

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Sunday, Nov. 10

Fellowship of Christian Students (FCS), 3:16 p.m.,  
GHS Conference Room

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday  
School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.m.

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

United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:30 a.m.,  
and at Groton, 10:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.;  
Sunday School Christmas Practice, 10:30 a.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.

United Methodist Fall Dinner, 11 a.m.

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

## HAPPY SUNDAY!

Look around at the  
people GOD has put in  
your life and be  
THANKFUL. They aren't  
there by accident!



Wishing You a beautiful day  
of Love & Blessings. ❤️



## Monday, Nov. 11

Senior Menu: Goulash, mixed vegetables, oranges,  
breadsticks

School Breakfast: French toast.

School Lunch: Chicken legs, mashed potatoes.

VETERAN'S DAY

Veteran's Day Program, 2 p.m., GHS Arena

FFA District 1 LDE, Doland

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

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

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

Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community  
Center, 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

## FROSTY CLUE

I/My.....  
**10. Have owned a main street business  
in Brown County**



### Brown County Fatal Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash

Where: 129th Street and 393rd Avenue, eight miles northeast of Aberdeen, SD

When: 1:22 a.m., Saturday, November 9, 2024

Vehicle 1: 2024 Toyota Grand Highlander

Driver 1: 37-year-old male from Aberdeen, SD, fatal injuries

Seatbelt Used: No

Passenger 1: 36-year-old male from Aberdeen, SD, fatal injuries

Seatbelt Used: No

Brown County, S.D.- Two people died early Saturday morning in a single vehicle crash eight miles north-east of Aberdeen, SD.

The names of the persons involved have not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver and a passenger in a 2024 Toyota Grand Highlander were traveling westbound on Brown County 13 near the intersection of 393rd Avenue. The vehicle left the roadway and entered the ditch, then vaulted off the shoulder at the intersection. The vehicle rolled, ejecting both occupants. Both received fatal injuries.

All information released so far is only preliminary.

The Highway Patrol is an agency of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

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## NSU Volleyball

### **No. 21 Northern State Drops No. 10 Wayne State on Home Court**

Wayne, Neb. – For the second straight evening, the No. 21 Northern State University volleyball team battled out a 5-set NSIC victory. The Wolves handed No. 10 Wayne State University just their third home loss of the 2024 season and sixth overall.

#### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 3, WSC 2

Records: NSU 19-5 (11-5 NSIC), WSC 20-6 (12-4 NSIC)

Attendance: 563

#### HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern took the first, fourth, and fifth sets by scores of 25-18, 25-20, and 15-11; they fell 25-18 and 25-19 in the second and third

The Wolves led the match hitting .214 with 67 kills, 62 assists, 98 digs, and eight aces

They held the Wildcats to a .184 attack percentage, forcing 22 hitting errors

Three Wolves tallied double figure kills in the win with both Hanna Thompson and Natalia Szybinska notching 18

Morissen Samuels followed with 17 and hit a team leading .364; she added eight digs and four blocks on defense

Keri Walker ignited the Wolves offense with 60 assists, averaging 12.00 assists per set, and added 14 digs, three kills, two blocks, and one ace

Three defensive specialists for NSU recorded double figure dig numbers, led by Abby Meister with 29, averaging 5.80 per set

Reese Johnson and Sara Moberg followed with 18 and ten digs respectively, while Abby Brooks led the net defense with six blocks

#### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Keri Walker: 60 assists, 14 digs, 3 kills, 2 blocks, 1 ace

Morissen Samuels: 17 kills, .364 attack%, 8 digs, 4 blocks

Hanna Thompson: 18 kills, 8 digs, 1 block

Natalia Szybinska: 18 kills, 3 digs, 2 blocks

Abby Meister: 29 digs, 1 ace

Reese Johnson: 18 digs, 1 assist

#### UP NEXT

Northern closes out the regular season at home next Friday and Saturday hosting Augustana and Southwest Minnesota State. Start times are set for 6 p.m. on Friday against the Vikings and 3 p.m. on Saturday versus the Mustangs.

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## NSU Football

### **Key Defensive Stops Carry Northern State Past Wayne State in 2024 Finale**

Wayne, Neb. – A pair of 14-point quarters led the Northern State University football team to cap off their season with a victory at Wayne State. With the win, the Wolves closed out the year with a 6-5 record overall and 6-4 mark in the NSIC. Northern opened their season with a week zero contest and currently sits fifth in the league standings with the other 12 NSIC schools closing out league play next weekend.

#### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 28, WSC 21

Records: NSU 6-5 (6-4 NSIC), WSC 6-4 (5-4 NSIC)

Attendance: 1183

#### HOW IT HAPPENED

The Wolves tallied 14 points in both the second and third quarters with the Wildcats scoring one touchdown each in the first, second, and fourth

Wayne State scored first in the contest mid-way through the opening period on an 11-yard run

Just minutes into the second, Hank Kraft rushed 1-yard to the goal line and tied the contest for NSU

Wayne responded and grabbed their second lead of the game on the following drive; however, the Wolves were not satisfied to end the half down by seven

Daniel Britt connected with Cade Kaiser on a 75-yard, 13-play drive to tie the game at 2:53 in the second for the true freshman's first career touchdown

Northern grabbed the lead to open the third on Kraft's second touchdown of the day, a 6-yard rush at 10:52

An interception by Luke Gunderson on the Wildcats following drive, put the Wolves in position for the final touchdown of the contest

Colton Hackel entered the game on first and short, scoring his third touchdown of the season, giving the Wolves a 28-14 lead

Wayne State opened the fourth with an 18-yard rushing scoring, making it a 7-point game; however, the Wolves defense fended out four Wildcat Drives in the final 14-minutes of action to secure the victory

The Northern offense tallied 15 first downs, 186 yards rushing, 154 yards passing, and 340 yards of total offense, while the Wildcats recorded 22 first downs, 247 yards rushing, 159 yards passing, and 406 yards of total offense

The Wolves scored each of the four times they entered the red-zone and converted on 6-of-12 third down attempts

The defense forced two interceptions by Kegan Mountain and Gunderson and held Wayne State to 6-of-16 (37.5%) on third down

Britt threw for 144 total yards with a 33-yard long and one touchdown; he completed 11-of-16 attempts

Kraft tallied his second 100-yard game of the season with 110 total yards, a 51-yard long, and two interceptions

Jack Oedekoven had a season best day with 65 yards receiving, leading eight Wolves that recorded a reception in the win

Three members of the Northern State defense tallied double figure tackles in the win, led by NCAA national leader Jake Adams with 12

Kegan Mountain and Logan Grossinger followed with ten apiece, a career high for Mountain; Mountain also moved into the NSIC lead with his fifth interception of the season

Tom Ellard recorded 244 yards punting with a 49-yard long, while Jeremy Caruso went 4-for-4 in PATs and tallied 282 kick-off yards



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## NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Daniel Britt: 144 yards passing, 11-of-16 passing, 1 touchdown, 44 yards rushing

Hank Kraft: 110 yards rushing, 2 touchdowns, 6.5 yards per rush

Jake Adams: 12 tackles, 3 solo stops

Kegan Mountain: 10 tackles, 7 solo stops, 1 interception, 1 break-up

Logan Grossinger: 19 tackles, 0.5 tackles for a loss

## BEYOND THE BOX SCORE

The Wolves started off the season 0-4 and went 6-1 in their final seven games

Jake Adams broke the single season tackle record, ending the year with 147 a current national leading mark

Adams and Mountain lead the Northern Sun in total tackles and interceptions respectively

The 6-5 mark in the third winning season for Schmidt and the Wolves in his tenure

**Groton Post No. 39 American Legion**

# *Annual Turkey Party*

**Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024**

**Starting at 6:30 p.m.**

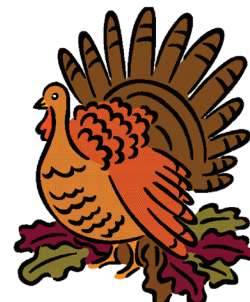
Groton Legion Post Home, 10 N. Main.

Turkey, Ham and Bacon  
to be given away

**FREE ADMISSION**

**DOOR  
PRIZE!**

Lunch served  
by Auxiliary



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## **NSU Women's Basketball**

### **Wolves Suffer Narrow Loss to Lopers**

Aberdeen, S.D. – Despite a late rally, the Northern State University women's basketball team fell short against Nebraska Kearney, 69-65. The lead shifted 12 times throughout the game, with the Wolves being outscored by eight points in the final two quarters as the Lopers held on for the win.

#### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 65, UNK 69

Records: NSU 0-2, UNK 2-0

Attendance: 991

#### HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern State put up 16 points in the first quarter, 15 in the second, 15 in the third, and 19 in the final quarter

The Wolves shot 38.6% from the field and 80.0% from the free-throw line, while also scoring 28 points in the paint and 25 points off the bench

Deontee Smith was first on the team with a new career high of 21 points along with three rebounds

Madelyn Bragg followed behind with 15 points along with shooting 62.5% from the floor

Michaela Jewett recorded her first double-double of the season with 12 points and ten rebounds on the night

The playmaker for the Wolves on the night was Rianna Fillipi with eight assists along with six points and six rebounds

#### NORTHERN STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Deontee Smith: 21 points (career high), 3 rebounds, 100.0 free throw %

Madelyn Bragg: 15 points, 5 rebounds, 62.5 field goal %

Michaela Jewett: 12 points, ten rebounds, 50.0 field goal %

Rianna Fillipi: 6 points, 6 rebounds, 8 assists

Alayna Benike: 5 points, 9 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal

#### UP NEXT

Northern State hits the road to take on Black Hills State and South Dakota Mines. Tip-offs are slated for 2 p.m. on Friday, November 15 against the Yellow Jackets and 7 p.m. on Saturday, November 16 against the Hardrockers from Rapid City, South Dakota.

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## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

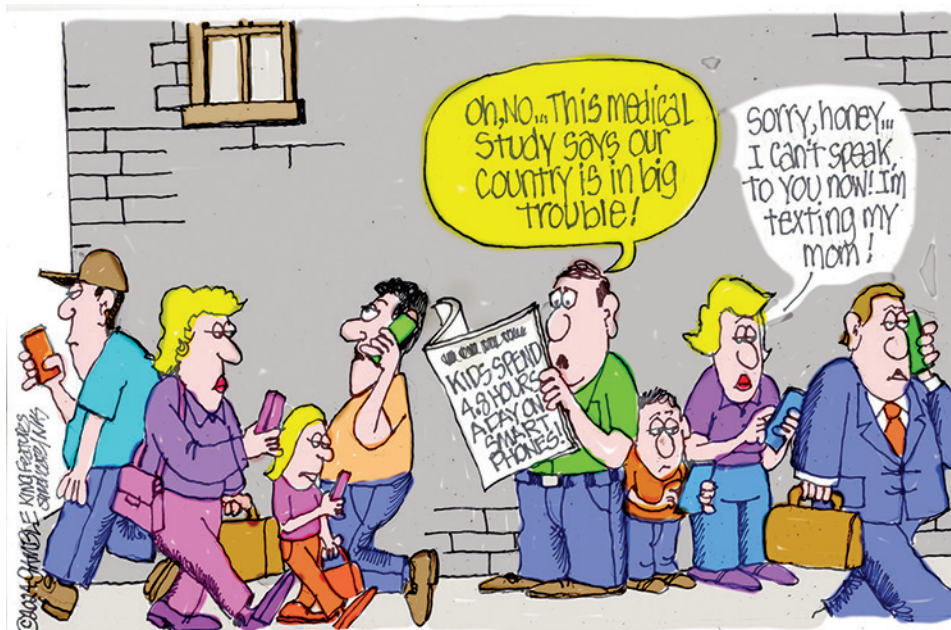
*It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled.*

JOSHUA 24:17

*Detail from "The Pillar of Fire" by Paul Hardy (1896)*



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## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. In Revelation 20, what is the eternal home for those not written in the book of life? *Whirlwinds, Lake of fire, Underworld, Exile*

3. Who did God not allow to build the temple as he had been a man of war? *David, Solomon, Rehoboam, Jesse*

4. In Proverbs 6:6, where/what should lazy people go to for wisdom? *Mountaintop, Temple, Priest, The ant*

5. What kind of place was Patmos, where John received his revelation? *Temple, Isle, Ship, Mountain*

6. Who was the father of Gershom? *Adam, Noah, Moses, David*

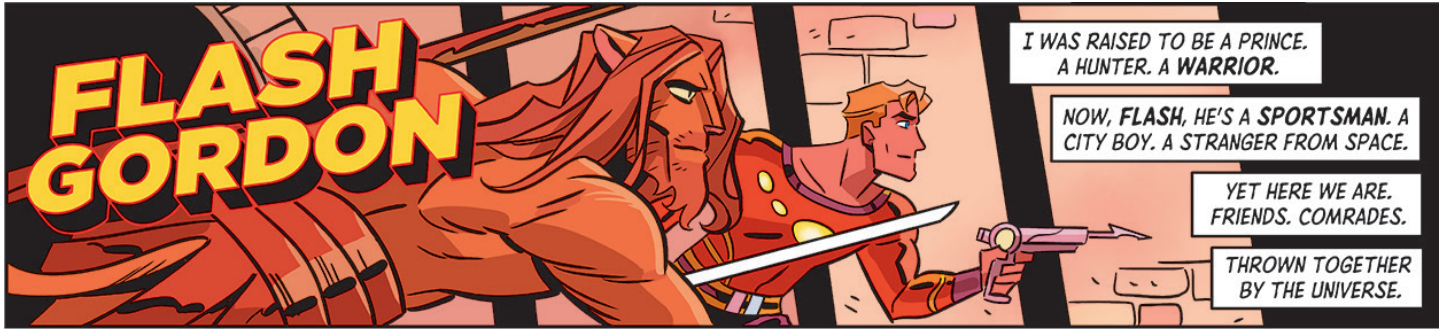
ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Lake of fire, 3) David, 4) The ant, 5) Isle, 6) Moses

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



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## FLASH GORDON

I WAS RAISED TO BE A PRINCE. A HUNTER. A WARRIOR.

NOW, FLASH, HE'S A SPORTSMAN. A CITY BOY. A STRANGER FROM SPACE.

YET HERE WE ARE. FRIENDS. COMRADES.

THROWN TOGETHER BY THE UNIVERSE.

I'M THUN, PRINCE OF THE LION MEN. DALE AND FLASH ARE MY TRUEST FRIENDS.



WHEN THEY ASK FOR MY HELP FINDING ZARKOV AND A MAN CALLED BOK, OF COURSE I SAY YES.

BUT FIRST, WE LIONS HAVE TO TRAVEL SOUTH TO A SUMMIT WITH THE SHARK MEN.



I INVITE FLASH AND DALE TO JOIN US. SEE THE COAST. HAVE OUR BACKS, IF IT COMES TO IT.

WE THROW A FEAST BEFORE THE JOURNEY.



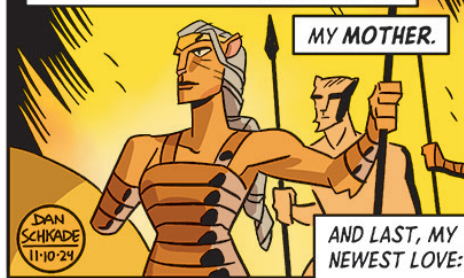
EVERYONE I LOVE IS HERE IN THE SAME FIELD.

THE WARRIOR-PHILOSOPHER KING JUGRID.



MY FATHER.

THE GREAT HUNTRESS QUEEN DOVANA.



MY MOTHER.

AND LAST, MY NEWEST LOVE:

DOVA. A HALF-LION. WE MET IN THE CAPITAL.



SHE'S AMONG HER PEOPLE FOR THE FIRST TIME.

IT'S GOING WELL.

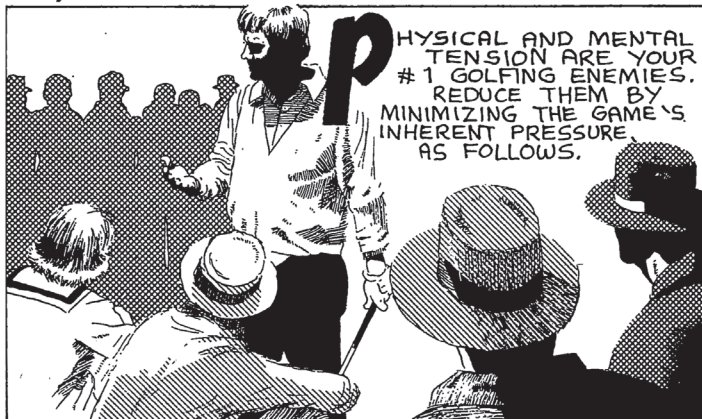
I THINK.

NEXT: ON THE ROAD

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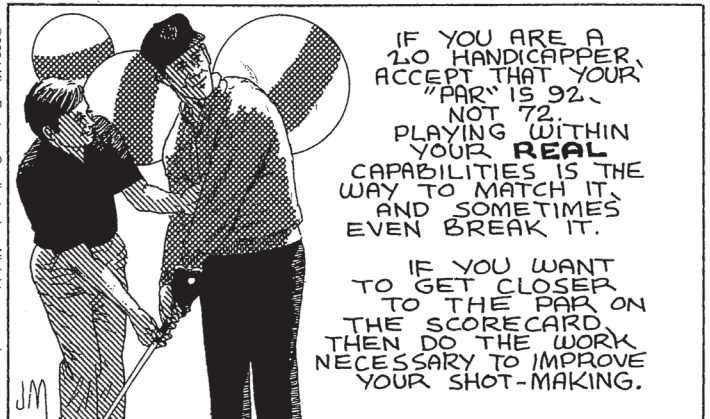
DAN SCHKADE 11-10-24

## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



**P**HYSICAL AND MENTAL TENSION ARE YOUR #1 GOLFING ENEMIES. REDUCE THEM BY MINIMIZING THE GAME'S INHERENT PRESSURE. AS FOLLOWS.

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IF YOU ARE A 2.0 HANDICAPPER, ACCEPT THAT YOUR "PAR" IS 92 - NOT 72. PLAYING WITHIN YOUR **REAL** CAPABILITIES IS THE WAY TO MATCH IT, AND SOMETIMES EVEN BREAK IT.

IF YOU WANT TO GET CLOSER TO THE PAR ON THE SCORECARD, THEN DO THE WORK NECESSARY TO IMPROVE YOUR SHOT-MAKING.



## Blood Pressure Spikes Could Denote Labile Hypertension

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm 85 years old and in good health for my age. I am an active nonsmoker, eat healthy, practice tai chi, and enjoy having many friends. I have no reason to experience extreme anxiety. Yet, for months, I've had unexplained blood pressure spikes.

The highest I had was 243/127 mm Hg, and this is when I called local EMTs who took me to the emergency room. I was given meds to lower my blood pressure, two electrocardiograms, and an X-ray. I was discharged after three hours and was told that my heart seemed fine.

I am now taking losartan and propranolol. I tried triamterene after consulting with a cardiologist, but I couldn't tolerate the side effects. I

occasionally use lorazepam.

Today a blood pressure reading showed 197/100 mm Hg. Just the thought of checking my blood pressure spikes the reading. How long can I go on with these blood pressure levels? Can these readings be normal for some people? -- S.O.

ANSWER: No, these readings are not normal. Since you say that your blood pressure "spikes," I think you mean that most of the time, your blood pressure is normal.

The biggest concern is a condition where the body intermittently secretes substances that raise the blood pressure. This may be caused by a tumor called a pheochromocytoma. They are exceedingly rare but must be looked for in a case like yours, with sudden and dramatic spikes in your blood pressure. Your regular doctor or cardiologist will know how to look for a pheochromocytoma.

If you have a spike, a blood test will be dramatically elevated for epinephrine and norepinephrine. But if your blood pressure is normal at the time of the visit, a 24-hour urine test is done.

There are other rare causes, including blockages in the arteries to the kidneys and certain drug use, such as monoamine oxidase inhibitors (very rarely used for depression) in combination with some foods. Cocaine use is another cause in a person on a beta blocker, like the propranolol you are on.

Even more likely is a condition called labile hypertension, where emotional stress leads to an increase in blood pressure levels. This is more likely for you because of the last thing you said: Just the thought of checking your blood pressure may cause it to spike.

Managing labile hypertension should be done by an expert. There are experts in hypertension who know how to manage very unusual cases of hypertension, whether they're generalists, nephrologists or cardiologists. Your doctor may have already considered this diagnosis because lorazepam is often used for spikes, sometimes in combination with short-acting blood pressure medicines, like labetalol or clonidine.

\*\*\*

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a 62-year-old woman in good health who has always been very active. When I was younger, I would hardly be sweaty after I worked out. My clothes would be dry. Now when I do a similar workout, I'm so sweaty that my clothes are wet. Why is there such a big difference? Is it hormone-related?

I also have hot flashes. -- M.C.

ANSWER: Yes, it's very likely to be related to hormonal changes from menopause. When estrogen levels go down due to the ovaries ceasing production, temperature regulation at the level of the hypothalamus in the brain is changed. The brain causes heat-losing changes like skin flushing and sweating much more easily.

This can happen for no particular reason, but it may be triggered by exercise. So much heat can be lost that a woman may get so cold, she shivers to rebuild heat.

If it's bothering you, try less-intense exercise, exercising in air conditioning or near a fan, or swimming.

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).

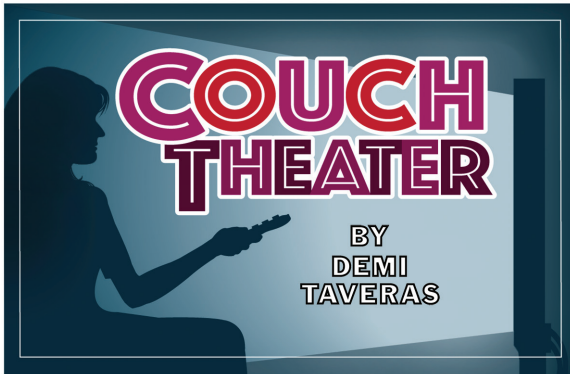
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"My Old Ass" (R) -- Maisy Stella ("Nashville") and Aubrey Plaza ("Agatha All Along") play two versions of the same person for this fun coming-of-age film, which was produced by Margot Robbie ("Barbie") and her husband, Tom Ackerley. Stella portrays the freshly 18-year-old Elliot, who has nothing figured out besides where she's going to college. On the eve of her birthday, Elliot decides to take hallucinogenic mushrooms with her friends, and while she's tripping out, a 39-year-old version of herself (Plaza) materializes in front of her. At first, this discovery unnerves younger Elliot, but when older Elliot proves herself to be very useful, younger Elliot finds great comfort in this strange bond with her own self. Available now to stream. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Olivia Rodrigo: GUTS World Tour" (TV-MA) -- Pop star Olivia Rodrigo kicked off her very first world tour earlier this year, with 97 shows spanning across North America, Europe, Asia and more. The Guts World Tour, aptly named to support her second studio album, Guts (2023), features a setlist with songs from the aforementioned album, as well as some major hits from her first album, which launched her singing career back in 2021. This film encapsulating Rodrigo's latest tour was shot during the two dates she performed at Intuit Dome in Inglewood, California, and is now available for all the "Livvies" to sing their hearts out to! (Netflix)

"Poolman" (R) -- Veteran actor Chris Pine ("Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves") decided to make his directorial debut with a comedy-mystery film, which is available now to stream. Pine also stars as the main character, Darren Barrenman, who is a pool cleaner for his apartment complex, The Tahitian Tiki. In his free time, Darren is an advocate and activist for several causes, which has gotten him on the bad side of city councilor Toronkowski. But when the councilor's assistant, June, secretly divulges Toronkowski's corruption to Darren, he agrees to set aside his pool pole to become an amateur detective. Unfortunately, most of the reviews sounded off about the film's shortcomings, so Pine will have to go back to the drawing board if he plans to continue directing. (Hulu)

"Music by John Williams" (PG) -- There's no question that a movie isn't complete without its score and soundtrack, and this is definitely the case for many of the projects that composer John Williams has worked on over his seven-decades-long career. Williams is a five-time Academy Award winner, having won Best Score for "Fiddler on the Roof," "Jaws," "Star Wars," "E.T." and "Schindler's List," and has been nominated a whopping 54 times! (second only to Walt Disney.) This documentary highlights some of Williams' greatest works and also features interviews from frequent collaborator Stephen Spielberg; actors Ke Huy Quan and Seth MacFarlane; and, of course, John Williams himself. Out now! (Disney+)



**Chris Pine, left, and Danny DeVito star in "Poolman."**  
(Courtesy of MovieStillsDB)

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1. Which group released "Rag Doll"?
2. Name the artist who wrote and released "Dreamy Eyes."
3. Which group released "Green-Eyed Lady"?
4. Who wrote and released "Cracklin' Rosie"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "If I could take my pick of all the girls I've ever known, Then I'd come and pick you out to be my very own."

Answers

1. The Four Seasons, in 1964. The song spent two weeks at the top of the Hot 100 chart and reached No. 1 in Canada as well.
2. Johnny Tillotson, in 1958. The song was his first single and made it on to the Hot 100 chart. Tillotson penned several more hits over the years, including "Poetry in Motion."
3. Sugarloaf, in 1970. A few years ago an old tape was found of the group's live performance in 1975. It was remastered and turned into a vinyl album titled "Sugarloaf Live 1975." It's available online.
4. Neil Diamond, in 1970.
5. "Never Be Anyone Else But You," by Ricky Nelson, in 1959. Nelson's song has been covered by several artists, including internationally, over the years. The song has recently been used in a TV commercial for chicken noodle soup.

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



"He's still demanding a recount!"

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





## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Cup is smaller. 2. Saucer is missing. 3. Nose is smaller. 4. Tiles are different. 5. Stool is missing. 6. Mouth is open.

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\* "I have added an additional shower curtain bar in my tub. I hang up my towels and washcloths there to air dry, and they are out of sight behind the shower curtain. It's very convenient."

-- A reader

\* "I have small candy dishes out in my home, and I like to keep them filled with goodies throughout the year, but now, when I have little children over, I put them up high and let parents know that they and the children are welcome to have as much as they like. The parents appreciate this, as the children sometimes like to overindulge." -- D.A. in Rhode Island

\* Unexpected company on the way? Throw clutter in a laundry basket and stash. Clear the sink of dirty dishes; take out the garbage; clean the faucets, sink and mirror in the bathroom

most likely to be used; and, finally, sweep or vacuum the floors. This should not take long, but these moves will maximize the feeling of cleanliness in your house.

\* Here's another use for a bandanna: In-a-pinch earmuffs. Tie around head and position over cold ears to keep winter winds at bay.

\* "When traveling, let your host/hostess know of any serious health problems or allergies you may have and what to do in case of an emergency." -- M.W. in Saskatchewan Canada

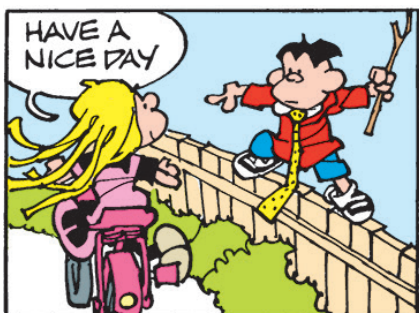
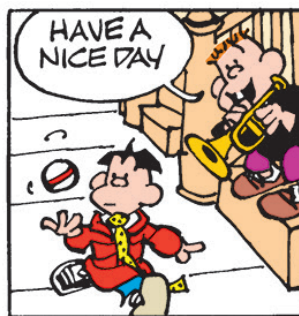
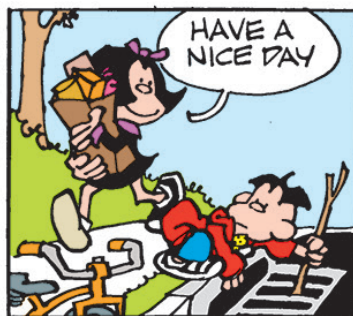
\* One great item to have on hand in your pantry: jarred peppers and olives. They can be used to make a quick but sophisticated appetizer, and they add a lot of flavor for their price. They are very stable on the shelf, so you can keep them around just in case.

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

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## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Platters
- 6 Chum
- 9 Club —
- 12 Put on — (act)
- 13 Expert serve
- 14 Navarro of "The View"
- 15 Gettysburg general
- 16 William on "Star Trek"
- 18 Vatican term
- 20 Folklore monster
- 21 Blackbird
- 23 Airport screening org.
- 24 Offered one's seat
- 25 Taverns
- 27 Plant life

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11
12						13				14		
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- 29 Perfect place
- 31 Zesty dips
- 35 Blood line?
- 37 Model in a bottle
- 38 Future oak
- 41 Luau instrument
- 43 Canine greeting
- 44 Wander
- 45 Pencil end
- 47 Subtle variation of color
- 49 Spanish snacks
- 52 Feedbag morsel
- 53 Memo letters
- 54 Levels
- 55 SSW opposite
- 56 Feeling down
- 57 Transmits
- 8 Tony winner Salonga
- 9 Chutney fruit
- 10 January, to Juan
- 11 Challenged
- 17 Sums
- 19 Equally distant
- 21 Dhabi predecessor
- 22 Rebel Turner
- 24 Madrid Mrs.
- 26 Went easy on
- 28 Japanese seaport
- 30 Bit of physics
- 32 Hone
- 33 Football filler letters
- 34 Suntan lotion letters
- 36 Overblown
- 38 Incendiary crime
- 39 "Over There" composer
- 40 Egg-shaped
- 42 — Park, Colorado
- 45 "May It Be" singer
- 46 Roof edge
- 48 Conditions
- 50 Moreover
- 51 Snake's sound

### DOWN

- 1 River blocker
- 2 British verb ending
- 3 NPR's Ari
- 4 Musical finale
- 5 Used a broom
- 6 Computer language
- 7 Needing a massage

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## — King Crossword —

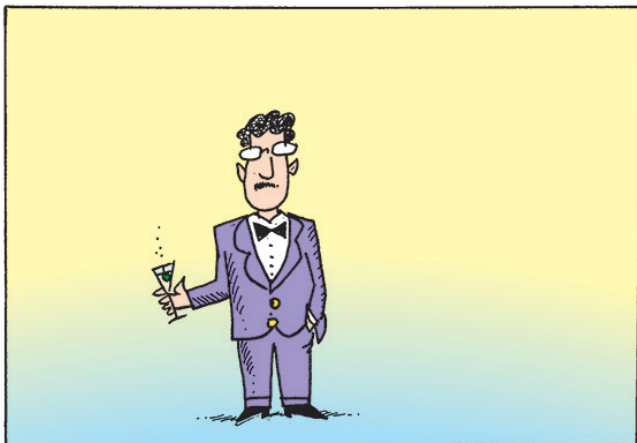
Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

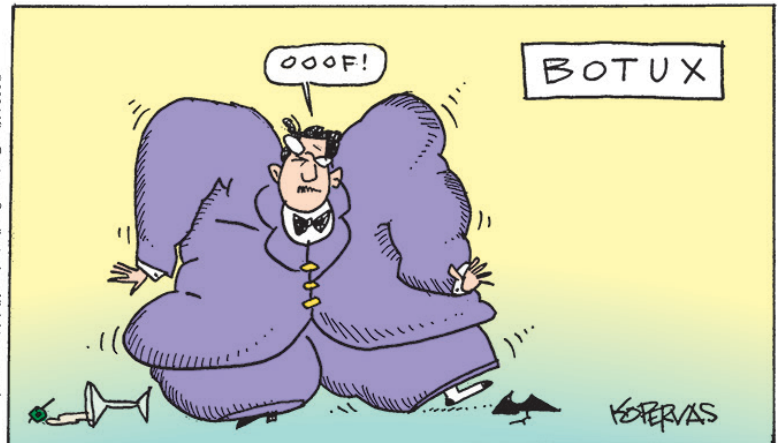
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Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



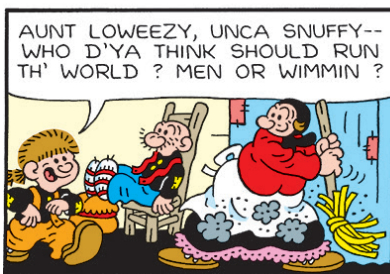
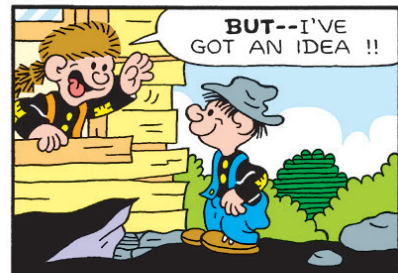
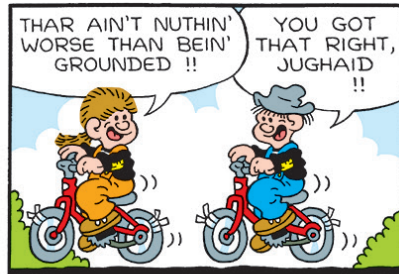
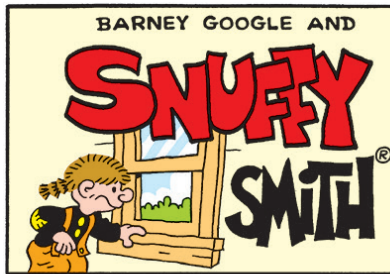
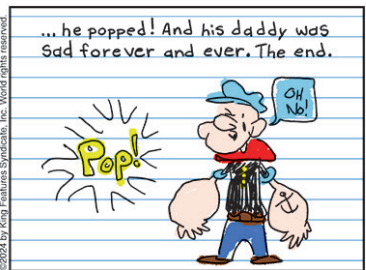
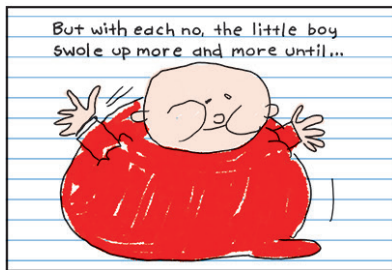
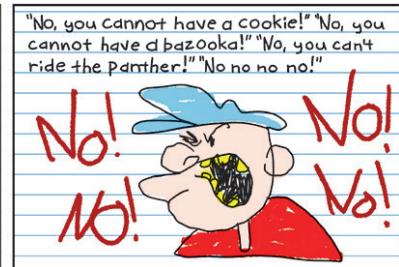
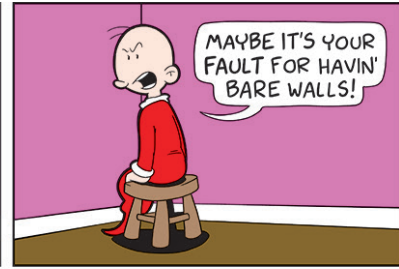
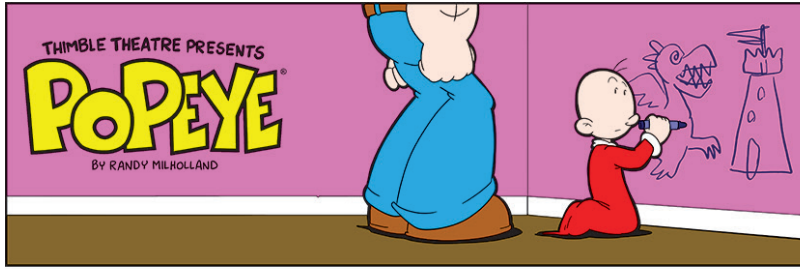
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Hal Foster's **Prince Valiant**  
BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

AS VAL AND GUNDAR HARL HAD PLANNED, AN ESCORT VESSEL CAPTAINED BY GUNDAR'S SON MEETS THE ISLAND QUEEN BEFORE SHE TURNS OUT FOR BRITTANY. THE PASSENGERS AT LARGE ARE RELIEVED THAT THE LEAN DRAGON SHIP IS FRIEND, NOT FOE.

"YOU DIDN'T THINK I'D RISK OUR PASSAGE WITHOUT A PROPER SEA GUARD," WHISPERS VAL TO ALETA.

"EVERYONE, GREET HARALDR, SON OF GUNDAR AND SIGRID!" CRIES GUNDAR. "IT WAS DECIDED THAT IT WAS TIME HE SAW THE SOUTHERN WORLD- AND SO THE SKJALDDIS WILL BE OUR FAITHFUL AND FLEET GUARDIAN WOLF!"



AS PRETTY AS THE DRAGON SHIP SKJALDDIS IS TO THE MEN ABOARD THE ISLAND QUEEN, SO IS HARALDR TO THE LADIES.

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AND HARALDR IS DRAWN LIKE A MAGNET TO THE SUDDENLY COY KAREN AND VALETA. VAL NOTICES THE YOUTHFUL FLIRTING ...

3997 YEATES 9/15/13

... AND IS NOT AT ALL PLEASED. HIS WILLFUL DAUGHTERS MAY BE ESTRANGED FROM THEIR HUSBANDS, BUT THEY ARE STILL MARRIED WOMEN.

NEXT: Request granted

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

MY MOM WON'T LET ME WATCH THE ORCHESTRA.

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WHY NOT?

SHE SAYS THERE'S TOO MUCH SAX AND VIOLINS!!

PICKERING

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Ready to volunteer?

Have you considered what you'll do with your spare time in the New Year? How about volunteering? There are so many ways we can step up.

AmeriCorps Seniors ([americorps.gov/serve/americorps-seniors](https://americorps.gov/serve/americorps-seniors)) provides opportunities to over 200,000 seniors every year to go into the community and give back. If there's an interest, there's likely a place that needs help.

The Foster Grandparent Program hooks up seniors and children ranging from premature babies all the way to young teenage mothers.

In the Seniors RSVP Program, seniors are matched with organizations that help others in the community.

The Senior Companion Program pairs a volunteer with another senior who needs help with daily living activities.

What do we seniors get out of volunteering? We gain new skills or improve the ones we already have as we share our experience. We can earn a small stipend. We can lessen our isolation and feelings of loneliness as we interact with others. And we experience better health, including mental health with a decrease in anxiety and depression.

The only eligibility requirement is that volunteers must be age 55 and older.

If you're interested in exploring volunteering opportunities, go online to the AmeriCorps website and click on the Pathfinder. Put your state or area of interest in the search box. You'll be shown lists of agencies that can use your volunteer help as well as the email contact and website for those agencies.

You might end up teaching a child to read, or volunteering as an aide in a kindergarten class. You might help another senior with tasks he or she can no longer do, such as laundry or writing letters to family. You could work behind the counter at a recreation center signing out basketballs. You might sort vegetables in a food bank. The opportunities are nearly endless.

If you need inspiration, look at the National Service Reports for your state to see what others have been doing.

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1. What Chicago-area golf course hosted the U.S. Open in 1949, 1975 and 1990, the PGA Championship in 1999 and 2006, and the Ryder Cup in 2012?

2. Junior Bridgeman, who became a successful businessman following his 12-year NBA career from 1975-87, has his No. 2 jersey retired by what team?

3. What company, formed in 1998, pioneered TV graphics technology like the 1st & Ten line for football, RACEf/x for NASCAR and PITCHf/x for baseball?

4. What college football team plays its home games in Vaught-Hemingway Stadium at Hollingsworth Field?

5. The 2024 Chicago White Sox set a new modern-era Major League Baseball record for losses in a single season with how many?

6. What Middle Eastern nation's soccer team won consecutive Asian Football Confederation Asian Cup titles in 2019 and 2023?

7. What is the minimum number of darts needed to complete a "perfect leg" in 501-point darts?



## Answers

1. Medinah Country Club.

2. The Milwaukee Bucks.

3. Sportvision.

4. The Ole Miss Rebels.

5. 121 (the 1962 New York Mets previously held the record with 120 losses).

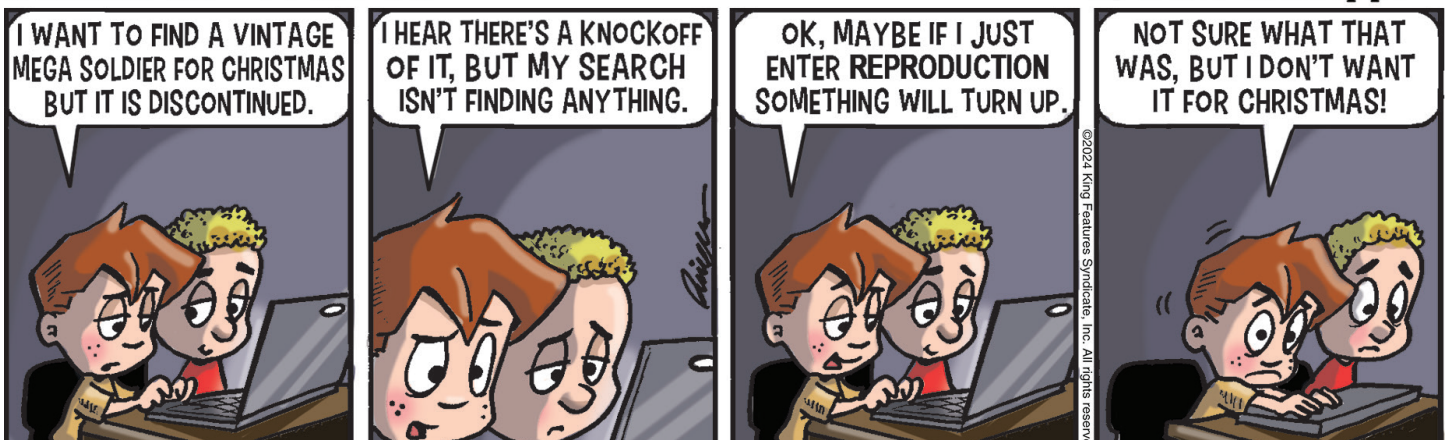
6. Qatar.

7. Nine.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps







## Starting a pet sitting business

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I'm 16 and love pets -- I have a dog, cat and an iguana already -- and I want to start my own pet sitting business. What is the best way to start? How do I get customers? Do I need a license or something? -- Jeannie H., Pittsburgh

DEAR JEANNIE: Pet sitting can be a great business to get into. Every pet owner needs someone to watch their pet from time to time: long workdays, vacations, illness and so on. However, it's a business that carries a lot of responsibility. Being reliable is very important and is essential to building your reputation as a sitter that pet owners can trust.

I recommend a trial period first, with a couple of neighbors or your parents' friends. This will give you an idea of what the job entails, how long it takes to care for each pet, and can open your eyes to opportunities. For example, a neighbor who works from home may not need a sitter, but their dog could use an extra walk in the afternoon.

At the same time, study up on the requirements for running a business. Entrepreneurship courses are often available for free through your local library or at the Small Business Association (where you can also find a business mentor).

Most states don't have a licensing requirement for pet sitters, but you can get a certification through Pet Sitters International ([petsit.com](http://petsit.com)), or the National Association of Professional Pet Sitters ([petsitters.org](http://petsitters.org)). These organizations offer a wealth of information -- including how to find clients.

Most of all, have fun! You're getting into this business because you love pets, and that will be a big factor in your success.

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

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## Strange BUT TRUE

\* NASA's first interplanetary CubeSats, a pair of briefcase-size spacecraft called Mars Cube One, or MarCO, which flew by Mars in 2018, were named for the Pixar characters Wall-E and EVE.

\* Figure skate blades were originally made of animal bones.

\* Dolphin calves are typically born tail first, so they don't drown during the birthing process.

\* Christian Louboutin manufactured a limited edition shoe for brides. They had baby-blue soles to give the bride

“something blue,” but the company ceased production after copyright issues.

\* It takes Pluto 248.09 years to make one orbit around the sun.

\* And speaking of shoes ... England's Queen Elizabeth II had hers broken in for her by her personal assistant and senior dresser. The idea was that she couldn't afford for her shoes to be uncomfortable or give her blisters while on official business.

\* Jim Henson made his first Kermit puppet using his mother's old coat and two halves of a ping pong ball.

\* Bacon was used to make explosives during World War II.

\* Peter Pan creator James Barrie used to act as if he were his dead brother, David, to cheer his mother by dressing in his brother's clothes and whistling like his sibling used to do. On one such occasion, his mother thought for a moment that David had actually returned from the dead.

\* Automobile tires were originally white.

\* The Caesar salad was actually invented in Tijuana, Mexico, in 1927. Hotel Caesar owner Caesar Cardini wanted to make dinner for friends but didn't have a lot of available options, so he tossed lettuce into a bowl with a dressing made from whatever he could find at the moment.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: “I always wanted to be somebody, but now I realize I should have been more specific.” -- Lily Tomlin

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### Growing garlic

The best time to plant garlic is in the fall. Plant the individual garlic cloves with the peels intact, pointy ends up, 2 inches deep and 6 inches apart, in very well-draining soil. The cloves will form roots, but little top growth, before the ground freezes solid. Sprinkle seedless straw 5 to 8 inches deep over the planted cloves. It will pack down over the winter to about 2 inches, and will help to keep the weeds down during the growing season. Early next spring, your garlic will be ready to send up tiny green shoots as the ground thaws. – Brenda Weaver

Source: [www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com)



by Freddy Groves

## Homeless programs and services

Back in March, the Department of Veterans Affairs announced its goal of getting 41,000 homeless veterans into housing during this fiscal year. As of this time, they not only reached that goal, but exceeded it. Nearly 48,000 homeless veterans have permanent housing now.

The numbers are impressive. Not only did they exceed the intended number, but they surpassed their goal of keeping veterans in that housing, aiming for 95% who stayed. They reached 96% this year.

The VA's Housing First approach considers stable housing to be the first and most important in the whole menu of services and help that a veteran can receive. The model promotes the theory that getting veterans into stable housing should be first in the list of priorities, with other concerns -- such as completing an alcohol program or beginning treatment for mental health issues -- to be addressed afterward and not as a requirement to receiving housing services.

The housing program has a number of services, including working with HUD to provide vouchers to get into privately owned housing. Additionally, there are case managers who connect veterans to support services such as mental health treatment, legal services, health care, job training, counseling for substance abuse and employment services. The Housing First approach seems to be working, because veteran homelessness has been reduced over 50% since the program started in 2010.

For low income veterans with families, the VA has support services and case management that includes preventing homelessness or finding other housing. Go online to [www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/index.html](http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/index.html) for more information.

One additional form of help is available at the nearest VA medical center, where homeless coordinators can provide connection to all the homeless services.

If you are a homeless veteran, or are at risk of becoming homeless, call the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at 877-4AID-VET (877-424-3838) for help.

You can also go to the VA's homeless services webpage at [www.va.gov/HOMELESS/housing.asp](http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/housing.asp). On that same page, scroll to the bottom for 24/7 chat and a link to the nearest VA medical center.

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## Wishing Well®



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3	4	8	3	7	3	7	8	5	7	8	7	5
T	E	R	O	S	P	I	E	T	T	S	S	H

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: In the movie "The Shawshank Redemption," what is Andy Dufresne's occupation before he was imprisoned?
2. LITERATURE: Which of Shakespeare's plays features the characters of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern?
3. TELEVISION: Which 2000s TV drama starred a character named Jack Bauer?
4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: What was First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy's maiden name?
5. HISTORY: Which dynasty built the Forbidden City in China?
6. MYTHOLOGY: What is the name of the mythical creature who is half man and half horse?
7. CHEMISTRY: What is aqua regia?
8. GEOGRAPHY: Where was the ancient region of Mesopotamia mostly located?
9. ANATOMY: Where are the alveoli located?
10. FOOD & DRINK: What is hummus mostly made of?

**Answers**

1. Banker.
2. "Hamlet"
3. "24."
4. Bouvier.
5. Ming Dynasty.
6. Centaur.
7. A corrosive mixture that can dissolve gold.
8. Iraq.
9. Lungs.
10. Chickpeas.

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South Dakota Governor

**Kristi Noem**



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

## Keeping South Dakota Free

Just a few days ago, America went to the polls to vote. People in counties, towns & cities, and states across the nation made decisions about what they want their communities to look like moving forward.

As a nation, we chose to send President Donald J. Trump back to the White House. On the night of Election Day, I was with President Trump as the results came in. I actually watched his victory speech with North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum, our neighbor. He and I agree – our states are very happy to welcome President Trump back.

South Dakota made some decisions for our state, as well.

South Dakotans also voted on a wide range of ballot measures, voting most of them down. My takeaway from that trend is that our people love our state and don't want to see widescale change – and I agree with them!

For example, South Dakotans voted to keep primary elections the way that they've always been. They didn't want radical California-style elections. Republicans should choose Republican candidates – and Democrats should choose Democrat candidates.

The people also voted for LIFE. In fact, our state has the highest birth rate in the nation – and I believe this is because our people have hope. Earlier this year, I proclaimed 2024 as

"Freedom for Life Year" in South Dakota, but that commitment doesn't end when the calendar turns to 2025. South Dakota will continue to take care of moms and their babies both before birth and after.

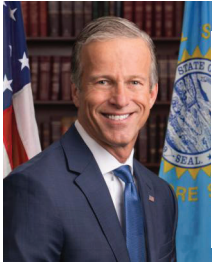
Our citizens also rejected legalizing recreational marijuana – again. I've never met anyone who got smarter by smoking dope, and I'm glad that our state won't have to deal with the public safety and mental health challenges that so many states are facing as a result of legal marijuana.

Our people also rejected IM 28. Now, I support eliminating the grocery tax, and the people of South Dakota also support lower taxes, but they seemed to understand that this particular measure was terribly written and would have many unintended consequences. I appreciate their wisdom and discernment.

One ballot measure did pass, and I'm glad that it did. Amendment F puts in place work requirements to qualify for Medicaid Expansion. That's common sense – you should work to qualify for these benefits.

Our people elected legislators – some new, some who have been here for quite some time. I wish them all the best and look forward to working with them in the upcoming legislative session on behalf of the people of South Dakota.

You all blessed me with the greatest job in the world, and it is my true honor to serve you. Together, we've built the greatest state in America – a beacon of Freedom to the rest of the nation. Thank you for voting to keep our state strong and Free. God bless you all!



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

## Every Veteran Has A Story to Tell

Generations of Americans have stood up and answered the call of duty to defend our nation. They and their families have made great sacrifices to keep us safe and to defend the freedoms we hold dear. This month, we celebrate Veterans Day as well as Military Family Appreciation Month. These celebrations are a chance to honor those who have served and reflect on what their service has meant for our country.

South Dakota boasts a rich heritage of military service. Many families have a connection to somebody who has served, and thousands of veterans call South Dakota home. Every veteran has a story to tell.

For me, I heard those stories at home. My dad, Harold, joined the Navy in 1942. He flew F6F Hellcats off the U.S.S. Intrepid in World War II, participating in multiple missions in the battle for the Pacific. A number of years ago, I had the chance to interview my dad for the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. He was a distinguished pilot in his own right, but during our interview he kept turning the conversation to those he served with, men like Cecil Harris, the Navy flying ace from Cresbard, South Dakota, and others in his squadron. Like many of his generation, it just wasn't in him to boast about himself.

I also had two uncles who served in World War II. My Uncle Gil on my dad's side was aboard the U.S.S. Boggs at sea off the coast of Hawaii when Pearl Harbor was attacked. My mom's brother, Les Bodine, enlisted in the Marine Corps and served on an underwater demolition team, a precursor to the Navy SEALs, performing dangerous missions in the Pacific Theater. He would serve for more than two decades, including during the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

As a senator for South Dakota, I have the privilege of meeting many of the veterans in our state. Throughout the year, several Honor Flights bring South Dakotans to see the memorials dedicated to their service in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. It's humbling to meet them and hear their stories and what the monuments mean to them.

I also have the honor of presenting veterans and their families with the medals they earned in the Armed Forces. Just recently, I presented Vietnam War medals to the family of Percy Good Eagle in a ceremony at McLaughlin High School. It's always inspiring to see the community gather to honor a South Dakotans' service to our country.

There's no shortage of stories, every veteran has one. In South Dakota, and around the country, heroes walk among us. I hope you will take the opportunity this month to learn a veteran's story. You're likely to be inspired.



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## Protecting our Freedoms

### **BIG Update**

Our nation's veterans served to protect our freedoms – like our freedom to vote, to own a firearm, and to express our religion and speech. We are all a part of the greatest country in the history of the world, which has remained that way because of those who were willing to fight for and defend freedom. Our military is the best in the world because of the strength of our servicemen and women. This Veterans Day, be sure to thank a current or former servicemember for their sacrifice to keep America great.

Our servicemembers and their families deserve the best support we can provide. If you or a family member need help receiving veterans benefits or navigating the Department of Veterans Affairs, don't hesitate to reach out to my office by visiting [dustyjohnson.house.gov/services/help-federal-agency](https://dustyjohnson.house.gov/services/help-federal-agency) or call 605-275-2868 to see if we're able to help.

### **BIG Idea**

I recently joined the South Dakota Biotech Association for their annual summit that focused on how our state impacts the world. Through agriculture research, exports, healthcare partnerships, and more, South Dakota provides valuable outputs that grow the national and global economy. During the summit, we talked about immigration, outpacing China's economy, and investing in cyber and research development in America.

### **BIG News**

President Donald Trump will be the 47th President of the United States. I look forward to partnering with Trump and Congress to secure the border, grow our economy, protect our freedoms, and improve the lives of South Dakotans. It's time to leave behind the burdensome policies of the Biden Administration. Let's get America back on track.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

## Did I really Say That?

I was working on my computer when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage walked in and said, "Are you ready to go?" She caught me by surprise.

I looked up from my computer and, staring at her, said, "What are you talking about?"

"You remember what you said this morning? That we can go to to get our blood drawn for the doctor?"

I looked at her, not knowing what she was talking about, and said, "What doctor are you talking about?"

"Don't tell me you don't remember me telling you about our appointment this afternoon?"

I had no recollection at all about an appointment to have my blood drawn. I knew it was somewhere in our schedule, but I really didn't think it was for today. If she told me about it this morning, I do not remember.

Not knowing what else to do, I got up, followed her out to the car, and we went to the place to have our blood drawn. I knew we had it scheduled, but I did not think it was for today. But, I was wrong. I just didn't hear correctly.

That's one of my problems. I don't remember a lot of things. It's not because I'm getting old, but because this has always been one of my problems. It's not that I can't hear. It's just that I sometimes am not listening to what people are saying, especially The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

I need to work on this weakness of mine, but I just don't know how to do it. When I'm doing some work on my computer, I can hear what's going on around me, but I don't understand, and I'm not really listening to it. I'm afraid I say "yes," not knowing what I am "yessing" to. That can get me into a lot of trouble. Believe me it has.

Sometimes, while watching TV, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will point something out and say, "Did you see what that person just did?" Then she will laugh.

Of course, I didn't, but I did shake my head and say calmly, "Yes, my dear. I did see that. Yes, it is funny."

I need to look up the definition of lying. Some people misunderstand it, and I think I'm on that list.

However, I tried to improve my listening habits and pay attention to what people around me were saying.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage recently approached me while I was working and said, "I'll take that \$50 you promised me to get groceries."

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I looked at her and said, "I don't know what you're talking about."

"You know, I ask you this morning if you could give me \$50 to get groceries this afternoon. You said you would."

I pulled out my wallet; all I had was \$50. I handed it to her, and then I thought about it. Is it a coincidence that she asked for \$50, and all I had in my wallet was \$50? Did she really ask me that morning for \$50?

If I only paid attention, maybe I could figure some of these things out. I don't remember telling her that I would give her \$50 for groceries, but after all, I am not going to infer to her that she is lying to me.

If only I would keep my mouth shut when I should, maybe I wouldn't get into some of the trouble I get into. And maybe, just maybe, if I had the volume in my ears turned up a little more, I might hear more clearly what's being said around me. If I could do those two things, I could escape some of the problems I get into.

While she was going to get the groceries, I pondered this subject for a while. Then, I had a wonderful thought that maybe I could get even with her. I thought about it, put it together very nicely, and was ready to put it together when she walked in.

She came home from shopping and put the bags on the table, so I went to the kitchen, looked at her, and said, "Can I have the Apple Fritter that you promised me now?" I was laughing on the inside and trying to keep it from coming to the outside. There was no way she was going to get out of this one.

Looking at me seriously, she said, "Oh, my dear. I got that Apple Fritter, and it smelled so good that I'm afraid I ate it on the way home."

To counteract that, I would number the days of my life. I have not known her to eat an Apple Fritter with this time she got me.

I wish I could prepare for the next trick she'll play on me, but I'm afraid I won't be able to.

Thinking about this I was reminded of a special verse of scripture. My spiritual life is based on my hearing the "word of God."

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God," Romans 10:17.

I can read the Bible but not really hear what God is saying to me. If I don't hear what God is saying how can I live a life that is pleasing unto the Lord. Daily I need to so surrender to God's word that I understand what He really wants of me.



## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Are road salts and other de-icing chemicals bad for the environment? And if, so are greener alternatives available?

-- Jane Willis, Fairfield, IA

Traditional de-icers, particularly chloride-based compounds such as sodium chloride, magnesium chloride and calcium chloride, can have various detrimental effects on the environment. According to the Minnesota Stormwater Manual, chloride-based de-icers contribute to soil degradation by reducing soil permeability and fertility, and by increasing soil alkalinity, which adversely affects plant growth and soil stability. These de-icers contaminate groundwater and surface water, leading to toxic conditions for aquatic life due to elevated salt levels. Vegetation damage is another issue, as chloride exposure causes osmotic stress, leading to damaged roots and foliage. Furthermore, the corrosive nature of these chemicals accelerates the deterioration of infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and vehicles.

Recognizing these issues, there are several greener alternatives to traditional de-icing chemicals. Eco-friendly de-icers, such as those offered by Green Ice Melt, use plant-based ingredients that are biodegradable, have minimal soil and water impact, and are safe for pets. These are also non-corrosive, ensuring that infrastructure remains protected. Non-chloride products, including acetate-based deicers like calcium magnesium acetate and potassium acetate, offer a less corrosive option. However, these can still deplete oxygen water due to their organic content. Carbohydrate-based deicers, derived from beet juice, molasses and corn syrup, have minimal impact and effectively reduce the freezing point ecologically.

Several other techniques can also be employed. Anti-icing, which involves applying salt brine before snowstorms to prevent ice formation and reduce the amount of de-icer needed later. This proactive approach maintains safer conditions with less environmental damage. Pre-wetting salt with brine before application enhances its effectiveness, ensuring that the de-icer adheres better to surfaces and reduces scatter, thereby improving efficiency and minimizing overall usage.

Public awareness campaigns about the benefits of eco-friendly de-icers can also play a significant role in encouraging wider adoption. Furthermore, municipalities and businesses can invest in advanced spreading equipment that ensures precise application, reducing waste and environmental contamination. Encouraging the development and use of new technologies, such as the propylene glycol and aqueous sodium formate mixture developed by Osaka Metropolitan University researchers, can further reduce the environmental footprint of de-icing operation. By making informed choices and embracing sustainable practices, we can ensure safer winter conditions while safeguarding our environment.



**Eco-friendly de-icers use plant-based ingredients that are biodegradable, have minimal soil and water impact, and are safe for pets.** Credit:

Pexels.com.

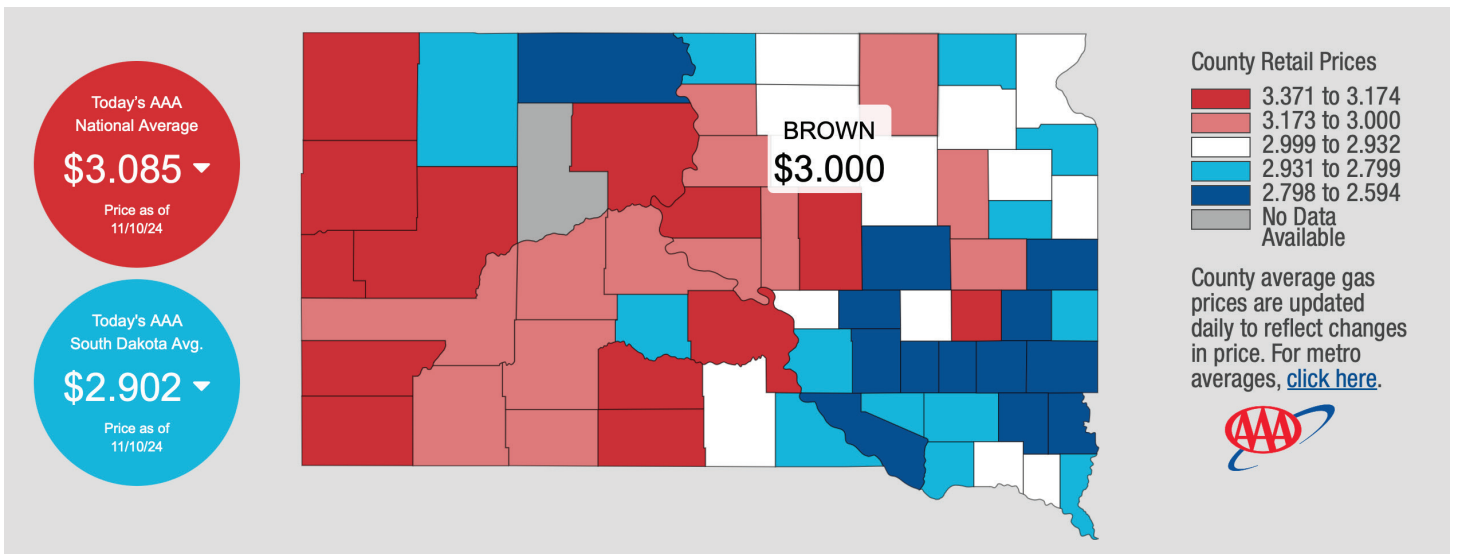
# Broton Daily Independent

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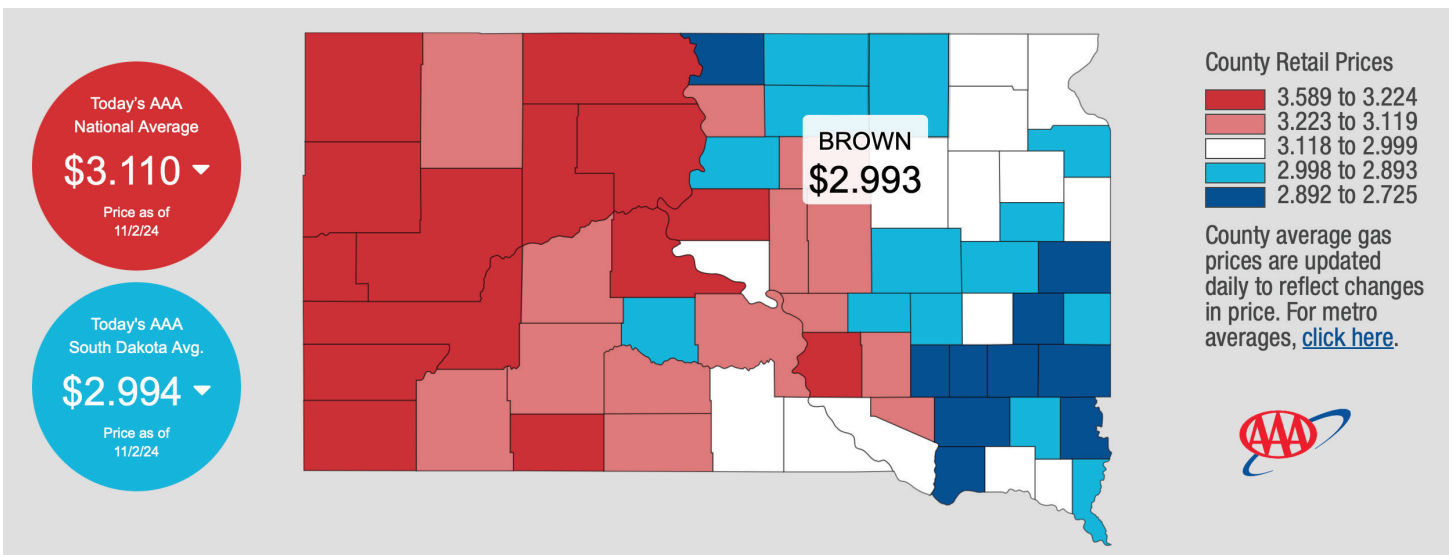
## South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$2.902	\$3.159	\$3.563	\$3.238
Yesterday Avg.	\$2.924	\$3.152	\$3.561	\$3.236
Week Ago Avg.	\$2.976	\$3.200	\$3.624	\$3.236
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.084	\$3.287	\$3.701	\$3.313
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.341	\$3.496	\$4.000	\$4.279

### This Week



### Last Week



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## Drought Classification

None

D0 (Abnormally Dry)

D1 (Moderate Drought)

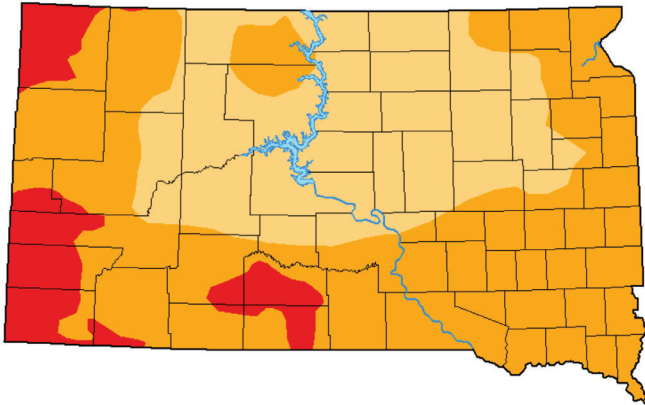
D2 (Severe Drought)

D3 (Extreme Drought)

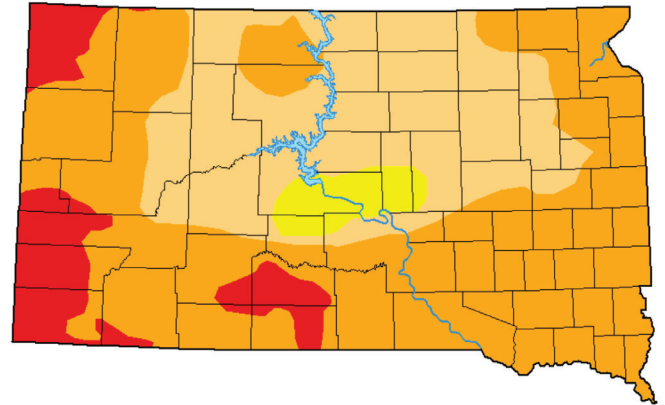
D4 (Exceptional Drought)

No Data

## Drought Monitor



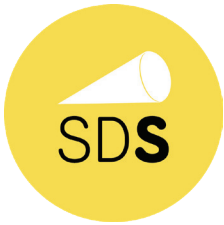
November 5



October 29

Significant rains fell over much of Kansas, into southeast Nebraska and southeast Colorado. Rain and snow fell from portions of eastern Colorado into Wyoming and into the Dakotas too, reversing the trend of very dry conditions. Not all areas were as fortunate, with northeast Colorado, western Nebraska, eastern and southwest South Dakota and northwest North Dakota remaining dry this week. The region was split, with temperatures in the western areas 3-6 degrees below normal, and temperatures 9-12 degrees above normal in much of eastern Nebraska and eastern Kansas. Much of eastern Kansas saw a full category of improvement this week, with extreme drought being removed from the southeast. Severe drought was removed from far southeast Nebraska. In western North Dakota and in eastern Montana, severe and extreme drought expanded slightly. Some improvements were made to abnormally dry conditions over central to southern Colorado and to moderate drought over northeast Colorado. Moderate drought expanded across central South Dakota this week.





## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### **Game, Fish and Parks achieves 1.6 million acres of public access, sets 2 million acre goal**

**BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - NOVEMBER 9, 2024 1:25 PM**

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department has surpassed its goal of creating public access to 1.6 million acres of private land one year ahead of schedule.

The news came in a Thursday report to the Game, Fish and Parks Commission by Wildlife Director Tom Kirschenmann. He called it a record-breaking expansion of publicly accessible land and said it reflects the department's commitment to enhancing outdoor opportunities for residents and visitors.

"Our staff worked their tails off to get where we are today," Kirschenmann said.

The department's primary public access program, the Walk-In Area program, accounted for more than 1.3 million acres. The public access initiative compensates landowners who allow foot-traffic-only public hunting. Funding for the expansion came from an additional annual fee on hunters and anglers, called the Habitat Stamp, implementing in 2020.

When the Walk In Area program is stacked on top of a habitat improvement program like the federal Conservation Reserve Program – which pays landowners to rent some of their private land for conservation – the acres become "Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program" acres. Those acres make up most of the remaining publicly accessible private land.

The department had hoped to hit the 1.6 million-acre mark by 2025. It has now set a new goal of reaching 2 million acres of public hunting access across South Dakota. The expanded access is particularly timely, Kirschenmann said, given the favorable conditions seen early in this year's pheasant hunting season.

"Bird numbers are really strong," he said.

The 2024 season has also brought a surge in hunting licenses, Kirschenmann said. Resident small game licenses jumped from 73,500 in 2020 to over 81,500 this year. He advised hunters to contact local landowners for tips on bird numbers and conditions.

*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.*

### **Staunch conservatives take leadership positions in GOP-led state Legislature**

**BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - NOVEMBER 9, 2024 8:00 AM**

A group of staunchly conservative Republicans claimed control of key leadership positions in the state Legislature on Friday evening.

The leadership election in Pierre marked a consolidation of power for the faction, which has pushed for a more conservative agenda, including bills to regulate minors' access to online pornography, curtail a controversial carbon capture pipeline, and cap property taxes.

Those stances have gained traction within the party's conservative base, especially in rural and eastern

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parts of the state where the carbon pipeline has been a divisive issue. The proposed project from Summit Carbon Solutions would capture carbon produced by Midwest ethanol plants and ship it to North Dakota for underground sequestration.

Pipeline opponents ousted 11 of the 14 incumbents who lost seats in the June primary. Those incumbents had voted for a bill that was dubbed the "Landowner Bill of Rights" by its supporters, but was seen as a pro-pipeline law by landowner activists. Opponents petitioned the law onto the general election ballot, and voters soundly rejected it on Election Day.

The 2025 House of Representatives is poised to be led by Rep. Jon Hansen, R-Dell Rapids, who is nominated to become the speaker of the House. Rep. Karla Lems, R-Canton, is nominated for speaker pro tempore. Those positions are officially elected at the start of the legislative session.

Rep. Scott Odenbach, R-Spearfish, will serve as majority leader. Hansen and Odenbach each led political action committees that worked to oust incumbents during the primary.

Rep. Marty Overweg, R-New Holland, will serve as assistant majority leader in the House, and the whip team will consist of Reps. Jess Bahmuller, Les Heinemann, Bethany Soye, Greg Jamison, and Brandei Schaeffbauer.

On the Senate side, the majority leader position went to Sen. Jim Mehlhaff, R-Pierre, Assistant majority leader went to Sen. Carl Perry, R-Aberdeen. Sen. Chris Karr, R-Sioux Falls, who will serve his first term in the Senate after leaving the House of Representatives, was nominated for Senate president pro tempore, which will be officially elected when the session starts.

The Senate whip team will consist of Sens. Sue Peterson, Kevin Jensen, Randy Deibert and Tom Pischke.

## Democratic leaders also chosen

Democrats also chose their leaders. On the Senate side, Liz Larson will be minority leader and Jamie Smith will be assistant minority leader. Both are from Sioux Falls. Red Dawn Foster, of Pine Ridge, will be minority whip.

In the House, Erin Healy, of Sioux Falls, will be minority leader and Eric Emery, of Rosebud, will be assistant minority leader. Kadyan Wittman, of Sioux Falls, and Nicole Uhre-Balk, of Rapid City, will be the minority whips.

Sen. Larson and Rep. Healy are the first two women to lead a Democratic caucus in the South Dakota Legislature.

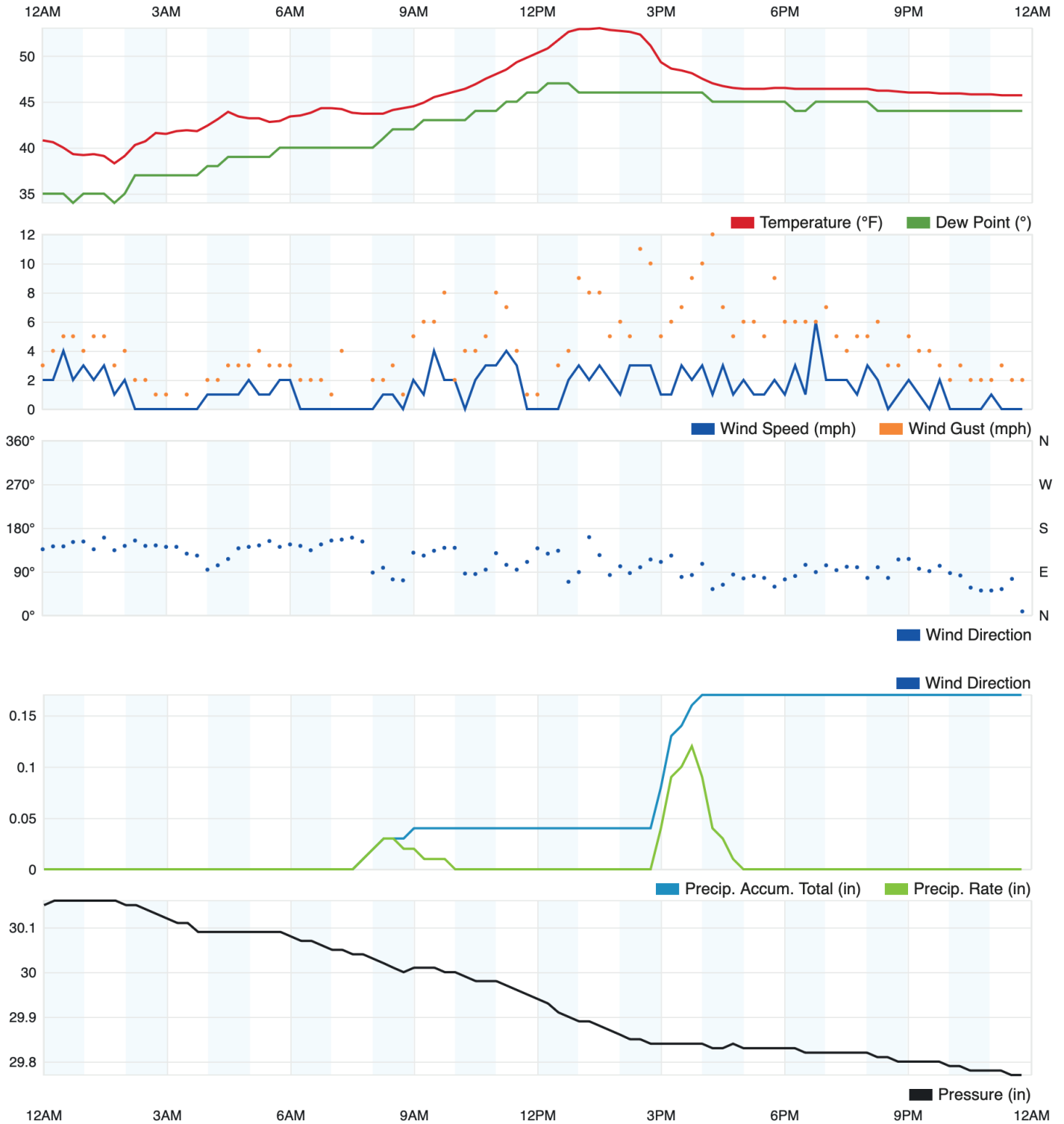
Democrats will have nine seats in the 2025 Legislature – six in the House, three in the Senate. There will be 96 Republicans – 64 in the House, 32 in the Senate.

*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.*

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs





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Sunday



High: 56 °F

Patchy Fog  
then Partly  
Sunny

Sunday Night



Low: 26 °F

Partly Cloudy

Veterans Day



High: 40 °F

Mostly Sunny

Monday Night



Low: 31 °F

Mostly Clear  
then Mostly  
Clear and  
Breezy

Tuesday



High: 54 °F

Mostly Sunny  
and Breezy

## Rest Of The Weekend

Sunday



Clearing

Highs:  
52 - 60°F

Sunday  
Night



Lows:  
30 - 35°F



Clouds will clear from west to east Sunday, with seasonally mild temperatures. Monday looks colder, with highs in the 40s which is much closer to normal for this time of year.

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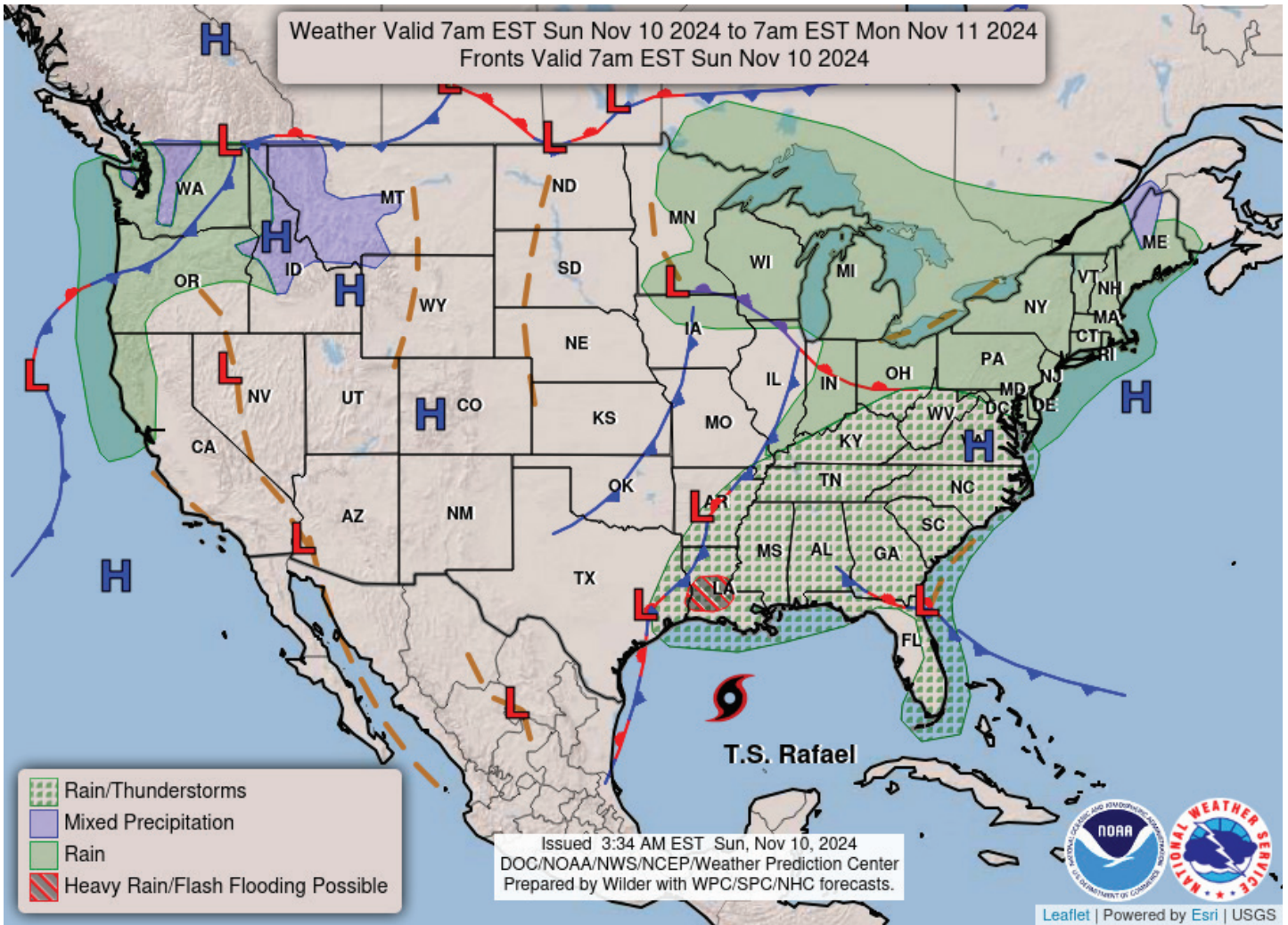
## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 53 °F at 1:21 PM**  
**Low Temp: 38 °F at 1:47 AM**  
**Wind: 12 mph at 4:09 PM**  
**Precip: : 0.17**

Day length: 9 hours, 45 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 69 in 1954  
Record Low: -7 in 1896  
Average High: 45  
Average Low: 22  
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.31  
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.76  
Average Precip to date: 20.78  
Precip Year to Date: 20.64  
Sunset Tonight: 5:08:54 pm  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:25:14 am





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## Today in Weather History

November 10th, 1998: Heavy snow fell across central, north-central, and northeast South Dakota from the early morning hours of the 9th into the late afternoon hours of the 10th. Heavy snow also fell across west-central Minnesota from late in the evening on the 9th to the early morning hours of the 10th. Snowfall amounts ranged from 6 to 14 inches. Early in the storm, much of the precipitation fell as rain, freezing rain, and heavy wet snow. During the early morning hours of the 10th, northwest winds increased to 20 to 50 mph and gusted at times to 60 mph. These high winds brought widespread blizzard conditions into the late evening hours of the 10th. On both the 10th and 11th, most area schools were closed, along with many highways, including Highways 12 and 83.

Interstates 29 and 90 were also closed due to slick roads and near-zero visibilities. Hundreds of vehicles were stranded in this storm, with many people needing rescue, and many motorists slid off the streets. There were also numerous accidents, with a few resulting in injuries. Due to the ice buildup from the rain, freezing rain, and wet snow early in the storm, along with the high winds, many tree limbs, some trees, and power lines and poles were brought down, which resulted in multiple power outages across the region. The area most affected by power outages was north of a line from Mobridge to Ipswich, along Highway 212, to the North Dakota border. Some 25 cities were affected by power outages. Hosmer was without power for over 40 hours. At South Shore, a family lost power for 120 hours. A lineman tried to get to the home twice but could not because of the low visibility. A teenager was also lost overnight near South Shore while he was hunting with friends. He was found at 8 am the next morning. In Watertown, two people were injured in an accident. Several of the downed trees across parts of the area blocked traffic for a time. Numerous businesses were closed, and activities were canceled on the 9th and 10th. In Pierre, the strong winds ripped the canopy off the Amoco gas station. The blizzard brought the fifth-lowest barometric pressure on record to Watertown. Some snowfall amounts from this horrible blizzard included; 15.4 inches near Bryant; 12.5 inches in Webster; 12.3 in Pierre; 10.8 in Sisseton; 10.5 inches near Summit; 10.0 inches in Pollock and near Onida; and 9.0 in Blunt and Conde.

1915 - An unusually late season tornado struck the central Kansas town of Great Bend killing eleven persons along its 35 mile track. The tornado destroyed 160 homes in Great Bend killing 11 persons and causing a million dollars damage. Hundreds of dead ducks dropped from the sky northeast of the track's end. (The Weather Channel)

1975: The SS Edmund Fitzgerald sinks 17 miles northwest of Whitefish Point, at the northeastern tip of Michigan's Upper Peninsula on Lake Superior. While the sinking cause is unknown, strong winds and high waves likely played a significant role. The crew of 29 members was lost from this event.

1987 - A cold front brought snow to the Appalachian Region and freezing temperatures to the central U.S. Up to nine inches of snow blanketed Garrett County of extreme western Maryland. Freezing temperatures were reported as far south as El Paso TX and San Angelo TX. Gale force winds lashed the Middle Atlantic Coast and the coast of southern New England. Thunderstorms brought fire quenching rains to Alabama, and produced large hail and damaging winds to eastern North Carolina. Ahead of the cold front, seven cities in Florida and Georgia reported record high temperatures for the date as readings warmed into the 80s. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2002 - Severe thunderstorms developed ahead of a strong cold front and produced a widespread outbreak of severe weather including many tornadoes. The worst tornado damage was concentrated in Ohio, Tennessee and Alabama. A tornado rated as F-4 on the Fujita Scale struck Van Wert county in Ohio. In Tennessee, the community of Mossy Grove was nearly destroyed by a mile-wide tornado that claimed 12 lives (ENS). A major outbreak of severe weather and tornadoes occurred across the U.S. Tennessee and Ohio valley region on November 10-11, 2002, producing damage in 13 states. A total of 75 tornadoes touched down on Sunday 10th, resulting in at least 36 deaths (ENS).





## **DON'T FORGET WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE!**

Little Danny was proud of his newborn brother. Every now and then he would quietly and carefully approach his crib, look down at him and smile.

On one occasion his mother stood watching him from a corner in the nursery while she was folding the baby's clothes. After a few moments Little Danny said, "Little Brother, before you get too big and forget, please remember what God looks like 'cause I want you to tell me when you learn to talk."

Little Danny is not the only one who wants to know what God looks like. Hidden in the heart of everyone, everywhere is the same question. It was planted there by God Himself!

John wrote that "No one has ever seen God." If this is true, Little Danny is in serious trouble.

But John also wrote that "His only Son, who is Himself God, is near to the father's heart, and He has revealed God (literally brought Him out) to us."

Jesus was, and still is, the complete expression of God in human form. Through His life and teachings, He revealed God to us so we do, indeed, know what He looks like, acts like and actually thinks like.

And Jesus passed on that "picture" of God to His disciples, and they in turn passed it on to their disciples. So, today, as His disciples, we have the same responsibility that Jesus had: to reveal God to the world through the way we live. What a great privilege!

Prayer: Lord, You have given us a responsibility to make You known to the world. Empower us with Your Spirit to live God-like lives that makes You visible. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is himself God, is near to the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us. John 1:18

Tags: John 1:18

*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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- Colored.....\$79.88/year
- Colored.....\$42.60/6 months
- E-Weekly\*.....\$31.95/year

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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.08.24

25 28 42 64 69 19

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$361,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.09.24

14 31 34 41 48 1

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$14,250,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.09.24

4 7 19 36 39 1

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 23 Mins  
48 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.09.24

5 6 18 25 28

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$96,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.09.24

9 28 40 55 57 22

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.09.24

11 24 50 56 66 16

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$103,000,000**

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  
12/14/2024 Santa Day at Professional Management Services, downtown Groton  
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

## News from the **AP** Associated Press

### **Mark Gronowski, Griffin Wilde connect for 3 TDs and South Dakota State posts 38-7 victory over UND**

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — Mark Gronowski threw for 193 yards and three touchdowns — with 140 yards and three scores going to Griffin Wilde — and South Dakota State scored 28 second-quarter points to post a 38-7 victory over North Dakota on Saturday.

South Dakota State (8-2, 5-1 Missouri Valley Football Conference) has won six of the last seven meetings in the series with North Dakota (5-5, 2-4), including the last four.

On the first play of the second quarter, Angel Johnson rolled around the right side for a 29-yard touchdown run. Then Gronowski had scoring strikes of 25 and 39 yards to build a 24-7 lead.

Dawson Ripperda recovered a fumble at the North Dakota 27 and Amar Johnson capitalized on the short field with a 6-yard rushing touchdown for a 31-7 lead.

Wilde scored on a 47-yard grab for the only points of the second half.

Angel Johnson and Amar Johnson each rushed for 70-plus yards and a touchdown. Angel Johnson finished with 100 yards to hit the century mark for the second straight game and Amar Johnson added 74. South Dakota State had a 457-248 advantage in total offense.

Simon Romfo was intercepted one time for North Dakota, which dropped its third game in a row. Isaiah Smith had nine carries for 87 yards and a touchdown.

North Dakota, which missed a field goal on the opening drive of the game, scored its only points on its next possession in the first quarter.

### **Pierre, Bouman lead South Dakota's offensive free-for-all in Coyotes' 7TD shutout win**

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Charles Pierre Jr. averaged 15 yards per carry on 11 carries and scored two touchdowns and South Dakota dismantled Indiana State 49-0 on Saturday.

Pierre ran for 165 yards and had third quarter scoring runs of 23 and 83 yards three minutes apart to make it 35-0. The Coyotes, ranked fifth in the FCS coaches poll, scored two touchdowns in the second, third and fourth quarters and one in the first.

Aidan Bouman threw for 238 yards on 14-of-20 passing and two touchdowns. He threw a 66-yard touchdown to Quaron Adams on the second play from scrimmage and a 45-yarder to Carter Bel with 12 seconds left before halftime for a 21-0 advantage.

Other Coyotes (7-2, 5-1 Missouri Valley Football Conference) touchdowns came on a 1-yard run from Travis Theis, a 13-yard run by Keyondray Jones-Logan and reserve quarterback Nevan Cremascoli throwing a 67-yard touchdown to Adams for the last score of the day.

Adams' two receptions were both for touchdowns and 133 yards. Bell had 115 receiving yards on six receptions and a touchdown.

Elijah Owens threw for 131 yards for Indiana St. (4-6, 3-3).

### **Saturday's Scores**

The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Rapid City Stevens def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 24-26, 25-17, 19-25, 25-16, 15-12

Sioux Falls Washington def. Rapid City Central, 29-27, 25-15, 25-12

## As Russian forces close in on Kurakhove, hundreds of residents remain in the front-line city

By ANTON SHTUKA and EVGENIY MALOLETKA Associated Press

KURAKHOVE, Ukraine (AP) —

Set on Ukraine's eastern front, Kurakhove is surrounded on three sides, with Russian forces just under 2 miles (3 kilometers) from the devastated city center.

Yet between 700 and 1,000 local residents remain, most of them living in the basements of apartment buildings, without running water, heating or electricity. The only place to charge phones is in the basement of the building now housing the city administration.

The exact number of people is impossible to determine because, since mid-October, no humanitarian volunteers have come to Kurakhove.

Under attack from artillery, multiple rocket launchers, aerial bombs and drones, Kurakhove has become the new Bakhmut, as Russia continues its drive westward to capture all of the Donbas region. On Friday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called the situation in Kurakhove, as well as the key city of Pokrovsk, "the most challenging."

The hospital, schools, kindergartens, water treatment plant, refugee center, post office, technical school and cultural center have all been destroyed. Smoke hangs in the air as bombed-out apartment buildings burn against a backdrop of artillery fire and drones.

Artillerymen of the 33rd Brigade say they are firing around 50 shells per day on the Kurakhove front, indicating critical activity in the Russian army's offensive operations and the brigade's desperate attempts to stop Russian forces from encircling the city.

Local authorities remain in the city, as well as representatives of the police and local Territorial Defense Forces.

For Artem Shchus, head of police in Kurakhove, there is little hope of defending the city if it becomes surrounded.

"I don't think it is possible, considering the reality of modern war and modern technologies. In that case, the logistics could be performed only by drones," he says.

Shchus calls the road to Kurakhove, which is lined with burned-out civilian vehicles, the "road of death," due to persistent Russian drone attacks. Five civilians have been killed while trying to leave.

The road of death

No supplies would enter the city without the "White Angels" evacuation group, made up of local police officers and volunteers. They provide first aid to the wounded and remove the bodies of those killed in shelling, all while operating the city's only functioning food store.

The White Angels bring in vital supplies in an armored vehicle kitted out with electronic warfare equipment — the only way to enter the city, and still a journey fraught with risk.

"Without REB (jammers) it is just a lottery. With it, you might still have a chance to survive," Shchus says.

The only way to escape the city is to travel with the White Angels. Each day, they risk their lives to evacuate between six and 12 people from different parts of the city and surrounding villages.

Although children are meant to have been evacuated, parents often hide them, both from the bombs and from law enforcement officers. Among the White Angels' key missions is to find children and persuade their parents to evacuate.

When this mission is successful and children are removed from the basements, many are shocked by the state of the destroyed city, suggesting that they have been hiding underground for quite some time.

After dressing the children in bulletproof vests and helmets, the White Angels take them to the nearby city of Kostiantynopil, from where other volunteers transport them to refugee registration points in the regional centers of Dnipro or Zaporizhzhia.

"We evacuate people every day without stopping. We just dropped people off in Kostiantynopil, and we still have addresses to go through today," Shchus explains.

Asked about adapting to work in such challenging and dangerous conditions, the police chief worries

about the impact on his team.

"I think everyone has already adapted. I wouldn't even call it 'adaptation.' It's more like an unhealthy state of mind. I don't know how this will influence them socially in the future," he says. "These people are living in inhumane conditions, and they're surviving on adrenaline. The war is their life. These are hard conditions to work in, but everyone is working."

## **Multilateral banks are key to financing the fight against global warming. Here is how they work**

By MARY KATHERINE WILDEMAN Associated Press

As climate change leads to a seemingly endless stream of weather disasters around the world, countries are struggling to adapt to the new reality. Preparing to better withstand hurricanes, floods, heat waves, droughts and wildfires will take hundreds of billions of dollars.

And then there is confronting the root cause of climate change — the burning of fossil fuels like coal, gas and oil — by transitioning to clean energies like wind and solar.

That will take trillions of dollars.

Enter climate finance, a term for how to pay for projects to adapt to and combat the cause of climate change. It's especially important for developing countries, which don't have the same resources or access to credit that rich countries do.

International mega banks, funded by taxpayer dollars, are the biggest, fastest-growing source of climate finance for the developing world. Called multilateral development banks because they get contributions from various countries, there are only a handful of these banks in the world, the World Bank the largest among them.

The banks were a key reason why, in 2022, the world met a goal countries had set in 2009 to supply developing nations with \$100 billion annually to address climate change.

At the annual U.N. climate conference that opens Monday in Azerbaijan, global leaders are expected to discuss how to generate trillions of dollars for climate finance. The nonprofit research group Climate Policy Initiative estimates the world needs about five times the current annual amount of climate financing to limit warming to 1.5 C (2.7 degrees F) since the late 1800s. Currently, global average temperatures are about 1.3 C (2.3 degrees F) higher.

A new goal needs to reach higher and hold institutions and governments accountable to their promises, said Tim Hirschel-Burns, an expert at Boston University's Global Development Policy Center.

"The core of it is getting a goal that is going to catalyze the actions that fills the really significant climate finance gap," he said.

The debate has also shifted to the question of where the money will come from, said Dharshan Wignarajah, director of Climate Policy Initiative's London-based office.

"Ultimately it comes down to who pays," said Wignarajah, who helped lead the climate talks, called the Conference of Parties, when the United Kingdom was host in 2021. "That has forced finance to be ever-more prominent at the COP discussions."

Developing countries most dependent on multilateral banks

Developing nations are much more reliant on these banks for financing climate projects than industrialized countries.

In the U.S. and Canada, commercial banks and corporations provided funding for more than half of climate-friendly projects in 2022, according to Climate Policy Initiative. In sub-Saharan Africa, those private lenders only accounted for 7%.

This is because it is harder for developing countries to get low interest rates.

"If you're Kenya, and you want to borrow from private lenders, they might charge you 10% interest rates because your credit rating isn't very good," Hirschel-Burns said.

But the multilateral banks have better credit ratings than many countries do. For example, the International Development Association — an arm of the World Bank and the top international aid provider to



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Kenya — has the highest possible rating from Moody's Investor Service, while Kenya itself has a junk rating. The banks borrow money with that better rating, then lend to developing countries in turn, offering a more reasonable rate than governments could get if they borrowed directly from private lenders.

Some bank projects work against climate goals

The multilateral banks' development seek to improve people's health and the environment, expand energy access and end poverty. It means the banks have also provided billions of dollars for fossil fuel power plants, according to an AP analysis, though their policies have improved and fewer such projects have been funded in recent years.

Investment in fossil fuels continues to rise worldwide, reaching \$1.1 trillion in 2024, according to the International Energy Agency. And multilateral banks continue to rank among the biggest funders of fossil fuel-prolonging projects, helping to "lock in a high-carbon pathway" for countries, according to a report by the Clean Air Fund, which lobbies for the funding of projects to improve air quality.

"It should be assisting countries to leapfrog," said Jane Burston, CEO of the Clean Air Fund, referring to the idea that developing countries could industrialize with renewable energy and skip over development that rich nations historically made with fossil fuels.

"It's baffling why development assistance is being given to something that continues to make people unhealthy as well as harms the planet," she added.

For example, an arm of the World Bank, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development loaned \$105 million toward rehabilitating coal plants in India, with their last loans toward the project going out in 2018, according to an Associated Press analysis of data from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

However, the improvements made coal plants more efficient and reduced their greenhouse gas emissions, according to project documents.

The Clean Air Fund's report estimated the World Bank provided \$2.7 billion in "fossil fuel prolonging finance" between 2018 and 2022. During that time, the bank also loaned about 32 times the amount for renewables.

"Renewable energy support is always our first choice as we work to provide access to electricity," a World Bank spokesperson said in a statement.

The bank's policies still "selectively support natural gas as a transition fuel" if its research shows the project is low risk to the climate, the spokesperson said. The bank's recent policies require vetting for every project to make sure its investments reduce climate impacts.

The World Bank delivered \$42.6 billion in climate finance in its most recent fiscal year, a 10% increase from the year before. And at the most recent COP, the bank promised nearly half of its lending will soon go toward climate finance.

In Vietnam, about half of power generation comes from fossil fuels, primarily coal power. The Asian Development Bank loaned about \$900 million on coal in Vietnam, with their spending on the fossil fuel in the country ending in 2017. The bank's updated climate policies "will not support coal mining, processing, storage, and transportation, nor any new coal-fired power generation," it said in a statement. The bank put \$9.8 billion toward climate finance in 2023, and aims to finance \$100 billion in climate-friendly projects between 2019 and 2030.

The country's biggest growth area for energy is in wind. The Global Energy Monitor ranks Vietnam seventh in the world in planned wind power. And the Asian Development Bank committed about \$60 million in loans toward wind energy in Vietnam between 2021 and 2022.

The banks have made broad commitments in recent years to align with the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement. But those promises leave pathways open to continue funding fossil fuels, said Bronwen Tucker, global public finance co-manager at Oil Change International.

According to the group's monitoring of the banks' commitments, all nine of the major banks tracked can fund gas projects in at least some cases.

"The MDBs can't be climate bankers if they are still fossil bankers," she said. "Relying on banks that are locking in fossil fuels and the worst-ever debt crisis is not working."

## California farmers enjoy pistachio boom, with much of it headed to China

By AMY TAXIN Associated Press

LOST HILLS, Calif. (AP) — In a sprawling plant in the heart of California's farmland, millions of shells rush down a metallic chute and onto a conveyor belt where they are inspected, roasted, packaged and shipped off to groceries around the world.

Pistachios are growing fast in California, where farmers have been devoting more land to a crop seen as hardier and more drought-tolerant in a state prone to dramatic swings in precipitation. The crop generated nearly \$3 billion last year in California and in the past decade the United States has surpassed Iran to become the world's top exporter of the nut.

"There has been an explosion over the last 10 or 15 years of plantings, and those trees are coming on-line," said Zachary Fraser, president and chief executive of American Pistachio Growers, which represents more than 800 farmers in the southwestern U.S. "You are starting to see the fruit of people's vision from 40 years ago."

California grows more than a third of the country's vegetables and three quarters of its fruit and nuts, according to state agricultural statistics. Pistachios have surged over the past decade to become the state's sixth-biggest agricultural commodity in value ahead of longtime crops such as strawberries and tomatoes, the data shows.

Much of the crop is headed to China, where it is a popular treat during Lunar New Year. But industry experts said Americans also are eating more pistachios, which were rarely in grocery stores a generation ago and today are a snack food found almost everywhere. They are sold with shells or without and flavors range from salt and pepper to honey roasted.

The Wonderful Co., a \$6 billion agricultural company known for brands such as Halo mandarins and FIJI Water, is the biggest name in pistachios. The company has grown pistachios since the 1980s, but it ramped up in 2015 after developing a rootstock that yields as much as 40% more nuts with the same soil and water, said Rob Yraceburu, president of Wonderful Orchards.

Now, Wonderful grows between 15% and 20% of the U.S. pistachio crop, he said. Its pistachio orchards stretch across vast tracts of dust-filled farmland northwest of Los Angeles also lined with pomegranates and dairies. The trees are shaken each fall and the nuts hauled to a massive processing facility to be prepped for sale.

"There is an increasingly growing demand in pistachios," Yraceburu said. "The world wants more."

Pistachio farmers learn from almond farming struggles

Pistachios are poised to weather California's dry spells better than its even bigger nut crop, almonds, which generated nearly \$4 billion in the state last year, industry experts said.

Pistachio orchards can be sustained with minimal water during drought, unlike almonds and other more sensitive crops. The trees also rely on wind instead of bees for pollination and can produce nuts for decades longer, Yraceburu said.

Many California farmers who grow both nuts are applying lessons learned from almonds to the pistachio boom. Almond production, which is much bigger than pistachio, also soared in California, but prices fell amid a glut of post-pandemic supply while farmers grappled with drought and rising input costs, leading some to not replant aging orchards when it came time to take them out.

Pistachio growers say they hope to avoid a similar fate and are striving to keep demand for the nut ahead of supply. For example, American Pistachio Growers recently inked an endorsement deal with a top cricket player in India hoping to help promote pistachios there, Fraser said.

The rise of pistachios is part of California farmers' shift into perennial crops commanding higher returns than products such as cotton, according to a 2023 report by the Public Policy Institute of California.

Perennial crops, which are not replanted annually, can't just be swapped out during dry years, which can be challenging during extensive drought, said Brad Franklin, a research fellow at the institute's Water Policy Center.

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But pistachios have benefits other perennial crops don't. They can go longer without water and grow in saline soils. That may make them appealing to California farmers who are facing limits on how much groundwater they can pump under a state law aimed at conserving the critical resource, he said.

When farmers decide what to plant, "I think the biggest thing is the market and where is the market," Franklin said. "And water is right below that."

Farmers face water challenges, but pistachio acreage has grown

Farmers across California are bracing for the impact of the 2014 state law aimed at ensuring a more sustainable use of groundwater after years of over pumping depleted basins and eroded water quality in some rural areas. About a fifth of California's pistachio crop is grown in areas that rely exclusively on groundwater for irrigation, Yraceburu said, adding he expects some of these orchards will eventually come out of production.

But over the next few years, pistachio acreage is expected to continue to grow in the state as trees planted in recent years come into production. That is in contrast to almond and walnut acreage, which are stabilizing or declining as orchards are being pulled out, said David Magaña, a senior analyst at Rabobank in Fresno, California.

Pistachios require about 3 acre-feet (3,700 cubic meters) of water per acre (0.4 hectares) compared with nearly 4 acre-feet (4,934 cubic meters) for almonds and produce more per acre than almonds while fetching a higher price, he said.

"You see all the value the pistachio industry is providing to California agriculture is approaching that of almonds with a lot less acreage," Magaña said. "I haven't seen pistachio orchards being pulled out."

## King Charles III and Kate will attend remembrance events as both royals slowly return to duty

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — King Charles III and the Princess of Wales both plan to attend the United Kingdom's annual ceremony honoring fallen service personnel on Sunday, a sign that the royal family is slowly returning to normal after a year in which two of the most popular royals were sidelined by cancer.

Remembrance Sunday is a totemic event in the U.K., with the king leading senior royals, political leaders and envoys from the Commonwealth countries that fought alongside Britain in the two world wars in laying wreaths at the Cenotaph, the Portland stone memorial in central London that serves as the focal point for honoring the nation's war dead.

The presence of both Charles, who is the commander in chief of the military, and Kate signals that normal royal service has been restored — at least for one day.

"They are showing respect to us, as we've shown to them by serving," said Victor Needham-Crofton, 91, an army veteran who served during the Suez Crisis of 1956 and later in Kenya.

Charles was diagnosed with an undisclosed form of cancer in February, forcing him to step away from public appearances for two months as he focused on his treatment and recovery. Just a few weeks later, Kate announced her own cancer diagnosis, which sidelined her for much of the year as she underwent chemotherapy.

The king has been in good form in recent months and recently completed a taxing trip to Australia and Samoa. Kate, who made her first post-diagnosis public appearance during the monarch's birthday parade in June, is slowly returning to public duties.

Prince William, Kate's husband and the heir to the throne, reflected this week on the strain that the cancer scare has placed on the royal family.

"I'm so proud of my wife, I'm proud of my father, for handling the things that they have done," William told reporters on Thursday as he wrapped up a four-day trip to South Africa. "But from a personal family point of view, it's been, yeah, it's been brutal."

Charles' ceremonial role as commander in chief of the armed forces is a holdover from the days when the monarch led his troops into battle. But the link between the monarchy and the military is still very

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strong, with service members taking an oath of allegiance to the king and members of the royal family supporting service personnel through a variety of charities. Charles and William both served on active duty in the military before taking up full-time royal duties.

On Sunday, Charles will lay a wreath of poppies at the base of the Cenotaph. William will leave his own floral tribute – featuring the Prince of Wales' feathers and a new ribbon in Welsh red.

Kate will watch from a balcony of the nearby Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, as is tradition.

All will be present for the culmination of the event, when 10,000 military veterans march past the memorial and lay their own wreaths honoring fallen comrades.

While the Cenotaph is the focus of the national remembrance service, communities throughout the U.K. will hold their own ceremonies on Sunday.

Needham-Crofton, who served with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers before a truck accident ended his military career, plans to attend a local service in Eastbourne on the south coast of England.

He has spent much of his time honoring veterans and trying to help them, including 20 years as a volunteer for the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans. Like some of his army tasks, raising cash was rather grueling as it involved standing in front of London subway stations collecting coins to help fund the group's efforts.

"I like to respect all the veterans and do what I can for them," he told The Associated Press. "It's a brotherhood really. Even if you don't know a veteran that you meet, you feel a kinship toward them. That is very important to me. I shall be like that for the rest of my life."

## Trump has vowed to kill US offshore wind projects.

### Will he succeed?

By WAYNE PARRY Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Opponents of offshore wind energy projects expect President-elect Donald Trump to kill an industry he has vowed to end on the first day he returns to the White House.

But it might not be that easy.

Many of the largest offshore wind companies put a brave face on the election results, pledging to work with Trump and Congress to build power projects and ignoring the incoming president's oft-stated hostility to them.

In campaign appearances, Trump railed against offshore wind and promised to sign an executive order to block such projects.

"We are going to make sure that that ends on Day 1," Trump said in a May speech. "I'm going to write it out in an executive order. It's going to end on Day 1."

"They destroy everything, they're horrible, the most expensive energy there is," Trump said. "They ruin the environment, they kill the birds, they kill the whales."

Numerous federal and state scientific agencies say there is no evidence linking offshore wind preparation to a spate of whale deaths along the U.S. East Coast in recent years. Turbines have been known to kill shorebirds, but the industry and regulators say there are policies to mitigate harm to the environment.

Trump has railed against offshore wind turbines spoiling the view from a golf course he owns in Scotland. But numerous environmental groups say the real reason he opposes offshore wind is his support for the fossil fuel industry.

There is almost 65 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity under development in the U.S., enough to power more than 26 million homes, and some turbines are already spinning in several states, according to the American Clean Power Association.

Currently operating projects include the Block Island Wind Farm in Rhode Island, the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind pilot project and the South Fork Wind Farm about 35 miles (56 kilometers) east of Montauk Point on New York's Long Island.

Trump is unlikely to end those projects but might have more leverage over ones still in the planning stage, those in the debate say.

Bob Stern, who headed an office in the U.S. Energy Department responsible for environmental protection



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during the Ford, Carter and Reagan administrations, said Trump can get Congress to reduce or eliminate tax credits for offshore wind that were granted in the Biden administration's Inflation Reduction Act. Those credits are an integral part of the finances of many offshore wind projects.

Stern, who leads the New Jersey anti-offshore wind group Save LBI, said Trump also could issue executive orders prohibiting further offshore leases and rescinding approval for ones already approved while pushing Congress to amend federal laws granting more protection for marine mammals.

The president-elect also can appoint leaders of agencies involved in offshore wind regulation who would be hostile to it or less supportive.

Opponents of offshore wind, many of them Republicans, were giddy following the election, saying they fully expect Trump to put an end to the industry.

"I believe this is a tipping point for the offshore wind industry in America," said Robin Shaffer, president of Protect Our Coast NJ, one of the most vocal groups opposing offshore wind on the East Coast. "They have been given a glidepath by Democrat-run administrations at the federal and state level for many years. For this industry, (Tuesday's) results will bring headwinds far greater than they have faced previously."

But Tina Zappile, director of the Hughes Center for Public Policy at New Jersey's Stockton University, noted that in 2018, Trump Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke voiced strong support for offshore wind. And even though the president-elect has bashed the technology, she predicted he won't just make it go away.

"Offshore wind might appear to be on the chopping block — Trump's explicitly said this was something he'd fix on the first day — but when the economics of offshore wind are in alignment with his overall strategies of returning manufacturing to America and becoming energy-independent, his administration is likely to back away slowly from this claim," she said in an interview. "Offshore wind may be temporarily hampered, but its long-term prospects in the U.S. are unlikely to be hurt."

Commercial fishermen in Maine said they hope the Trump administration will undo policies designed to help build and approve offshore wind projects, saying regulators attempted to "future-proof" the industry against political change. Jerry Leeman, CEO of the New England Fishermen's Stewardship Association, called on Trump to reverse a commitment to deploy 30 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030.

The offshore wind industry is taking an optimistic stance, pledging to work with Trump his political allies. National and New Jersey wind industry groups, and several offshore wind developers including Atlantic Shores and Denmark-based Orsted, issued similarly worded statements highlighting terms likely to appeal to Republicans including job creation, economic development and national security.

"By combining the strengths of all domestic energy resources, the Trump administration can advance an economy that is dynamic, secure, and clean," Jason Grumet, CEO of the American Clean Power Association, said in a statement. "We are committed to working with the Trump-Vance administration and the new Congress to continue this great American success story."

But few Republicans were in a welcoming mood following the election. New Jersey Assemblyman Paul Kanitra listed the major offshore wind companies in a Facebook post, saying, "It's time to pack your bags and get the hell away from the Jersey Shore, our marine life, fishing industry and beautiful beaches."

Kanitra said he was looking forward "to your stock prices tanking." And that was starting to happen.

The stock prices of European offshore wind companies, many of which are planning or building projects on the U.S. East Coast, plunged amid fears the new administration would seek to slow or end such projects. Orsted closed down nearly 14% on Wednesday and was down 11% over the past five days. Turbine manufacturer Vestas Wind Systems was down nearly 24% over that same period.

Rep. Jeff Van Drew, a New Jersey Republican, hosted Trump at a rally earlier this year at which Trump again vowed to kill offshore wind.

"We are currently working out the specifics of what that will look like once he takes office again this January," VanDrew said. "President Trump is a good friend of New Jersey, and he understands the devastating impact these projects will have on our communities."

## Why AP called Arizona for Trump

By MIKE CATALINI and ROBERT YOON Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Associated Press declared President-elect Donald Trump the winner in Arizona on Saturday night after vote updates in Maricopa and other counties added to his overall lead, putting the state out of reach for Vice President Kamala Harris.

At the time the AP called the race at 9:21 p.m. ET, Trump led Harris, 52.6% to 46.4%, a margin of about 185,000 votes. Harris needed to win about seven out of every ten votes of the roughly 443,000 uncounted ballots remaining, a percentage that has steadily grown as additional votes were counted.

Trump has now swept all seven of the hotly contested presidential battlegrounds, winning 312 electoral votes, compared to 226 for Harris. The number needed to clinch the presidency is 270.

In 2020, President Joe Biden carried the state narrowly over Trump, but he won Maricopa County by a margin of 50 percentage points to 48. On Saturday, Trump was leading Harris 52 to 47.

The AP only declares a winner once it can determine that a trailing candidate can't close the gap and overtake the vote leader.

Here's a look at how the AP called this race:

CANDIDATES: President: Harris (D) vs. Trump (R) vs. Chase Oliver (Libertarian) vs. Jill Stein (Green).

WINNER: Trump.

POLL CLOSING TIME: 9 p.m. ET Tuesday. Arizona does not release votes until all precincts have reported or one hour after all polls are closed, whichever is first, usually 10 p.m. ET.

ABOUT THE RACE: Both Harris and Trump crisscrossed this border state, where immigration is a prominent issue, multiple times before Election Day.

Trump put immigration at the center of his candidacy, promising to deport people without legal documentation while Harris called for pathways to citizenship as well as tighter security at the border.

Independent voters are the largest bloc in the state, followed by Republicans then Democrats, who have succeeded in winning Senate contests and the governorship since 2018.

Biden became just the second Democrat to win the state in more than 70 years.

Both candidates made a play for vote-rich Maricopa County, which is home to Phoenix, Mesa and Tempe. Trump carried the county by 3 points in 2016, while Biden won with a 2-point margin four years later. Arizona is primarily an early voting state. In 2016, just over three-quarters of the votes were cast early. In 2020, that climbed to nearly 90%.

WHY AP CALLED THE RACE:

In statewide elections going back a dozen years, Democrats have always carried four counties in both winning and losing campaigns: Apache, Coconino, Pima and Santa Cruz.

Harris had large leads over Trump in all four counties, but she far underperformed Biden's showing from 2020.

She was trailing Trump in decisive Maricopa County, which Biden won in 2020 and has been a must-win county for statewide Democratic candidates in recent elections.

Although Harris very briefly led in the statewide vote count on election night, Trump has consistently led since then.

The AP's analysis of Arizona's voting history and political demographics at the county level showed there was no scenario that would allow Harris to close the gap. The analysis also showed that even if remaining updates showed vote swings in Harris' favor, they would not be enough to give her the lead.

## Firefighters advance on destructive blaze in California, aided by slower winds

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Southern California firefighters gained ground Saturday on a wildfire that has ravaged more than 100 structures as gusty winds subsided with favorable weather conditions expected through the weekend.

Evacuation orders were downgraded to warnings for residents in several areas of Ventura County, where the Mountain Fire held at around 32 square miles (about 83 square kilometers) and was 21% contained, authorities said.

Firefighters were aided by lighter winds, mild temperatures and low humidity, which let fuels dry out and burn off quickly, according to meteorologists from the National Weather Service.

"We had a very successful day with the favorable weather," Ventura County Fire Battalion Chief Nick Cleary told reporters.

The fire broke out Wednesday morning and exploded in size amid the arrival of dry, warm and gusty northeast Santa Ana winds, forcing thousands of residents to flee and threatening 3,500 structures in suburban neighborhoods, ranches and agricultural areas around the community of Camarillo.

More 100 structures were destroyed and another 25 damaged, fire officials said Saturday after inspection teams fanned out to evaluate the impact. Agriculture officials assessing the toll on farmland sown with avocado, citrus and berries estimated the damage at \$2.4 million, the Ventura County Star reported.

Smoky air hung over the area and was expected to linger for several days. Forecasters said weather conditions would remain favorable Sunday and Monday with low temperatures and an onshore breeze.

Another round of northeast winds was expected Tuesday, but humidity was expected to rise and gusts were not expected to surge as high as those that fanned the fire, National Weather Service meteorologist Ryan Walbrun said.

The region northwest of Los Angeles has seen some of California's most destructive fires over the years. The Mountain Fire swiftly grew from less than half a square mile (about 1.2 square kilometers) to more than 16 square miles (41 square kilometers) in little more than five hours on Wednesday, with gusts topping 61 mph (98 kph).

Red flag warnings indicating conditions for high fire danger expired in most of the region Thursday.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has proclaimed a state of emergency in Ventura County.

## Qatar suspends its mediation efforts on Gaza and the Hamas office there may have to leave

By WAFAA SHURAF, SAMY MAGDY and MATTHEW LEE Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Qatar has suspended its key mediation efforts between Hamas and Israel, it said Saturday, after growing frustration with the lack of progress on a cease-fire deal for Gaza.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the remaining Hamas leadership hosted by Qatar must leave, or where it would go. Hamas has good relations with Iran and Turkey, and some of its leaders are now in Lebanon.

However, Qatar is highly likely to return to mediation efforts if both sides show "serious political willingness" to reach a deal, according to an official with Egypt, the other key mediator.

Qatar told Israel and Hamas it can't continue to mediate "as long as there is a refusal to negotiate a deal in good faith" and "as a consequence, the Hamas political office no longer serves its purpose" in Qatar, a diplomatic source briefed on the matter said. Qatar told Hamas it will have to leave if it isn't ready to engage in serious negotiations, the source said.

In Washington, a U.S. official said the Biden administration informed Qatar two weeks ago that the Hamas office's continued operation in Doha was no longer useful and the Hamas delegation should be expelled.

A senior U.S. official said that after Hamas rejected the last proposal for a cease-fire, Qatar accepted the advice and informed the Hamas delegation of the decision 10 days ago.

A senior Hamas official said they were aware of Qatar's decision to suspend mediation efforts, "but no

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one told us to leave." Hamas has repeatedly called for an end to the war and a full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza as a condition for any cease-fire deal. Israel seeks the return of all hostages taken in Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel and insists on a presence in Gaza.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue. The Israeli prime minister's office had no comment.

Late Saturday, the state-run Qatar News Agency published comments attributed to Majed bin Mohamed al-Ansari, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, confirming that Doha informed parties in the talks 10 days ago that it "would stall its efforts to mediate between Hamas and Israel if an agreement was not reached in that round."

"Qatar will resume those efforts with its partners when the parties show their willingness and seriousness to end the brutal war and the ongoing suffering of civilians," the report said.

There continued to be no end in sight to the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza and the Israel-Hezbollah war in Lebanon, where Israel's military said it struck command centers and other militant infrastructure in Beirut's southern suburbs and elsewhere. An Israeli airstrike on the southern port city of Tyre late Friday killed at least seven, officials and a resident said.

Hezbollah "should continue (the fight) and we will continue to back them up even if we lose our families, our homes, and end up in the dirt," said one Beirut resident, Mohammed Mekdad, as people searched the smoking rubble.

In Gaza, Israeli strikes killed at least 16 people on Saturday, Palestinian medical officials said, while Israel announced the first delivery of humanitarian aid in weeks to the territory's hungry, devastated north.

One strike hit a school-turned-shelter in Gaza City's eastern Tufah neighborhood, killing at least six people, the territory's Health Ministry said. Two local journalists, a pregnant woman and a child were among the dead, it said. Israel's army said the strike targeted a militant belonging to the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group, offering no evidence.

Another Israeli strike killed seven people, including two women and a child in the southern city of Khan Younis, according to Nasser Hospital. Israel's army didn't respond to a request for comment.

And an Israeli strike hit tents in the courtyard of central Gaza's main hospital, killing at least three people and wounding a local journalist, Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital in Deir al-Balah said. It was the eighth Israeli attack on the compound since March.

Israel says aid trucks reach northern Gaza

The Israeli military body in charge of humanitarian aid to Gaza, COGAT, said 11 aid trucks containing food, water and medical equipment reached the enclave's far north on Thursday. It's the first time any aid has reached there since Israel began a new military campaign last month.

But not all the aid reached the agreed drop-off points, according to the the U.N. World Food Program. In the urban refugee camp of Jabaliya, Israeli troops stopped one convoy bound for nearby Beit Lahiya and ordered the supplies to be offloaded, WFP spokesperson Alia Zaki said.

Israel's offensive has focused on Jabaliya, where Israel says Hamas had regrouped. Other areas affected include Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun just north of Gaza City.

U.S. deadline is looming for Israel

The aid announcement came days before a U.S. deadline demanding that Israel improve aid deliveries across Gaza or risk losing access to U.S. weapons funding. The U.S. says Israel must allow a minimum of 350 trucks a day carrying food and other supplies.

A report by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, or IPC, issued Thursday said there's a strong likelihood that famine is imminent in parts of northern Gaza, the territory's most isolated area.

COGAT rejected those findings and said the report relied "on partial, biased data and superficial sources with vested interests."

No emergency services functioning north of Gaza City

The U.N. estimates that tens of thousands of people remain in northern Gaza. Earlier this week, the Health Ministry said there were no ambulances or emergency crews operating north of Gaza City.



The conflict has left 90% of Palestinians in Gaza displaced, according to U.N. figures.

More than a year of war in Gaza has killed more than 43,000 people, Palestinian health officials say. They don't distinguish between civilians and combatants, but say more than half of those killed were women and children.

The war began after Palestinian militants stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing around 1,200 people — mostly civilians — and abducting 250 others. Some 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, about a third believed to be dead.

"It has been 400 days and the hostages are still in Gaza. There is a war without a direction. It's so sad," said Eial Tiskim, who attended the latest protest in Tel Aviv on Saturday night to demand a cease-fire deal.

## Democracy was a motivating factor for both Harris and Trump voters, but for very different reasons

By GARY FIELDS and LINLEY SANDERS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — While inflation and immigration emerged as the dominant themes in this year's presidential race, another issue was prominent in the minds of voters for both major candidates: the stakes for democracy.

Half of voters identified democracy as the single most important motivating factor for their vote. That was higher than the share of voters who answered the same way about inflation, the situation at the U.S.-Mexico border, abortion policy or free speech, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 120,000 voters nationwide.

Notably, backers of Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris and Republican Donald Trump, the president-elect, saw the issue from different perspectives.

About two-thirds of Harris voters said the future of democracy was the most important factor for their votes. No other topic — high prices, abortion policy, free speech or the potential of the first woman to be elected as president — was as big a factor for her supporters. Harris especially leaned into this messaging toward the end of her campaign: She said Trump was a threat to undermine the country's founding ideals and she called him a fascist.

The sentiment was supported by former members of the first Trump administration who warned about his fitness for office. Trump refused the peaceful transfer of power while lying about his loss in the 2020 election to Democrat Joe Biden. And on Jan. 6, 2021, Trump also directed a mob of his supporters to the Capitol after telling them to "fight like hell."

Audrey Wesley, 90, of Minneapolis cited Trump's legal cases and his disregard for the law as one of the reasons she supported Harris.

"Our system is broken," she said.

Wesley said one of the things that troubled her most was Project 2025, a detailed conservative blueprint for the next Republican administration. Trump has said he had not read the report, even though many members of his first administration had a hand in creating it.

"That's very scary as to what he wants to do," Wesley said.

The idea that democracy is under attack also motivated Trump voters, but in starkly different ways. About one-third of his supporters said democracy was the most important factor for their vote.

A further breakdown of the survey found that 9 in 10 Harris voters who indicated democracy was the single most important factor in their vote were somewhat or very concerned that electing Trump would bring the country closer to authoritarianism. About 8 in 10 Trump voters felt electing Harris would bring the country closer to authoritarianism. "Democracy voters" who supported Harris and Trump were equally concerned that the opposing candidate's views were too extreme.

The findings followed a consistent pattern in recent surveys by AP VoteCast and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. While democracy's future has been one of the few crossover concerns among a fractured electorate, people have differed on why they are worried about it and who is responsible for the threat.

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Debbie Dooley, 66, and a co-founder of the tea party movement, had several important factors in her voting decision, all leading to concern over what would happen to the country under another Democratic administration.

"I think it was Thomas Jefferson who said when people fear their government, there is tyranny," she said. "We had tyranny under the Biden-Harris machine."

Dooley, a longtime Trump supporter, cited the nation's "open border" and concerns by many conservatives about crimes caused by migrants who had circumvented the law. The resident of Cumming, Georgia, also agreed with Trump's contention that the Biden administration had unleashed the Department of Justice on political adversaries.

"That's something they do in Russia. That's something they would do in China, not the United States, not here in the beacon of freedom for the world," Dooley said.

Republicans have held congressional hearings for nearly two years but have provided little substance to the claim that Biden has "weaponized" the department.

Like many other conservatives, Dooley also felt social media companies had silenced their voices, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Thank God for Elon Musk," she said. "Twitter or X is a totally different place now than it was before he took over, so we have First Amendment rights. It's free speech."

The survey found that nearly all "democracy voters" who supported Trump said freedom of speech was at least a factor in their vote. It was a less prominent issue for Trump voters who said democracy was a minor factor or not at a factor in their choice.

Brendan Nyhan, a political scientist at Dartmouth College, said the opposing views about which side posed a threat to democracy are understandable because both campaigns had spoken about the other in those terms. And because democracy is an abstract issue, what constitutes a threat can vary.

"Harris talked a lot about democracy, and the Democratic coalition talked a lot about the threats to democracy," he said. "So it's not surprising that many Democrats correctly perceived Trump as a threat and name it as one of the most important issues."

The fact that Republicans echoed the claim against Harris would seem unusual, but one of Trump's political strategies is to appropriate an attack against him and turn it around against his opponent. Nyhan said Trump did that successfully with the democracy argument.

Border protection, for example, could mean one thing to a Harris backer and something quite different to a Trump voter who might support the idea of the great replacement conspiracy theory — the notion that the influence of whites is being diminished through illegal immigration.

In her concession speech at her alma mater, Howard University in Washington, Harris alluded to the importance of accepting election results even in a loss and peacefully transferring power, which Trump has conditioned on whether he would view the election outcome as fair.

"That principle, as much as any other, distinguishes democracy from monarchy or tyranny," Harris said.

Leah Wright Rigueur, a history professor at the SNF Agora Institute at Johns Hopkins University, said the processes of democracy as expressed through the presidential vote won, for now.

"The 2024 presidential election was fundamentally, as far as I understand, an example of democracy in action. Trump won the Electoral College. Trump won the popular votes," she said.

The question is whether the country would be as peaceful if the outcome were different and how does the nation close that fissure in the future when a "very vocal cross section" of the American public sees democracy working only "when my side wins, but tyranny when your side wins?"

## Tens of thousands of Spaniards demand the resignation of Valencia leader for bungling flood response

By PAOLO SANTALUCIA and JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

VALENCIA, Spain (AP) — Tens of thousands of Spaniards marched in the eastern city of Valencia on Saturday to demand the resignation of the regional president in charge of the emergency response to last week's catastrophic floods that left more than 200 dead and others missing.

A group of protestors clashed with riot police in front of Valencia's city hall, where the protestors started their march to the seat of the regional government. Police used batons to beat them back.

Regional leader Carlos Mazón is under immense pressure after his administration failed to issue flood alerts to citizens' cellphones until hours after the flooding started on the night of Oct. 29.

Many marchers held up homemade signs or chanted "Mazón Resign!" Others carried signs with messages like "You Killed Us!" Upon arrival at the regional government seat, some protesters slung mud on the building and left handprints of the muck on its facade.

Earlier on Saturday, Mazón told regional broadcaster À Punt that "there will be time to hold officials accountable," but that now "is time to keep cleaning our streets, helping people and rebuilding."

He said that he "respected" the march.

Mazón, of the conservative Popular Party, is also being criticized for what people perceive as the slow and chaotic response to the natural disaster. Thousands of volunteers were the first boots on the ground in many of the hardest hit areas on Valencia's southern outskirts. It took days for officials to mobilize the thousands of police reinforcements and soldiers that the regional government asked central authorities to send in.

In Spain, regional governments are charged with handling civil protection and can ask the national government in Madrid, led by the Socialists, for extra resources.

Mazón has defended his handling of the crisis saying that its magnitude was unforeseeable and that his administration didn't receive sufficient warnings from central authorities.

But Spain's weather agency issued a red alert, the highest level of warning, for bad weather as early as 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday morning as the disaster loomed.

Some communities were flooded by 6 p.m. It took until after 8 p.m. for Mazón's administration to send out alerts to people's cellphones.

Mazón was with Spain's royals and Socialist prime minister when they were pelted with mud by enraged residents during their first visit to a devastated area last weekend.

Sara Sánchez Gurillo attended the protest because she had lost her brother-in-law, 62-year-old Candido Molina Pulgarín. She said his body was found in a field of orange trees after he was trapped by the water in his home in the town of Cheste, west of Valencia.

She wanted Mazón to go, but also had harsh words for the country's leaders.

"It's shameful what has happened," Sánchez said. "They knew that the sky was going to fall and yet they didn't warn anyone. They didn't evacuate the people. We want them to resign!"

"The central government should have taken charge. They should have sent in the army earlier. The king should have made them send it in. Why do we want him as a symbolic figure? He is worthless. The people are alone. They have abandoned us."

The death toll stood at 220 victims on Saturday, with 212 coming in the eastern Valencia region, as the search for bodies goes on.

Thousands more lost their homes and streets are still covered in mud and debris 11 days since the arrival of a tsunami-like wave following a record deluge.

## **Biden and Trump will meet in the Oval Office on Wednesday, the White House says**

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden will host President-elect Donald Trump for a traditional post-election meeting in the Oval Office on Wednesday, the White House said Saturday.

Such a meeting is customary between the outgoing president and the incoming president, and is meant partly to mark the start of a peaceful transfer of power under America's democracy.

But then-President Trump, a Republican, did not host Biden, a Democrat, for a sit-down after the 2020 election, when Trump lost his reelection bid.

Trump sought the presidency again four years later, and on Tuesday he defeated Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic presidential nominee. Trump is the first former president to return to power since Grover Cleveland regained the White House in the 1892 election.

The White House said Biden called Trump this past Wednesday to congratulate him and invite him to meet in the Oval Office. Their meeting is scheduled for 11 a.m.

In a speech Thursday, Biden said he had assured Trump "that I would direct my entire administration to work with his team to ensure a peaceful and orderly transition. That's what the American people deserve."

Asked about Trump as he left church Saturday in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, where he was spending the weekend, Biden said, "I'm going to see him on Wednesday."

## **1 monkey recovered safely, 42 others remain on the run from South Carolina lab**

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — One of 43 monkeys bred for medical research that escaped a compound in South Carolina has been recovered unharmed, officials said Saturday.

Many of the others are still located a few yards from the property, jumping back and forth over the facility's fence, police said in a statement.

The Rhesus macaques made a break for it Wednesday after an employee at the Alpha Genesis facility in Yemassee didn't fully lock a door as she fed and checked on them, officials said.

The monkeys on Friday were exploring the outer fence of the Alpha Genesis compound and were cooing at the monkeys inside. The primates continued to interact with their companions inside the facility on Saturday, which is a positive sign, the police statement said.

Alpha Genesis CEO Greg Westergaard relayed that efforts to recover all the animals will persist throughout the weekend and for as long as it takes, the statement said.

The monkeys are about the size of a cat. They are all females weighing about 7 pounds (3 kilograms).

Alpha Genesis, federal health officials and police all said the monkeys pose no risk to public health. The facility breeds the monkeys to sell to medical and other researchers.

Alpha Genesis provides primates for research worldwide at its compound in Yemassee, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) northeast of Savannah, Georgia, according to its website.

## **US will appeal judge's ruling that 9/11 defendants can plead guilty and avoid the death penalty**

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Defense Department will appeal a military judge's ruling that plea agreements struck by Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the alleged mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, and two of his co-defendants are valid, a defense official said Saturday.

The ruling this past week voided Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's order to throw out the deals and concluded that the plea agreements were valid. The judge granted the three motions to enter guilty pleas and said he would schedule them for a future date to be determined by the military commission.



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The department will also seek a postponement of any hearing on the pleas, according to the official, who was not authorized to publicly discuss legal matters and spoke on condition of anonymity. Rear Adm. Aaron Rugh, the chief prosecutor, sent a letter Friday to the families of 9/11 victims informing them of the decision.

The ruling by the judge, Air Force Col. Matthew McCall, allowed the three 9/11 defendants to enter guilty pleas in the U.S. military courtroom at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and would spare them the risk of the death penalty. The pleas by Mohammed, Walid bin Attash and Mustafa al-Hawsawi would be a key step toward closing out the long-running and legally troubled government prosecution in the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people.

Government prosecutors had negotiated the deals with defense lawyers under government auspices, and the top official for the military commission at Guantanamo had approved the agreements. But the deals were immediately slammed by Republican lawmakers and others when they were made public this summer.

Within days, Austin issued an order saying he was nullifying them. He said plea bargains in possible death penalty cases tied to one of the gravest crimes ever carried out on U.S. soil were a momentous step that should only be decided by the defense secretary.

The judge had ruled that Austin lacked the legal authority to toss out the plea deals.

The agreements, and Austin's attempt to reverse them, have made for one of the most fraught episodes in a U.S. prosecution marked by delays and legal difficulties. That includes years of ongoing pretrial hearings to determine the admissibility of statements by the defendants, given their torture in CIA custody.

While families of some of the victims and others are adamant that the 9/11 prosecutions continue until trial and possible death sentences, legal experts say it is not clear that could ever happen. If the 9/11 cases ever clear the hurdles of trial, verdicts and sentencings, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit would likely hear many of the issues in the course of any death penalty appeals.

The issues include the CIA destruction of videos of interrogations, whether Austin's plea deal reversal constituted unlawful interference and whether the torture of the men tainted subsequent interrogations by "clean teams" of FBI agents that did not involve violence.

## Japanese ace Roki Sasaki to become available to MLB teams this offseason

CHIBA, Japan (AP) — Japanese ace Roki Sasaki will be available to Major League Baseball teams this offseason.

The Chiba Lotte Marines announced Saturday they have chosen to start the process of moving the pitcher to a big league club in North America via the posting system.

Sasaki, who turned 23 this month, is expected to become one of the most sought-after pitchers on the open market. The right-hander went 10-5 with a 2.35 ERA in 18 games this year, striking out 129 hitters in 111 innings.

Because he is younger than 25, Sasaki will be classified as an international amateur free agent subject to bonus pool limits, according to MLB rules. That means his first contract would be a minor league deal no larger than seven figures.

The Marines will receive a posting fee from the acquiring MLB team equal to 25% of the signing bonus.

When Shohei Ohtani agreed to join the Los Angeles Angels in December 2016 at age 23, he received a \$2,315,000 signing bonus.

It's unclear yet when Sasaki will be posted, starting the 45-day clock for him to sign with a major league club. The 2024 international signing period ends Dec. 15 and the 2025 period opens Jan. 15.

Most teams committed most or all of their bonus pool to Latin American prospects in January. The Los Angeles Dodgers have kept the most available space left in their 2024 signing bonus pool, \$2,502,500.

On the day before the World Series began, Dodgers president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman refused to answer a question about the amount left open, saying: "This is outrageous. You want to talk about our hitting philosophy and the player development, seriously, this is not important for right now."

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Baltimore has \$2,147,300 remaining, the New York Yankees \$1,487,200 and San Francisco \$1,247,500. The other teams have under \$1 million, including Tampa Bay and Texas with no money available and eight other clubs with less than \$100,000.

The last day to post a player is Dec. 15, so by waiting the Marines could extend his availability into the new signing period.

Pools this year range from Arizona at a high of \$7,129,800 to Atlanta, Boston, the Chicago White Sox and the New York Mets at \$5,925,000.

After the Dodgers signed Ohtani to a \$700 million, 10-year contract and pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto to a \$325 million, 12-year deal last December, Los Angeles won the World Series and drew a Japan-record 12.9 million average television viewers for the five games against the Yankees.

Asked during the NL Championship Series whether the success of the team's brand in Japan could help recruit Sasaki if he became available, Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said: "I hope so, absolutely. We're thinking alike now."

Sasaki helped Japan win the 2023 World Baseball Classic. His fastball has been clocked at 102.5 mph, and he has a 29-15 career record with a 2.10 ERA over four injury-shortened seasons with the Marines. He pitched a perfect game against the Orix Buffaloes in April 2022 — racking up 13 straight strikeouts and finishing with 19.

"Since I joined the team, the team has been listening to my thoughts about my future MLB challenge, and I am very grateful to the team for officially allowing me to post," Sasaki said in a statement posted by the Marines on the social platform X.

"There were many things that did not go well during my five years with the Marines, but I was able to get to this point by concentrating only on baseball, with the support of my teammates, staff, front office, and fans. I will do my best to work my way up from my minor contract to become the best player in the world, so that I will have no regrets in my one and only baseball career and live up to the expectations of everyone who has supported me."

## **Azerbaijan is the host of the UN's climate conference, shining a spotlight on the petrostate**

By EMMA BURROWS Associated Press

The spotlight is on Azerbaijan as the small petrostate in the South Caucasus hosts the U.N.'s biggest climate conference.

Diplomats from across the world will descend on the capital Baku for the annual climate summit, known as COP29, to discuss how to avoid increasing threats from climate change in a place that was one of the birthplaces of the oil industry.

It was in Baku where the world's first oil fields were developed in 1846 and where Azerbaijan led the world in oil production in 1899.

Sandwiched between Iran to the south and Russia to the north, Azerbaijan is on the Caspian Sea and was part of the Soviet Union from 1922 to 1991. Nearly all of Azerbaijan's exports are oil and gas, two of the world's leading sources of planet-warming carbon dioxide emissions. President Ilham Aliyev described them in April as a "gift of the gods."

Aliyev is Azerbaijan's authoritarian leader. He is the son of the former president and has been in power for more than two decades, overseeing a crackdown on freedom of speech and civil society. The Associated Press was not granted permission by Azerbaijan's authorities to report in the country ahead of the conference.

Aliyev has said it is a "big honor" for Azerbaijan to host the conference. He has also said he wants his country to use more renewable energy at home so that it can export more oil and gas abroad.

In Baku, the signs of fossil fuel addiction are everywhere

In metal cages next to Azerbaijan's Aquatic Palace sporting venue are pumpjacks — a sign says they extract just over 2 tons of oil a day. Others pump away elsewhere, sucking up oil in view of one of Baku's

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religious and tourist sites, the Bibi Heybat mosque that was rebuilt in the 1990s after it was destroyed by the Bolsheviks almost 80 years ago.

Aliyev said he considers it "a sign of respect" from the international community that Azerbaijan is hosting COP and a recognition of what Azerbaijan is doing around green energy.

Some of those plans involve developing hydropower, solar and wind projects in Karabakh, a region populated by ethnic Armenians who fled to Armenia after a lightning military offensive by Azerbaijan in September 2023.

Aliyev said in a speech in March that his country is in the "active phase of green transition" but added that "no one can ignore the fact that without fossil fuel, the world cannot develop, at least in the foreseeable future."

Mukhtar Babayev, Azerbaijan's environment minister and former vice president at the state energy company Socar, will serve as conference president of the talks. Babayev said in April he wants to show how this "oil and gas country of the past" can show the world a green path with its efforts to ramp up renewable energy, especially wind power.

He said he believes his country's COP summit must build on last year's agreement to transition away from fossil fuels and pave the way for countries to come together in 2025 on beefed-up and financed plans to clamp down on heat-trapping gases.

But plenty of people doubt those commitments.

Multiple organizations say Azerbaijan's commitment to the green energy transition amounts to greenwashing – giving the impression that the country is doing more than it is to combat climate change.

Claims of greenwashing and civil society crackdowns abound

While many countries including the United States and the United Arab Emirates — last year's host — grapple with the challenges of transitioning away from fossil fuels, Azerbaijan has historically not been proactive in that regard, said Kate Watters, executive director at Crude Accountability, which monitors environmental issues in the Caspian Sea region.

Environmental monitoring in Azerbaijan is dangerous, she said, referencing a crackdown on civil society that has effectively snuffed out any real opposition and seen people detained.

There's no effective mechanism in Azerbaijan for locals to ring alarm bells about exposure to pollutants from the oil and gas industry, Watters said. She referenced health issues such as rashes and sickness that residents may experience living near the Sangachal oil and gas terminal just outside Baku but indicated that their concerns are not heard.

Azerbaijani government officials did not respond to numerous requests from The Associated Press for comment.

Babayev has pointed to Azerbaijan experiencing higher-than-normal temperatures and said he wants states to come together to improve plans to stop the emission of gases that contribute to global warming. But his country has been criticized for failing to clamp down on exactly that.

Analysis from Global Witness, a nonprofit organization, found the volume of gas flared at oil and gas facilities in Azerbaijan increased by 10.5% since 2018.

Gas flaring is a major source of soot, carbon dioxide and methane emissions that contribute to global warming. It happens when energy companies burn off excess gas instead of capturing it when it's released while drilling for oil. It's been blamed by human rights groups and investigative journalists for some of Azerbaijanis' health issues, including around the Sangachal terminal.

"We're heading into a COP where even the host isn't bothering to do the basic functions of climate diplomacy," Louis Wilson, head of fossil fuels investigations at Global Witness, told AP.

The Paris climate agreement requires countries to submit plans to combat climate change, with Azerbaijan's latest update coming in 2023. A group of climate scientists rated it "critically insufficient" in September. It's expected the country will submit an updated plan this year.

Amid war, Europe turns to Azerbaijan for gas

Azerbaijan owns one of the largest gas fields in the world, Shah Deniz, and BP announced in April the start of oil production from a new offshore platform also in the Caspian Sea.

Baku is planning to hike its fossil fuel production over the next decade and its natural resources have transformed it into a geopolitical player.

Before Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, Moscow supplied some of 40% of Europe's natural gas through four pipelines but most of that was later cut off.

That meant opportunity for Azerbaijan, with the EU striking a deal later that year to double its imports of Azeri gas to 20 billion cubic meters a year by 2027. But there are questions as to whether Azerbaijan can meet that demand and disagreements over the terms of the deal.

"The more renewable sources we have, the more natural gas we will save," Aliyev said in March, noting the fuel saved will be "an additional contribution to the Southern Gas Corridor," which takes gas from the Caspian Sea to Europe.

Azerbaijani officials have argued that it is unfair to criticize Baku for producing more fossil fuels when there is a demand for them across Europe as national governments endeavor to keep fuel prices low for citizens.

Azerbaijan's hosting of COP will turn the spotlight on the nation which makes most of its money from selling fossil fuels but it may also highlight Europe's — and the world's — continuing dependence on them.

For many climate experts, the question for Azerbaijan is whether the country that saw the beginnings of the fossil fuel industry is serious about hosting negotiations focused on moving the world toward green energy.

## **Trump's gains with Latinos could reshape American politics. Democrats are struggling to respond**

By WILL WEISSERT and ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — From Pennsylvania to Florida to Texas, areas with high numbers of Hispanics often had little in common on Election Day other than backing Republican Donald Trump over Democrat Kamala Harris for president.

Trump, the president-elect, made inroads in heavily Puerto Rican areas of eastern Pennsylvania where the vice president spent the last full day of her campaign. Trump turned South Texas' Rio Grande Valley, a decadeslong Democratic stronghold populated both by newer immigrants and Tejanos who trace their roots in the state for several generations.

He also improved his standing with Hispanic voters along Florida's Interstate 4 corridor linking the Tampa Bay area — home to people of Cuban, Venezuelan, Nicaraguan, Colombian and Puerto Rican origin — with Orlando, where Puerto Ricans make up about 43% of the local Hispanic population. Trump was the first Republican since 1988 to win Miami-Dade County, home to a sizable Cuban population and the country's metropolitan area with the highest share of immigrants.

It was a realignment that, if it sticks, could change American politics.

Texas and Florida are already reliably Republican, but more Hispanics turning away from Democrats in future presidential races could further dent the party's "blue wall" of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin, that had helped catapult it to the White House before Trump romped through all three this time. The shift might even make it harder for Democrats to win in the West, in states such as Arizona and Nevada.

Harris tried to highlight the ways Trump may have insulted or threatened Latinos.

Trump, in his first term, curtailed the use of Temporary Protected Status, which Democratic President Joe Biden extended to thousands of Venezuelans, and tried to terminate the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. He also delayed the release of relief aid to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria in 2017 until nearly the end of his term, having long blasted the island's officials as corrupt and inept.

Once he returns to the White House, Trump has pledged to stage the largest deportation operation in U.S. history. That could affect millions of families in mixed-status homes, where people who are in the United States illegally live with American citizens or those with legal residency.

But the Democratic warnings did not appear to break through with enough voters for Harris. Now the party must figure out how to win back votes from a critical, fast-growing group.



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"Trump, he's a very confounding figure," said Abel Prado, a Democratic operative and pollster who serves as executive director of the advocacy group Cambio Texas. "We have no idea how to organize against him. We have no idea how to respond. We have no idea how to not take the bait."

Ultimately, concerns about immigration did not resonate as much as pocketbook issues with many Hispanics.

About 7 in 10 Hispanic voters were "very concerned" about the cost of food and groceries, slightly more than about two-thirds of voters overall, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 120,000 voters nationwide. Nearly two-thirds of Hispanic voters said that they were "very concerned" about their housing costs, compared with about half of voters overall.

Trump had a clear edge among Hispanic voters who were "very concerned" about the cost of food. Half said he would better handle the economy, compared with about 4 in 10 for Harris. Among Hispanic voters who were very worried about crime in their community, Trump had a similar advantage.

"When they looked at both candidates, they saw who could improve our economy and the quality of life," said Marcela Diaz-Myers, a Colombian immigrant who headed a Hispanic outreach task force for the Pennsylvania Republican Party. "Did he sometimes offend? Yes. But that happens in political campaigns. Many of the people who voted for President Trump were able to get past this and trust that he will move the country in the right direction."

Harris promised to lower grocery prices by cracking down on corporate price gouging and to increase federal funding for first-time homebuyers. Also, recent violent crime rates have declined in many parts of the country.

Shen also spent many of the final days of the campaign trying to capitalize on remarks by a comic who spoke at a Trump rally in New York and joked that Puerto Rico was a "floating island of garbage." She even leaned on Puerto Rican celebrities — from Bad Bunny to Jennifer Lopez — to decry racism.

But Trump nonetheless gained ground in some of the areas with the highest concentration of Puerto Ricans in Pennsylvania, the state where Harris spent more time campaigning than any other. He won the counties of Berks, Monroe and Luzerne — and lost Lehigh County by fewer than 5,000 votes against Harris. Biden had carried it by nearly three times that margin in 2020.

Trump's victory was even wider in Florida, where nearly one-quarter of residents are Hispanic. He won the state by 13 percentage points — or about four times his 2020 margin.

Trump also flipped the central Florida counties of Seminole and Osceola, where many Venezuelans have immigrated as their home country becomes increasingly unstable, and narrowed Democrats' advantage in Orange County, which is also heavily Venezuelan.

Farther south, Trump won Miami-Dade County with an 11-percentage point advantage after losing it by 7 percentage points to Biden and by 30 percentage points to Democrat Hillary Clinton in 2016.

Kevin Marino Cabrera, a Miami-Dade County commissioner who was state director for Trump's 2020 campaign, said Hispanics rejected the "woke ideology." Trump has made his opposition to transgender rights central to his campaign.

"To be clear, Hispanic voters are not buying what Democrats are selling," Cabrera said.

The same was true in South Texas, where Hispanics are largely of Mexican descent.

Prado, the Democratic operative and pollster, lives in Hidalgo County, which is 92% Hispanic and the most populous part of the Rio Grande Valley. Trump carried it after losing by more than 40 percentage points in 2016. Trump swept all the major counties along the Texas-Mexico border.

Prado said Democratic county commissioners and state legislators helped secure funding for new bridges across the Texas-Mexico border and for other initiatives that have sparked commerce and economic and job growth in the area. Yet, he said, "the Republican Party has done a really good job of inserting themselves as an answer to nonexistent problems and then taking credit for (things) that they didn't do."

Prado said many Hispanics in the Rio Grande Valley, particularly devoutly religious ones, were alienated by national Democrats' focus on reproductive and transgender rights, with the latter becoming a key political weapon for Republicans.

"This nonsense about you're going to send your son to school and he's gonna come back a girl," he said. "Our side scoffed because we said, 'No one's going to believe that.' But, no, it struck a chord."

Others were simply looking to cast a defiant vote, Prado said, or were inspired by the idea of self-made people embracing the American dream, even though Trump got his start in business with a large loan from his father.

Daniel Alegre, CEO of TelevisaUnivision, which owns the Spanish-language television Univision, along with other television and radio properties, said Trump's gain among Hispanics was less about party than issues and that Hispanics were most concerned about the economy and immigration.

Alegre, whose network hosted town halls in October with both Trump and Harris, also noted that there's a growing feeling among Hispanic citizens that new immigrants were getting more government services than were available when immigrants who have been here longer arrived in the United States — and that the Trump campaign tapped into resentment around that issue.

"The most important thing either party can do is keep their ears to the ground and stay connected to the community," he said, and in this case, the Trump campaign clearly accomplished that.

## Here are new guidelines for preventing stroke, the nation's 4th biggest killer

By KENYA HUNTER AP Health Writer

The majority of strokes could be prevented, according to new guidelines aimed at helping people and their doctors do just that.

Stroke was the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S. in 2023, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and more than half a million Americans have a stroke every year. But up to 80% of strokes may be preventable with better nutrition, exercise and identification of risk factors.

The first new guidelines on stroke prevention in 10 years from the American Stroke Association, a division of the American Heart Association, include recommendations for people and doctors that reflect a better understanding of who gets strokes and why, along with new drugs that can help reduce risk.

The good news is that the best way to reduce your risk for stroke is also the best way to reduce your risk for a whole host of health problems — eat a healthy diet, move your body and don't smoke. The bad news is that it's not always so easy to sustain.

Dr. Sean Duke, a stroke doctor at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, blames the forces in society that keep people sedentary and eating poorly, like cell phones and cheap, unhealthy food. "Our world is stacked against us," he said.

Here's what to know about stroke and the new guidelines:

What is a stroke?

A stroke happens when blood flow to part of the brain is blocked or if a blood vessel in the brain bursts. That deprives the brain of oxygen which can cause brain damage that can lead to difficulty thinking, talking and walking, or even death.

How eating healthy can reduce your risk for stroke

Eating healthy can help control several factors that increase your risk for stroke, including high cholesterol, high blood sugar, and obesity, according to the heart association.

The group recommends foods in the so-called Mediterranean diet such as fruits, vegetables, whole grains and olive oil, which can help keep cholesterol levels down. It suggests limiting red meat and other sources of saturated fat. Instead, get your protein from beans, nuts, poultry, fish and seafood.

Limit highly processed foods and foods and drinks with a lot of added sugar. This can also reduce your calorie intake, which helps keep weight in check.

Moving your body can help prevent strokes

Getting up and walking around for at least 10 minutes a day can "drastically" reduce your risk, said Dr. Cheryl Bushnell, a neurologist at Wake Forest University School of Medicine who was part of the group that came up with the new guidelines. Among the many benefits: Regular exercise can help reduce blood

pressure, a major risk factor for stroke.

Of course, more is better: The heart association recommends at least 150 minutes of moderate aerobic or 75 minutes of vigorous activity — or some combination — per week. How you do it doesn't matter so much, experts said: Go to the gym, take a walk or run in your neighborhood or use treadmills or stepper machines at home.

New tools to reduce obesity, a risk factor for stroke

Diet and exercise can help control weight, another important risk factor for strokes. But a new class of drugs that can drastically reduce weight have been approved by regulators, providing new tools to reduce stroke risk since guidelines were last updated.

The guidelines now recommend that doctors consider prescribing these drugs, including those sold under the brand names Ozempic, Wegovy, Mounjaro and Zepbound, to people with obesity or diabetes.

But while those drugs can help, people still need to eat well and get exercise, cautions Dr. Fadi Nahab, a stroke expert at Emory University Hospital.

New guidelines help doctors identify people who might be at higher risk for stroke

The new guidelines for the first time recommend doctors screen patients for other factors that could increase stroke risk, including sex and gender and non-medical factors such as economic stability, access to health care, discrimination and racism. For example, the risk for having a first stroke is nearly twice as high for Black adults in the U.S. as it is for white adults, according to the CDC.

"If somebody doesn't have insurance or they can't get to a doctor's office because of transportation issues or they can't get off work to get health care ... these are all things that can impact the ability to prevent stroke," Bushnell said.

Doctors may be able to point to resources for low-cost health care or food, and can give ideas about how to be active without breaking the bank for a gym membership.

The guidelines also now recommend doctors should screen for conditions that could increase a woman's risk for stroke, such as high blood pressure during pregnancy or early menopause.

How do I know if I'm having a stroke and what do I do?

Three of the most common stroke symptoms include face weakness, arm weakness and difficulty speaking. And time is important, because brain damage can happen quickly and damage can be limited if a stroke is treated quickly. Stroke experts have coined an acronym to help you remember: FAST. F for face, A for arm, S for speech, and T for time. If you think you or a loved one could be having a stroke, call 911 right away.

## **A powerful suicide bombing at a rail station in southwestern Pakistan kills at least 26**

By ABDUL SATTAR Associated Press

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP) — A suicide bomber blew himself up at a train station in restive southwestern Pakistan on Saturday, killing at least 26 people, including soldiers and railway staff, and wounding about 62 others, some critically, officials said.

The attack happened when nearly 100 passengers were waiting for a train to travel to the garrison city of Rawalpindi from Quetta, the capital of Balochistan province, according to Hamza Shafqaat, a senior government administrator.

When asked about a security breach that led to the bombing, Shafqaat told reporters that "it is usually very difficult to stop such suicide attacks."

However, Shahid Nawaz, who is in charge of security at Quetta's train station, insisted there was no breach as the attacker was disguised as a passenger and blew himself up among people at the station.

TV footage showed the steel structure of the platform's roof blown apart and a destroyed tea stall. Luggage was strewn everywhere. Most of the victims were taken to a state-owned hospital and some to a military one.

Wasim Baig, a spokesman for the health department and police said over a dozen soldiers and six railway

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employees were among the dead at the station, where a walk-through gate has been installed to check whether anyone is carrying explosives. Still, there are multiple other entrances to the station without such security.

A separatist group, the Balochistan Liberation Army, claimed the attack in a statement, saying a suicide bomber targeted troops present at the railway station. The outlawed BLA has long waged an insurgency seeking independence from Islamabad.

A senior superintendent of police operations, Muhammad Baloch, said separatists frequently attacked soft targets.

"When their people are arrested, they also attack in retaliation. We all have to fight this war. We are resilient. Our teams are here and trying to save as many lives as we can."

Police said some of the critically wounded passengers had died in the hospital, raising the death toll.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif denounced the bombing in a statement, saying those who orchestrated the attack "will pay a very heavy price for it," adding that security forces were determined to eliminate "the menace of terrorism."

Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry also condemned the bombing and expressed its condolences to the families of the victims, as did the Russian Embassy in Islamabad.

Saturday's assault came a little over a week after a powerful bomb attached to a motorcycle exploded near a vehicle carrying police officers assigned to protect polio workers in the province, killing nine people, including five children who were nearby.

In August, the BLA carried out multiple coordinated attacks on passengers buses, police and security forces across Balochistan, killing more than 50 people, mostly civilians.

Oil- and mineral-rich Balochistan is Pakistan's largest but also least populated province. It is a hub for the country's ethnic Baloch minority whose members say they face discrimination and exploitation by the central government. Along with separatist groups, Islamic militants also operate in the province.

The BLA mostly targets security forces and foreigners, especially Chinese nationals who are in Pakistan as part of Beijing's multibillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative, which is working on major infrastructure projects. The group often demands the halt of all Chinese-funded projects and for workers to leave Pakistan to avoid further attacks.

Last month, the BLA claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing that targeted a convoy with Chinese nationals outside Karachi airport, killing two. Beijing has asked Pakistan to ensure the safety of its citizens working in Balochistan and other parts of the country.

## Frustrated Americans await the economic changes they voted for with Trump

By PAUL WISEMAN AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fed up with high prices and unimpressed with an economy that by just about any measure is a healthy one, Americans demanded change when they voted for president.

They could get it.

President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to topple many of the Biden administration's economic policies. Trump campaigned on promises to impose huge tariffs on foreign goods, slash taxes on individuals and businesses and deport millions of undocumented immigrants working in the United States.

With their votes, tens of millions of Americans expressed their confidence that Trump can restore the low prices and economic stability they recall from his first term — at least until the COVID-19 recession of 2020 paralyzed the economy and then a powerful recovery sent inflation soaring. Inflation has since plummeted and is nearly back to normal. Yet Americans are frustrated over still-high prices.

"His track record proved to be, on balance, positive, and people look back now and think: 'Oh, OK. Let's try that again,'" said Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a former White House economic adviser, director of the Congressional Budget Office and now president of the conservative American Action Forum think tank.

Since Election Day, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has skyrocketed more than 1,700 points, largely



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on expectations that tax cuts and a broad loosening of regulations will accelerate economic growth and swell corporate profits.

Maybe they will. Yet many economists warn that Trump's plans are likely to worsen the inflation he's vowed to eradicate, drive up the federal debt and eventually slow growth.

Trump policies could boost inflation

The Peterson Institute for International Economics, a leading think tank, has estimated that Trump's policies would slash the U.S. gross domestic product — the total output of goods and services — by between \$1.5 trillion and \$6.4 trillion through 2028. Peterson also estimated that Trump's proposals would drive prices sharply higher within two years: Inflation, which would otherwise come in at 1.9% in 2026, would instead jump to between 6% and 9.3% if Trump's policies were enacted in full.

Last month, 23 Nobel-winning economists signed a letter warning that a Trump administration "will lead to higher prices, larger deficits, and greater inequality."

"Among the most important determinants of economic success," they wrote, "are the rule of law and economic and political certainty, and Trump threatens all of these."

Trump is inheriting an economy that, despite frustratingly high prices, looks fundamentally strong. Growth came in at a healthy 2.8% annual rate from July through September. Unemployment is 4.1% — quite low by historic standards.

Among wealthy countries, only Spain will experience faster growth this year, according to the International Monetary Fund's forecast. The United States is the economic "envy of the world," the Economist magazine recently declared.

The Federal Reserve is so confident that U.S. inflation is slowing toward its 2% target that it cut its benchmark rate in September and again this week.

Americans are deeply unhappy with prices

Consumers, though, still bear the scars of the inflationary surge. Prices on average are still 19% higher than they were before inflation began to accelerate in 2021. Grocery bills and rent hikes are still causing hardships, especially for lower-income households. Though inflation-adjusted hourly wages have risen for more than two years, they're still below where they were before President Joe Biden took office.

Voters took their frustration to the polls. According to AP VoteCast, a sweeping survey of more than 120,000 voters nationwide, 3 in 10 voters said their family was "falling behind" financially, up from 2 in 10 in 2020. About 9 in 10 voters were at least somewhat worried about the cost of groceries, 8 in 10 about the cost of healthcare, housing or gasoline.

"I don't think it's either deep or complicated," Holtz-Eakin said. "The real problem is the Biden-Harris team made people worse off, and they were very angry about it, and we saw the result."

The irony is that mainstream economists fear Trump's remedies will make price levels worse, not better.

Tariffs are a tax on consumers

The centerpiece of Trump's economic agenda is taxing imports. It's an approach that he asserts will shrink America's trade deficits and force other countries to grant concessions to the United States. In his first term, he increased tariffs on Chinese goods, and he's now promised much more of the same: Trump wants to raise tariffs on Chinese goods to 60% and impose a "universal" tax of 10% or 20% on all other imports.

Trump insists that other countries pay tariffs. In fact, American companies pay them — and then typically pass along their higher costs to their customers via higher prices. Which is why taxing imports is normally inflationary. Worse, other countries usually retaliate with tariffs on American goods, thereby hurting U.S. exporters.

Kimberly Clausing and Mary Lovely of the Peterson Institute have calculated that Trump's proposed 60% tax on Chinese imports and his high-end 20% tariff on everything else would impose an after-tax loss on a typical American household of \$2,600 annually.

The economic damage would likely spread globally. Researchers at Capital Economics have calculated that a 10% U.S. tariff would hurt Mexico hardest. Germany and China would also suffer. All of that depends,

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of course, on whether he actually does what he said during the campaign.

Deportations would rattle the US job market

Trump has threatened to deport millions of undocumented immigrants, potentially undermining one of the factors that allowed the United States to tame inflation without falling into recession.

The Congressional Budget Office reported that net immigration — arrivals minus departures — reached 3.3 million in 2023. Employers needed the new arrivals. After the economy rebounded from the pandemic recession, companies struggled to hire enough workers, especially because so many native-born baby boomers were retiring.

Immigrants filled the gap. Over the past four years, 73% of those who entered the labor force were foreign born.

Economists Wendy Edelberg and Tara Watson of the Brookings Institution's Hamilton Project found that by raising the supply of workers, the influx of immigrants allowed the United States to generate jobs without overheating and accelerating inflation.

The Peterson Institute calculates that the deportation of all 8.3 million immigrants believed to be working illegally in the United States would slash U.S. GDP by \$5.1 trillion and raise inflation by 9.1 percentage points by 2028

Big tax cuts could swell the federal deficit

Trump has proposed extending 2017 tax cuts for individuals that were set to expire after 2025 and restoring tax breaks for businesses that were being reduced. He's also called for ending taxes on Social Security benefits, overtime pay and tips as well as further reducing the corporate income tax rate for U.S. manufacturers.

The University of Pennsylvania's Penn Wharton Budget Model estimates that Trump's tax policies would increase budget deficits by \$5.8 trillion over 10 years. Even if the tax cuts generated enough growth to recoup some of the lost tax revenue, Penn Wharton calculated, deficits would still increase by more than \$4.1 trillion from 2025 through 2034.

The federal budget is already out of balance. An aging population has required increased spending on Social Security and Medicare. And past tax cuts have shrunk government revenue.

Holtz-Eakin said he worries that Trump has little appetite for taking the steps — cuts to Social Security and Medicare, tax increases or some combination — needed to bring the federal budget meaningfully closer to balance.

"It's not going to happen," Holtz-Eakin said.

## Today in History: November 10, white supremacists stage coup in Wilmington, North Carolina

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Nov. 10, the 315th day of 2024. There are 51 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Nov. 10, 1898, in Wilmington, North Carolina, a mob of as many as 2,000 white supremacists killed dozens of African Americans, burned Black-owned businesses and forced the mayor, police chief and aldermen to resign at gunpoint, before installing their own mayor and city council in what became known as the "Wilmington Coup."

Also on this date:

In 1775, the U.S. Marines were organized under authority of the Continental Congress.

In 1954, the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial, depicting the raising of the American flag on Iwo Jima in 1945, was dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in Arlington, Virginia.

In 1969, the children's educational program "Sesame Street" made its debut on National Educational Television (now PBS).

In 1975, the Great Lakes freighter SS Edmund Fitzgerald sank after being caught in a severe storm on Lake Superior; all 29 crew members were lost.

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In 2019, Bolivian President Evo Morales resigned after weeks of public protests in response to alleged election fraud in Bolivia's general election the previous month.

In 2021, Kyle Rittenhouse took the stand in his murder trial, testifying that he was under attack and acting in self-defense when he shot and killed two men and wounded a third during a turbulent night of street protests in Kenosha, Wisconsin. (He would be acquitted of all charges.)

Today's Birthdays: Lyricist Tim Rice is 80. Country singer Donna Fargo is 79. Film director Roland Emmerich is 69. Actor-comedian Sinbad is 68. Actor Mackenzie Phillips is 65. Author Neil Gaiman (GAY'-mihn) is 64. Actor Hugh Bonneville is 61. Actor-comedian Tommy Davidson is 61. Long jump world record holder Mike Powell is 61. Country singer Chris Cagle is 56. Actor-comedian Tracy Morgan is 56. Actor Ellen Pompeo (pahm-PAY'-oh) is 55. Rapper-producer Warren G is 54. Actor Walton Goggins is 53. Football Hall of Famer Isaac Bruce is 52. Rapper-actor Eve is 46. Country singer Miranda Lambert is 41. Actor Josh Peck is 38. Actor Taron Egerton is 35. Golfer Jon Rahm is 30. Actor Kiernan Shipka is 25. Olympic gold medal pole vaulter Armand Duplantis is 25. Actor Mackenzie Foy is 24.