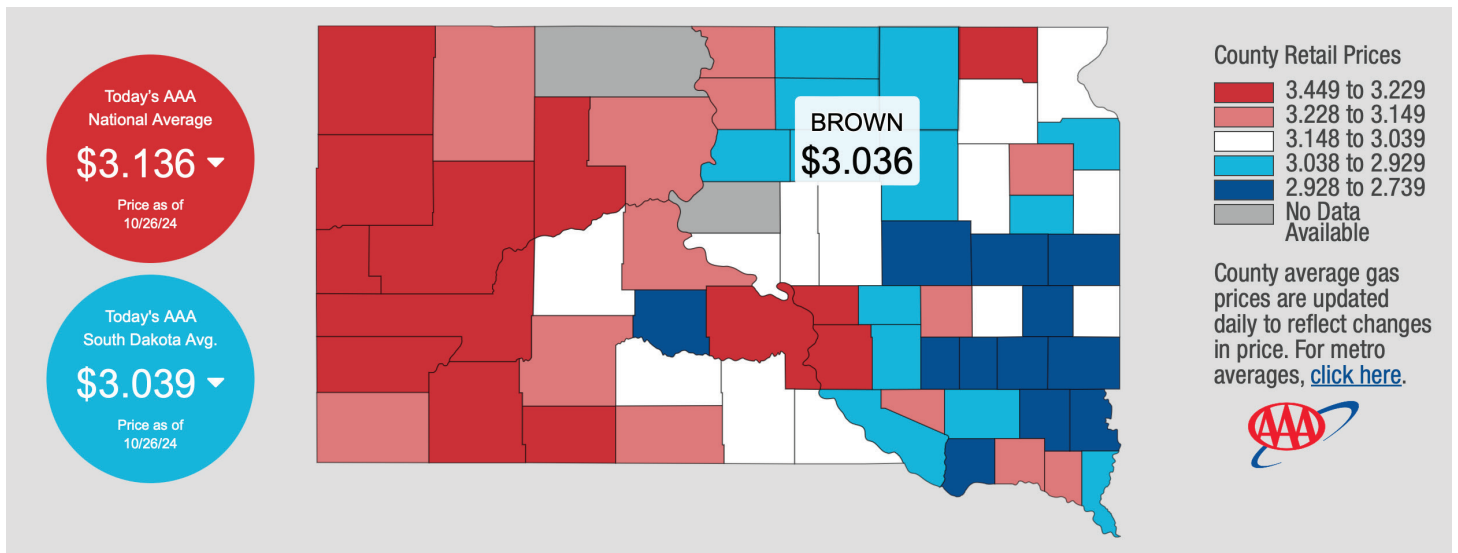
# Broton Daily Independent

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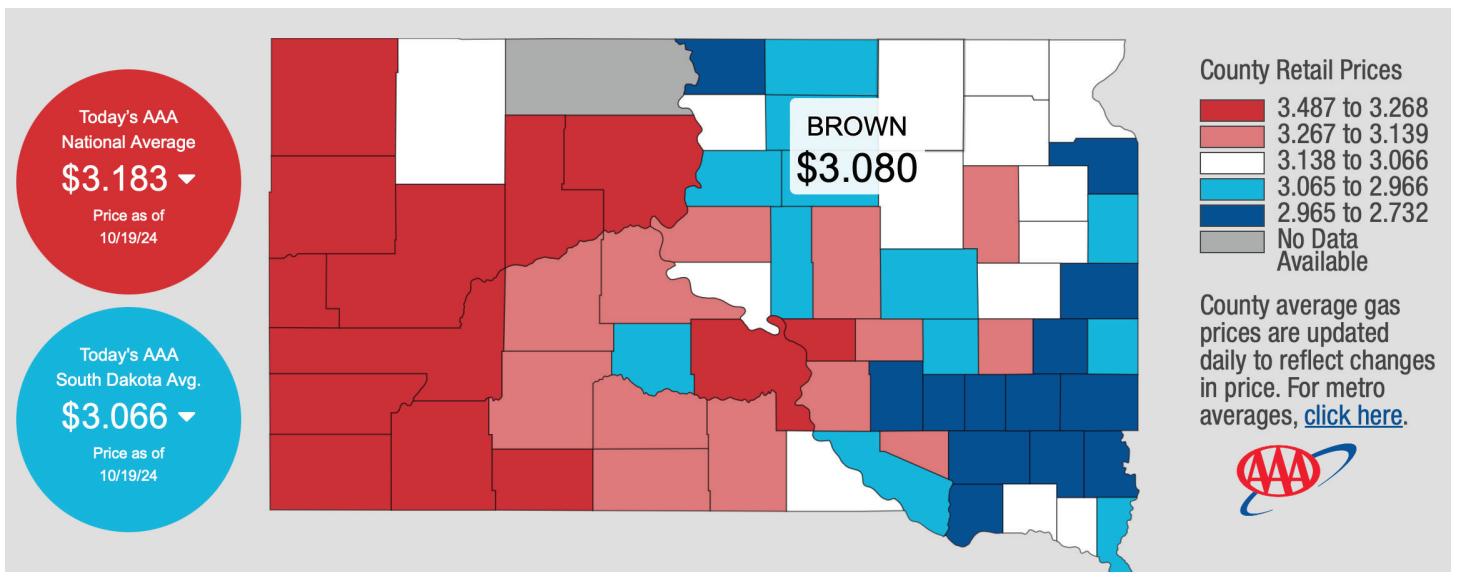
## South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$3.039	\$3.243	\$3.671	\$3.288
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.055	\$3.265	\$3.694	\$3.294
Week Ago Avg.	\$3.066	\$3.283	\$3.698	\$3.327
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.093	\$3.294	\$3.721	\$3.292
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.528	\$3.717	\$4.200	\$4.718

### This Week



### Last Week



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## Drought Classification

None

D0 (Abnormally Dry)

D1 (Moderate Drought)

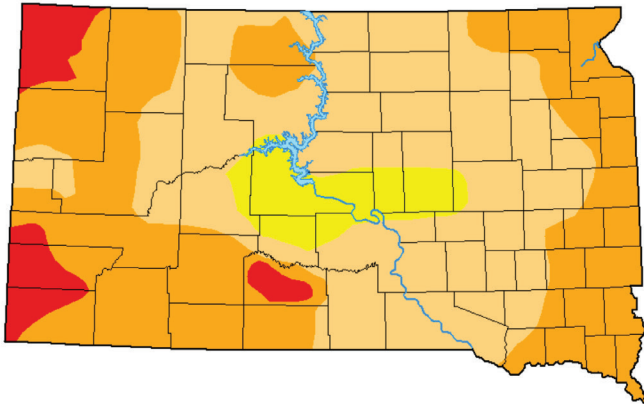
D2 (Severe Drought)

D3 (Extreme Drought)

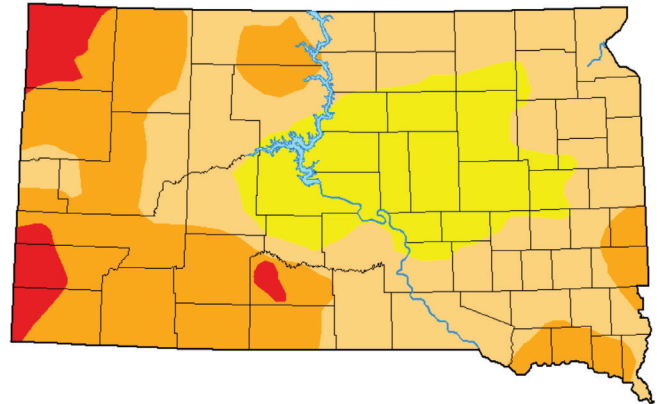
D4 (Exceptional Drought)

No Data

## Drought Monitor



October 22



October 15

Warm temperature dominated the High Plains this week with departures ranging up to 12 degrees F above normal, especially in the northern portions of the region. Precipitation fell across much of the region this week, but amounts were not large enough to prevent further degradations across much of the region. Extreme drought was introduced in northeast Nebraska, while extreme drought was expanded in western South Dakota, eastern Wyoming, and northwestern Nebraska. Severe and moderate drought were expanded in portions of Kansas, Nebraska, and the Dakotas, while severe drought was expanded in southern Wyoming. Abnormal dryness was expanded in parts of North Dakota. The heaviest rains fell across Colorado, reporting rainfall totals up to 600% of normal, resulting in improvements of moderate to severe drought and abnormal dryness in western and southern portions of the state this week.



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### Incumbent raises more than opponents in PUC race, and has support from industry groups

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - OCTOBER 26, 2024 7:00 AM

The Republican incumbent running for reelection to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission has raised and spent more than her Libertarian and Democratic challengers combined, and is the only candidate in the race to receive money from political action committees whose donors could have business before the commission.

According to campaign finance reports filed this week, Kristie Fiegen had about \$41,000 on hand in May and has raised nearly \$19,000 since then while spending about \$29,000, leaving her with about \$30,000. Libertarian candidate Gideon Oakes started from zero and reported raising about \$2,500 and spending it all, while Democratic candidate Forrest Wilson also started from zero, received about \$5,500 in contributions, and spent \$5,200.

Contributions to Fiegen, who has served on the commission since 2011, included money from three political action committees: \$1,500 from COTEL, which is the political action committee for members of the South Dakota Telecommunications Association; \$1,000 from SD Action Committee for Rural Electrification; and \$1,000 from Midcontinent Communications South Dakota Political Action Committee.

Fiegen is the only one of the three elected commissioners up for election this year. They oversee the regulation of private utility companies, which provide essential services including telecommunications, electricity and natural gas. The commission exercises a more limited regulatory role with telecommunications companies and cooperative and municipal utilities.

Commissioners also consider permits for major projects, such as new power plants, transmission lines and wind and solar farms.

*Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked for five years as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.*



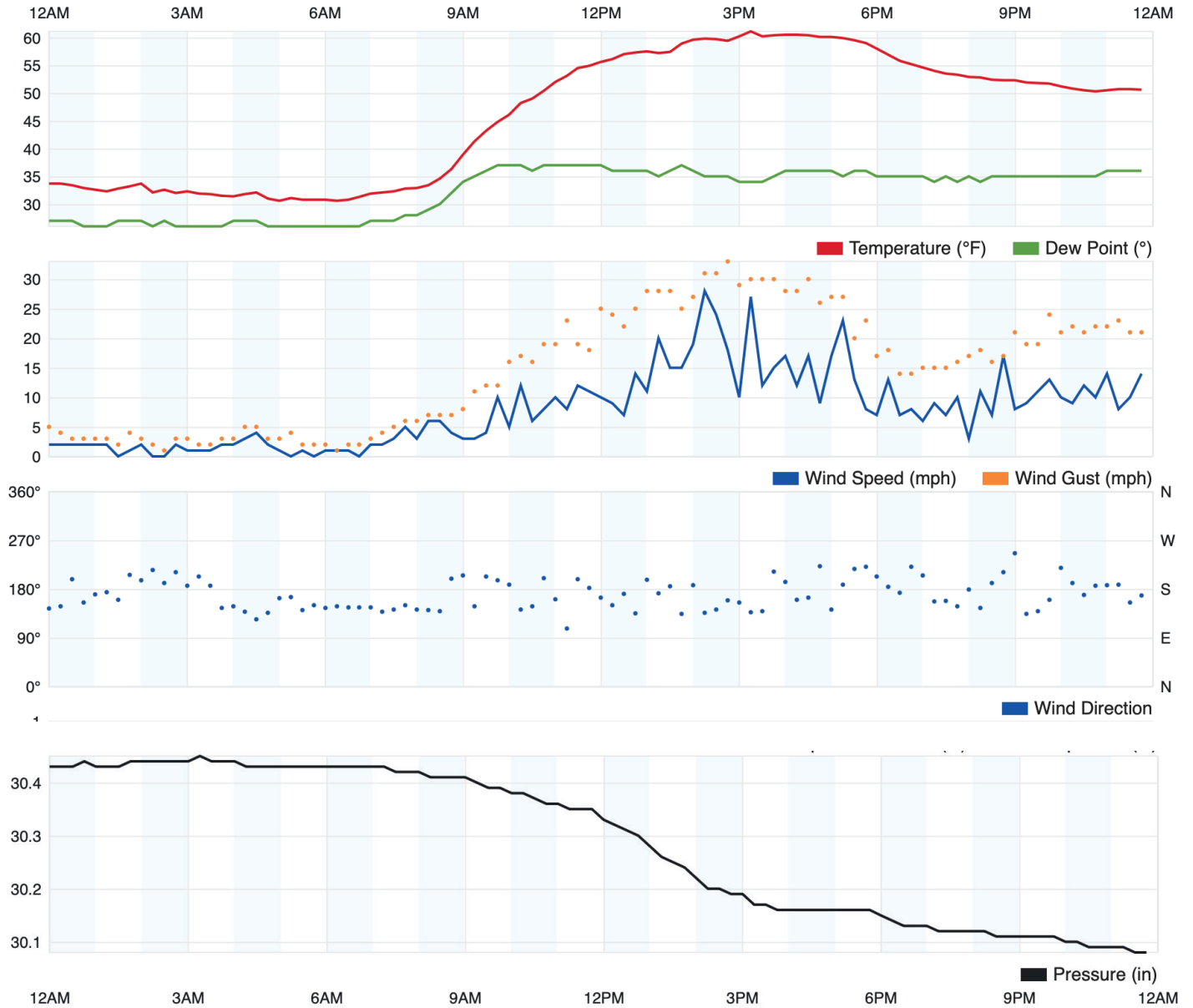
**Public Utilities Commissioner Kristie Fiegen participates in an election forum on Sept. 19, 2024, at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell. Her opponents did not attend.** (Joshua Haiar/South Dakota Searchlight)



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



High: 68 °F

Increasing  
Clouds

Tonight



Low: 48 °F

Mostly Cloudy

Monday



High: 71 °F

Mostly Sunny

Monday Night



Low: 43 °F

Mostly Cloudy

Tuesday



High: 58 °F

Mostly Cloudy  
then Rain  
Likely

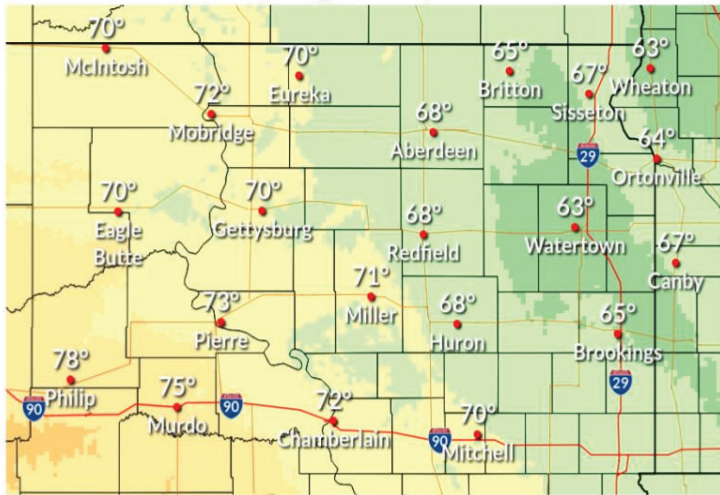


## Another Mild Day

Increasing Chances for Precipitation Mid-Week

October 27, 2024  
4:11 AM

### Sunday High Temperatures



### Probability of Precipitation Forecast (%)

	10/29 Tue												10/30 Wed												10/31 Thu			
	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm							
Aberdeen	0	5	10	15	15	60	60	75	75	90	90	85	85	45	45	40	40	10	10	10	10							
Britton	0	5	10	10	10	55	55	75	75	90	90	85	85	45	45	45	45	10	10	10	10							
Brookings	0	0	0	10	10	30	30	50	50	75	75	70	70	40	40	35	35	10	10	10	10							
Chamberlain	0	5	5	5	5	25	25	65	65	80	80	70	70	30	30	35	35	0	0	0	0							
Clark	0	0	5	10	10	40	40	75	75	85	85	80	80	45	45	45	45	10	10	10	10							
Eagle Butte	10	25	40	25	25	75	75	85	85	90	90	85	85	35	35	30	30	0	0	0	0							
Ellendale	0	5	10	20	20	55	55	65	65	90	90	85	85	40	40	35	35	10	10	10	10							
Eureka	0	15	25	30	30	65	65	75	75	90	90	85	85	35	35	30	30	5	5	5	5							
Gettysburg	0	10	20	20	20	70	70	80	80	90	90	85	85	40	40	35	35	5	5	5	5							
Huron	0	5	5	10	10	40	40	75	75	80	80	75	75	40	40	45	45	5	5	5	5							
Kennebec	0	5	5	10	10	35	35	70	70	80	80	75	75	30	30	30	30	0	0	0	0							
McIntosh	5	25	40	40	40	65	65	65	65	80	80	75	75	20	20	20	20	5	5	5	5							
Milbank	0	5	5	5	5	35	35	70	70	90	90	80	80	50	50	50	50	15	15	15	15							
Miller	0	5	10	10	10	55	55	80	80	85	85	80	80	40	40	45	45	5	5	5	5							
Mobridge	0	20	35	35	35	65	65	70	70	90	90	85	85	30	30	25	25	5	5	5	5							
Murdo	0	5	15	10	10	50	50	75	75	85	85	85	85	30	30	30	30	0	0	0	0							
Pierre	0	10	15	15	15	55	55	80	80	90	90	85	85	35	35	30	30	0	0	0	0							
Redfield	0	5	5	10	10	45	45	80	80	85	85	80	80	40	40	40	40	5	5	5	5							
Sisseton	0	5	5	10	10	40	40	75	75	90	90	80	80	45	45	50	50	15	15	15	15							
Watertown	0	0	5	10	10	35	35	70	70	85	85	75	75	45	45	45	45	10	10	10	10							
Webster	0	5	5	10	10	40	40	75	75	90	90	80	80	45	45	45	45	10	10	10	10							
Wheaton	0	5	5	5	5	40	40	75	75	90	90	80	80	50	50	55	55	20	20	15	15							



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Mild and dry conditions continue but a change is in the works. Mid week a front will stall across the region, and this will provide the focus for rain. Unfortunately, with a wide spread in model rainfall amounts, we're faced with a high uncertainty over who gets what.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 61 °F at 3:14 PM

Low Temp: 30 °F at 6:16 AM

Wind: 33 mph at 2:38 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 10 hours, 23 minutes (lost 21 minutes since last Sunday)

## Today's Info

Record High: 83 in 1983

Record Low: 1 in 2020

Average High: 53

Average Low: 28

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.94

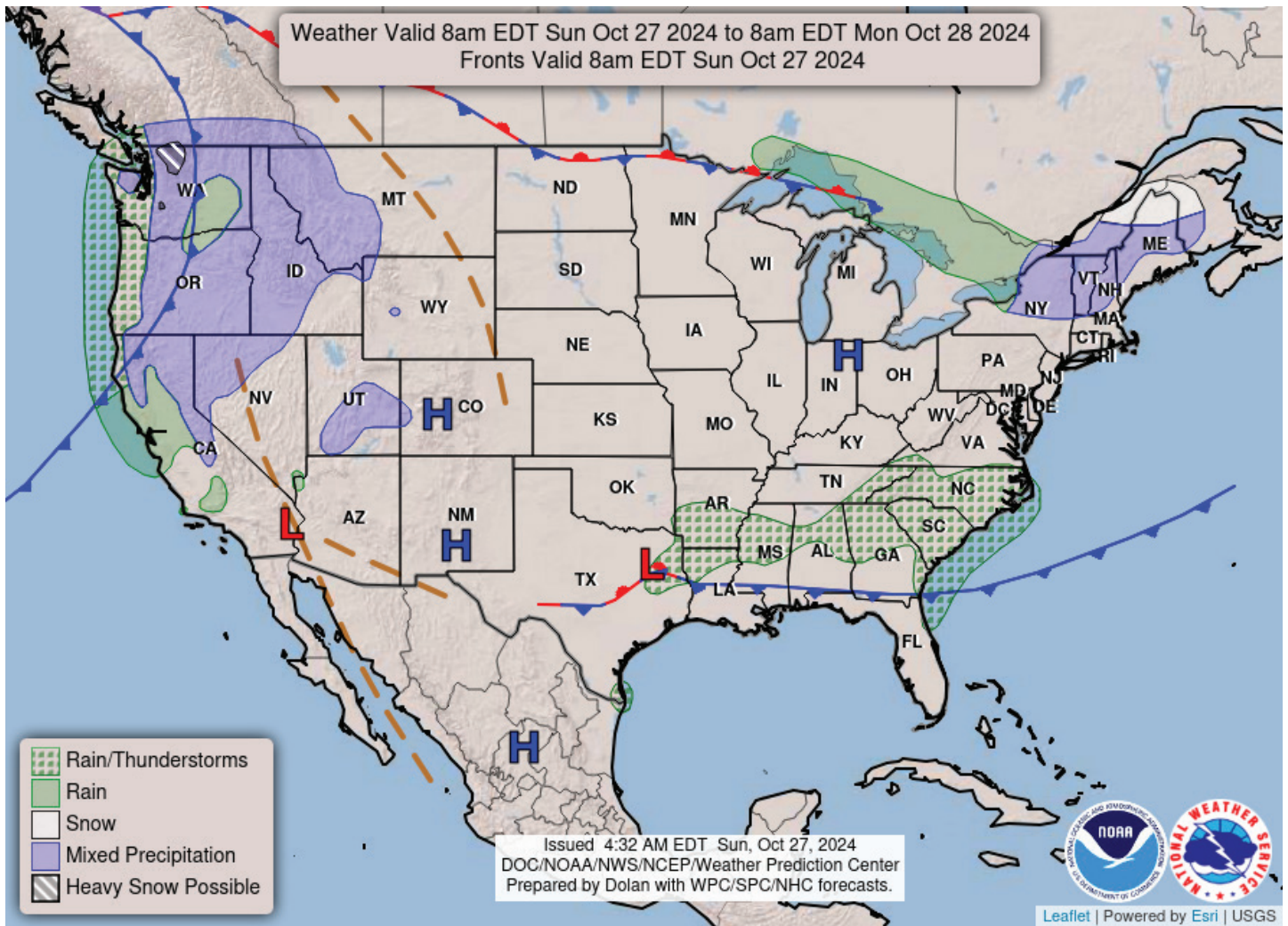
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.07

Average Precip to date: 20.27

Precip Year to Date: 19.82

Sunset Tonight: 6:27:58 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:05:47 am





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## Today in Weather History

October 27, 1991: The first winter storm of the season moved across western and northern South Dakota. The storm produced widespread snow and freezing rain. Strong winds also produced blowing snow which caused blizzard conditions. Snow amounts ranged from 3 to 11 inches. Many schools and businesses in western South Dakota were closed. Snow drifts, as high as 6 feet, made many roads impassable. Travel across western South Dakota was extremely difficult, if not impossible. Forty traffic accidents occurred in the Black Hills while five accidents were reported in Pierre. Many major roads were closed due to the snow and visibility. Rapid City airport was closed. Freezing rain downed power and telephone lines in Mobridge, Gettysburg, Belvidere, Midland, and Mission. Ice also broke six power poles in Walworth County. Some rural areas were without electricity for 30 hours.

1764 - A "very remarkable storm of snow with high winds" produced 22 inches at Rutland in central Massachusetts. (David Ludlum)

1913: At least three people died, and more than a hundred people were injured when the Abercynon Tornado struck an area from Edwardsville to Cilfynydd in South Wales.

1929 - A snowstorm dumped 27 inches upon Ishpeming, MI, in 24 hours to establish a state record. (David Ludlum)

1962 - An early season winter storm over New England blanketed northern Maine with 7 to 16 inches of snow, and southeastern New England with up to 3 inches of snow. Worcester MA received a record 4.7 inches of snow. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Showers and thunderstorms produced locally heavy rain from Virginia to New York State. Fallen leaves made roads and sidewalks slick, and also clogged sewers. Rainfall totals of 1.55 inches at Newark NJ, 1.54 inches at Harrisburg PA, 1.27 inches at Scranton PA, and 1.22 inches at Atlantic City NJ, were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Low pressure brought snow and gale force winds to the Great Lakes Region, and snow and high winds to the north central U.S. Winds gusted to 47 mph at Lansing MI, and reached 55 mph at Pierre SD. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Wintry weather invaded the northwestern U.S. A storm crossing the Central Rockies produced up to 23 inches of snow in the mountains east of Salt Lake City UT. "Indian Summer" continued in the Lower Ohio Valley and the Upper Great Lakes Region. Afternoon highs of 71 degrees at Marquette MI and 72 degrees at Sault Ste Marie MI were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2006: An F1 tornado (waterspout) came ashore and caused significant damage on the west side of Apalachicola Florida.



## RIGHT FOR GOD'S PLAN

Charlie Brown was sitting behind his desk holding his head between his hands, as his elbows kept them in place. With a worried look on his face he moaned, "The moment I set foot on the steps of life, they took one look at me and said, 'Not right for the part!'"

Not so for the Christian!

Paul, writing to the Ephesians said, "When you believed in Christ, He identified you as His own by giving you the Holy Spirit." That's God's guarantee that we belong to Him and that He has a unique plan for our lives, and we are just "right for the part."

When the Holy Spirit comes into our lives, it is the beginning of a new way of living because we have become "new creations" through Christ Jesus. We know that "old things have passed away and all things have become new!" And whatever "part" God has for us is one that meets His needs, and we will certainly be able to fulfill that "part" for His glory on earth.

We must always remember that the power of the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives now – transforming us into the likeness of Christ right now. Often we look at the "end product" – being with God in the Kingdom of Heaven. We must always remember that His power is at work in us at this very moment. And when we look back and see where we were, and look forward and know where we will be, we know He has a "part" for us.

Prayer: We pray, Lord, that we will be patient with You as You are with us as You shape us and mold us and work with us until we are "right for our part." In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. Ephesians 1:13

*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:  
10.25.24

23 26 35 41 43 7

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$250,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.26.24

2 3 25 42 47 5

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$12,890,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.26.24

6 12 32 35 41 13

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 53 Mins  
59 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.26.24

7 11 13 34 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$77,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.26.24

1 7 25 27 57 18

TOP PRIZE:  
**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
10.26.24

8 12 40 45 51 15

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$28,000,000**

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  
09/20/2025 NSU Gypsy Day  
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 Central High School def. T F Riggs High School, 25-11, 25-18, 25-16

Gregory def. Chamberlain, 25-15, 18-25, 25-16

Harrisburg def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-11, 25-13

Alliance Triangular=

Hill City def. Alliance, Neb., 26-24, 25-19

Hill City def. Liberty Tree, Colo., 25-6, 25-15

East/West Tournament=

Brandon Valley def. Rapid City Central, 25-16, 25-15

Brandon Valley def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-15, 20-25, 25-17

Brandon Valley def. Spearfish, 25-10, 25-19

Harrisburg def. Rapid City Central, 25-8, 25-12

Harrisburg def. Spearfish, 25-10, 25-19

Watertown def. Douglas, 25-12, 25-11

Watertown def. Sturgis Brown High School, 25-9, 25-8

Yankton def. Sturgis Brown High School, 25-18, 25-13

SESD Conference Tournament=

Burke def. Chamberlain, 25-4, 25-10

Burke def. Gregory, 25-14, 25-17

Burke def. Parkston, 25-12, 25-22

Gregory def. Parkston, 22-25, 27-25, 25-22

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Bon Homme, 25-19, 25-21

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Burke, 7-25, 25-21, 25-23

Winner def. Gregory, 25-16, 25-22

Winner def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-23, 26-24

Vikki Young Memorial Tournament=

Dupree def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-17, 25-14, 25-18

Dupree def. Newell, 25-21, 25-17, 25-18

Newell def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-22, 25-20, 25-19

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

### **Amar Johnson's TD run in OT lifts South Dakota State over South Dakota 20-17**

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Amar Johnson burst into the end zone on a 3-yard run in overtime to lift South Dakota State over South Dakota 20-17 on Saturday night.

Will Leyland kicked a 40-yard field goal in the first possession of overtime for South Dakota.

South Dakota State, ranked third in the FCS coaches poll, has won three straight against fourth-ranked South Dakota.

Trailing 14-7, Travis Theis led the Coyotes on an eight-play, 50-yard drive to the Jackrabbits' 10-yard line. But on first-and-goal, Graham Spalding picked off a Theis pass to end the drive with 4:23 to play.

On the next play from scrimmage, South Dakota's Mi'Quise Grace scooped up a fumbled ball and returned it 15 yards into the end zone to tie it 14-all.



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The Coyotes forced a three-and-out and their final possession of regulation ended when Leyland missed a 46-yard field-goal attempt with 26 seconds left.

Theis ran it in from the 1 to put the Coyotes up 7-0 in the first quarter. The Jackrabbits answered with an 80-yard drive, capped by Mark Gronowski's 1-yard touchdown burst. Amar Johnson added a 1-yard touchdown run with 4:53 remaining in the first half to give the Jackrabbits a 14-7 lead.

Gronowski completed 20 of 27 passes for 163 yards for South Dakota State (6-2, 3-1 Missouri Valley Football Conference). Angel Johnson ran for 81 yards on 14 carries. Gronowski finished with 54 yards on the ground and Amar Johnson had 17 yards on 10 carries.

Aidan Bouman was 20-of-32 passing for 163 yards for South Dakota (6-2, 4-1). Theis ran 15 times for 78 yards.

## Israeli strikes on Gaza kill 22, officials say, as truck ramming near Tel Aviv hurts dozens

By AMI BENTOV, TIA GOLDENBERG, SAMY MAGDY and JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israeli strikes on northern Gaza have killed at least 22 people, mostly women and children, Palestinian officials said Sunday, as the Israeli offensive in the hard-hit and isolated north entered a third week and aid groups described a humanitarian catastrophe. Israel said it targeted militants.

In a separate development, a truck rammed into a bus stop near the Israeli city of Tel Aviv, wounding 35 people, according to Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service. The circumstances were not immediately clear, but Palestinians have carried out dozens of vehicle-ramming attacks over the years. The attack occurred near the headquarters of Israel's Mossad spy agency.

Iran's supreme leader, meanwhile, said Israeli strikes on the country over the weekend "should not be exaggerated nor downplayed," while stopping short of calling for retaliation, suggesting Iran is carefully weighing its response to the attack.

On Saturday, Israeli warplanes attacked military targets in Iran in response to an Iranian ballistic missile attack earlier this month.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's 85-year-old leader, who would make the final decision on any response, said "it is up to the authorities to determine how to convey the power and will of the Iranian people to the Israeli regime and to take actions that serve the interests of this nation and country."

The exchanges of fire have raised fears of an all-out regional war pitting Israel and the United States against Iran and its militant proxies, which include Hamas and the Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon, where Israel launched a ground invasion earlier this month after nearly a year of lower-level conflict.

Apparent attack near Tel Aviv

MDA released footage of a large truck with a mostly empty bed that appeared to have slammed into a bus. In addition to being near the Mossad headquarters, the bus stop is also close to a central highway junction, and the incident came as Israelis were returning to work after a weeklong holiday.

Asi Aharoni, an Israeli police spokesperson, told Israeli public broadcaster Kan that the "attacker was neutralized," indicating police were treating the incident as an attack. It wasn't clear whether the suspect was stopped or killed.

Aharoni said a truck had slammed into a bus and individuals waiting at the stop, and that there were wounded people stuck under the vehicle. MDA Director Eli Bin said six of the wounded were in serious condition.

Palestinians have carried out scores of stabbings, shootings and car-ramming attacks over the years. Tensions have soared since the outbreak of the war in Gaza, as Israel has carried out regular military raids into the occupied West Bank that have left hundreds dead. Most appear to have been militants killed during shootouts with Israeli forces, but Palestinians taking part in violent protests and civilian bystanders have also been killed.

Red Cross describes 'horrific circumstances' in northern Gaza

The Gaza Health Ministry's emergency service said that 11 women and two children were among the 22

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killed in the strikes late Saturday on several homes and buildings in the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahiya. It said a further 15 people were wounded and that the death toll could rise. It listed the names of those killed, who mostly came from three families.

The Israeli military said it carried out a precise strike on militants in a structure in Beit Lahiya and took steps to avoid harming civilians. It disputed what it said were "numbers published by the media," without elaborating or providing evidence for its own account.

Israel has been waging a massive air and ground offensive in northern Gaza since Oct. 6, saying that Hamas militants have regrouped there. Hundreds of people have been killed and tens of thousands of Palestinians have fled to Gaza City in the latest wave of displacement in the yearlong war.

Israel says its strikes on Gaza only target militants, and it blames Hamas for civilian casualties because the militants fight in densely populated areas. The military rarely comments on individual strikes, which often kill women and children.

Aid groups have warned of a catastrophic situation in northern Gaza, which was the first target of Israel's ground offensive and had already suffered the heaviest destruction of the war. Israel has severely limited the entry of basic humanitarian aid in recent weeks, and the three remaining hospitals in the north — one of which was raided over the weekend — say they have been overwhelmed by waves of wounded people.

The International Committee of the Red Cross on Saturday said that ongoing Israeli evacuation orders and restrictions on the entry of essential supplies to the north had left the civilian population in "horrific circumstances."

"Many civilians are currently unable to move, trapped by fighting, destruction or physical constraint and now lack access to even basic medical care," it said.

The war began when Hamas-led militants blew holes in Israel's border wall and stormed into southern Israel in a surprise attack on Oct. 7, 2023. They killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted around 250. Some 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, around a third of whom are believed to be dead.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 42,000 Palestinians, according to the local Health Ministry. The ministry does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count but says more than half of those killed were women and children. Israel says it has killed over 17,000 militants, without providing evidence.

The offensive has devastated much of the impoverished coastal territory and displaced around 90% of its population of 2.3 million, often multiple times. Hundreds of thousands of people have crowded into squalid tent camps along the coast, and aid groups say hunger is rampant.

## **Yamamoto shuts down Yankees, Freeman homers again as Dodgers win 4-2 for 2-0 World Series lead**

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Yoshinobu Yamamoto walked back to his dugout and made the slightest tip of his cap to cheering fans. He left Japan for moments like this, an opportunity to put the Los Angeles Dodgers in control of the World Series.

Yamamoto allowed one hit over 6 1/3 innings, Freddie Freeman homered for the second straight night and Los Angeles beat the New York Yankees 4-2 on Saturday for a 2-0 Series lead.

But the Dodgers will head to New York uncertain whether Shohei Ohtani can play after their biggest star partially dislocated his left shoulder on a slide at second base.

"We're going to get some tests at some point tonight, tomorrow, and then we'll know more in the next couple days," manager Dave Roberts said. "The strength was great. The range of motion good. So we're encouraged."

Tommy Edman and Teoscar Hernández also went deep off starter Carlos Rodón, who tied a Yankees World Series record by allowing three home runs.

New York was held to one hit before the ninth, when the Yankees closed to 4-2 on Giancarlo Stanton's one-out RBI single against Blake Treinen. Anthony Volpe struck out with the bases loaded, and Alex Vesia

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came in to retire pinch-hitter Jose Trevino on a first-pitch flyout for his first postseason save.

"Thinking back to my front yard at my house, that's what we would envision," Vesia said.

Game 3 is Monday night at Yankee Stadium. Forty-five of 56 teams holding 2-0 World Series leads have gone on to win the title.

"No one said it's going to be easy," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "It's a long series, and we need to make it a long series now. We won't flinch."

Yankees star Aaron Judge went 0 for 4 with three strikeouts. He is 1 for 9 in the Series and is hitting .150 with six RBIs and 19 strikeouts in 40 postseason at-bats.

"Just expanding the zone. That's really what it really comes down to," Judge said. "I think it's trying to make things happen instead of letting the game come to you. ... Plain and simple, I've got to start swinging at strikes."

Yamamoto turned down the Yankees last December and joined the Dodgers for a \$325 million, 12-year contract, a record for pitchers, teaming with Ohtani to create record interest in Major League Baseball back in Japan.

The rookie right-hander threw seven scoreless innings at Yankee Stadium on June 7 but was sidelined from June 15 to Sept. 10 because of a strained rotator cuff. This was his finest start since the injury.

Yamamoto gave up Juan Soto's third-inning homer, then retired his last 11 batters.

"He was made for those moments," Hernández said. "He was doing it in Japan before he got here, and as soon as he got here, he was doing it here."

Yamamoto struck out four and walked two with a five-pitch array that included curveballs, splitters, sliders and cutters. He improved to 2-0 in four postseason starts.

"It was kind of a mixed feeling because I was very (much) looking forward to it and happy, but then after I felt that I started trying to focus," Yamamoto said through a translator.

Soto's fourth postseason homer, on an inside fastball, was the only run Yamamoto permitted in two starts and 13 1/3 innings against the Yankees this year.

Soto also singled off the right-field wall in the ninth and scored on Stanton's one-out base hit off the third-base bag. Jazz Chisholm Jr. singled and Anthony Rizzo was hit by a pitch for the second time in the game, loading the bases.

But the rally ended there.

"This is everything to me, playing on the highest stage with literally the two biggest teams you can play for, biggest franchises, most history," Vesia said.

A night after Freeman hit the first walk-off grand slam in Series history to transform a 3-2 deficit with two outs in the 10th inning into a 6-3 win, Edman put the Dodgers ahead with a solo shot in the second.

After Soto tied the score, Mookie Betts singled with two outs in the bottom half and Hernández, in a 3-for-27 slide, homered into the right-center pavilion. Freeman, who before Friday hadn't gone deep since Sept. 16, worked the count full and homered to right-center again.

Playing on a sprained right ankle, Freeman has homered in four straight Series games dating to Atlanta's last two games against Houston in 2021. That is one shy of the record held by Astros outfielder George Springer.

Freeman had six days off entering the World Series.

"I was able to calm my ankle down," he said. "So hopefully with the flight tonight — I've been swelling a lot on flights — so, hopefully tomorrow we can get it down and get in a good spot for Game 3."

All three Dodgers homers came on fastballs from Rodón, whose 31 longballs allowed during the regular season tied for second-most in the major leagues. Los Angeles had back-to-back Series homers for just the second time, after Pedro Guerrero and Steve Yeager connected against Yankees lefty Ron Guidry for a 2-1 win in Game 5 in 1981.

Rodón gave up four runs and six hits in 3 1/3 innings. He got just one swing and miss on his fastball.

Los Angeles took a 2-0 Series lead for the first time since 1988, when Kirk Gibson's walk-off homer against Oakland's Dennis Eckersley won the opener and Orel Hershiser followed with a three-hit shutout.



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The Yankees are 0-2 for the first time since 2001, when they rebounded to win three straight at home and lost Games 6 and 7 at Arizona.

Ohtani's MRI and a determination of his availability will be anxiously awaited by the Dodgers and their fans. "Not only the dugout, but the whole stadium went silent," Hernández said. "Hopefully he's OK and the day off tomorrow will help him get back on the field Monday."

UP NEXT

Yankees RHP Clarke Schmidt and Dodgers RHP Walker Buehler start on Monday. Schmidt has a 3.86 ERA in a pair of postseason starts, no-decisions in Game 3s against Kansas City and Cleveland. Buehler also has started a pair of Game 3s, allowing six runs over five innings in a 6-5 loss to San Diego and pitching four innings in an 8-0 win at the New York Mets.

## Shohei Ohtani partially dislocates left shoulder during World Series Game 2, status TBD

By JOE REEDY AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Dodgers superstar Shohei Ohtani partially dislocated his left shoulder during the seventh inning of Saturday's Game 2 of the World Series against the New York Yankees when he tried to steal second base.

Ohtani's status for Monday's Game 3 in New York is unclear. Los Angeles manager Dave Roberts said Ohtani "had a little left shoulder subluxation" and would get image testing either Saturday night or Sunday.

Ohtani clutched his left forearm after being tagged by shortstop Anthony Volpe for the final out in the inning on a feetfirst slide. He laid near the bag for a couple minutes before being tended to by trainers and leaving the field.

"We'll know more in the next couple days," Roberts said. "The strength was great. The range of motion good. So we're encouraged. But obviously I can't speculate because we don't get the scans yet. So once we get the scans, we'll know more. Again, with the strength, the range of motion good, that's certainly a positive."

The Dodgers held on for a 4-2 victory and lead the Series 2-0.

The Japanese slugger — and presumptive National League MVP — was 0 for 3 with a walk in the game. He is 1 for 8 in the first two games of the Fall Classic and is batting .260 with three home runs and 10 RBIs in his first postseason in the majors.

"That was tough. You never like seeing the best player in the game get injured like that," Yankees superstar Aaron Judge said. "Trying to steal a base like that there, and something like that happens. But hopefully it's all good news. We'll see what happens."

Ohtani had been one of the few players on the Dodgers roster who got through the season without a major injury. The pitching staff has been beset by injuries, with nearly every member of the starting rotation spending time on the injured list.

Among the position players, Mookie Betts was out for nearly two months due to a broken left hand, and Max Muncy was out nearly half the season due to a right oblique strain. Freddie Freeman is playing in the postseason with a badly sprained right ankle.

Betts is optimistic about the Dodgers persevering if Ohtani is sidelined, especially after the team overcame its injuries while earning the most wins in the majors during the regular season and reaching the World Series for the fourth time in eight seasons.

"We've got a great group of guys in here and I believe we can take care of business for sure. I believe in us all," Betts said.

Most of Ohtani's injuries since coming to the majors in 2018 have been pitching-related, including major operations on his right elbow in 2018 and last year. The two-way phenomenon has not pitched this year but became the first player in major league history with at least 50 homers and 50 stolen bases in a season.

In September 2019, he had surgery on his left kneecap due to a rare condition. The procedure was on

his bipartite patella, or a two-part kneecap that didn't fuse together at birth.

Ohtani missed the 2017 World Baseball Classic after having ankle surgery because of an injury he suffered during the 2016 Japan Series.

"When you have a group like this, they picked me up when I have been down. We'll try to do the same for him," Freeman said.

## **Elon Musk says the real threat to democracy is the people who accuse Trump of endangering it**

By MARK SCOLFORO Associated Press

LANCASTER, Pa. (AP) — Tech mogul Elon Musk, speaking at a town hall Saturday night in Pennsylvania to support Republican Donald Trump, played down the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol and exhorted supporters to cast votes early in the presidential swing state while describing mail ballots as a "recipe for fraud."

The freewheeling session inside a ballroom at a hotel in downtown Lancaster touched on a dizzying range of topics, from space exploration and the Tesla cybertruck to immigration and the efficacy of psychiatric drugs. The town hall was part of Musk's efforts through his super PAC to help boost Trump in swing states ahead of the Nov. 5 presidential election against Democrat Kamala Harris.

Musk, whom Trump has vowed to give a role in his administration if he wins next month, spent nearly two hours taking questions from town hall participants. While most were laudatory and covered a variety of topics, one was particularly pointed: A man wanted to know what Musk would say to concerns from voters that Trump's election could lead to democracy backsliding in the U.S. considering his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection.

While calling it a fair question, Musk also said that the Jan. 6 attack by Trump's supporters has been called "some sort of violent insurrection, which is simply not the case" — a response that drew applause from the crowd. More than 100 law enforcement personnel were injured in the attack, some beaten with their own weapons, when a mob of Trump supporters who believed his lies that the 2020 election was stolen from him stormed the Capitol to stop the certification of votes.

Musk also claimed that people "who say Trump is a threat to democracy are themselves a threat to democracy," a comment that was also cheered by the crowd of several hundred people packed tightly into the ballroom. Many more watched the event on X, the social media platform Musk purchased two years ago.

Trump, he said, "did actually tell people to not be violent." While Trump did tell the crowd on Jan. 6 to protest "peacefully and patriotically," he also encouraged them to "fight like hell" to stop Democrat Joe Biden from becoming the president.

Musk, the world's richest man, has committed more than \$70 million to boost Trump in the election and, at events on behalf of his super PAC, has encouraged supporters to embrace voting early. Still, echoing some of Trump's misgivings about the method, Musk raised his own doubts about the process. He said that, in the future, mail ballots should not be accepted, calling them a strange anomaly that got popularized during the COVID-19 pandemic and raising the prospect of fraud.

There are a number of safeguards to protect mail-in ballots, with various ballot verification protocols, including every state requiring a voter's signature.

The question about Jan. 6 was an outlier during the back-and-forth with the crowd in which Musk was repeatedly praised as a visionary and solicited for advice and thoughts about education, arm wrestling, tax loopholes and whether he'd buy the Chicago White Sox. (He said he was a tech guy and had to pick his battles.)

Musk said he was in favor of "not heavy handed" regulation of artificial intelligence and railed against "woke religion" as "fundamentally an extinctionist religion." He said the U.S. birth rate is a significant concern.

He said he believes Jesus was a real person who lived about 2,000 years ago and, when asked for the best advice he's ever received, replied: "I recommend studying physics."

He also called a woman to the stage to give her a large \$1 million check, part of his promotion to give

away \$1 million a day to a voter in a swing state who has signed his super PAC's petition backing the U.S. Constitution.

The giveaways are fine with Josh Fox, 32, a UPS driver from Dillsburg, Pennsylvania.

"That's cool," Fox said, waiting to get into the rally earlier Saturday. "It would be nice to have it."

Fox, who plans to vote for Trump, dismissed any suggestion the money may violate federal election rules.

"It's about driving in support and driving in people who are in support of the Constitution," Fox said.

## They came to America looking for better lives — and better schools. The results were mixed

By BIANCA VÁZQUEZ TONESS AP Education Writer

AURORA, Colo. (AP) — Starting seventh grade at her first American school, facing classes taught entirely in English, Alisson Ramirez steeled herself for rejection and months of feeling lost.

"I was nervous that people would ask me things and I wouldn't know how to answer," the Venezuelan teen says. "And I would be ashamed to answer in Spanish."

But it wasn't quite what she expected. On her first day in Aurora Public Schools in Colorado this past August, many of her teachers translated their classes' relevant vocabulary into Spanish and handed out written instructions in Spanish. Some teachers even asked questions such as "terminado?" or "preguntas?" — Are you done? Do you have questions? One promised to study more Spanish to better support Alisson.

"That made me feel better," says Alisson, 13.

Outside the classrooms, it's a different story. While that school system is striving to accommodate more than 3,000 new students mostly from Venezuela and Colombia, the city government has taken the opposite approach. City Council has tried to dissuade Venezuelan immigrants from moving to Aurora by vowing not to spend any money helping newcomers. Officials plan to investigate the nonprofits who helped migrants settle in the Denver suburb.

When Aurora's mayor spread unfounded claims of Venezuelan gangs taking over an apartment complex there, former president and current GOP candidate Donald Trump magnified the claims at his campaign rallies, calling Aurora a "war zone." Immigrants are "poisoning" schools in Aurora and elsewhere with disease, he has said. "They don't even speak English."

Trump has promised that Aurora, population 400,000, will be one of the first places he launches his program to deport migrants if he's elected.

This is life as a newcomer to the United States in 2024, home of the "American dream" and conflicting ideas about who can achieve it. Migrants arriving in this polarized country find themselves bewildered by its divisions.

Many came looking for better lives for their families. Now, they question whether this is even a good place to raise their children.

Rumors make life harder for immigrants in Aurora

Of course, it's not always clear to Alisson's family that they live in a discrete city called Aurora, with its own government and policies that differ from those of neighboring Denver and other suburbs. One thing has seemed obvious to her mother, Maria Angel Torres, 43, as she moves around Aurora and Denver looking for work or running errands: While some organizations and churches are eager to help, some people are deeply afraid of her and her family,

The fear first became apparent on a routine trip to the grocery store back in the spring. Torres was standing in line holding a jug of milk and other items when she moved a little too close to the young woman in front of her. The woman — a teen who spoke Spanish with an American accent — told Torres to keep her distance.

"It was humiliating," says Torres. "I don't look like a threat. But people here act like they feel terrorized."

And when Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman — and then Trump — started talking about Venezuelan gangs taking over an apartment and the entire city of Aurora, Torres didn't understand. While she didn't believe that gangs had "taken over," she worried that any bad press about Venezuelans would affect her and her



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family.

Keeping out dangerous people is important to Torres. The whole reason her family left Venezuela was to escape lawlessness and violence. They didn't want it to follow them here.

In addition to Alisson, Torres has an older daughter — Gabriela Ramirez, 27. Ramirez's partner, Ronexi Bocaranda, 37, owned a food truck selling hot dogs and hamburgers. Bocaranda says government workers in Venezuela extorted a bribe from him known as a "vacuna," or vaccine, because paying it ensures protection from harassment. He paid them the equivalent of \$500, about half a week's earnings, to continue operating.

The next week, when Bocaranda refused to pay, the government workers stabbed him in the bicep; the one-inch scar remains visible on his left arm. The men threatened to kill Ramirez and her young son, who were both at the food truck that day. Bocaranda sold the business, and the family, including Torres and Alisson, all fled to Colombia.

A little over two years later, the family headed north on foot through the Darién Gap. In Mexico, they crossed the border in Juarez and turned themselves in to U.S. Border Patrol. They all have deportation hearings in 2025, where they will have the opportunity to plead their case for asylum based on the threats against Bocaranda, Ramirez and her son. In the meantime, they have settled in Aurora, after hearing about the Denver area from a family who helped them on their journey to the U.S.

Torres and her daughter tried to get their kids into school soon after they arrived in Aurora in February, but they were confused by the vaccination requirements. Could the kids enter school with the vaccinations they received in Venezuela and Colombia, or would they have to get all new shots? Would they have to pay for each one, potentially costing hundreds of dollars per child?

Alisson and Dylan stayed home for months. Dylan played math or first-person shooter games. Alisson watched crafting videos on TikTok. When they finally entered school in the fall, Gabriela Ramirez and Torres both hoped instruction would be in English, believing their children would learn the language faster that way.

Times have changed in Aurora

If they'd arrived in Aurora, say, three years ago, that might have been what they encountered.

Aurora is accustomed to educating immigrants' children. More than a third of residents speak a language other than English at home, according to the 2020 U.S. Census. Immigrants and refugees have been attracted to Aurora's proximity to Denver and its relatively lower cost of living.

But the sudden arrival of so many students from Venezuela and Colombia who didn't speak English caught some Aurora schools off guard. Before, a teacher in the 38,000-student school system might have had one or two newcomer students in her class. Now, teachers in some schools have as many as 10, or a third of their classroom roster.

When Marcella Garcia visited classrooms where only English was spoken, she noticed the newcomers weren't talking. "Kids were being left out and not able to engage," says Garcia, principal at Aurora Hills Middle School.

The schools reached out for advice and training from the district's central office, which recommended a strategy called "translanguaging." That means using Spanish at times to help students make meaning of the English lessons and conversations happening around them.

It's not clear how much it's helping students learn — it's too soon to tell — or if the school is striking the right balance between translating for newcomers and forcing them to engage in what teachers call a "friendly struggle" to understand and learn English.

But the approach has helped Alisson feel more at ease. On her first day of school, her social studies teacher, a bald man with tattooed forearms and a gruff teaching persona, didn't translate anything or use Spanish in his presentation. "I thought about sitting there and not saying anything," Alisson remembers. "But then I thought, 'I'm here to learn.'"

She and a friend approached the teacher during class. Now Jake Emerson is one of her favorite teachers.

On a Wednesday in September, Alisson and her friends were sitting at a round table in the back of Emerson's class. They spoke Spanish among themselves as Emerson spoke to the rest of the class about

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the drawing he was projecting on the large screen in the front of the class.

It was a scene from an ancient Egyptian marketplace. "What do you think this dude here is doing with the basket?" Emerson asked the class. The students at Alisson's table kept talking, even as Emerson spoke. One girl who'd been in Aurora schools longer than the rest translated for Alisson and the other teens.

Before the school adopted this new approach, teachers may have shut down a conversation among students in Spanish. "If I saw two students speaking Spanish, I assumed they were off topic," says Assistant Principal John Buch. Now, he says students are encouraged to help each other in any language they can.

So far, there appears to be little public pushback in the district against this approach. It generally requires more work for teachers, who have to translate materials or their own speech in real time.

While teachers try out new Spanish vocabulary, English-speaking students show a range of responses. Some seem bored or annoyed by their teachers' sudden interest in speaking Spanish in class. Bilingual students appear proud when they can help teachers trying to use more Spanish in class.

Still, some English-speaking and bilingual students have harassed Alisson. A few weeks after school started, a group of boys tried to stop her from sitting in her seat in class. They called her ugly and told her to go back to her country. When Alisson reported this to a teacher, nothing changed. "They say they don't tolerate bullying," she says. "But this is bullying." Weeks later, the boys eventually stopped.

It's a delicate situation for both teachers and students

After spending most of the day in mainstream classes, Alisson and her newcomer peers let loose in a class called Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education. It's the only class explicitly designed to help new immigrants speak English.

The teacher, Melissa Wesdyk, does not speak fluent Spanish. She recently started using Google Translate at times, as a simultaneous interpreter. She speaks her instructions into her laptop, and a slightly robotic voice says the instructions in Spanish.

The same is not available in Amharic or Farsi, languages spoken by two of the more than two dozen students in the class. For those two, she translates the instructions in writing and projects the words on a screen in the front of the room.

Wesdyk rarely smiles and remains serious as she runs the class. Perhaps that's because the students are far more unruly than in Alisson's others. Wesdyk acknowledges the relative chaos, but says it's because the Spanish-speaking students are more comfortable in a class that's almost exclusively Latin American immigrants.

One boy keeps standing on his chair during the lesson, and Wesdyk stops class at least four times to redirect him. "Por qué hablas?" she asks him. Why are you talking? Another time she says, "I need you to stop."

The course also demands more of the students, whom Wesdyk presses into pronouncing words in unison and answering questions. It's hard work, and her methods don't always hit their mark.

Toward the end of the class, Wesdyk tells the class they are going to do a "whipshare." Google doesn't know how to translate that, so it just repeats the word in English. Each student is to share one of the words they wrote earlier, when the class was identifying English words for each letter of the alphabet.

When Alisson offers the word "pink" for the letter P, Wesdyk appears surprised and a little flustered. "That's not one of the words I wrote down, but good word."

For the letter F, another boy says "flor," as in Spanish for flower. To observers, he seems to be trying to say "flower," but mispronouncing it. Wesdyk doesn't appear to understand. "Floor?" she says back to him. The boy repeats "flor," and Wesdyk says, "Floor?" emphasizing the English R sound. The boy looks embarrassed.

In mid-September, Alisson's mother receives messages from Aurora Public Schools that there have been rumors of bomb threats at its schools and others across the state. It's not clear if the threats are related to Trump's rhetoric about Venezuelan gangs taking over Aurora. After all, similar problems ensued after his false comments about pet-eating Haitians in Springfield, Ohio.

The school system's messages say there is no truth to the bomb threat rumors, but that doesn't make

Torres and Alisson feel better. Torres still sends Allison to school, despite her fear. She's learned she can get in trouble if Alisson misses class without a good excuse, and Alisson is generally happy at school.

But neither of them understands how American schools and children could become a target, even if it's just a rumor.

"This doesn't happen in my country," says Torres.

Venezuela's economy and democracy may be in shambles, says Torres, but no one there would think of threatening children at school.

## Trump veers away from swing states for his Madison Square Garden moment

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump is finally getting his Madison Square Garden moment.

With just over a week to go before Election Day, the former president will take the stage at one of the country's most iconic venues, hosting a hometown rally to deliver his campaign's closing message against Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris.

"Madison Square Garden is the center of the universe," said Trump campaign senior adviser Jason Miller, noting the venue's storied history hosting events including the 1971 "Fight of the Century."

The rally is one of a series of detours Trump has made from battleground states, including a recent rally in Coachella, California — best known for the famous music festival named after the town — and one over the summer on the Jersey Shore. This summer he campaigned in the South Bronx.

While some Democrats and TV pundits have questioned Trump's decision to hold what they dismiss as vanity events, the rally guarantees Trump what he most craves: the spotlight, wall-to-wall coverage and a national audience.

Along with trying to energize his base, Trump's campaign has been trying to court the few remaining undecided voters, many of whom don't get their news from traditional outlets.

To reach them, Trump has spent hours appearing on popular podcasts. And his campaign has worked to create viral moments like his visit last weekend to a McDonald's restaurant, where he made fries and served supporters through the drive-thru window. Video of the stop posted by his campaign has been viewed more than 40 million times on TikTok alone.

"He's not just going to be speaking to the attendees inside Madison Square Garden. There will be people tuning in from battleground states all across the country," said former U.S. Rep. Lee Zeldin, a New York Republican and ally of the former president, who said Trump has been talking about holding an event at the venue since the start of his campaign.

Harris has also traveled to non-battleground states for major events intended to drive a national message. She appeared in Houston Friday with music superstar Beyoncé to speak about reproductive rights, and will deliver her own closing argument Tuesday from the Ellipse in Washington, where Trump spoke ahead of the Jan. 6, 2021 Capitol riot.

Trump will be joined at the rally by supporters including Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk, who has spent tens of millions of dollars to boost his campaign.

'The world's most famous arena'

Trump often compares himself to the country's greatest entertainers. The former reality TV star has long talked about wanting to hold a rally at the venue dubbed "The World's Most Famous Arena," raising the idea in interviews and private conversations.

"New York is part of his DNA. Madison Square Garden is part of his DNA," said New York State Republican Chairman Ed Cox.

While Trump continues to insist the rally is part of his effort to win New York — a state President Joe Biden carried four years ago with more than 60% of the vote — he's made clear it's also personal.

"It's the New York, but it's also, you know, it's MSG, it's Madison Square Garden," Trump said during a recent radio interview. "Guys like you and I, that means a lot, those words. Madison Square Garden, right?"



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Don't you think so? ... It's a very big stop."

The venue also has a history in politics, hosting events with Dwight Eisenhower and Franklin D. Roosevelt. In 1962, John F. Kennedy Jr. held a birthday celebration at the stadium where Marilyn Monroe famously sang "Happy Birthday to You, Mr. President."

But if there's one bit of Garden history Trump might want to replicate, it's when Grover Cleveland accepted his party's nomination in 1892, three years after leaving the White House. He went on to win the election, becoming the first and only president to serve two non-consecutive terms.

House control could run through New York's suburbs

Beyond the national spotlight and the appeal of appearing on one of the world's most famous stages, Republicans in the state say the rally will also help down-ballot candidates.

New York is home to a handful of competitive congressional races that could determine which party controls the House next year.

Zeldin ran unsuccessfully for governor in 2022, but did better than expected, driving turnout in competitive districts that helped House Republicans win a tiny majority. That underscored, he said, the importance of the top of the ticket doing as well as possible. He said the Garden event is sure to be featured on newscasts in areas with high-stakes races like suburban Long Island, where Trump held a packed, raucous rally last month.

Trump will also use the stop as a major fundraising opportunity as he continues to seriously lag Harris in the money race.

A native returns to the city that made him and convicted him

New York has not voted for a Republican for president in 40 years. But that hasn't stopped Trump from continuing to insist he believes he can win.

"We think there's a chance," he said on "The Brian Kilmeade Show" earlier this week, pointing to frustrations over an influx of migrants to the city and concerns over crime.

Trump routinely uses his hometown as a foil before audiences in other states, painting a dark vision of the city that bears little resemblance to reality. He's cast it as crime-ridden and overrun by violent, immigrant gangs who have taken over Fifth and Madison avenues and occupied Times Square.

Trump has a complicated history with the place where he built his business empire and that made him a tabloid and reality TV star. Its residents indicted him last year on 34 felony counts of falsifying business records. He was found guilty in that case, and also found liable in civil court for business fraud and sexual abuse.

## Uruguay election: Voters in one of Latin America's strongest democracies pick between 2 centrists

By NAYARA BATSCHE and ISABEL DEBRE Associated Press

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP) — The small South American nation of Uruguay is holding a remarkably civilized general election on Sunday that pits an incumbent conservative coalition against a moderate left-wing alliance in a country free from the political histrionics of other presidential contests around the world.

No one expects the outcome of the vote to herald drastic change in this nation of 3.4 million people, long heralded as a model democracy and island of stability in the region.

With the main parties in broad agreement on many issues, the campaign is being fought over voter concerns like child poverty and security. Rising homicides and robberies represent the biggest concern for Uruguayans, polls show, even though the country is one of the region's safest.

"In a way, Uruguay has been boring, but boring in this sense is very good," said Juan Cruz Díaz, a political analyst who runs the Cefeidas consultancy group in Buenos Aires. "We've seen so many dramatic changes in Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Colombia and suddenly we face elections in Uruguay in which there is a general consensus, there's stability."

While in neighboring Brazil and Argentina, voters recently vented their rage at the status quo, Uruguay's

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electorate remains largely satisfied with the government's business-friendly policies and the economy's steady growth. The current center-right president, Luis Lacalle Pou, enjoys a 50% approval rating.

As constitutional term limits bar Lacalle Pou from running for a second consecutive term, the governing party's candidate is Álvaro Delgado, 55, a congressman and Lacalle Pou's former chief of staff who started his career as a veterinarian.

"This government leaves us with a very solid first level to continue building the future," Delgado said at his closing campaign rally.

His main challenger is Yamandú Orsi, 57, a center-left former mayor and history teacher with humble roots from the Frente Amplio (or Broad Front) coalition, which governed for 15 years before Lacalle Pou's 2019 victory. His campaign ads show him drinking mate, the herbal drink beloved by Uruguayans, and walking his dog in casual wear.

From 2005-2020, Frente Amplio oversaw progressive laws, such as the legalization of same-sex marriage. Uruguay became the first country in the world to legalize cannabis for recreational use and developed one of the greenest grids, powered by 98% renewable energy.

The latest polls show Orsi in a comfortable lead at 44%, but not winning outright, which would send the country to a run-off on Nov. 24.

Orsi has benefited from the support of popular former President José "Pepe" Mujica, the eccentric former guerrilla who helped spearhead Uruguay's transformation into the continent's most socially liberal country during his 2010-2015 presidency. Now 89, Mujica is battling esophageal cancer.

Like Mujica, who lives in a modest farmhouse on the outskirts of Montevideo, Orsi says he wouldn't live in the presidential palace if elected.

In a distant third is Andrés Ojeda, 40, a muscular and media-savvy lawyer who has tried to energize apathetic young voters with splashy campaign videos showing him lifting at the gym and describing himself as a classic Capricorn.

"I want to be the candidate who inspires and entralls people," he said at his campaign event Thursday.

He told The Associated Press that his unconventional style draws inspiration from other charismatic "leaders of the new politics" in Latin America wielding social media to amass fans, like El Salvador's populist Nayib Bukele and Argentina's radical libertarian Javier Milei. But he backs the ruling coalition and promises no radical change.

Voters in the nation of 3.4 million will also choose the next vice president and members of parliament on Sunday.

Perhaps more controversial than the country's presidential contest is a constitutional referendum also held Sunday that would overhaul Uruguay's social security system.

If approved by more than 50% of voters, the \$23 billion scheme backed by the country's powerful leftist unions would lower the retirement age, boost payouts and transfer Uruguayans' privately managed savings to a government-run trust.

Both leading candidates have spoken out against the proposal, which has already sent tremors through global markets. Shrugging off the fiscal consequences, supporters say it would redistribute Uruguay's resources more fairly.

There is also a referendum on allowing nighttime police raids on homes.

Uruguayans are not obliged to vote in the plebiscites, but voting in the congressional and presidential races is compulsory.

Some 2.7 million people are eligible to vote in the country, where turnout in the 2019 election topped 90% — among the highest anywhere in the world.

## State alien land laws drive some China-born US citizens to rethink their politics

By TERRY TANG and DIDI TANG Associated Press

Diana Xue has always followed the politics of her husband, friends and neighbors in Orlando, Florida, and voted Republican.

This Election Day, she'll break that pattern.

When Florida's GOP-dominated Legislature and Republican governor enacted a law last year banning Chinese nationals without permanent U.S. residency from buying property or land, Xue, who became a U.S. citizen about a decade after coming from China for college, had an "awakening." She felt then that the Sunshine State had, more or less, legalized discrimination against Chinese people.

Florida has proved reliably Republican in recent years, but Xue said, "Because of this law, I will start to help out, flip every seat I can."

At least two dozen states have passed or proposed "alien land laws" targeting Chinese nationals and companies from purchasing property or land because of China's status as a foreign adversary. Other countries are mentioned, but experts say China is the constant focus in political discussions.

Mostly Republican legislators have pushed the land laws amid growing fears of intelligence and economic threats from China. At the time of the Florida law's signing, Gov. Ron DeSantis called China the "greatest geopolitical threat" to the U.S. and said the law was taking a stand against the Chinese Communist Party.

Some China-born people with American citizenship are now feeling alienated by the laws to the point that they are leaning Democratic. Many are afraid of being treated wrongly because of their ethnicity.

U.S.-China tensions hit a fever pitch in February 2023 after a suspected Chinese spy balloon was spotted over Montana. Shortly after, GOP-leaning states like Missouri, Texas and Tennessee introduced similar land ownership measures.

The measures all involved restrictions on businesses or people from China and other foreign adversaries, including not buying land within a certain distance from military installations or "critical infrastructure." Under some of the laws, very narrow exceptions were made for non-tourist visa holders and people who have been granted asylum.

The National Agricultural Law Center now estimates 24 states ban or limit foreigners without residency and foreign businesses or governments from owning private farmland. Interest in farmland ownership restrictions emerged after a Chinese billionaire bought more than 130,000 acres (52,600 hectares) near a U.S. Air Force base in Texas, and Chinese company Fufeng Group sought to build a corn plant near an Air Force base on 300 acres (120 hectares) in North Dakota.

Liu Pengyu, the spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in Washington, raised concerns that such laws not only counter market economy principles and international trade rules, but "further fuel hostility towards the Asian and Chinese community in the U.S., intensify racial discrimination, and seriously undermine the values that the U.S. claims to hold."

State laws banning Chinese nationals from owning land discourage Chinese investors and spook other foreign investors who would otherwise help the U.S. to rebuild its industrial base, said John Ling, who has worked for decades to attract international, especially Chinese, manufacturing projects to the U.S.

The laws have also thrown off real estate agents and brokers. Angela Hsu, a commercial real estate attorney in Atlanta, said it's been confusing to navigate a law Georgia's governor signed in April restricting land sales to some Chinese citizens.

"The brokers I've talked to, they're just trying to figure out what they can do safely," Hsu said.

On the federal level, the House in September approved a bill that would flag as "reportable" farmland sales involving citizens from China, North Korea, Russia and Iran. The odds for it to win approval from the Senate, however, are slim.

China "has been quietly purchasing American agricultural land at an alarming rate, and this bill is a crucial step towards reversing that trend," said Rep. Dan Newhouse, a Republican from Washington state.

Democratic Rep. Maxine Waters, of California, joined multiple Asian American organizations in opposing



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the bill, arguing its "broad-brush approach" of targeting people from specific countries amounted to racial profiling.

China owns less than 1% of total foreign-owned farmland in the U.S., far behind Canada, the Netherlands, Italy, the U.K., Germany or Portugal.

After Florida's land law was signed in May 2023, four Chinese nationals filed a lawsuit. In April, an American Civil Liberties Union attorney representing them asked a federal appeals court to block it.

The saga sparked the Chinese diaspora in Florida to mobilize. Some formed the Florida Asian American Justice Alliance. Among them was Xue. She became interested studying the Legislature and lobbying. She found that only Democrats like state Rep. Anna Eskamani, who is Iranian American, agreed the law was xenophobic.

"She said, 'This is discrimination. I'll stand with you, and I'll fight with you,'" Xue said.

Hua Wang, board chair of another civic engagement group, United Chinese Americans, said more people are becoming aware that these laws are directly "affecting each one of us."

"There are people in both Texas and Florida who say for the first time they are becoming interested and they become organized," Wang said.

Land laws passed in the name of national security echo a pattern from World War II, when the U.S. saw Japanese people as threats, said Chris Suh, a professor of Asian American history at Emory University. It's difficult to argue the laws are unconstitutional if on paper they are citizenship-based and other countries are named, Suh said.

Anti-Chinese sentiment has shaped policies going back over 150 years. Among these was the Page Act of 1875, which strategically limited the entry of Chinese women to the U.S., and the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, the first broad race-based immigration law.

Policies targeting foreigners hurt the bottom line of all Americans, Suh said, noting that excluding Chinese laborers from railroad work or Japanese immigrants from buying homes didn't benefit U.S. railroad tycoons and landowners.

"That's something to keep in today's context as well," Suh said. "One of the key allies of the the people who are trying to overturn the alien land law in Florida are the people who are going to lose money if they lose the potential buyers of their land."

The law makes Chinese immigrants who achieved citizenship worry about things like racism or accusations of being a spy in their own home, Xue said.

"You think it's nothing to do with you, but people look at you — how you look, how your last name is," Xue said. "They are not going to ask you are you a U.S. citizen or not."

## US approves \$2 billion in arms sales to Taiwan including advanced missile defense system

By SIMINA MISTREANU Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — The United States has approved \$2 billion in arms sales to Taiwan, including the first-time delivery to the self-ruled island of an advanced surface-to-air missile defense system, in a move that has drawn China's criticism.

Taiwan's presidential office on Saturday thanked Washington for greenlighting the potential arms sales. Under the island's new president, Lai Ching-te, Taiwan has been stepping up defense measures as China increased its military threats against the territory it claims as its own.

Beijing last week held war games encircling Taiwan for the second time since Lai took office in May.

The U.S. is Taiwan's strongest unofficial ally and its laws bound it to provide Taiwan with the means to defend itself.

"Strengthening Taiwan's self-defense capabilities is the foundation for maintaining regional stability," Taiwan's presidential spokesperson Karen Kuo said.

China criticized the move, saying it undermined its sovereignty and security interests, was harming

U.S.-China relations and threatened peace across the Taiwan Strait, which separates China from Taiwan. "China strongly condemns and firmly opposes this and has lodged serious protests with the U.S.," read a statement by a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson. "We will take resolute countermeasures and take all measures necessary to firmly defend national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity."

The potential sales package includes three National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems (NASAMS) and related equipment valued at up to \$1.16 billion, according to the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs.

It also includes radar systems worth an estimated \$828 million.

The NASAMS system has been battle-tested in Ukraine and will help to strengthen the Taiwanese army's air defense capabilities, Taiwan's Defense Ministry said.

China's war games last week were aimed at practicing the "sealing off of key ports and key areas" around Taiwan, according to Chinese officials. Taiwan counted a record one-day total of 153 aircraft, 14 navy vessels and 12 Chinese government ships.

## Indonesian forests pay the price for the growing global biomass energy demand

By VICTORIA MILKO Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Enormous swathes of pristine forest are being cut down across Indonesia to supply the rapidly rising international demand for biomass material seen as critical to many countries' transitions to cleaner forms of energy.

Nearly all of the biomass from forests destroyed for wood pellet production since 2021 has been shipped to South Korea and Japan, The Associated Press found in an examination of satellite images, company records and Indonesian export data. Both countries have provided millions of dollars to support the development of biomass production and use in Indonesia.

Indonesia's state-run utility also has plans to dramatically increase the amount of biomass it burns to make electricity.

Experts and environmentalists fear the rising international and domestic demand, coupled with weak domestic regulation, will accelerate deforestation at the same time it prolongs the use of highly polluting fossil fuels. Biomass is organic material like plants, wood and waste, and many coal-fired power plants can be easily modified to burn it alongside coal to make energy.

"Biomass production — which is only recently starting to be seen on an industrial scale in Indonesia — is a dire new threat to the country's forests," said Timer Manurung, director of Auriga Nusantara, an environmental and conservation organization in Indonesia.

As countries accelerate their energy transitions, demand for biomass is growing: The use of bioenergy has increased an average of about 3% per year between 2010 and 2022, the International Energy Agency said.

Experts including the IEA say it's important for that demand to happen in a sustainable way, such as using waste and crop residue rather than converting forest land to grow bioenergy crops. Deforestation contributes to erosion, damages biodiverse areas, threatens wildlife and humans who rely on the forest and intensifies disasters from extreme weather.

And many scientists and environmentalists have rejected the use of biomass altogether. They say burning wood-based biomass can emit more carbon than coal and tree-cutting greatly reduces forests' ability to remove carbon from the atmosphere. Critics also say that using biomass to co-fire, instead of transitioning directly to clean energy, simply prolongs the use of coal.

In Indonesia, biomass production is causing deforestation across the archipelago.

Auriga Nusantara reports that more than 9,740 hectares (24,070 acres) of forest have been cleared in areas where biomass production is permitted since 2020. Permits have been issued for over 1.4 million hectares (3,459,475 acres) of energy plantation forests in Indonesia, with over one-third of that land being undisturbed forest. Over half of these concession areas are the habitat of flagship species such as sumatran rhino, elephants, orangutans and tigers, said Manurung.

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In the carbon-rich forests of Gorontalo, Sulawesi, the felling, shredding and shipping of old trees to make energy-dense wood pellets has been streamlined. Over 3,000 hectares (7,410 acres) of forest have been razed in a concession owned by Banyan Tumbuh Lestari, from 2021 to 2024, according to satellite analysis shared with AP by international environmental organization Mighty Earth. An additional 2,850 hectares (7,040 acres) were cleared for logging roads.

After trees are cut down, they're turned into wood pellets at a facility near the concessions owned by Biomasa Jaya Abadi, the largest exporter of wood pellets from Indonesia from 2021-2023, according to data Auriga Nusantara compiled from the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry database. The database has no records of wood pellet exports prior to 2020.

Biomasa Jaya Abadi did not respond to repeated requests for interviews or comment. Banyan Tumbuh Lestari do not have contact information publicly available; AP contacted their main shareholders seeking comment but got no response. Indonesia's ministries of Environment and Forestry; Energy and Mineral Resources and Maritime Affairs and Investment did not respond to requests for comment.

Nearly all of Indonesia's wood pellet production is shipped overseas to meet international demand, said Alloysius Joko Purwanto, an energy economist at the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia.

Most of Indonesia's wood pellets went to South Korea (61%) and Japan (38%) from 2021-2023, according to government data.

"It's clear that Japan and South Korea's governments are trying to buy more biomass from Indonesia to lower their own domestic emissions," said Bhima Yudhistira, executive director of the Indonesia-based Center of Economic and Law Studies.

Both countries have provided millions of dollars of financial support toward the development of biomass in Indonesia through research, policy, construction and other support, according to a review of publicly available business and government agreements by AP.

South Korea's Forest Service, which drives South Korea's biomass expansion and policy, did not reply to requests for comment. Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries also did not respond to a request for comment.

The promotion of biomass production and use has coincided with the ramping-up of Indonesia's domestic biomass use.

The country's state electricity company, Perusahaan Listrik Negara (PLN), plans to implement 10% biomass co-firing for 52 coal plants across the country. PLN estimates that would take 8 million tons of biomass a year — far greater than the wood pellet industry's capacity at the end of 2023 of less than 1 million tons, according to Indonesian civil society organization Trend Asia.

To achieve PLN's ambitions, a 66% increase in forest plantation land would be needed — "which would likely come at the expense of intact, carbon-rich and carbon-absorbing forests," according to a report by Mighty Earth.

PLN spokesperson Gregorius Adi Trianto told AP that the company's plan relied on biomass from "organic waste such as tree branches, rice waste, and wood industry waste ... rather than from actively logged forests."

With Indonesia lacking clear regulations and oversight of its expanding biomass industry, experts fear deforestation is likely to spike for years to come.

"We're already far behind when it comes to monitoring and regulating issues around biomass production in Indonesia," said Yudhistira. "There's definitely a lack of due diligence, and forests are suffering."

## 'Take our lives seriously,' Michelle Obama pleads as she rallies for Kamala Harris in Michigan

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, AAMER MADHANI and CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press  
KALAMAZOO, Mich. (AP) — Michelle Obama challenged men to support Kamala Harris' bid to be America's first female president, warning at a rally in Michigan on Saturday that women's lives would be at risk if Donald Trump returned to the White House.



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The former first lady described the assault on abortion rights as the harbinger of dangerous limitations on healthcare for women. Some men may be tempted to vote for Trump because of their anger at the slow pace of progress, Obama said, but "your rage does not exist in a vacuum."

"If we don't get this election right, your wife, your daughter, your mother, we as women will become collateral damage to your rage," Obama said. "So are you as men prepared to look into the eyes of the women and children you love and tell them you supported this assault on our safety?"

The rally in Kalamazoo was Obama's first appearance on the campaign trail since she spoke at the Democratic National Convention over the summer, and her remarks were searing and passionate in their support of Harris.

"By every measure, she has demonstrated that she's ready," the former first lady said. "The real question is, as a country, are we ready for this moment?"

Obama added, "Do not buy into the lies that we do not know who Kamala is or what she stands for. This is somebody who understands you, all of you."

Although Obama has been a reluctant campaigner over the years, she showed no hesitation on Saturday as her speech stretched from the political to the personal. Obama said she fears for the country and struggles to understand why the presidential race remains close.

"I lay awake at night wondering, 'What in the world is going on?'" she said.

Her voice vibrating with emotion, Obama talked about the struggle for women to understand and care for their own bodies, whether it's their menstrual cycles or menopause. And she spoke about the dangers of childbirth, when a split-second decision can mean the difference between life and death for a mother and her baby.

"I am asking y'all from the core of my being to take our lives seriously," Obama pleaded.

Harris took the stage after Obama and promised the crowd that she would keep their interests in mind — unlike Trump, who she accused of only being interested in himself.

"There is a yearning in our country for a president who sees the people, not just looking in the mirror all the time, but sees the people, who gets you and who will fight for you," she said.

After the rally, Harris went to Trak Houz Bar & Grill with Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, where they drank a locally brewed beer.

"I want to have whatever she's having," Harris said.

The politicians chatted and took photos with people at the bar. When they approached a table of young women, one of them burst into tears.

Before arriving in Kalamazoo, Harris visited a local doctor's office in Portage to talk with health care providers and medical students about the impact of abortion restrictions. One of them said they have patients visiting from other parts of the country where there are strict limitations on abortion, and another said she's worried that people won't want to practice in important areas of medicine because of fears about government intrusion.

"We are looking at a health care crisis in America that is affecting people of every background and gender," Harris told reporters before visiting the doctor's office.

Harris appeared with Beyoncé on Friday in Houston, and she campaigned with former President Barack Obama and Bruce Springsteen on Thursday in Atlanta.

It's a level of celebrity clout that surpasses anything that Trump, the Republican nominee, has been able to marshal this year. But there's no guarantee that will help Harris in the close race for the White House. In 2016, Hillary Clinton lost to Trump despite firing up her crowds with musical performances and Democratic allies.

Trump brushed off Harris' attempt to harness star power for her campaign.

"Kamala is at a dance party with Beyoncé," the former president said Friday in Traverse City, Michigan. Trump held a rally in Novi, a suburb of Detroit, on Saturday before a later event in State College, Pennsylvania.

Saturday is the first day that early in-person voting became available across Michigan. More than 1.4

million ballots have already been submitted, representing 20% of registered voters.

When Clinton was running against Trump, Michelle Obama inspired Democrats with the slogan “when they go low, we go high.”

But this year, at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, she adopted a more biting approach. She accused Trump of “doubling down on ugly, misogynistic, racist lies as a substitute for real ideas and solutions that will actually make people’s lives better.”

While Harris was with Obama in Michigan, President Joe Biden visited the Laborers’ International Union of North America in Pittsburgh. He mentioned that Harris once walked a picket line with the United Auto Workers — “she has a backbone like a ramrod” — while Trump has undermined organized labor.

“He views unions as getting in the way of the accumulation of wealth for individuals,” Biden said. “It’s in labor’s interest to defeat Donald Trump, more than any other race you’ve been in.”

Biden’s remarks to the mostly male audience referenced the gender divide that has been a consistent feature of this year’s presidential race.

Speaking on Trump, Biden said, “I’m just gonna say straight up, he’s a loser as a man.”

He also said that women deserve more opportunities than they’ve received in the past.

“They can do anything any man can do, including be president of the United States of America,” Biden said.

## **Israel’s first open attack on Iran targets missile sites and apparently spares oil and nuclear ones**

By JON GAMBRELL, ADAM SCHRECK and TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israel attacked military targets in Iran with pre-dawn airstrikes Saturday in retaliation for the barrage of ballistic missiles the Islamic Republic fired on Israel earlier this month. It was the first time Israel’s military has openly attacked Iran.

The Israeli military said its aircraft targeted facilities that Iran used to make the missiles fired at Israel as well as surface-to-air missile sites.

Crucially, there was no indication that Iran’s oil or nuclear sites were struck. Iran insisted the strikes caused only “limited damage,” and Iranian state-run media downplayed them. Taken together, the moves suggested at least for now that both countries are trying to avoid a more serious escalation.

Still, the strikes risk pushing the archenemies closer to all-out war at a time of spiraling violence across the Middle East, where militant groups backed by Iran — including Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon — are already at war with Israel.

Following the airstrikes, Iran’s Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying it “considers itself entitled and obligated to defend against foreign acts of aggression.” Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said Iran has “no limits” in defending its interests and called for the U.N. Security Council to condemn Israel for the attacks.

But late Saturday, Iran’s military issued a carefully worded statement suggesting any cease-fire in Israel’s ground offensives in Gaza and Lebanon would trump any possible retaliatory strike.

Iran’s state-run IRNA news agency said four people were killed, all with the military air defense. Iran’s military said the strikes targeted military bases in Ilam, Khuzestan and Tehran provinces. But the powerful paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, which oversees Iran’s vast ballistic missile arsenal, was silent, raising questions about whether anything had been hit at its bases.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, in a statement posted to X, gave his condolences to the families of the dead and warned against future attacks.

“Enemies of Iran should know these brave people are standing fearlessly in defense of their land and will respond to any stupidity with tact and intelligence,” he wrote.

U.S. President Joe Biden told reporters Israel gave him a heads-up before the strikes and said it looked like “they didn’t hit anything but military targets.” His administration won assurances from Israel in mid-October that it would not hit nuclear facilities and oil installations. The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency said Iran’s nuclear facilities were not impacted.

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"I hope this is the end," Biden said.

Israel's first open attack on Iran

Iran hadn't faced a sustained barrage of fire from a foreign enemy since its 1980s war with Iraq. Explosions could be heard in Tehran until sunrise.

Israel is also widely thought to be behind a limited airstrike in April near a major air base in Iran that hit the radar system for a Russian-made air defense battery. Iran had earlier fired a wave of missiles and drones at Israel, causing minimal damage, after two Iranian generals were killed in an apparent Israeli airstrike on an Iranian diplomatic post in Syria.

On Oct. 1, Iran launched at least 180 missiles into Israel in retaliation for devastating blows Israel landed against Hezbollah. They caused minimal damage and a few injuries. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Iran "made a big mistake."

"If the regime in Iran were to make the mistake of beginning a new round of escalation, we will be obligated to respond," Israeli military spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said.

Images released by Israel's military showed members preparing to depart for the strikes in American-made F-15 and F-16 warplanes.

The Iranian military statement described Israel's warplanes as firing lightweight missiles at a distance of 100 kilometers (62 miles) from the Iranian border. The missiles struck air defense radar stations, the military said, some of which were already under repair.

Iran's mission to the United Nations accused the U.S. of complicity in the attack, asserting that the U.S. controls Iraqi airspace.

Israel's attack did not take out highly visible or symbolic facilities that could prompt a significant response from Iran, said Yoel Guzansky, a researcher at Tel Aviv's Institute for National Security Studies who formerly worked for Israel's National Security Council.

It also gives Israel room for escalation if needed, and targeting air defense systems weakens Iran's capabilities to defend against future attacks, he said, adding that if there is Iranian retaliation, it should be limited.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin told Yoav Gallant, the Israeli defense minister, that "Iran should not make the mistake of responding to Israel's strikes, which should mark the end of this exchange," according to Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, Pentagon press secretary. The pair spoke Friday and Saturday.

On the campaign trail this weekend, Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump briefly addressed the airstrikes.

"Israel is attacking -- we've got a war going on and she's out partying," Trump said at a rally in Michigan on Friday as Harris was holding an event with Beyoncé in Texas.

Meanwhile, Harris on Saturday called for "de-escalation and not an escalation of activities in that region."

"I feel very strongly, we as the United States feel very strongly that Iran must stop what it is doing in terms of the threat that it presents to the region and we will always defend Israel against any attacks by Iran in that way," she told reporters in Michigan.

Sanam Vakil, the director of the Middle East and North Africa program at the London-based think tank Chatham House, said Israel sent a signal by what it attacked.

"By targeting military sites and missile facilities over nuclear and energy infrastructure, Israel is also messaging that it seeks no further escalation for now," Vakil said.

After the strikes, the streets in Iran's capital were calm, with schools and shops open. There were long lines at the gas stations — a regular occurrence when military violence flares. But some residents seemed anxious and avoided conversations with an Associated Press reporter.

Mixed reactions at home and abroad

Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid criticized the decision to avoid "strategic and economic targets," saying on X that "we could and should have exacted a much heavier price from Iran."

The United States warned against further retaliation, and Britain and Germany said Iran should not respond. "All acts of escalation are condemnable and must stop," the spokesman for the U.N. secretary-general said.



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Saudi Arabia was one of multiple countries in the region condemning the strike, calling it a violation of Iran's "sovereignty and a violation of international laws and norms." Hezbollah and Hamas condemned Israel's attack.

Regional tensions have been soaring.

In Lebanon, dozens were killed and thousands wounded in September when pagers and walkie-talkies used by Hezbollah exploded in attacks attributed to Israel. A massive Israel airstrike the following week outside Beirut killed Hezbollah's longtime leader, Hassan Nasrallah.

Israel launched a ground invasion into southern Lebanon. More than a million Lebanese people have been displaced, and the death toll has risen sharply as airstrikes hit in and around Beirut.

Hezbollah warned 25 communities in northern Israel to evacuate Saturday, calling them "legitimate military targets" because Israel was attacking the militant group from there.

Enemies for decades

Israel and Iran have been bitter foes since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Israel considers Iran its greatest threat, citing its leaders' calls for Israel's destruction, their support for anti-Israel militant groups and the country's nuclear program.

During their yearslong shadow war, a suspected Israeli assassination campaign has killed top Iranian nuclear scientists, and Iranian nuclear installations have been hacked or sabotaged. Meanwhile, Iran has been blamed for attacks on shipping in the Middle East.

The shadow war has increasingly moved into the light since Oct. 7, 2023, when Hamas and other militants attacked Israel. They killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took some 250 hostages into Gaza. In response, Israel launched a devastating air and ground offensive against Hamas. Some 100 remain, about a third believed to be dead.

More than 42,000 Palestinians have been killed in largely devastated Gaza, according to local health officials, who don't differentiate between civilians and combatants but say more than half have been women and children.

"Those who were not killed by the bombing are dying from starvation. This is life," said one woman displaced from northern Gaza, Madallah Abu Zaid.

## **Trump again denigrates Detroit while appealing for votes in a suburb of Michigan's largest city**

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and ALI SWENSON Associated Press

NOVI, Mich. (AP) — Donald Trump further denigrated Detroit while appealing for votes Saturday in a suburb of the largest city in swing state Michigan.

"I think Detroit and some of our areas makes us a developing nation," the former president told supporters in Novi. He said people want him to say Detroit is "great," but he thinks it "needs help."

The Republican nominee for the White House had told an economic group in Detroit earlier this month that the "whole country will end up being like Detroit" if Democrat Kamala Harris wins the presidency. That comment drew harsh criticism from Democrats who praised the city for its recent drop in crime and growing population.

Trump later headed to Pennsylvania, another crucial swing state, where he appealed to young voters by promising them better conditions as they start their careers.

Trump's stop in Novi, after an event Friday night in Traverse City, is a sign of Michigan's importance in the tight race. Harris held a rally in Kalamazoo Saturday with former first lady Michelle Obama, who gave a searing denunciation of Trump and questioned why it was close, saying, "I lay awake at night wondering, 'What in the world is going on?'"

The candidates in the final stretch of the campaign have made frequent visits to Michigan, a state Trump won in 2016 but Democrat Joe Biden carried four years later.

Michigan is home to major car companies and the nation's largest concentration of members of the

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United Auto Workers. It also has a significant Arab American population, and many have been frustrated by the Biden administration's support for Israel's offensive in Gaza after the attack by Hamas against Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

During his rally, Trump spotlighted local Muslim and Arab American leaders who joined him on stage. These voters "could turn the election one way or the other," Trump said, adding that he was banking on "overwhelming support" from those voters in Michigan.

"When President Trump was president, it was peace," said one of those leaders, Mayor Bill Bazzi of Dearborn Heights. "We didn't have any issues. There was no wars."

While Trump is trying to capitalize on the community's frustration with the Democratic administration, he has a history of policies hostile to this group, including a travel ban targeting Muslim countries while in office and a pledge to expand it to include refugees from Gaza if he wins on Nov. 5.

A Trump ally, Republican Rep. Darrell Issa of California, the grandson of Lebanese immigrants, told reporters that Trump was winning over support from more Arab Americans and has cultivated relationships with leaders in the Middle East that would bring more stability to the region.

In lengthy remarks to supporters, Trump went after Harris and the media with familiar barbs and promoted immigration and energy policies that are campaign staples. For example, he said immigrants are "taking the Black population jobs and they're taking the Hispanic jobs." Government data contradicts this claim, showing that immigrant labor contributes to economic growth and provides promotional opportunities for native-born workers.

Later Saturday, Trump traveled to State College, Pennsylvania, the home of Penn State University. He told a crowd that included more young people than usual that under his leadership, they will "inherit the freest, strongest and most powerful nation on Earth."

"If you vote for me, I will ensure that you begin your careers, young people, in a roaring economy at a time of unprecedented peace and prosperity," he said.

He repeatedly praised the university's national championship-winning wrestling team, inviting several of its athletes onstage to shake his hand.

In both campaign stops on Saturday, Trump called attention to how an influx of Haitian migrants have impacted Springfield, Ohio. But he stopped short of repeating false claims about immigrants eating pets, a narrative that had drawn pushback from members of both parties and prompted bomb threats on some schools and government buildings.

Trump took the stage an hour and 40 minutes after he was originally billed to speak. An hour into his remarks, the crowd had become noticeably bare in the back of the arena, especially as the kickoff of Sunday night's Penn State game at Wisconsin neared.

## **Ukraine's Zelenskyy says North Korean troops are poised to join the war, cancels UN chief's visit**

By ILLIA NOVIKOV and EFREM LUKATSKY Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — North Korean troops are poised to be deployed by Russia on the battlefield in Ukraine as early as this weekend, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy claimed Friday.

Western officials have warned that North Korean units joining the fight would stoke the almost three-year war and bring geopolitical consequences as far away as the Indo-Pacific region.

The possibility has alarmed leaders and deepened diplomatic tensions.

White House national security spokesman John Kirby said Friday that the top national security advisers for the United States, Japan and South Korea met and "expressed grave concern" about North Korea's troop deployments for potential use with Russia on the battlefield against Ukraine.

Kirby said that the national security advisers from the three countries "call on Russia and the DPRK to cease these actions that only serve to expand the security implications of Russia's brutal and illegal war beyond Europe and into the Indo-Pacific."

"It is possible that there are now more than 3,000 troops from North Korea that have been dispatched

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to Russia for outfitting and for training," Kirby said on a call with reporters.

Kirby said the U.S. government did not have firm intelligence assessments on where the troops were going "but we believe it is certainly possible" and "perhaps even likely" that some of the North Korean troops would be deployed to the Kursk region of Russia, where Ukraine has held some territory since capturing it in August. But he cautioned that he did not know in what capacity and to what purpose the North Korean troops would be deployed.

A senior official in the Ukrainian presidential office told The Associated Press on Friday that Zelenskyy had canceled a planned visit to Kyiv by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly about the matter, said the visit was supposed to come after this week's summit in the Russian city of Kazan of the BRICS bloc of developing economies, which Guterres attended.

A photograph of Guterres shaking hands with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the summit triggered an outcry in Ukraine.

Zelenskyy, in a post on Telegram, said Ukrainian intelligence had determined that "the first North Korean military will be used by Russia in combat zones" between Sunday and Monday.

He said on Telegram that the deployment was "an obvious escalating move by Russia." He didn't provide any further details, including where the North Korean soldiers may be sent.

Russia has been conducting a ferocious summer campaign along the eastern front in Ukraine, gradually compelling Kyiv to surrender ground. But Russia has struggled to push Ukrainian forces out of its Kursk border region following an incursion almost three months ago.

North Korean units were detected on Wednesday in Kursk, according to Ukraine's Main Intelligence Directorate, known by its acronym GUR.

The soldiers had undergone several weeks of training at bases in eastern Russia and had been equipped with clothes for the upcoming winter, GUR said in a statement late Thursday.

It estimated the number of North Korean soldiers sent by Pyongyang to Russia at around 12,000, including some 500 officers and three generals.

GUR provided no evidence for its claims.

Dutch Defense Minister Ruben Brekermans said Friday on the social platform X that intelligence reports indicated the North Korean soldiers "will probably first be deployed in Kursk."

The deployment of North Korean forces under a military pact between Moscow and Pyongyang brings a new dimension to the conflict, which is Europe's biggest war since World War II and has cost tens of thousands of lives on both sides, including many civilians.

The U.S. said Wednesday that 3,000 North Korean troops have been deployed to Russia and are training at several locations, calling the move very serious.

Zelenskyy said a week ago that his government has intelligence information that 10,000 troops from North Korea are being readied to join Russian forces fighting against his country. He said that a third nation wading into the hostilities would turn the conflict into a "world war."

North Korea had already been supplying ammunition to Russia under a defense pact, but putting boots on the ground could severely complicate a war that has inflamed international politics, with most Western countries supporting Kyiv.

Putin, meanwhile, has looked for support among BRICS countries.

He has neither confirmed nor denied that North Korean troops were in Russia.

## **Pope Francis' Catholic church reform process ends without giving more equity to women**

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis' yearslong process to reform the Catholic Church closed Saturday with recommendations that fell short of giving women more equity as hoped, but reflected the pope's aims for a church that at least listens more to its followers.

In a significant move, the pope said he would not issue a teaching document from the recommendations,



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which called for women to be allowed all opportunities that Church law already provides while leaving open the contentious question of permitting women to be ordained as deacons.

As a result, it remains unclear what if any authority or impact the synod's final recommendations will have, given the purpose of the exercise was to provide the pope with specific proposals on reform.

"In this time of war, we must be witnesses to peace" and give an example of living with differences, the pope said in explaining his decision.

Francis said he would continue to listen to the bishops' counsel, adding "this is not a classic way of endlessly delaying decisions."

Deacons perform many of the same functions as priests, such as presiding over baptisms, weddings and funerals, but they cannot celebrate Mass. Advocates say allowing women to be deacons would help offset the shortage of priests. Opponents say it would signal the start of a slippery slope toward ordaining women to the all-male priesthood that Francis has repeatedly reaffirmed.

Earlier this week, the Vatican's top doctrinal officer, Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernandez, told the extraordinary assembly of 368 bishops and laypeople — including women — that Francis had said the moment "is not ripe" for allowing ordination of women as deacons. He did not respond directly to a request to define what would determine "ripeness" for a greater role for women.

The multi-year synod process had sparked great hopes for change, especially for women, who have long complained that they are treated as second-class citizens in the church. Women are barred from the church's highest ministerial positions, yet do the lion's share of the work running Catholic hospitals and schools and passing the faith onto future generations.

Speaking to the synod on Thursday, Fernandez explained that a special working group would continue beyond the closing of the meeting, but that its focus would be on discussing the role of women in the church — not in the diaconate, or the office of deacon. He added that while working with women in previous pastoral roles, "most did not ask for or want the diaconate, which would be cumbersome for their lay work."

The meeting asked for "full implementation of all the opportunities already provided for in Canon Law with regard to the role of women, particularly in those places where they remain under-explored." It leaves open "the question of women's access to diaconal ministry."

It was the most contested paragraph of the final document, with 258 votes for and 97 against. It was not clear if the "no" votes were because the language went too far or not far enough.

Phyllis Zagano, a leading scholar on women deacons, said the "no" votes could indicate it is time for a decision to be made.

The outcome is a disappointment for Catholics who have been campaigning for recognition that women share a spiritual calling that is no different than a man's. They also noted that despite the inclusion of women in the synodal process, the working group that is guiding discussions on women's role is being run by the Roman curia, operating outside the synod.

"I think the final document will be received with much disappointment and frustration by many women around the world who are hoping for concrete changes," said Kate McElwee, the executive director of the Women's Ordination Conference.

While she acknowledged a "cultural shift," she said "the pace of that shift is perhaps too slow for many women."

Gay rights activists also expressed disappointment, noting the failure to include LGBTQ+ issues in the final documents. "The laity of the church must now become louder and more vigorous than ever in advocating for reform," said Francis DeBernardo, executive director of New Ways Ministry.

The first phase of the synod process ended last year by concluding it was "urgent" to guarantee fuller participation by women in church governance positions, and calling for theological and pastoral research to continue about allowing women to be deacons.

If before the synod the idea of allowing women to be deacons was a fringe proposal pushed by Western progressives, the idea gained attention during the debate. It became something of a litmus test of how far the church was going to go, or not, to address demands of women for greater equality and representation

in the church's highest ranks.

Francis, had other ideas, insisting that ordaining women would just "clericalize" them and that there were plenty of other ways to empower women in the church, even leading Catholic communities, without resorting to ordination.

## **Foreign threats to the US election are on the rise, and officials are moving faster to expose them**

By DAVID KLEPPER and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A presidential candidate's phone is hacked. A fake video falsely shows ballots burned in Pennsylvania. National security officials warn that U.S. adversaries may incite violent protests after Election Day.

These developments — all revealed in the past week — show how Russia, China and Iran have increased the pace of efforts to meddle in American politics ahead of next month's election, just as intelligence officials and security analysts had predicted.

At the same time, officials, tech companies and private researchers have adopted a more aggressive defense by swiftly exposing foreign election threats, highlighting the lessons learned from past election cycles that revealed America's vulnerability to disinformation and cyberespionage.

Officials say the U.S. election system is so secure that no foreign nation could alter the results at a scale necessary to change the outcome. Nevertheless, authoritarian adversaries have leveraged disinformation and cyberespionage to target campaigns and voters while stoking distrust and discord.

Here's what to know as the presidential election approaches:

Russia is the top threat

Russia is the most active and sophisticated nation working to manipulate the U.S. election, using fake websites, state-controlled media and unwitting Americans to spread misleading and polarizing content aimed at undermining confidence in elections.

The Kremlin's disinformation apparatus seizes on contentious issues like immigration, crime, the economy or disaster relief. The goal is to weaken the U.S., erode support for Ukraine as it fights off Russian invaders and reduce America's ability to counter Russia's growing ties to China, North Korea and Iran, officials have said.

Intelligence officials and private security analysts have determined that Russia supports former President Donald Trump, and is using disinformation — sometimes AI-generated — to smear his Democratic opponent, Vice President Kamala Harris. Trump has praised Russian President Vladimir Putin, suggested cutting funds to Ukraine and repeatedly criticized the NATO military alliance.

In one particularly audacious campaign, Russia staged a video that falsely accused Harris of paralyzing a woman in a car crash years ago. Another video made fictitious allegations against Harris' running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz.

On Friday, the FBI confirmed Moscow's role in creating a third video supposedly showing the destruction of mail ballots in Pennsylvania. Local election officials quickly debunked the video as false.

Russia also has tried to pay American influencers who spread the Kremlin's preferred narratives. Last month, U.S. authorities accused two Russian state media employees of funneling \$10 million to a Tennessee company to create pro-Russian content. The company then paid several popular right-wing influencers, who have said they had no idea their work was being supported by Russia.

Moscow's campaign won't end on Election Day. Instead, intelligence officials and private security analysts predict Russia will exploit claims of election irregularities to suggest the results can't be trusted. A recently declassified intelligence memo said Russia may also encourage violent protests after the election.

"Putin's aim is to foment chaos, division and polarization in our society," said Michael McFaul, a former U.S. ambassador to Russia who now teaches at Stanford University.

Russia has rejected claims that it seeks to influence the U.S. election. A message left with Russia's embassy in Washington was not immediately returned Saturday.

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Iranian hack-and-leak operations

Iran has been a particularly brazen player in foreign interference this year.

It's accused of hacking Trump campaign associates and offering the stolen communications to media organizations and Democrats in hopes that damaging stories would emerge that could hurt the Republican's prospects. Emails dangling dirt were sent to people associated with President Joe Biden's campaign, but there's no indication anyone replied, officials have said.

The Justice Department last month charged three Iranian hackers who remain at large, accusing them of a yearslong operation targeting a vast array of victims.

U.S. officials have described the hacking as part of a broader effort to interfere in an election that Iran perceives as particularly consequential. Iran, they say, has made clear its opposition to the Trump campaign. His administration ended a nuclear deal with Iran, reimposed sanctions and ordered the killing of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani, an act prompting Iran's leaders to vow revenge.

In addition to the cyberoperations, U.S. officials have repeatedly expressed concern about the potential for Iran to carry out violence on U.S. soil against Trump or other members of his administration. Officials in 2022 brought charges in a foiled Iranian plot to kill Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, and this year charged a Pakistani man with ties to Iran in a plot to carry out political assassinations in the U.S., including potentially of Trump.

Leaders in Tehran also may try to encourage violent protests after the election, according to the declassified intelligence memo. Authorities say Iran also covertly funded and supported protests in the U.S. over Israel's war in Gaza.

Iranian authorities have dismissed allegations that the country is seeking to influence the election. Iran's mission to the United Nations released a statement this week saying, "Iran neither has any motive nor intent to interfere in the U.S. election."

A neutral China?

U.S. intelligence officials believe China is taking a more neutral stance in the election and is focused on down-ballot races, targeting candidates from both parties based on their positions on issues of key importance to Beijing, including support for Taiwan.

But the Chinese government has for years operated a sophisticated hacking operation targeting all manners of Western life and industry that goes well beyond election influence.

"From city council to president, they want access," said Adam Darrah, a former CIA political analyst who is now vice president of intelligence at the cybersecurity firm ZeroFox, which tracks foreign online threats.

On Friday, news broke that Chinese hackers as part of a much broader espionage effort had targeted cellphones used by Trump, his running mate JD Vance and people associated with Harris' campaign. It was not immediately clear what data, if any, had been accessed.

A spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in Washington said they were unfamiliar with the details and couldn't comment but contended that China is routinely victimized by cyberattacks and opposes the activity.

Are these tactics new?

Hardly. Foreign adversaries, including the same ones blamed for meddling now, have sought to interfere in the last several election cycles — with varying degrees of success.

But the U.S. government, blamed for sitting on information about the scope of Russian interference in the 2016 election, has worked this year to aggressively call out foreign threats as part of an effort to reduce their impact and assure Americans that the election is secure.

In 2016, Russian military intelligence officers hacked into the email accounts of Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman and the Democratic Party and released tens of thousands of communications in an effort to boost Trump's successful presidential campaign.

Russia also engaged that year in a huge but hidden social media trolling campaign aimed at sowing discord on hot-button social issues, creating division in the American electoral process and harming Clinton's bid for president.

The antics continued in the 2020 election cycle when a Ukrainian lawmaker described at the time by



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U.S. officials as an "active Russian agent " released audio recordings of Democrat Joe Biden, who was then running for president.

That same year, Iranian hackers were blamed for emails purported to come from the far-right group The Proud Boys that officials said were designed to harm Trump's candidacy.

## **NASA astronaut is released from the hospital after returning from space**

The Associated Press undefined

A NASA astronaut who was briefly hospitalized after returning from space has been released, the space agency said Saturday.

NASA's Matthew Dominick, Michael Barratt and Jeanette Epps, and Russia's Alexander Grebenkin were flown to the hospital for additional medical checks Friday after parachuting into the Gulf of Mexico off the Florida coast aboard a SpaceX capsule.

Three were released and returned to Houston. A NASA astronaut — who was not identified — was kept for observation for an unspecified medical issue. Citing patient privacy, the space agency declined to identify the astronaut or release details about their condition — other than to say the astronaut is in "good health" and would "resume normal post-flight reconditioning with other crew members."

The crew arrived at the International Space Station in March and should have been back on Earth two months ago. But the return trip was delayed by Boeing's new Starliner astronaut capsule and Hurricane Milton.

## **Bus in Mexico crashes after colliding with trailer that detached from truck killing 24**

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A bus tipped over in central Mexico after colliding with a trailer that detached from a truck transporting corn, killing 24 people and injuring five, Mexican authorities said Saturday.

The crash happened at midnight Friday when the bus was leaving Tepic in the western Mexico state of Nayarit bound for Ciudad Juarez in northern Mexico. The injured were being treated at a hospital in Zacatecas.

Juan Manríquez Moreno, coordinator of the National Guard in Zacatecas, said in a video statement shared on social media that the truck trailer detached on a highway. The passenger bus collided with the trailer and tipped over on its right side.

Rodrigo Reyes Mugüerza, secretary general of the government in Zacatecas, also shared a statement from the scene of the accident. "We send our solidarity and condolences to all the families and people who have lost a loved one in this unfortunate accident," he said.

He added that the highway where the crash happened was closed as officials secured the area. Authorities said they will soon release the name of the injured for families to locate them.

## **Researchers say an AI-powered transcription tool used in hospitals invents things no one ever said**

By GARANCE BURKE and HILKE SCHELLMANN Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Tech behemoth OpenAI has touted its artificial intelligence-powered transcription tool Whisper as having near "human level robustness and accuracy."

But Whisper has a major flaw: It is prone to making up chunks of text or even entire sentences, according to interviews with more than a dozen software engineers, developers and academic researchers. Those experts said some of the invented text — known in the industry as hallucinations — can include racial commentary, violent rhetoric and even imagined medical treatments.

Experts said that such fabrications are problematic because Whisper is being used in a slew of industries worldwide to translate and transcribe interviews, generate text in popular consumer technologies and create subtitles for videos.

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More concerning, they said, is a rush by medical centers to utilize Whisper-based tools to transcribe patients' consultations with doctors, despite OpenAI's warnings that the tool should not be used in "high-risk domains."

The full extent of the problem is difficult to discern, but researchers and engineers said they frequently have come across Whisper's hallucinations in their work. A University of Michigan researcher conducting a study of public meetings, for example, said he found hallucinations in eight out of every 10 audio transcriptions he inspected, before he started trying to improve the model.

A machine learning engineer said he initially discovered hallucinations in about half of the over 100 hours of Whisper transcriptions he analyzed. A third developer said he found hallucinations in nearly every one of the 26,000 transcripts he created with Whisper.

The problems persist even in well-recorded, short audio samples. A recent study by computer scientists uncovered 187 hallucinations in more than 13,000 clear audio snippets they examined.

That trend would lead to tens of thousands of faulty transcriptions over millions of recordings, researchers said.

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This story was produced in partnership with the Pulitzer Center's AI Accountability Network, which also partially supported the academic Whisper study. AP also receives financial assistance from the Omidyar Network to support coverage of artificial intelligence and its impact on society.

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Such mistakes could have "really grave consequences," particularly in hospital settings, said Alondra Nelson, who led the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy for the Biden administration until last year.

"Nobody wants a misdiagnosis," said Nelson, a professor at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. "There should be a higher bar."

Whisper also is used to create closed captioning for the Deaf and hard of hearing — a population at particular risk for faulty transcriptions. That's because the Deaf and hard of hearing have no way of identifying fabrications "hidden amongst all this other text," said Christian Vogler, who is deaf and directs Gallaudet University's Technology Access Program.

OpenAI urged to address problem

The prevalence of such hallucinations has led experts, advocates and former OpenAI employees to call for the federal government to consider AI regulations. At minimum, they said, OpenAI needs to address the flaw.

"This seems solvable if the company is willing to prioritize it," said William Saunders, a San Francisco-based research engineer who quit OpenAI in February over concerns with the company's direction. "It's problematic if you put this out there and people are overconfident about what it can do and integrate it into all these other systems."

An OpenAI spokesperson said the company continually studies how to reduce hallucinations and appreciated the researchers' findings, adding that OpenAI incorporates feedback in model updates.

While most developers assume that transcription tools misspell words or make other errors, engineers and researchers said they had never seen another AI-powered transcription tool hallucinate as much as Whisper.

Whisper hallucinations

The tool is integrated into some versions of OpenAI's flagship chatbot ChatGPT, and is a built-in offering in Oracle and Microsoft's cloud computing platforms, which service thousands of companies worldwide. It is also used to transcribe and translate text into multiple languages.

In the last month alone, one recent version of Whisper was downloaded over 4.2 million times from open-source AI platform HuggingFace. Sanchit Gandhi, a machine-learning engineer there, said Whisper is the most popular open-source speech recognition model and is built into everything from call centers to voice assistants.

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Professors Allison Koenecke of Cornell University and Mona Sloane of the University of Virginia examined thousands of short snippets they obtained from TalkBank, a research repository hosted at Carnegie Mellon University. They determined that nearly 40% of the hallucinations were harmful or concerning because the speaker could be misinterpreted or misrepresented.

In an example they uncovered, a speaker said, "He, the boy, was going to, I'm not sure exactly, take the umbrella."

But the transcription software added: "He took a big piece of a cross, a teeny, small piece ... I'm sure he didn't have a terror knife so he killed a number of people."

A speaker in another recording described "two other girls and one lady." Whisper invented extra commentary on race, adding "two other girls and one lady, um, which were Black."

In a third transcription, Whisper invented a non-existent medication called "hyperactivated antibiotics."

Researchers aren't certain why Whisper and similar tools hallucinate, but software developers said the fabrications tend to occur amid pauses, background sounds or music playing.

OpenAI recommended in its online disclosures against using Whisper in "decision-making contexts, where flaws in accuracy can lead to pronounced flaws in outcomes."

## Transcribing doctor appointments

That warning hasn't stopped hospitals or medical centers from using speech-to-text models, including Whisper, to transcribe what's said during doctor's visits to free up medical providers to spend less time on note-taking or report writing.

Over 30,000 clinicians and 40 health systems, including the Mankato Clinic in Minnesota and Children's Hospital Los Angeles, have started using a Whisper-based tool built by Nabla, which has offices in France and the U.S.

That tool was fine-tuned on medical language to transcribe and summarize patients' interactions, said Nabla's chief technology officer Martin Raison.

Company officials said they are aware that Whisper can hallucinate and are addressing the problem.

It's impossible to compare Nabla's AI-generated transcript to the original recording because Nabla's tool erases the original audio for "data safety reasons," Raison said.

Nabla said the tool has been used to transcribe an estimated 7 million medical visits.

Saunders, the former OpenAI engineer, said erasing the original audio could be worrisome if transcripts aren't double checked or clinicians can't access the recording to verify they are correct.

"You can't catch errors if you take away the ground truth," he said.

Nabla said that no model is perfect, and that theirs currently requires medical providers to quickly edit and approve transcribed notes, but that could change.

## Privacy concerns

Because patient meetings with their doctors are confidential, it is hard to know how AI-generated transcripts are affecting them.

A California state lawmaker, Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, said she took one of her children to the doctor earlier this year, and refused to sign a form the health network provided that sought her permission to share the consultation audio with vendors that included Microsoft Azure, the cloud computing system run by OpenAI's largest investor. Bauer-Kahan didn't want such intimate medical conversations being shared with tech companies, she said.

"The release was very specific that for-profit companies would have the right to have this," said Bauer-Kahan, a Democrat who represents part of the San Francisco suburbs in the state Assembly. "I was like 'absolutely not.'"

John Muir Health spokesman Ben Drew said the health system complies with state and federal privacy laws.



## This independent candidate is worrying Republicans in deep-red Nebraska's Senate race

By MARGERY A. BECK and JOHN HANNA Associated Press

BEATRICE, Neb. (AP) — In the back room of a brewery in southeastern Nebraska, more than three dozen people crowded together this summer to hear from Dan Osborn, a former cereal plant worker and independent running for U.S. Senate.

The standing-room-only crowd in the small town of Beatrice was larger than Osborn expected, but it stood out for more than its size. Those attending ranged from supporters of former President Donald Trump wearing "Make America Great Again" hats to voters firmly backing Vice President Kamala Harris and other Democrats.

Osborn's message to all of them was that America's two-party system has let them down.

"There's nobody like me in the United States Senate," he told the crowd. "Right now, the Senate is a country club of millionaires that work for billionaires."

Osborn has cobbled together a campaign in deeply conservative Nebraska that rejects both major political parties as part of a broken system. For a guy who held his first campaign news conferences out of the garage of his suburban Omaha home, he has surprised pundits by emerging as a serious challenger to two-term Republican Sen. Deb Fischer in what had been considered a safe seat for the GOP only months ago.

The contest has attracted \$21 million in spending from outside groups, favoring Osborn, and even Fischer's campaign acknowledges that the race is closer than expected. There is no Democratic candidate running, but a win for Osborn could disrupt Republican plans to reclaim a majority in the Senate. Osborn has said he won't caucus with either party.

That hasn't stopped Democrats from openly supporting him. During the first 16 days of October, after the national spotlight on him had intensified, Osborn raised more than \$3 million, almost all of it from individuals and the bulk of it through Democrats' Act Blue fundraising site, Federal Election Commission reports show. That was almost six times the \$530,000 that Fischer raised.

Osborn has raised nearly \$8 million total to Fischer's \$6.5 million, and with a little less than three weeks before the election, he had \$1.1 million cash, twice what Fischer had.

Osborn has succeeded not only by rejecting political parties but through boots-on-the-ground campaigning across the state, backed by clever ads — in one he notes "I don't even own a suit" — that contrast his working-class roots with a system where he says politicians "are bought and sold."

Osborn is a U.S. Navy and Nebraska Army National Guard veteran and industrial mechanic who gained national recognition three years ago when he successfully led a labor strike at Kellogg's cereal plants, winning higher wages and other benefits. That background shapes his view that working families are being steamrolled by a growing wealth gap, he says.

A win by Osborn would be a giant upset in a state where Republicans hold all statewide offices and all congressional districts.

Fischer is a rancher from Valentine, a town of 2,600 people in northern Nebraska about 300 miles (483 kilometers) northwest of Omaha. She was a little-known state legislator when she ran as an outsider in 2012, winning a competitive primary and then defeating Bob Kerrey, a former Democratic governor and U.S. senator. Her campaign ads that year showed her leaning up against fence posts and called her "sharp as barb wire, tougher than a cedar fence post."

"Nebraskans support me because I've delivered results," Fischer said this week, mentioning national defense and road projects as areas where she's done right by her state. "I have a long, conservative record that's helped build Nebraska and keep America strong."

Fischer's pollster, John Rogers of Torchlight Strategies, a longtime national Republican Party operative, argued recently that the apparent closeness of the race is a "mirage." Her campaign expects that Osborn won't be able to build a big enough margin in Democratic areas of Omaha, the state's largest city, to overcome the votes Fischer will win in the vast rural areas.

The pollster also predicted that Trump's endorsement of Fischer in September will pull Nebraska voters

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back into her corner in a state he is expected to win handily. "SHE WILL NOT LET YOU DOWN!" Trump posted on his Truth social media site.

Trump labeled Osborn as "Radical Left" and likened him to Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, who runs as an independent but caucuses with Democrats and has become a leading spokesman for liberals. Fischer and her supporters reinforce that message.

Still, Osborn has gotten national attention, complicated Republicans' ambitions and buoyed calls to break up the nation's two-party system. That has broad appeal in an era when disgust for politics keeps rising.

"At least as an independent, you're an open book," said Jim Jonas, who managed Greg Orman's high-visibility independent U.S. Senate campaign in neighboring Kansas a decade ago. "You have the opportunity to go frame yourself, frame the race and run as a refreshing, different choice rather than the two broken parties."

That's exactly how Osborn is pitching himself.

"Congress is a complete misrepresentation of the demographics of our voters," he told the crowd in Beatrice. "Less than 2% of our elected officials in both the House and Senate come from working-class people."

Osborn has received donations from political action committees that back independents, like the Wyoming-based Way Back PAC, along with groups supporting Democratic candidates.

His independence hasn't kept immigration from becoming a key issue, just as it has all over the country. Osborn has said the U.S. border with Mexico is too porous. But he also says he favors some form of amnesty for immigrants in the U.S. illegally for a long time if they're working and have not committed violent crimes.

Just as Orman did in 2014, Osborn supports abortion rights. That could help him in the aftermath of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn the constitutional right to an abortion. Voters in seven states, including some conservative ones, have either protected abortion rights or defeated attempts to restrict them in statewide votes over the past two years. Fischer has alleged that Osborn won't support any restrictions.

But the core of Osborn's appeal to his backers appears to be as a working-class everyman.

He is getting support from at least a dozen labor unions. Two weeks before the election, the national AFL-CIO brought in top officials to Omaha to lead a phone bank in support of Osborn. Around 30 union members and officials — including AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler — worked the phones to secure support and donations for Osborn.

"His message of backing working families is really resonating with people," Shuler said.

As she spoke, a phone-bank worker nearby shouted out that volunteers had made 3,000 calls and secured fresh promises of support from Nebraskans they were calling.

"People now are so cynical about politics," Shuler said. "And he's getting traction with those people because he's one of them."

## **An elections worker wanted to serve her country. A stew of conspiracy theories and vitriol awaited**

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — One morning last month, Cari-Ann Burgess did something completely unremarkable: She made a quick stop at a coffee shop on her way to work.

For Burgess, the top election official in a northern Nevada county, such outings could be precarious. As she waited for a hot tea and breakfast sandwich, an older woman approached.

"She proceeded to tell me that I should be ashamed of myself — that I'm a disgrace, I'm an embarrassment to Washoe County, and I should crawl into a hole and die," Burgess said in an interview with The Associated Press the following day.

A morning stop at the coffee shop would be no more. It was added to a growing list of things Burgess no longer did because of her job. She already had stopped shopping for groceries and other basic necessities. Meals were eaten at home. If she and her husband did eat out or go shopping, they would travel

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an hour away from their Reno neighborhood.

"I go to work, I go home, and I go to church – that's about it," Burgess said. "I'm very cautious now about where I go."

Still, Burgess said she was looking forward to November and overseeing the presidential election with her team in Nevada's second most populous county. That came to an end one day toward the end of September, when she was called into a meeting with county officials.

The county said Burgess requested medical leave to deal with stress and it has referred to her departure as a personnel matter. In a statement, the county said it was "focused on conducting a smooth and fair election."

Burgess said she was forced out after refusing to go along with personnel changes sought by the county manager's office. She said she asked repeatedly to stay, even providing a doctor's note vouching for her health, and has hired a lawyer.

Overseeing the office now is Burgess' deputy — the fifth person in four years to run the county election operation. The entire staff is new since 2020. The turnover is one symptom of a county that is closely divided politically and has been buffeted by election conspiracy theories since Republican Donald Trump lost the state to Democrat Joe Biden in the 2020 presidential election.

Burgess, in her first public remarks since her abrupt departure, told the AP this past week that she was worried about her team and was at a loss on what to do next. She even put off voting, saying it was a reminder she was no longer part of a process she loves.

"I was giving 110% of who I was, who I am to this job. And then all of a sudden I'm out and I don't understand," Burgess said as she considered her next steps. "I don't understand how we got to this point."

'I had no idea what we were getting into'

AP journalists were in Reno in September, a week before her departure, and spent several days with Burgess that included time at the Washoe County elections office and at her home. As with those who preceded her, Burgess and her staff had been in a pressure cooker, subject to biting criticism at public meetings and made to answer conspiracy-fueled claims about voting machines, drop boxes and voter rolls.

Dealing with members of the elected county commission who distrust elections made the job even more difficult.

Burgess was an extreme case of the types of challenges facing local election officials across the United States after four years of false claims that have undermined public confidence in elections and in those who run them. Election workers have faced harassment and even death threats and have taken extra security precautions this year that include adding bulletproof glass and panic buttons.

Over the three days that the AP spent with Burgess, she gave no indication she planned to leave her job. She talked extensively about how she was managing the stress for her, her family and her staff.

"I didn't think I was going to be in a place that I am now — so front and center and a hotbed for this election, but I am grateful," Burgess said, sitting in her living room and surrounded by inspirational Bible passages and Christian symbols. "I'm grateful for the opportunity. I'm grateful that I am able to serve my country again."

Hanging on a wall was a decorative sign that read: "God doesn't give us what we can handle, God helps us handle what we are given."

At home on a Friday night, Burgess sat down for dinner with her husband and a close friend whom she considers a brother. Her husband's prayer over the meal included a request to keep Burgess and her team safe.

"I had no idea what we were getting into, but I know that this is something that's very important for Cari. She loves her job," Shane Burgess said after dinner was over. "Sometimes I want to get in the fight, but I know she can handle herself."

Later, Burgess and her husband discussed plans for the weekend. Burgess wanted to take her husband, a baseball fan, to watch Reno's minor league team, the Aces, play before the season ended.

"Not if you're going to be yelled at," Shane Burgess told his wife as they sat next to each other in matching recliners.



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Burgess tried to reassure her husband: "I can wear a hat."

In the end, they decided not to go.

'I can't not serve my country'

The Washoe County election office sits inside a complex of government buildings a few miles north of downtown Reno. Burgess' office, before she left, was adorned with American flags, a copy of the U.S. Constitution and red, white and blue decorative stars that read liberty, freedom and America.

"Election Heroes Work Here," proclaimed a sign outside her office door.

She was the fourth person to lead the Washoe County election office since 2020, named interim registrar of voters in January in a 3-2 vote by the county commission. Even though her entire office was new, Burgess said she was impressed at how well the staff had performed amid all the pressure of working in a high-stress environment.

"I have an amazing staff who all have their part and who do their job to perfection," Burgess said.

Across parts of the U.S., local election officials exhausted by the harassment and demands of the job have retired or left the profession entirely. Even Burgess had stopped working in elections after being harassed in public by people upset Trump had lost the 2020 election, even though he had easily won the Minnesota county where she worked at the time.

After that election, she moved to North Carolina and was working at a beachside ice cream shop when she felt called to return to elections while watching fireworks on the Fourth of July.

"I was like, I can't not serve my country the way I have," she said. "And coming from elections and knowing elections, I'm like, that's something I can get back into. I can do elections again."

'Front line of democracy'

Arriving in Washoe County, where the Sierra Nevada transitions to the high desert, Burgess encountered a county mired in voting-related conspiracy theories.

County meetings are often prolonged by members of the public who opposed Burgess' hiring and who want the county to hand count votes because they don't trust voting equipment.

"It feels like you're on the front line, but it's a different front line. It's the front line of democracy -- not the front line of combat," Burgess said. "But the way the country is divided at the moment, it feels like combat because every day you're combatting some misinformation."

Burgess said a commission vote earlier this year to refuse to certify two recount elections from the state primary hurt morale in the election office. Afterward, she said, two staffers were in tears. There had been no significant issues during voting and no errors when the votes were counted, she said. With the commission under increasing public pressure, it eventually relented and voted to certify.

Every morning, when office assistant Shawna Johnson arrives, she updates the whiteboard with the latest countdowns for early voting and Election Day on Nov. 5. On this day, it was 28 days and 45 days, respectively.

She also makes sure to add one more: "95 days til Christmas."

"We know what our focus is -- it's getting to early voting and then getting to Election Day," Johnson said. "But you got to look forward to what happens after all of that. We'll be able to get back to our normal lives, regular hours, being at home with our families, celebrating holidays."

A few days before her departure, Burgess had brought in a consultant to lead training for staff on how to manage stress. That included the importance of taking regular breaks, getting enough sleep and building a support network of friends and family.

"Realizing that I have trauma from 2020 and that I have the PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), I don't want that to happen to my team," Burgess said. "They deserve better. They deserve to know how to take care of themselves."

At one point, Burgess reminded her team to take some time off because everyone would be working weekends starting the first week of October.

Privately, Burgess acknowledged time off for her staff would likely mean more work for her. In the two months before the election, she expected to be working 13-hour days.

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"If they can't be there, I need to be," Burgess said. "There's just that many things that need to get done for an election."

'Not in me to leave something I love'

Among the many things for Burgess to do were security upgrades at the election office.

Around the nation, personal safety and the security of election offices have become top concerns amid threats and harassment of election workers.

Soon after Burgess said she was harassed at the coffee shop, she had a walk-through to discuss security measures to implement before the November election. Among the recommendations was placing a film over glass windows that can slow, but not stop, bullets.

"That's when I realized I have a lot more dangerous job than I actually expected. It should never, ever be like this," Burgess said.

Burgess, for the most part, said she kept those concerns to herself. She said she wanted to keep her team focused on running a smooth and secure election. That included making sure poll workers were well trained.

The day of the incident at the coffee shop, Burgess recalled that after she finished working, she closed the door to her office and shut the lights off. She sat on her office couch and prayed for comfort and strength.

"I could go somewhere else where it's a lot easier," Burgess said. "I could get out of elections completely. That's not in me. It's not in me to leave something I love."

Less than a week later, she was gone, a decision she said was made for her. And Washoe County, once again, would have someone else in charge of its elections.

## **American Airlines tests boarding technology that audibly shames line cutters**

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — American Airlines is testing a new technology at three airports across the country during the boarding process that aims to cut down on passengers who try to cut the line.

The technology, which is being tested at Albuquerque International Sunport Airport in New Mexico, Tucson International Airport in Arizona and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in Crystal City, Virginia, alerts gate agents with an audible sound if a passenger tries to scan a ticket ahead of their assigned group.

"The new technology is designed to ensure customers receive the benefits of priority boarding with ease and helps improve the boarding experience by providing greater visibility into boarding progress for our team," said American Airlines in a statement e-mailed to The Associated Press.

American Airlines said that a gate agent politely lets the customer know they're unable to accept the pass and asks the customer to rejoin the line when their boarding group is called. In some instances where a customer may be able to board out of order, like when traveling with a companion of higher status, the agent has a quick way to override the alert and accept the pass, American Airlines said in the statement.

Although the technology is just in a trial phase, the airline said it has been pleased with the results so far.

## **FACT FOCUS: Trump repeated election lies in his interview with Joe Rogan. Here are the facts**

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

In his three-hour interview with podcaster Joe Rogan, Donald Trump dug in on his false claims about voting, election fraud and his loss in the 2020 presidential election. Rogan helped encourage some of these claims.

The interview, released late Friday, came on the same day that the former president, on his social media network, re-posted threats to prosecute lawyers, voters and election officials he deems to have "cheated" in the 2024 election.

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Here's a look at some of the claims by the Republican nominee for president and the truth.

Trump did lose the 2020 election

WHAT TRUMP SAID: "I won by like — they say I lost by like — I didn't lose."

THE FACTS: Trump did lose in 2020 to Democrat Joe Biden. Trump's claims that fraud cost him the race were investigated repeatedly.

Trump's own attorney general said there were no signs of significant fraud. The Republican-run state Senate in Michigan, one of the swing states where Trump claimed fraud occurred, came to the same conclusion after a lengthy investigation. An investigation by the nonpartisan Legislative Audit Bureau in Wisconsin, ordered by the state's GOP-controlled Legislature in another state Trump claimed to have been defrauded from winning, also found no substantial fraud.

Rogan chortled when Trump was arguing, correctly, that his loss was close. Trump lost the election narrowly in six swing states. If about 81,000 votes had flipped, Trump could have won Arizona, Georgia, Nevada and Wisconsin and gotten enough support in the Electoral College to remain president.

Trump misstated that margin as 22,000 votes.

Judges ruled against Trump on the merits repeatedly

WHAT TRUMP SAID: "What happened is judges don't want to touch it. They would say, 'you don't have standing.' They didn't rule on the merits."

THE FACTS: That's not true. Trump and his supporters lost more than 50 lawsuits trying to overturn the election.

A group of Republican-affiliated election lawyers and legal scholars reviewed all 64 of the Trump lawsuits challenging the 2020 election and found only 20 of them were dismissed by judges before a hearing on the merits. In 30 cases, the rulings against Trump came after hearings on the merits.

In the remaining 14 cases, the report for Stanford University's Hoover Institution found, Trump and his allies dropped their lawsuits before they even got to the merits phase. "In many cases, after making extravagant claims of wrongdoing, Trump's legal representatives showed up in court or state proceedings empty-handed, and then returned to their rallies and media campaigns to repeat the same unsupported claims," the report states.

Almost every state already uses paper ballots

WHAT TRUMP SAID: "We should go to paper ballots."

THE FACTS: Trump and Rogan both argued that voting machines are unreliable and that the United States should rely on paper ballots. Trump even cited his billionaire tech mogul supporter Elon Musk's enthusiasm for such a change.

Almost all of the country already made that switch, however.

In 2020, more than 90% of the election jurisdictions in the U.S. used paper ballots, according to the Brennan Center for Justice. The next year, the federal Election Assistance Commission changed its guidelines to recommend every jurisdiction use paper.

The only state not to use a voting system with paper ballots or a paper trail of any sort is Republican-run Louisiana.

Republicans and Democrats encouraged mail voting during the pandemic

WHAT TRUMP SAID: "They used COVID to cheat."

THE FACTS: Trump's central argument is that a grand Democratic conspiracy changed voting procedures during the coronavirus pandemic to make mail voting more popular and that the conspirators then rigged the election against him through those mail votes. That's not what happened.

When the pandemic first hit during the 2020 presidential primary in March, Republican and Democratic election officials quickly switched to encourage mail voting to avoid crowded polls. This was relatively uncontroversial until Trump turned against it, claiming it would lay the seeds for potential fraud.

In doing so, Trump was returning to his usual playbook, claiming that any election he doesn't win is fraudulent. He made that claim about the first contest he lost, Iowa's 2016 Republican caucus. He even claimed he lost the popular vote in 2016 because of voting by illegal immigrants, though a presidential commission he empaneled to find evidence of it disbanded without finding any proof.



The 2020 election was free of significant fraud

THE FACTS: Isolated cases of voters fraud have long occurred, but in modern times have not reached the levels needed to sway a national election. An Associated Press review found fewer than 475 cases in all six battleground states that Trump lost by more than a combined 300,000 votes — far too little to change the outcome.

## Five things to know about Israel's attack on Iran

By ADAM SCHRECK Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel delivered its long-expected response to Iranian missile attacks early Saturday by carrying out a series of airstrikes against the Islamic Republic.

Here's what to know:

Multiple targets were struck

Under the cover of darkness early Saturday, Israel struck multiple sites in different parts of Iran. Explosions were heard in the capital, Tehran, which sits deep inside the country.

The Israeli military said its "precise and targeted strikes" hit missile air defense systems and "aerial capabilities" as well as missile manufacturing facilities used to produce weapons that have been used against Israel. Iran insisted the strikes caused only "limited damage."

It was not immediately clear how hard of a blow Israel dealt, with neither country providing detailed assessments of the destruction. Iran said the strikes targeted military bases in the provinces of Ilam, Khuzestan and Tehran.

Israel appeared confident in its battering of Iran's air defenses, with military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari saying that "Israel now has broader aerial freedom of operation in Iran."

What wasn't hit also matters

The strikes did not appear to target facilities that would all but ensure a harsh Iranian response. Those most notably include Iran's oil infrastructure, the backbone of the OPEC member's economy, and its nuclear facilities.

President Biden earlier this month said he would not support an Israeli strike on Iranian nuclear sites.

U.S. officials felt they had secured agreement from Israel not to hit nuclear or oil sites after dispatching another air-defense missile battery and associated troops, though those assurances were not set in stone.

This attack has finished

Israel signaled that the pre-dawn bombardment was the end of this attack.

"The retaliatory strike has been completed, and its objectives have been achieved," Hagari said early Saturday, still the Sabbath in Israel.

Not long after, Iran's Civil Aviation Organization said commercial flights would resume after being halted because of the airstrikes. Tehran's shops were open and streets were calm, though lines grew at gas stations as residents stocked up on fuel.

The Israeli attacks aimed to deter future aggression and "show we won't be silent," but to do so in a way that would minimize the embarrassment for Iran, said Yoel Guzansky, a researcher at the Tel Aviv-based Institute for National Security Studies.

Outrage and calls for restraint

The White House indicated that it wants the strikes to end the direct exchanges of fire between Israel and Iran, and warned Iran against responding.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said there was a "need to avoid further regional escalation" and called on all sides to show restraint.

Reactions in the region were tougher. Saudi Arabia, Iran's main Arab rival, condemned the strike, calling it a threat to regional security and "a violation of international laws and norms."

Turkey accused Israel of having "brought our region to the brink of a greater war" and said "putting an end to the terror created by Israel in the region has become a historic duty."

Syria and Iraq were among other countries in the region condemning the strikes. So did Hamas, which

along with other militants attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking some 250 hostages into Gaza.

Israel's retaliatory offensive in the Gaza Strip has so far killed more than 42,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, who don't differentiate between civilians and combatants but say women and children make up for more than half the deaths.

Iran's response will be key

The Iranian Foreign Ministry said Iran would respond to the airstrikes, calling them a clear violation of international law as it asserted Tehran's right to self-defense.

Israel characterized Saturday's attack as a response to previous aerial assaults by Iran using missiles and exploding drones in April and another missile attack this month. Many of those projectiles were shot down before reaching their targets.

Iran could attempt another direct bombardment, though doing so risks provoking yet another direct Israeli attack on its territory at a moment when its defenses are weakened.

It could also encourage allied militant groups such as Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon to intensify their attacks, though both have suffered serious blows in their ongoing wars with Israel.

"Iran will play down the impact of the strikes, which are in fact quite serious," predicted Sanam Vakil, the director of the Middle East and North Africa program at the London-based think tank Chatham House.

She said Iran is "boxed in by their own military limitations, economic constraints from sanctions and by the U.S. election outcome," which could affect the course of further escalation or diplomatic outreach.

## **Attack on a police convoy in a restive southeastern province of Iran kills 10 officers**

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — An attack on an Iranian police convoy Saturday in the country's restive southern province of Sistan and Baluchestan killed at least 10 officers, authorities said.

Details remain scarce over the attack in Gohar Kuh, some 1,200 kilometers (745 miles) southeast of the Iranian capital, Tehran.

Initially, reports simply described an attack by "miscreants" without more information. But shortly after, Iranian state media said 10 officers had been killed.

HalVash, an advocacy group for the Baluch people of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, posted photos and video of what appeared to be a disabled truck painted with the green stripe used by Iranian police vehicles. One graphic photo shared by the group showed what appeared to be the corpses of two police officers in the front seat of the truck.

HalVash said the attack appeared to target two security force vehicles and all those riding in them were killed. The truck appeared to have only damage from bullets, rather than any explosive being used.

The state-run IRNA news agency said that Eskandar Momeni, the country's interior minister, ordered an investigation into the incident that it described as causing the "martyrdom of a number of police."

Authorities identified no immediate suspects for the attack, nor did any group claim responsibility. The assault came after Israel launched a major attack across Iran early Saturday morning.

The Baluch regions across the three nations have faced a low-level insurgency by Baluch nationalists for more than two decades. Verifying information remains difficult in Iran's Sistan and Baluchistan, which for decades has been home to violence involving heroin traffickers.

The province is one of the least developed parts of Iran. Relations between the predominantly Sunni Muslim residents of the region and Iran's Shiite theocracy have long been strained. Typical attacks involve hit-and-run assaults by militants in the region, like the Sunni militant group Jaish al-Adl, that kill a few security officials at a time.

However, there have been mass casualty attacks by militants in the past. In April, gunmen wearing explosive vests attacked several sites in the province, killing 10 before security forces gunned down 18 militants. Last December, another assault killed 11 and wounded eight others.

Meanwhile, the Taliban said they are investigating reports that Afghan migrants had been killed by Iranian security forces in the region earlier in October, an incident that threatened to further strain relations between the nations.

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She was the fourth person to lead the Washoe County election office since 2020, named interim registrar of voters in January in a 3-2 vote by the county commission.

Across parts of the United States, local election officials exhausted by the harassment and demands of the job have retired or left the profession entirely. Even Burgess had stopped working in elections for a time after being harassed in public by people upset Trump had lost in 2020, even though he had easily won the Minnesota county where she worked at the time.

Arriving in Washoe County, where the Sierra Nevada transitions to the high desert, Burgess encountered a county mired in voting-related conspiracy theories. County meetings are often prolonged by members of the public who opposed Burgess’ hiring and who don’t trust voting equipment.

“It feels like you’re on the front line, but it’s a different front line. It’s the front line of democracy -- not the front line of combat,” Burgess said. “But the way the country is divided at the moment, it feels like combat because every day you’re combatting some misinformation.”

A few days before her departure, Burgess brought in a consultant to lead training for staff on how to manage stress. Among the many other things on her to-do list were security upgrades at the election office.

Among the recommendations was placing a film over the glass windows that can slow, but not stop, bullets.

“That’s when I realized I have a lot more dangerous job than I actually expected,” Burgess said. “It should never, ever be like this.”

## **A century after Native Americans got the right to vote, they could put Trump or Harris over the top**

By GRAHAM LEE BREWER Associated Press

RED SPRINGS, N.C. (AP) — Native American communities were decisive voting blocs in key states in 2020, and with the 2024 race remaining stubbornly close both campaigns have tried to mobilize Native voters in the final weeks of the presidential election.

But when it comes to messaging, the two campaigns could not be more different, many Native voters said. It’s been 100 years since Native Americans were given the right to vote, with the passage of the Snyder Act in 1924, and whichever campaign is able to harness their power in this election could swing some of the most hotly contested counties in the country.

In swing states like Arizona, North Carolina, Michigan, and Nevada, the candidates — particularly Vice President Kamala Harris — have been targeting Native Americans with radio ads and events on tribal lands featuring speakers like Bill Clinton and Donald Trump Jr.

Native American voters tend to favor Democrats, but they’re more likely to vote Republican than Latinos or African Americans, said Gabriel R. Sanchez, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. He said they are one of the least partisan and youngest voting demographics in the country, often motivated by issues that directly impact their communities, like land rights and environmental protections.

In 2020, the Biden administration campaigned in several tribal nations in critical states like Wisconsin and Arizona, and precincts on tribal lands there helped narrowly tip the election for the Democrats. “Arizona was kind of like a textbook example of what that could look like if you make those early investments,” Sanchez said.

As part of a \$370 million ad campaign released this month, including on several reservations, Harris said the U.S. should honor treaty rights and uphold tribal sovereignty. Crystal Echo Hawk, CEO of Illuminative, a nonprofit that works to increase the visibility of Native Americans, said those commitments, along with the economy and environmental protections, are the top issues Native voters have identified in Illumina-

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tive's surveys.

Echo Hawk said those investments could pay off again for the Democrats. "I haven't seen the same kind of targeted messaging and outreach from the Trump campaign," she said. Harris also stands to inherit some of the goodwill left from the administrations of Barack Obama and Joe Biden, she said.

Obama increased consultation with tribes on matters like land protections and criminal justice, and Biden appointed more than 80 Native Americans to senior administration roles.

"The minute that the announcement came that Harris was stepping into the race, you saw people organize overnight," Echo Hawk said. And Trump, she said, will have to contend with his reduction of Bears Ears National Monument by 85% and his revival of the Keystone XL pipeline, both unpopular with Indigenous peoples. "I think a lot of these people remember that," she said.

On Friday, Biden formally apologized for the country's support of Native American boarding schools and its legacy of abuse and cultural destruction. While seen as long overdue, it was met with praise from tribal leaders. On Saturday, vice presidential candidate and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz will campaign in the Navajo Nation.

The Trump campaign hasn't released ads targeting Native Americans, but U.S. Sen. Markwayne Mullin, a Republican from Oklahoma and a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, has stumped for the former president in Native communities in North Carolina, a swing state that was decided by less than one point in 2020.

On a crisp evening earlier this month, Mullin sat alongside Donald Trump Jr. and former Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, a former Democrat who recently announced she is joining the Republican Party, on a small stage in front of several bales of hay to take questions from an audience of a couple hundred people. They discussed issues ranging from the economy to tribal self-determination.

The event took place on a small farm in Red Springs, North Carolina, part of the traditional homelands of Mullin's ancestors and current home to the Lumbee Tribe, a state-recognized tribe with about 55,000 members.

The federal recognition of the Lumbee has been opposed by several tribal nations, including the nearby Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and Mullin's own tribe, the Cherokee Nation in Oklahoma. The Lumbee's push for federal recognition has become a focal point for both campaigns and a rare issue where both parties agree. Last month, Trump said he would sign legislation granting federal recognition to the Lumbee. Harris called the Lumbee's tribal chairman last week to discuss the legislation.

"This is an injustice that needs to be fixed when it comes to Lumbees," Mullin told the crowd. "This is absolutely absurd. It needs to be done. I was so proud to hear President Trump say that he would sign it."

But Mullin soon touched on one of the many areas where the two candidates differ: energy policy. Highlighting the fact that he believed a second Trump term would mean a better economy and lower energy costs, Mullin laid out Trump's policy in one recognizable term that was echoed by the audience, "Drill, baby, drill."

Both the Biden and Trump administrations pushed to produce more oil and gas than ever, including extractive energy projects that were opposed by Indigenous peoples. However, Native leaders have expressed concern that Trump is more likely to further erode protections for tribal lands.

Mullin suggested that if tribal nations are truly sovereign, they should be able to conduct energy extraction without the burden of federal intervention. He said just like the Lumbee's fight for federal recognition, the rights of tribes to govern their own lands is the victim of federal bureaucracy.

"Why is tribal land treated like public land?" Mullin asked, questioning why the federal government should have any oversight on tribal nations that extract natural resources on their own lands. "You have natural resources being pulled out of the ground right across the fence from reservations. You have private land owners that are extremely wealthy and you have people that are literally starving inside reservations," he said, comparing some to third-world countries.

He promised Trump would have a deep understanding of tribal sovereignty.

That message resonated with Robert Chavis Jr., a physical education teacher and Army veteran who was at the rally and will be voting for Trump. Chavis, a member of the Lumbee Tribe, said tribal nations aren't just governments, they're businesses, and the U.S. is no different. "I feel like you don't need a politician

in there. We need a businessman to run the country like it should be.”

But other Lumbee voters aren't as convinced. At her art gallery a few miles away in Pembroke, Janice Locklear said Trump promised he would federally recognize the Lumbee last time he was in office, and she had no reason to believe he could accomplish it this time. But looking broader than her community, she said what Trump did on Jan. 6, 2021, represents a nationwide threat to democracy.

“He thought he could actually be a dictator, go in there and take over. Even though he had lost the election; he knew he had lost the election. So what do you think he'll do this time,” she said.

Locklear said as a woman of color, she trusts that Harris will have a deeper understanding of the unique challenges facing Native Americans. “I'm sure she's had to face the same problems we face,” Locklear said. “Discrimination, I'm sure she's faced it.”

## **Migrant families separated under Trump still feel the fallout and they fear his return to office**

By REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sixteen-year-old Billy's friends at his rural high school in the South don't know he was one of thousands of children separated from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border under then-President Donald Trump's zero tolerance immigration policy.

At school, where he plays football and soccer, Billy doesn't talk about what he went through — that his father was told six years ago that Billy was being given up for adoption and feared he would never see his son again.

With the United States on the verge of an election that could put Trump back in office, Billy wants people to know that what happened to him and several thousand other children reverberates still. Some families have not been reunited, and many of those together in the U.S. have temporary status and fear a victorious Trump carrying out promised mass deportations.

“It was a very painful thing that happened to us,” said Billy, who was 9 at the time. He did not want his full name or the state he lives in identified for fear of endangering his family's asylum application.

Trump has made his immigration views central to his campaign, accusing the Biden administration and Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee for president, of failing to secure the southern border. Harris has not made immigration a campaign focus but has raised Trump's zero tolerance policy, one of his most contentious immigration actions as president.

The Trump administration aimed to criminally prosecute all adults coming across the border illegally. Parents were separated from their children, who were transferred to shelters nationwide.

Trump and his campaign did not say specifically whether he would revive the practice if he wins on Nov. 5. He has previously defended it, including claiming without evidence during a Univision interview last year that it “stopped people from coming by the hundreds of thousands.”

“President Trump will restore his effective immigration policies, implement brand new crackdowns that will send shockwaves to all the world's criminal smugglers, and marshal every federal and state power necessary to institute the largest deportation operation of illegal criminals, drug dealers, and human traffickers in American history,” said Karoline Leavitt, the Trump campaign's press secretary.

The Harris campaign held a event this month featuring children who were separated from their families, aiming to draw attention to Trump's policies.

Billy, who spoke at the event, is part of a group of children who are sharing their stories in short social media videos to highlight the zero tolerance policy. Billy and his father also have visited lawmakers in Washington.

Billy told The Associated Press that even though he doesn't usually talk about his experiences, he and the others are “making sure that we raise our voices and that we share our stories” so something like this never happens again.

Most of the families who were separated years ago are in legal limbo, their immigration status in doubt. Under a settlement announced last year between families and the Biden administration, the families have



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two years to apply for asylum under a more favorable process.

As the election nears, advocates say they have heard from families who were separated expressing fears about Trump, if elected, making good on promises to deport millions of people.

"The families we serve are scared and have a lot of questions about what a new Trump administration would mean for them," said Anilú Chadwick Soltes, pro bono director for Together & Free, an organization launched in 2018 in response to the zero tolerance policy. The group works to help separated families.

The 2023 settlement barred future administrations from using family separation as a widespread policy until 2031. But advocates have concerns.

Christie Turner-Herbas, senior adviser with Kids in Need of Defense, said she worries about exceptions to the policy being exploited and says there has to be political will to enforce it.

The Trump administration's policy deviated from the general practice of keeping families with children together when they come to the southern border.

The goal was to dissuade people by criminally prosecuting everyone who crossed the border. For families, parents were prosecuted. Kids, who cannot be held in custody, were treated as unaccompanied minors and transferred to shelters.

After an outcry, Trump said on June 20, 2018, that he was ending the policy. Six days later, a judge ordered the government to reunite the families, thousands of whom had been separated. Agencies didn't have their computer systems properly linked, making it difficult to reunite families. Many parents were deported, complicating things even more.

When Democrat Joe Biden became president, he created a task force to reunite families. Building on efforts by groups that had sued the Trump administration, the task force identified about 5,000 children were separated, and about 1,400 aren't confirmed to be reunited with their families.

Some are in the process. Others are believed to have reunited in the U.S. but aren't coming forward, possibly fearing government interaction. For others, no valid contact information exists, so the search continues.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which brought a lawsuit against the Trump administration that helped end family separation, puts the number of separated children closer to 5,500.

Lee Gelernt, lead counsel in that lawsuit, said the ACLU estimates that as many as 1,000 families are still apart.

"Some little children have now spent nearly their entire lives without their parents," he said.

The task force runs a website where families can register to be reunited, and it works with the International Organization for Migration to help those families with things like getting a passport to come to the U.S. The task force's director has traveled to families' home countries to do radio announcements looking for parents.

Advocacy groups also have been instrumental.

Justice in Motion, which works with advocates in Mexico and Central America to track down parents, uses a last known address and talks to neighbors, local businesses, hospitals, schools — anyone who might know where that person is.

But they're stuck with poor recordkeeping that's now outdated, said Nan Schivone, the organization's legal director.

Families and separated children have struggled with the fallout.

For 22-year-old Efrain, there was guilt. Efrain said his father didn't want to bring him to the U.S. in 2018, but he pushed for it. When they were eventually separated, Efrain wondered whether it would have been better if his father had been alone.

His father was sent back to Guatemala. Efrain, who didn't want his full name used because he fears the repercussions, was placed in a shelter for unaccompanied children for roughly five months.

His father has diabetes, and Efrain worried about his health. When they could do a video call after Efrain left the shelter, he noticed how much thinner his father looked.

Three years later, they reunited at the Atlanta airport. Ever since, Efrain says he's been trying to make up for lost time. He says he struggles with anxiety and loneliness, echoing the isolation he felt after being

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separated from his father.

"It's like I'm alone in a room locked up," he said in Spanish.

Billy's father, meanwhile, still cries when he talks years later about what he and his son went through. He believes people have forgotten what happened and the families' trauma.

Billy says he's found purpose in sharing what he experienced: "I know that my story holds a lot of power."

## **Today in History: October 27** **11 killed in Pittsburgh synagogue shooting**

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Oct. 27, the 301st day of 2024. There are 65 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 27, 2018, a gunman shot and killed 11 congregants and wounded six others at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life synagogue in the deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history; authorities said the suspect, Robert Bowers, raged against Jews during and after the rampage. (Bowers was convicted and sentenced to death in 2023.)

Also on this date:

In 1787, the first of the Federalist Papers, a series of essays calling for ratification of the United States Constitution, was published.

In 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, a U-2 reconnaissance aircraft was shot down while flying over Cuba, killing the pilot, U.S. Air Force Maj. Rudolf Anderson Jr.

In 1995, a sniper killed one soldier and wounded 18 others at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. (Paratrooper William J. Kreuzer was convicted in the shootings and condemned to death; the sentence was later commuted to life in prison.)

In 1998, Hurricane Mitch cut through the western Caribbean, pummeling coastal Honduras and Belize; the storm caused several thousand deaths in Central America in the days that followed.

In 2004, the Boston Red Sox won their first World Series since 1918, sweeping the St. Louis Cardinals in four games.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-comedian John Cleese is 85. Author Maxine Hong Kingston is 84. Country singer Lee Greenwood is 82. Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is 79. Author Fran Lebowitz is 74. Actor-director Roberto Benigni is 72. Golf Hall of Famer Patty Sheehan is 68. Singer Simon Le Bon (Duran Duran) is 66. Internet news editor Matt Drudge is 58. Author Anthony Doerr is 51. Violinist Vanessa-Mae is 46. TV personality Kelly Osbourne is 40.