

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Sunday, Nov. 17

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

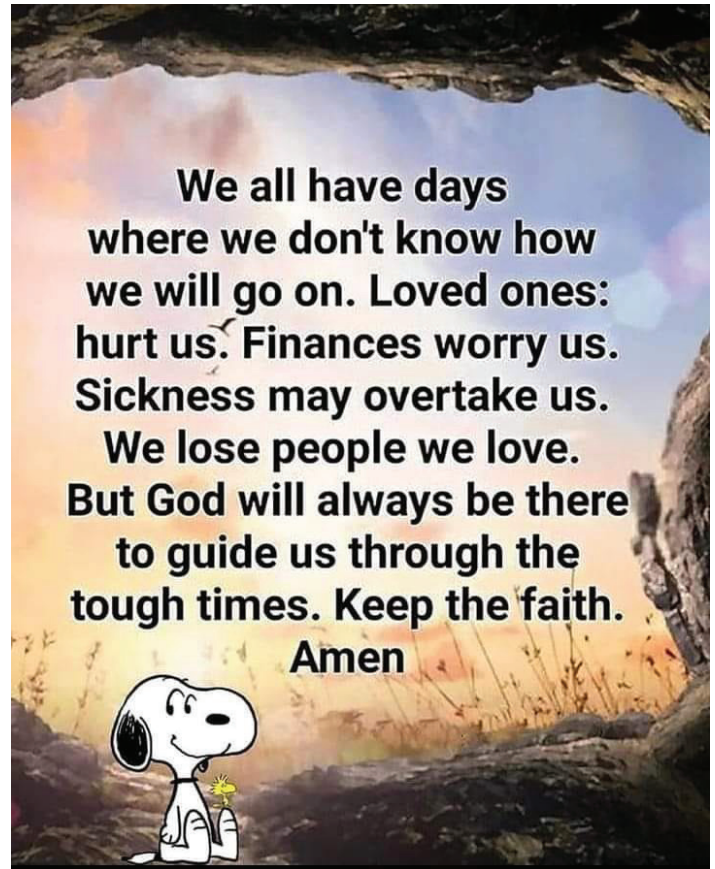
St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m., and at Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

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.



## Monday, Nov. 18

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, biscuit, peas and carrots, fruit.

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

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.

School Lunch: Lasagna bake, garlic toast.

St. John's Lutheran: Christian Literature Circle, 7:30 p.m.

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

First allowable day of wrestling practice

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

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

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## FROSTY CLUE

I/My.....

17. Took over my family business



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## Remembering Our American Veterans



**by Kaden Kampa**

During today's Veterans' Day program, Groton American Legion Auxiliary Post 39 will be honoring brave Groton Area Veterans with Karen Wolter's "Quilts of Honor."

Karen Wolter, a member of Groton American Legion Auxiliary, had a vision a few years ago to honor veterans through her love of quilting. Today we are here to fulfill Karen's mission to honor veterans touched by war with love, prayer, and healing thoughts by presenting them a quilt of honor. We hope that when you need a hug, you will wrap your quilt around yourself, and it will provide you with the comfort and healing that has been sewn into every seam.

My name is Kaden Kampa, and I am going to introduce you to my great-grandfather, Lloyd Dennert. Grandpa enlisted in the United States Air Force on December 5th, 1950, during the Korean War. His decision to serve marked the start of an adventurous time in his life. Him, along with three other Columbia

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residents, enlisted together: Private Wilbur Bohling, Private Donnie Yeske and Private Marlin Weimantel. All four of them rode the train from Sioux Falls to Lackland Airforce Base in San Antonio, Texas for boot camp. At Lackland Lloyd enjoyed marching and attending school. Although his Sargent was tough on him, Lloyd liked him.

From Lackland he got transferred to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tuscan, Arizona due to overpopulation at Lackland. After he was done at Tuscan he went to Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming for power men school where he graduated 1st in his class. He was honorably discharged in 1951 due to family health issues. Lloyd took a lot of pride in his service and would have loved to continue to serve his country.

When Lloyd got home, he started farming, with the help of his father he was able to continue this for 48 years before he handed it down to his son, where it continues to be handed down generation to generation. After Lloyd retired from farming, he volunteered to truck for Orphan Grain Train until 2011. He put on over 1 million miles and has trucked through every state.

Lloyd has been apart of the Legion Post 58 for 58 years. He has been married to his wife Dorris "Bohling" Dennert for 73 years. They were blessed with 5 children, 14 grandchildren, and 28 great grandchildren, soon to be 30, but as Lloyd says " 2 more in the rack."

Lloyd's favorite memory from service is when he went to meet the general. Lloyd didn't salute him correctly or at the right time. The general told Lloyd "Petty Officer Private Dennert you need more training on when and how to salute, and how to keep your shoes polished."

Advice that Lloyd would give to young adults is to encourage them to join the military because it is a courageous act that provides many benefits in the present day.

To all of Americas Veterans and members of the United States Armed Forces: This Veteran's Day, we salute you and thank you for your service. Great Grandpa, thank you for your service. Please give my great grandpa, Lloyd Dennert, round of applause.

Great Grandpa Lloyd Dennert, on behalf of the community and nation, with our deepest appreciation, we honor your service with this quilt of honor.



**Lloyd Dennert (center) pictured with his great-grandson, Kaden Kampa (left) and Legion Auxiliary member Tami Zimney.** (Photo

by Bruce Babcock)

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## **NSU Women's Basketball**

### **Wolves Triumph Over Hardrockers for Weekend Sweep**

Rapid City, S.D. – The Northern State women's basketball team took down South Dakota Mines, 82-68, Saturday night to sweep the weekend. The Wolves shot 52.5% from the floor and recorded 46 points in the paint for a season high, with Rianna Fillipi leading the way with 23 points on the night.

#### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 82, SDM 68

Records: NSU 2-2, SDM 0-4

Attendance: 150

#### HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern State posted 21 points in the first quarter, 25 in the second, 16 in the third, and 20 in the fourth. The Wolves were efficient offensively, shooting 52.5% from the floor, 33.3% from three-point range, and hitting 17 of 20 free throws.

NSU tallied 46 points in the paint for a season high, 20 points off turnovers, 17 points off the bench, and 13 second-chance points.

Rianna Fillipi recorded 23 points on the night for a season high, with a field goal percentage of 61.5% and six rebounds.

Madelyn Bragg followed with 18 points and six rebounds and connected on 6 free throws for a perfect free throw percentage.

Alayna Benike rounded out the top scorers with 13 points, connecting on five of six shots from the floor and hitting three-for-three from beyond the three-point arc.

Coming off the bench, Izzy Moore contributed nine points and two rebounds on the night.

#### NORTHERN STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Rianna Fillipi: 23 points, 6 rebounds, 61.5 FG %, 1 block, 1 steal

Madelyn Bragg: 18 points, 6 rebounds, 100.0 FT %

Alayna Benike: 13 points, 3 rebounds, 83.3 FG %, 100.0 3PT %, 1 assist, 1 block

Izzy Moore: 9 points, 2 rebounds

#### UP NEXT

Northern State kicks off the NSIC regular season against the University of Mary at home. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m. on Thursday, November 21, at Wachs Arena against the Marauders.

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## NSU Volleyball

### **Late Rally Comes up Short for No. 18 Wolves**

Aberdeen, S.D. – The No. 18 Northern State University volleyball team closed out the regular season on Saturday, falling to No. 16 Southwest Minnesota State. The Wolves opened the match with a set victory and rallied back to win the fourth, however fell behind early in the fifth.

#### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 2, SMSU 3

Records: NSU 20-6 (12-6 NSIC), SMSU 23-4 (14-4 NSIC)

Attendance: 743

#### HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern took the first and fourth sets with scores of 25-18 and 25-14, however fell in the second, third and fifth by scores of 25-17, 25-17, and 15-9

The Wolves tallied a match leading 93 digs and 12 blocks, and added 56 kills, 52 assists, and six aces  
They hit .179 in the loss, while the Mustangs hit .202 with 62 kills

Three Wolves tallied double figure kills, led by Hanna Thompson with 16; she also hit a team second best .350 and added six digs and two blocks

Natalia Szybinska and Morissen Samuels followed with 12 and 11 kills respectively

The match saw a number of long rallies with four Wolves notching double figure digs led by Keri Walker with 23

Walker added 46 assists, surpassing 1000 assists on the year, as well as three blocks

Abby Meister tallied 21 digs and one ace, followed by Mia Hinsz and Reece Johnson with 14 and 11 digs respectively

Johnson led the team with three aces and added four assists

Brooks led the team at the net with seven blocks, followed by Samuels with four

Cara Cyr entered in the second set and propelled the Northern offense at times with six kills, hitting .400

Thompson and Walker played their final contests in the confines of Wachs Arena and stepped on the court to open the match with a roar from the crowd

#### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Keri Walker: 46 assists, 23 digs, 3 blocks

Hanna Thompson: 16 kills, .350 attack%, 6 digs, 2 blocks

Natalia Szybinska: 12 kills, 4 digs, 3 blocks

Morissen Samuels: 11 kills, 4 blocks

Abby Meister: 21 digs, 1 ace

#### UP NEXT

Northern finishes the regular season fifth in the NSIC and will travel to Southwest Minnesota State on Tuesday to open the postseason. First serve is set for 6 p.m. on November 19 in Marshall.

## Lincoln County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash  
Where: SD Highway 115 and 276th Street, three miles south of Harrisburg, SD  
When: 10:05 a.m., November 16, 2024  
Driver 1: 59-year-old male from Harrisburg, SD, no injuries  
Vehicle 1: 1999 Ford F-250  
Helmet Used: Yes  
Driver 2: 79-year-old male from Harrisburg, SD, fatal injuries  
Vehicle 2: 2019 Toyota Camry  
Seat Belt Used: Yes  
Passenger 1: 79-year-old female from Harrisburg, SD, fatal injuries  
Seatbelt Used: Yes

Lincoln County, S.D.- Two people died this morning in a two-vehicle collision three miles south of Harrisburg, SD.

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

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 1999 Ford F-250 was traveling southbound on SD Highway 115 near 276th Street. At the same time, the driver of a 2019 Toyota Camry was eastbound on 276th Street. After stopping at the stop sign, the Camry entered the intersection and collided with the Ford. Both vehicles came to rest in the ditch.

The driver and passenger in the Camry passed away on-scene. The driver of the Ford had no injuries.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. All information released so far is only preliminary.

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

## Names Released in Deuel County Fatal Crash

What: Two vehicle fatal crash  
Where: US 212, mile marker 399, 10 miles northeast of Clear Lake, SD  
When: 5:45 p.m., Tuesday, November 12, 2024  
Driver 1: Richard Allen Vant Hul, 53-year-old male from Sioux Falls, SD, fatal injuries  
Vehicle 1: 2022 Chrysler Voyager LX  
Seat Belt Used: Yes  
Driver 2: Kevin Kipyego Mengich, 27-year-old male from White Bear Lake, MN, serious, non-life-threatening injuries  
Vehicle 2: 2013 Ford Econoline  
Seat Belt Used: Yes

Deuel County, S.D.- One person died, and another was injured Tuesday evening in a two-vehicle crash near Clear Lake, SD.

Preliminary crash information indicates Richard Allen Vant Hul, the driver of a 2022 Chrysler Voyager, was traveling eastbound on US 212 near mile marker 399. At the same time, Kevin Kipyego Mengich, the driver of a 2013 Ford Econoline, was traveling westbound on US 212 and crossed into the eastbound lane to pass a vehicle in front of him. While passing, he collided head-on with the approaching Chrysler Voyager.

Vant Hul died at the scene. Mengich sustained serious, non-life-threatening injuries.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. 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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## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always... ISAIAH 58: 9-10* 🌀

*Detail of "L'Homme Guidé par l'Éternel"  
by Marc Chagall (1956)*



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## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Numbers 21:6, what repulsive creatures bit the Israelites in the wilderness? *Scorpions, Fiery Serpents, Vipers, Ravens*

3. Before the Tower of Babel, how many languages were in the world? *1, 2, 3, 4*

4. From Matthew 7:7, Jesus said that we should seek, knock and ...? *Adorn, Ask, Try, Inspire*

5. Whose last verse is, "Remember me, O my God, for good"? *Genesis, Matthew, Nehemiah, Hebrews*

6. How old was Adam when he died? *30, 130, 430, 930*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Fiery Serpents, 3) 1, 4) Ask, 5) Nehemiah, 6) 930

*"Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.*

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UGH. ALL THESE LIONS. HARD TO KEEP THEM STRAIGHT.



KING JUGRID.



QUEEN DOVANA.



PRINCE THUN.



DOVA (THUN'S HALF-LION SQUEEZE)

AND THEN... THERE'S THE TWO ALIENS.



DALE ARDEN...



AND

**FLASH GORDON**

THE LION MEN CONVERT THEIR VEHICLE FLEET FROM CAMP TO CARAVAN. THEIR GYROSHIPS FLY ESCORT.

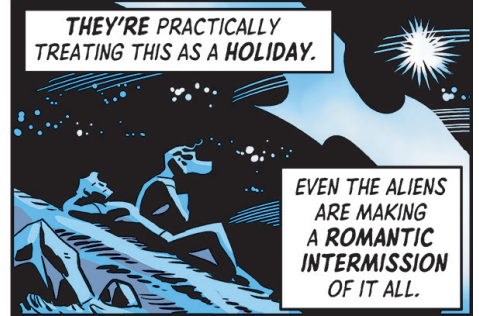


AS A SPECTACLE, IT'S ALMOST IMPRESSIVE...



...IF IT WEREN'T SO BRIGHT AND DRY AND AWFUL UP HERE.

I'M VELLE, SHARK CITY AMBASSADOR, HERE TO ENSURE THE LIONS GET TO OUR SUMMIT.



THEY'RE PRACTICALLY TREATING THIS AS A HOLIDAY.

EVEN THE ALIENS ARE MAKING A ROMANTIC INTERMISSION OF IT ALL.

UNTIL ONE MORNING, AS PRINCE THUN TEACHES THE ALIEN FLASH SOME LION FIGHTING ART...



...A RADIO TECH SWEEPS UP ON AN AIRCYCLE.



THEY'VE LOST CONTACT WITH ONE OF THE GYROSHIPS...ITS PILOTS' FATES UNKNOWN.



A SEARCH PARTY IS DISPATCHED-- THUN, FLASH AND THE "GREAT HUNTRESS" DOVANA.

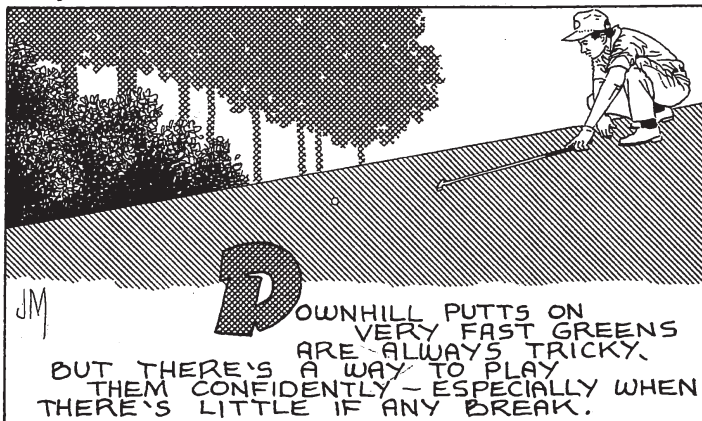
LOOK AT THEM SOAR OFF.

IT'S ALMOST IMPRESSIVE.

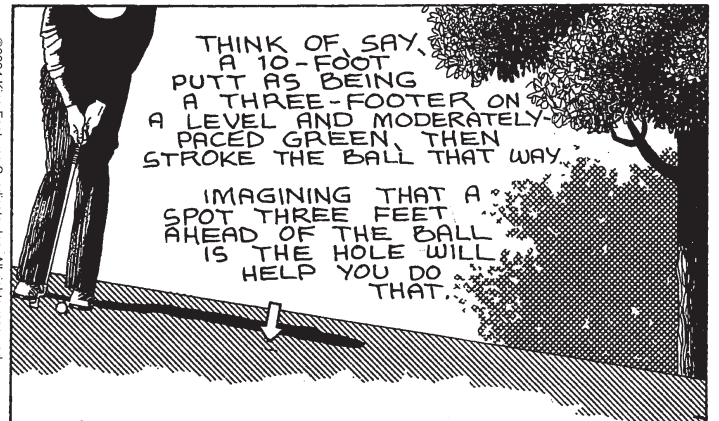
NEXT: SMOKE TRACKS

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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



JM  
DOWNHILL PUTTS ON VERY FAST GREENS ARE ALWAYS TRICKY, BUT THERE'S A WAY TO PLAY THEM CONFIDENTLY - ESPECIALLY WHEN THERE'S LITTLE IF ANY BREAK.



THINK OF SAY, A 10-FOOT PUTT AS BEING A THREE-FOOTER ON A LEVEL AND MODERATELY PACED GREEN, THEN STROKE THE BALL THAT WAY. IMAGINING THAT A SPOT THREE FEET AHEAD OF THE BALL IS THE HOLE WILL HELP YOU DO THAT.

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## Doctor Recommends Bisphosphonates Due to High Frax Score

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm an active, 5-foot-2-inch, 125-pound, 72-year-old Caucasian woman without a history of known osteoporotic risk factors, other than demographic ones. I exercise daily, eat calcium through food, take 2,000 units of vitamin D, and follow a Mediterranean-style diet.

My last dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) scan showed a T-score in my spine of -3.3 and a T-score in my hip of -2.7. My Z-scores were 0, and my FRAX score showed a 15.4% overall risk of fracture, with a 4.4% risk of a hip fracture in the next 10 years. Overall, my bone density went down 6.5% for my spine and 5% for my hip, compared to three years earlier.

My primary care physician has recommended starting bisphosphonates. My preference would be to postpone medication for at least a year, while I work with a dietician and a physical therapist to refine my exercise program and try to build bone more effectively. But I also don't want to take foolish chances with a spine or hip fracture.

At my request, I received a referral to a specialist, but I cannot see her for four months.

How accurate are the results of a DXA scan? I have scoliosis from my childhood; could it affect the accuracy of the test results? Would any other imaging, blood or urine tests be appropriate to provide additional information or indicate if there are other causes of bone loss, besides age and gender? -- A.M.

ANSWER: The most important number here is the FRAX score, which combines your clinical risk (age, gender, height and weight, ethnicity, steroid use, smoking, previous fractures, alcohol use, etc.) and your bone density results from your DXA scan to provide an estimate of the overall fracture risk. It also provides an estimate of the most dangerous type of fractures: hip fractures. It's freely available at [frax.shef.ac.uk/FRAX/tool.aspx](http://frax.shef.ac.uk/FRAX/tool.aspx).

Your results are above the recommended threshold for medication, which is either a total-fracture risk of 20% or a hip-fracture risk of 3%. Among the different options, most experts would choose a bisphosphonate drug like alendronate, based on decades of experience and strong data. However, a very low T-score (worse than -3) makes some experts choose a different type of agent -- a PTH analogue like teriparatide. Your scores have dropped a lot quickly, so I definitely recommend treatment.

I do understand why you are hesitant. These drugs can cause more harm than good when they are not used correctly, and many of my patients are concerned after reading others' experiences. But when used properly, generally for three to five years, they are very good at preventing fractures.

Scoliosis can affect the accuracy of DXA tests, but the tests usually underestimate the severity of osteoporosis in people with scoliosis. Furthermore, the fact that both your hip and spine have osteoporosis makes the diagnosis pretty certain. A Z-score of 0 means your bone density is at a level that is expected for your age and sex. This means that a secondary cause is unlikely; however, the T-score still indicates osteoporosis.

Four months may seem like a long time, but it's entirely reasonable to wait on deciding the optimal medication until you see the expert. She is likely to do additional testing and give you more personalized information.

Finally, if you can improve your diet and exercise from the standpoint of osteoporosis, this will help you whether you decide to take medication or not. Getting enough protein and calcium from your diet will help, as will avoiding excess alcohol.

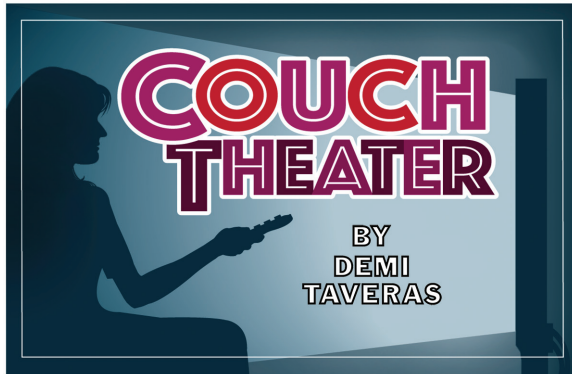
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).

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"Smile 2" (R) -- Naomi Scott ("Anatomy of a Scandal") leads this psychological supernatural film that is the sequel to the 2022 horror success "Smile." Scott portrays a Grammy-winning pop star named Skye Riley, as she stages a comeback tour. But her past is littered with trauma, from the death of her actor-boyfriend Paul Hudson (Ray Nicholson) to dealing with substance abuse issues.

When Skye seeks out medication for her back pain from drug dealer Lewis (Lukas Gage), she's surprised to find him in an erratic state, which eventually causes him to commit suicide, but not before giving her the creepiest smile known to man. Thus, the Smile Entity's curse passes onto Skye, forcing her to either fight against it or succumb to her inevitable death. Premieres Nov. 19. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Jake Paul vs. Mike Tyson" (TV-MA) -- The long-awaited match between YouTuber-turned-boxer Jake Paul and former heavyweight world champion Mike Tyson was supposed to occur this past summer but had to be postponed due to Tyson suffering from an ulcer flare-up. The live event was then moved up to Nov. 15. It consisted of eight 2-minute rounds between the fighters, with 14-ounce gloves, and the age difference between Paul and Tyson is the largest age difference between fighters in the history of professional boxing. If you missed the live event, or even if you just want to rewatch some of the fight's better moments, you can watch the complete fight now on streaming. (Netflix)

"Dune: Prophecy" (TV-MA) -- Before director Denis Villeneuve could even bring his two "Dune" films to fruition, there was already a spin-off series based on his films that was ordered back in 2019. The series, which takes place about 10,000 years before the events of "Dune" (2021), is also based on the novel "Sisterhood of Dune" by Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson. Led by Emily Watson ("Small Things Like These") and Olivia Williams ("The Crown"), it follows sisters Valya and Tula Harkonnen as they establish the religious organization called the Bene Gesserit. The first episode of the six-episode-long season is out now, taking over "The Penguin's" 9 p.m. HBO time slot on Sundays. Here's hoping this spin-off does Villeneuve's cinematic universe justice! (Max)

"Blitz" (PG-13) -- From Academy-Award-winning director Steve McQueen ("12 Years a Slave"), this historical war drama takes place in London during World War II, as a mother named Rita (Saoirse Ronan) sends her young son, George, away to protect him during the Blitz in London. However, George unfortunately gets lost in the shuffle and doesn't make it to his destination, leaving Rita at a loss on how to find her son. Viewers watch as Rita desperately searches for George, while the young boy attempts to survive the bombings any way he can. Harris Dickinson ("Triangle of Sadness") and Benjamin Clementine ("Dune") co-star in this emotional film, out on Nov. 22. (Apple TV+)



**From left, Saoirse Ronan, Elliott Heffernan and Paul Weller star in "Blitz."** (Courtesy of Apple TV+)

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1. Who wrote and released "Stuck in the Middle With You" in 1973?
2. What were the names of Bob Seger's three bands over the years?
3. Mr. Mister had two songs that went to No. 1 on the charts. What were they?
4. "Every Rose Has Its Thorn" was a chart topper for which group?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Well, you can rock it, you can roll it, Do the stomp and even stroll it."

Answers

1. Stealers Wheel. The Scottish rock group was only together for three years before disbanding. They reunited in 2008 long enough to begin producing a music video for the song.
2. Bob Seger and the Last Heard, The Bob Seger System and The Silver Bullet Band. His first real break came when "Katmandu" was used in Cher's 1985 film "Mask."
3. "Broken Wings" and "Kyrie," both in 1985. The group netted Grammy noms in 1986 and 1987.
4. Poison, in 1988.
5. "At the Hop," by Danny & The Juniors, in 1957. The Juniors, originally called The Juvenairs, were introduced to the song when it was known as "Do the Bop." Concerned that The Bop dance craze was fading, the song was changed to "The Hop."

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



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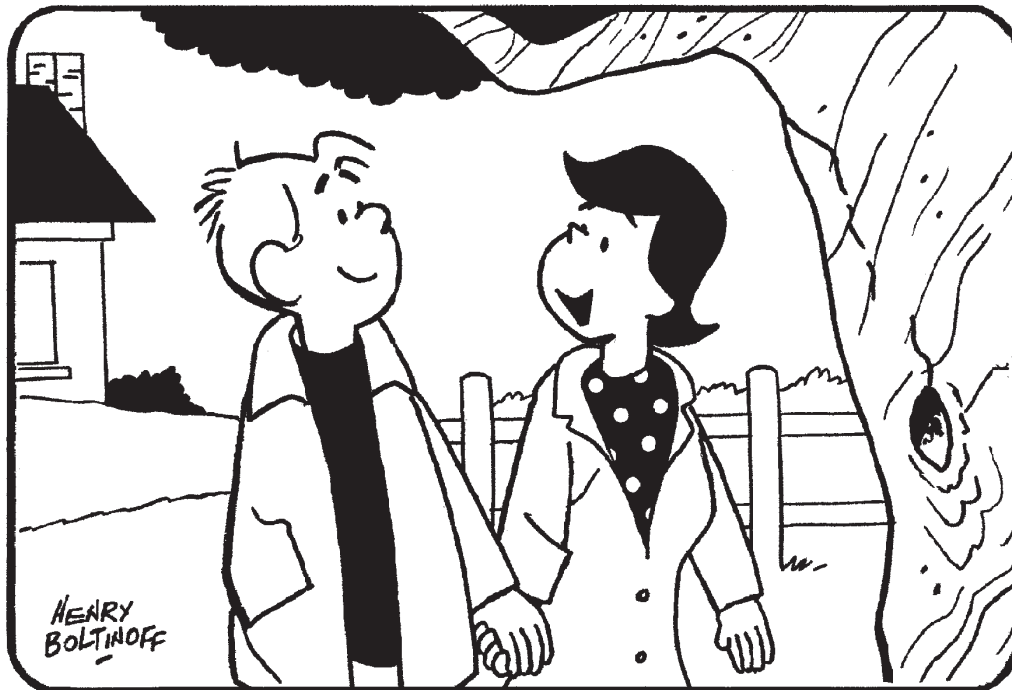
"Your lawyer's on the phone. Are you in?"

## Just Like Cats & Dogs <sup>by Dave T. Phipps</sup>

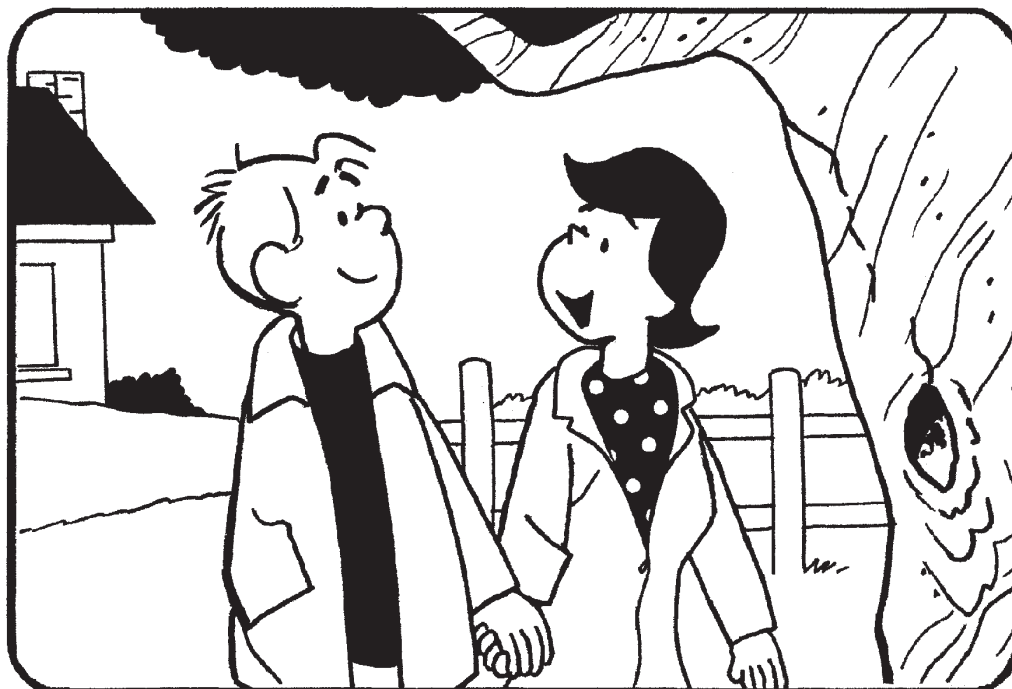


## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Fencepost is moved. 3. Hole in tree is larger. 4. Chimney is shorter. 5. Fencepost is taller. 6. Zipper is replacing buttons.

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\* Need a quick batch of cookies? Keep a box mix of cake on hand. Instead of the listed ingredients, add two eggs and a half-cup of oil to the mix. Mix and shape, then bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. They are really good, and you can get pretty creative.

\* Inexpensive gift idea: A cute holiday coffee mug with a bar of chocolate, a packet of hot cocoa or instant coffee, a peppermint stick and a holiday pick. Place inside a gallon-size zipper-top bag, tie with a ribbon, then trim off the zipper-top, leaving just the plastic. Looks nice.

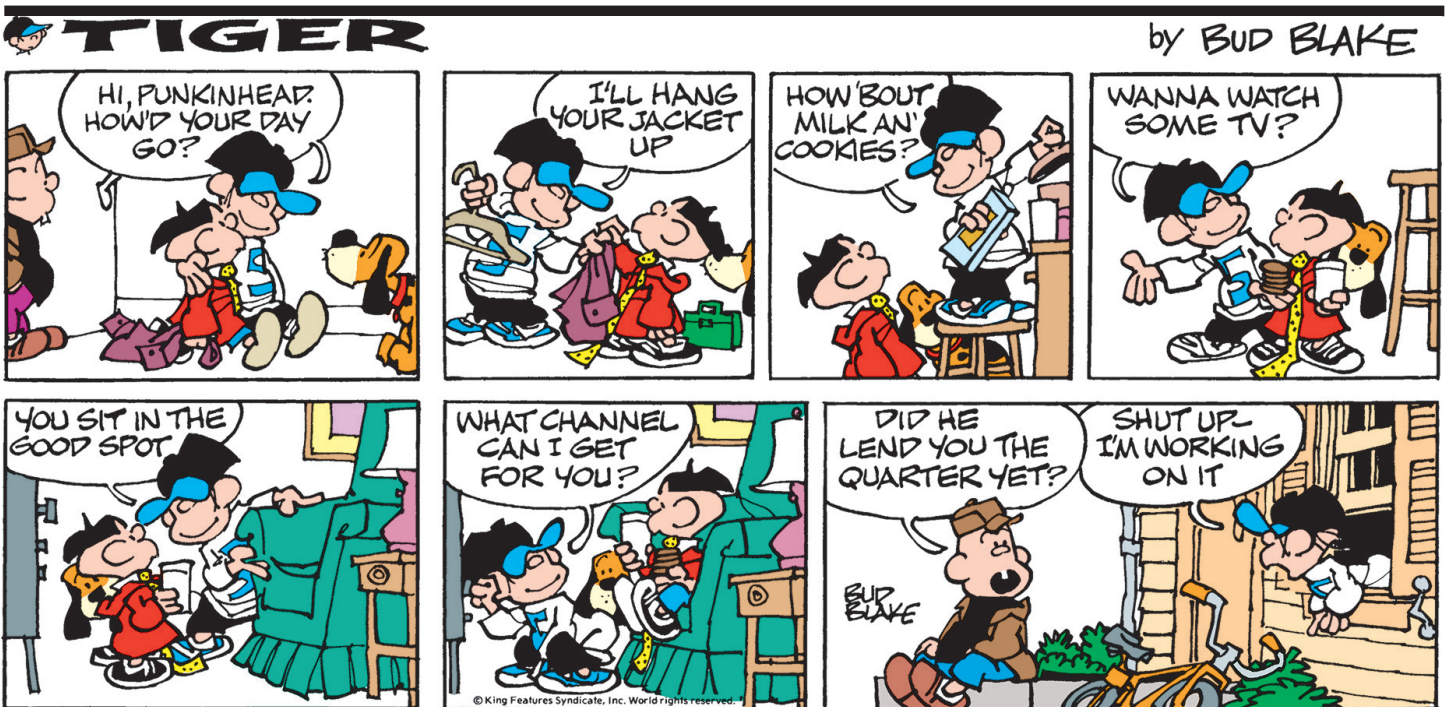
\* Instead of going out and buying extra items to have on hand for guests, just borrow from your neighbors. Extra towels, place settings, silverware, kitchen appliances: It's a pretty good bet that someone on your street has it for you to borrow. If you don't know your neighbors well enough to ask, maybe you should start planning a get-to-know-you party right now.

\* Inexpensive gift idea: On the front of an empty photo album or scrapbook, print out and arrange color photos of your recipient in a collage. Glue the photos to the front of the album and cover with a decoupage glaze, like Mod Podge. Let dry and glaze again. You've just made a one-of-a-kind gift!

\* When holiday cookie time comes, I keep a plastic pitcher of hot water in the sink. I toss cookie cutters into it when I am done with them, so the corners are soaking. They really seem to only need a rinse and a quick brush-off afterward. Mine don't get caked up with dough.

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

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Clutch
- 6 Modern mes-  
sages
- 11 "Queen of  
Soul" Franklin
- 12 Used a mod-  
ern car ser-  
vice
- 14 Irish singer  
O'Connor
- 15 More promis-  
ing
- 16 " — Mine"  
(Beatles song)
- 17 "Zorba the  
Greek" star
- 19 Hit CBS series
- 20 Morning  
droplets
- 22 Pump up the  
volume

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
11											13	
14												
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- 23 Bit of dust
- 24 Road curves
- 26 Test monitor
- 28 Wardrobe  
malfunction
- 30 Sharing word
- 31 Driving  
instructor?
- 35 Flavor
- 39 "Les Etats-  
—"
- 40 Hosp. areas
- 42 Earth sci.
- 43 Astern
- 44 "Star Trek"  
doctor
- 46 Computer  
acronym
- 47 Band aide
- 49 Fly
- 51 Blood givers
- 52 Evening prayer
- 53 Newbies
- 54 Perfume  
compound
- 6 Start playing  
for pay
- 7 Black, in  
verse
- 8 Ballot marks
- 9 Lingerie fabric
- 10 Handles
- 11 Stage com-  
ment
- 13 Less damp
- 18 Little rascal
- 21 Feudal farm-  
ers
- 23 Jazz singer  
Carmen
- 25 Use a straw
- 27 Ump's call
- 29 Method
- 31 Sentry
- 32 Walking
- 33 Lengthy list
- 34 Tolkien crea-  
ture
- 36 Abrasion
- 37 Horn blower
- 38 Gantry of fic-  
tion
- 41 Italian wine
- 44 Surrealist  
Joan
- 45 Saint Laurent  
of fashion
- 48 "Le Coq —"
- 50 Follower  
(Suff.)

### DOWN

- 1 Tony winner  
Tammy
- 2 Extends, as a  
lease
- 3 Devoured
- 4 Cager O'Neal,  
for short
- 5 City near  
Venice



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## — King Crossword —

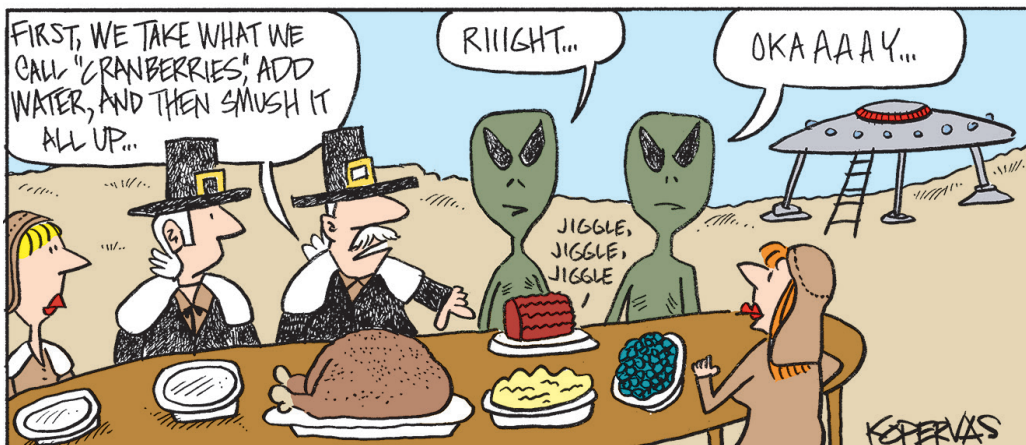
Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.



### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

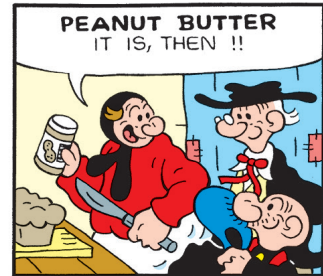
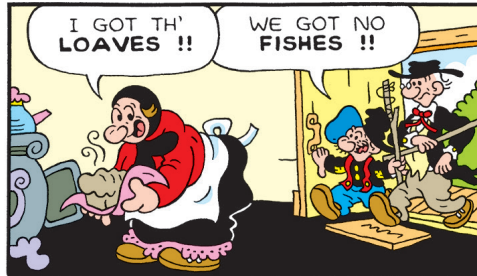
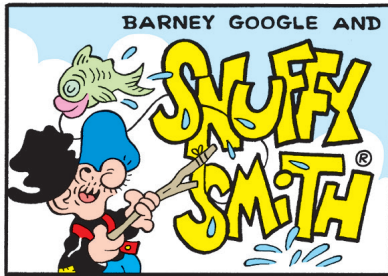
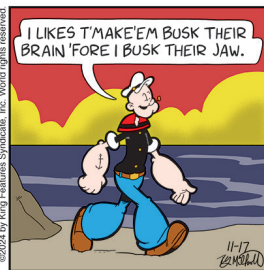
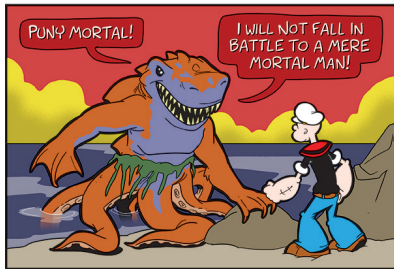
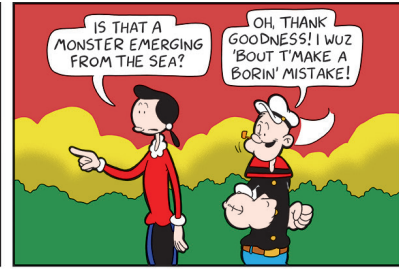
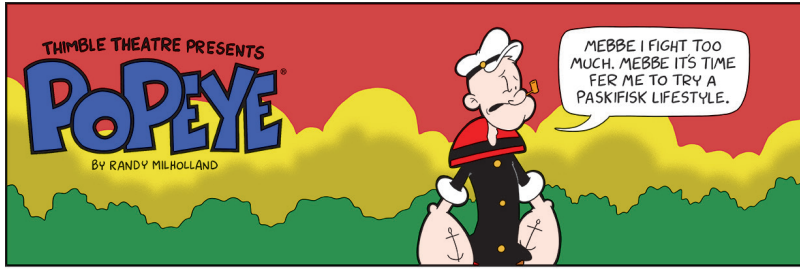


THE PILGRIMS TRY TO EXPLAIN JELLED CRANBERRY SAUCE TO A PAIR OF ALIENS

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HAL FOSTER'S  
**Prince Valiant**  
 BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

HARALDR THE HANDSOME AND HIS DRAGON SHIP WILL PROVIDE A FIERCE ESCORT FOR THE ISLAND QUEEN. HARALDR'S VISIT TO THEIR DECK COMES TO AN END, MUCH TO VALS DAUGHTERS' DISMAY.

THEY SUDDENLY RECALL THE DIPLOMATIC VALUE OF SOMEONE SERVING AS A TOKEN 'HOSTAGE' ABOARD THE ALLIED SHIP, AND EACH STATES HER CASE...

... OLD COMPETITIVE HABITS COME FORTH: "I WOULD BEST REPRESENT THE FLOWER OF CAMELOT WOMANHOOD," SAYS VALETA. KAREN GROWLS: "YOU WOULD NOT SURVIVE A MINUTE ON A WARSHIP."

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ESTRANGED FROM THEIR HUSBANDS THOUGH THEY MAY BE, VAL IS NOT PLEASED WITH THE TWINS' FLIRTATIONS. HE CONFERS A MOMENT WITH GUNDRAR, AND THEN: "VERY WELL. YOU SHALL BOTH GO OVER. WE'LL SEE WHO MAKES THE BETTER HOSTAGE."

VALS WILLFUL DAUGHTERS TAKE NO NOTICE AS GUNDRAR WHISPERS TO HARALDR BEFORE THEY ARE TAKEN OVER TO THE SKJALDDIS: "NOTHING SUITS THE FANCY OF SOUTHERN MAIDS BETTER THAN TO PROVE THEIR WORTH CLEANING A BILGE." AND WHEN, WONDER THE TWINS, WILL THEY GET TO SEE THEIR PRIVATE QUARTERS?

3998  
 YEATES 9/22/13

NEXT: A lesson learned

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE COLOR?

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PURPLE!!

...I LIKE IT BETTER THAN RED AND BLUE COMBINED.

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### **Saving money in 2025**

In a few weeks, those of us on Social Security will be getting approximately 50 extra dollars in our monthly benefit. Minus the \$10 increase in Medicare Part B, that brings the average increase down to \$40 per month.

How shall we spend our windfall?

If food prices are going to come down after the recent election, it won't be instantly. We need to continue to shop carefully and get the best possible deals for our dollar. Look for senior discount days, coupons, loyalty perks and, yes, the food bank.

If you can spring for a Walmart+ membership (\$98 per year, minus \$20 if you're also an AARP member), each time you shop you can end up with rewards dollars added to your account for buying certain products. Look for other benefits such as free shipping, discounts on fuel if your local store has a gas station, access to the TV streaming service Paramount+, prescription delivery and a lot more.

For the first time in 15 years, the membership cost of AARP is going up in 2025. The new price of \$20 will take effect after your current membership expires. If you extend your membership now, it will be at the current rate. Meanwhile, take advantage of AARP's savings and discounts on a wide variety of products and services, ranging from dining out; insurance; travel, including car rental and vacation packages; gym memberships; and so much more.

Ask your cable and internet provider for a reduced fee. It could be that by dropping down one plan level, you could save considerable money by cutting out the channels you never watch anyway.

Investigate Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for help with fuel and heating costs, one of our biggest expenses. Start by calling the Community Action Agency in your state or the Area Agency on Aging.

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1. In a 1978 NFL game known as the "Holy Roller," what Oakland Raiders quarterback intentionally fumbled the ball forward, leading to a touchdown that gave the Raiders a 21-20 win over the San Diego Chargers?

2. Greek basketball star Andreas Glyniadakis was selected by the Detroit Pistons in the 2003 NBA Draft, but his only career NBA action consisted of 13 games in 2006-2007 with what team?

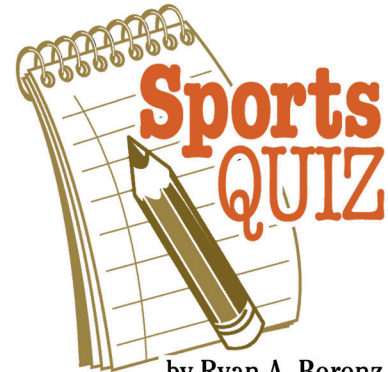
3. Gymnast Catalina Ponor, who won three gold medals at the 2004 Athens Summer Olympics, competed for what country?

4. Wide receiver O.J. McDuffie played his entire NFL career from 1993 to 2001 with what team?

5. Between brothers B.J. and Justin Upton, who had more career Major League Baseball home runs?

6. Name the NASCAR driver from Eau Claire, Wisconsin, whose lone Cup Series win was at the 2011 Brickyard 400. (Hint: His father founded a chain of home-improvement stores.)

7. Cornelius "Corny" Johnson, one of 18 Black American athletes at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, won a gold medal competing in what event?



by Ryan A. Berenz

## Answers

1. Ken Stabler.
2. The Seattle SuperSonics.
3. Romania.
4. The Miami Dolphins.
5. Justin, with 325 (B.J. had 164).
6. Paul Menard.
7. The high jump.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





## Keep your pets safe during the holidays

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Last Thanksgiving, we had the scare of our life. Our little dog "Mamie" jumped onto the counter and ate a huge amount of the stuffing that I had just scooped out of the turkey! She got sick almost immediately and threw up, but because she kept drooling afterward I rushed her to an emergency vet. Mamie spent a few days at the vet getting supportive care because the ingredients in the stuffing affected her so badly. She's completely recovered now, but please warn your readers to keep pets away from the kitchen and dining room during holiday festivities. -- Paul and Diane G., Norwood, Massachusetts

DEAR PAUL & DIANE: I am so relieved to hear that Mamie is OK! As you noted, many of the delicious, rich foods we eat during Thanksgiving and Christmas contain ingredients that are poisonous to dogs and cats. Onions are one culprit, but garlic, avocados, grapes (and raisins), macadamia nuts and chocolate can also cause serious illness and death if ingested. Foods or candies sweetened with xylitol can be deadly to pets. Alcohol and caffeine can also sicken them.

While preparing the feast, keep pets out of the kitchen. When guests arrive and you begin to serve treats and drinks, that's the time to sequester your pets for the duration. Place them in a quiet room with water, treats and their favorite toys. This keeps them calm and allows you to focus on your guests. It also prevents them from getting into foods that could harm them.

Finally, for pet owners who think, "My big dog ate a chocolate bar once and it didn't hurt him at all" -- it's a bad idea to assume that your dog isn't at risk because they got through an earlier scare unscathed. Protect your pets this holiday season, and enjoy many more to come.

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

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## Strange BUT TRUE

\* In 1674, the Women's Petition Against Coffee claimed the beverage was turning British men into "useless corpse[s]" and proposed a ban on it for anyone under the age of 60.

\* Eugene V. Debs ran for president in 1920 while serving a prison sentence in Atlanta Federal Penitentiary for his protests against World War I. He still captured nearly 1 million votes.

\* The plot of "The Nightmare Before Christmas" was partly inspired by the collision of holiday store decorations.

\* Cotton candy was invented in 1895 by candy maker John C. Wharton and dentist William Morrison, who called it "fairy floss" and sold thousands of servings at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. It was renamed "cotton candy" in the 1920s by Josef Lascaux -- another dentist -- who sold the saccharine confection to his patients. Hmmm, sounds a little bit suspicious to us.

\* In a study by the Smell and Taste Treatment Research Foundation, the scent women found most arousing was Good & Plenty candy mixed with cucumber.

\* Arachibutyrophobia is the fear of peanut butter getting stuck to the roof of your mouth.

\* Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was the U.S. capital for the shortest period of time, a mere day, on Sept. 27, 1777.

\* Aretha Franklin's voice was declared a "natural resource" of the state of Michigan.

\* In 1967, supermodel Twiggy became the first celebrity to be immortalized as a Barbie doll. Other celebrity Barbies have included Cher, Elizabeth Taylor, Elvis and Priscilla Presley, and Nicki Minaj.

\* A face with big eyes, a small nose and a small chin exhibits kinderschema: the collection of traits humans have evolved to find adorable

\*\*\*

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

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Bay leaves go into stocks and brines, and can be added to water when cooking pasta.

**Parsley** is good for blending flavors. It is sold in bunches rather than packaged in plastic.

**Rosemary** has stiff, needle-like leaves that are quite pungent.

Dried leaves can be crushed, and fresh can be finely chopped.

**Sage** has a stronger flavor fresh than dried, which is sold both "rubbed" and "ground."

**Thyme** complements everything from poultry and meat to vegetables and pasta. - Brenda Weaver

Source: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel



by Freddy Groves

## Lead paint in Veteran housing

It's one thing to send phony bills to the Department of Veterans Affairs or claim to be a small business -- and quite another to put veterans and their families in danger.

An abatement/mitigation company was nailed for saying it had done the work to clear the lead paint in housing units rented to veterans when it had not.

Being in an environment with lead-based paint can be extremely dangerous to everyone, especially to children. Whether it's from the dust or chipped paint, the damage can be permanent.

The homes in question, 42 in all, are set up as affordable units for veterans and their families. The work the company had agreed to do involved using special paint to cover lead-based paint.

This is serious stuff: The company was not certified, their employees were not certified, and they didn't apply the special paint correctly. Additionally, the company knew in advance that they wouldn't actually do the work properly.

The company, after their guilty plea, could face a fine of \$500,000 plus restitution.

The story gets worse and worse. At that same location, a real estate agent didn't disclose to veterans that there was lead-based paint in the rental housing units.

The arrogance in this case is astounding. The agent claimed that the disclosure laws didn't apply because the property was built after 1978 -- while knowing that the properties were built in 1895 and 1905.

The problem with lead-based paints in the units came to a head when a toddler, after eating flaking paint chips, was tested and found to have very high blood lead levels and had to be treated.

In this case, the real estate agent faces up to 15 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

If you live in a home built before 1978 and suspect you might have lead-based paint, get it tested. Avoid the at-home lead tests you can buy. Instead, have it done with X-ray fluorescence (XRF) or paint chip testing.

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## Wishing Well®

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

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

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1. MOVIES: What is the name of the necklace that Rose throws into the sea at the end of "Titanic"?
2. GEOGRAPHY: Where was the ancient city of Carthage located?
3. TELEVISION: What are the names of the FBI agents on "The X-Files"?
4. LITERATURE: Who wrote the short story "The Gift of the Magi"?
5. HISTORY: When was the United Nations organization created?
6. SCIENCE: What is the addictive substance in tobacco?
7. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president signed into law the Sherman Antitrust Act?
8. CHEMISTRY: What is the lightest of metallic elements?
9. MYTHOLOGY: What is the name of the half-man, half-bull creature that inhabits the Labyrinth?
10. FOOD & DRINK: What is challah?

### Answers

1. Heart of the Ocean.
2. Tunisia.
3. Fox Mulder and Dana Scully.
4. O. Henry.
5. 1945.
6. Nicotine.
7. Benjamin Harrison.
8. Lithium.
9. Minotaur.
10. A special bread in Jewish cuisine.

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South Dakota Governor

**Kristi Noem**



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

## Securing Our Homeland

I love South Dakota. I love our natural beauty – from the rolling plains to the incredible Black Hills, from the Mighty Missouri to the peaceful prairie lakes. I love our people – they’re the hardest working around with common sense American values and strong family morals. I love everything about our state (except for maybe the January weather).

Over the last six years, I have had the opportunity to serve as Governor of the greatest state ever. It has been the honor of my lifetime to be our state’s top advocate, to serve as Commander in Chief of our National Guard, and to make decisions that honor our state motto, “Under God, the People Rule.”

You may have heard that President Trump has asked me to come serve in his Administration as the Secretary of Homeland Security, and I am honored by the nomination. When President Trump asked me, I said yes because it is an opportunity for me to serve our nation – but also because it is an opportunity to make South Dakota safer.

I respect the Senate’s role to engage fully and openly on the upcoming confirmation process. I look forward to discussing our nation’s security challenges and my commitment to addressing them head-on.

This position oversees the federal agencies responsible for our immigration system. Over the last four years, every state has become a border state. Millions of illegal immigrants have poured over our southern border, including at least 16,000 murderers and at least 18,000 rapists – and they’ve all been released into the interior of our nation. Think about that – that’s at least 3 murderers for every county in America. I don’t want any murderers in my county or anywhere near my kids and grandkids.

This border crisis has impacted us here in South Dakota, too. It has driven up crime in communities across the country as drugs and human trafficking have increased because of the willful inaction by the current administration. In South Dakota, this has hurt us the most on our tribal reservations, and I have extended my hand to help them address the very real public safety crisis that is caused by the cartels and their affiliates.

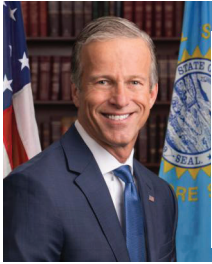
In this new role, I’ll oversee FEMA, just as you’ve seen me respond to flooding, blizzards, tornados, and wildfires in our state. We’ve made cybersecurity South Dakota’s next big industry, and I’ll have the opportunity to do similar work overseeing the Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). And South Dakota has become an example of innovative law enforcement training opportunities with our first-ever tribal-focused law enforcement training – I look forward to doing similar work with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

Everything that I do will be focused on making America SAFE again, and that will make South Dakota safer, as well.

This state has been home all my life – and always will be. Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve you. I’ll be around for a bit yet, and when I take my new role, rest assured that I will continue to serve you in the years to come.

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

## The Modern Republican Party and Our Mandate

By Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.)

Fox News

President-elect Donald Trump's historic victory was made possible by the broadest coalition of voters the Republican Party has seen in the modern era. On Election Day, our big tent expanded coast to coast and brought in patriotic Americans of all stripes. Many were initially turned away from a Democrat Party that increasingly ignores the concerns of hard-working Americans. But Trump's leadership, and his agenda for American success, closed the deal.

As Congress returns to Washington, we must prepare the Senate to advance that agenda legislatively and ensure that the president-elect can hit the ground running with his appointees confirmed as soon as possible. The Senate Republican majority will work with President Trump to ensure the Senate calendar allows us to confirm his nominees and pass our shared agenda as quickly and as efficiently as possible.

We have a mandate to govern. With President Trump leading the ticket, Republicans did better than in 2020 in 48 states. We improved our margins in three out of every four counties in the United States and grew support with nearly every demographic group. President Trump won more Hispanic support than any Republican president ever before, and younger voters who have many elections ahead in their lifetimes were crucial to victory. As my colleague Florida Sen. Marco Rubio describes it, the party is now a "multi-ethnic, multi-racial coalition of hard-working Americans who love their country." It's a new day for the GOP – and that's a very good thing.

We cannot afford to take this coalition for granted. If we fail to deliver on President Trump's priorities, we will lose their support. They have trusted us with their votes. Now we have to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

At the top of the list is cleaning up the mess left by the Biden-Harris-Schumer agenda, which was clearly repudiated by the American people. The Republican Congress must ensure President Trump has the necessary tools and support to enforce border security laws and to remove the violent criminals wreaking havoc in every state. The Biden-Harris administration caused the border crisis. We will end it.

Next, to make America prosperous again, we must take a hatchet to the regulatory apparatus choking our economy, starting with the 1,000 Biden-Harris regulations that have already cost Americans nearly \$2 trillion. Streamlining the bureaucratic machine is long overdue.

Just undoing the damage done by the Biden-Harris-Schumer Democrats is not enough. Americans have endured devastating price increases over the last four years. They have charged us to increase growth and improve take-home pay, which starts by preventing looming tax hikes. They have directed us to restore order to a volatile world through strength, with a military so powerful and mission-focused our adversaries won't dare to challenge us. And they have given us the green light to restore American energy dominance.

We have an ambitious agenda, and it will take all of us – each and every Republican – working together with President Trump's leadership to achieve it. If we don't successfully execute on our mandate, we risk losing the coalition that swept Republicans into office up and down the ballot.

We will have disagreements along the way. When they arise, we must listen to each other and keep working toward serving the people who gave us this mandate. The Democrat Party will shun or cancel anyone who challenges liberal orthodoxy. This Republican Party listens to our voters and celebrates the marketplace of ideas.

If we listen to the voters who made it possible, last week's red wave can lift our country to new heights.



## A Pivotal Week for South Dakota's Leadership

### **BIG Update**

After Hurricanes Helene and Milton, it was reported that a Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) employee who was tasked with leading recovery efforts in Florida directed FEMA workers to avoid homes with Trump campaign signs. This is wholly un-American and contradicts FEMA's mission to respond to disasters. The instruction to avoid homes with Trump signs was in a best practices email to FEMA workers in the area. The employee was fired a couple weeks after the statement, yet she claims her actions were not out of line.

I joined 35 colleagues to ask the FEMA Administrator for all information regarding these communications and reiterate that FEMA should aid all Americans in need after a disaster, regardless of who they vote for.

### **BIG Idea**

Federal regulations have slowed the development of energy projects in America. This week, I voted to pass the HEATS Act to expedite geothermal energy projects on non-federal lands. The bill removes the requirement to go through the burdensome federal permitting process that slows down project completion.

Energy prices are high, and we need a greater domestic energy supply to help bring down the cost. Congress and the incoming Trump Administration must remove federal regulations that are barriers to effective and efficient development.

### **BIG News**

It was a big week for South Dakota's leaders! President Trump's selection of Governor Noem for the Department of Homeland Security is an excellent choice. Governor Noem works hard to protect our land from adversaries like China and protect our communities from the consequences of Biden's border crisis.

Senator Thune's election to Senate Majority Leader is a demonstration of the Senate's trust in him. I know he will work closely with President Trump and the House to deliver wins for America and South Dakota. I'm excited for my friends Kristi Noem and John Thune in their new roles.

On Wednesday, President Trump joined House Republicans during a meeting to hear from leadership candidates. The President outlined his priorities like cutting regulations, unlocking American energy, securing the border, and pushing back against China. I'm excited to work with our leadership and get America on the right track.

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November 11-15, 2024



Welcome back to another edition of the Weekly Round[s] Up. It's been a while! The Senate has been out of session for the past six weeks, which means I was able to work from South Dakota. While my home is in Fort Pierre, I was able to make trips around the state to

attend different meetings and visit with South Dakotans. Just to give you a snapshot of my month: I visited with a political science class at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, I spoke at a roundtable discussion hosted by students at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, I hosted a coffee and conversation with residents in Yankton, I spoke at a dinner hosted by the Black Hills Area Habitat for Humanity in Rapid City, attended meetings with the Sioux Falls Rotary Club and Sioux Empire Realtors Association in Sioux Falls and celebrated our law enforcement at the South Dakota Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner.

Now we're back in Washington to hit the ground running after what's been a huge week for Republicans both in South Dakota and across the nation. Once everyone is sworn into office in January, we will have Republican majorities in both the Senate and House, as well as President Trump and his new administration in the White House. In case you missed it, my seatmate and our fellow South Dakotan Senator John Thune is our next Senate Majority Leader. Take all of this together and we're looking at the opportunity to accomplish a lot of priorities over the next couple of years. All of this and more coming up in my Weekly Round[s] Up:

Meetings this week: Luis Elizondo, former director of the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program; and Youssef Amrani, Morocco's Ambassador to the United States. I spoke at a reception hosted by the UAP Disclosure Fund. I also attended a celebration for the 249th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps.

Most of our time this week was spent on Senate Leadership Elections. As I mentioned, Senator Thune was elected as our next Senate Majority leader. I was honored to give the seconding speech for his nomination in our meeting. I believe Senator Thune is the right guy for this job and our conference agrees. John embodies the principles and leadership qualities that our nation needs at a critical time. With him leading us in the Senate, Speaker Johnson in the House and President Trump in the White House, Republicans are now positioned to spend at least the next two years getting our country back on track. I couldn't be more excited for my friend John Thune. We're ready to get to work!

Votes taken: 8 – all of these were on nominations to judge positions in Florida and Illinois, as well as positions on the U.S. Tax Court and in the Office of Government Ethics.

Hearings: I had one closed hearing with the Select Committee on Intelligence.

Classified briefings: I had one classified briefing with General Timothy Haugh, the Commander of U.S. Cyber Command.

My staff in South Dakota visited: Aberdeen, Brookings, Deadwood, Lead, Milesville, Philip, Rapid City, Sioux Falls and Sturgis.

Steps taken this past week: 53,386 steps or 26.8 miles.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

## I Didn't Know I Loved It That Much

One important thing I have learned is that you don't appreciate something until it's missing. I've learned that by many things that I just took for granted.

Last week, for example, I had some problems with my truck, so I had to take it in for service. It took longer than expected, but that's how life is.

I had a doctor's appointment across town that day, and I wasn't expecting my truck to be unavailable. I knew I would have to make different arrangements.

I had two choices. First, I could cancel my doctor's appointment, but you know how that can be trying to reschedule the next appointment. Second, I could ask The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage if I could drive her sissy van across town to my doctor's appointment.

I cannot tell you how hard I wrestled with that. I did not want to cancel my appointment, and I did not want to drive that sissy van. Sometimes, life offers you situations just like this. No matter your choice, it will not be the right one.

Finally, I put my pride in my back pocket and asked The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage if I could use her sissy van to go to my doctor's appointment.

It's been a long time since I've seen her smile like that. She said, "Of course, my dear. You can take my car and go to your doctor's appointment." Then she giggled. I hate it when she giggles.

Standing at the door with the keys in her hands, as I was going out, she handed them to me and said, "Drive safely." Then, another one of her giggles.

I took the keys and thanked her for allowing me to use her sissy van. I looked at her with an artificial smile and said, "Thank you my dear. I promise I'll drive safely." Of course, I don't know what that means.

The first chore I had with the sissy van was opening the door and getting inside. There was no way I was going to get inside that sissy van the way it was set. I had to push the seat back as far as it would go. Then I got in the seat behind the steering wheel, squishing my body as I got in.

No matter how far back I pushed the seat, my knees were still under my chin.

Next was the steering wheel. It took me 10 minutes to figure out how to adjust that steering wheel, and I still couldn't get it to where it was comfortable for me to steer. I was beginning to remember the last time I was in the sissy van, and those weren't such pleasant memories.

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The next thing was the mirrors; the mirror inside the sissy van and the two mirrors outside on each side of the vehicle. It took me a while to figure out how to do that because it's been a long time since I adjusted any mirrors in my vehicle.

I did have somewhat of a scare with the indoor mirror. As I adjusted it, a very scary face popped into view. I almost screamed, but then realized it was my face.

Finally, I got everything pretty close to normal and was ready to leave. I put the key in, turned it, and the sissy van started up right away. I sighed a deep sigh of relief.

I slowly put it in reverse and backed out of the driveway. Standing in the doorway of our house as I was leaving was The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, laughing and waving at me as if she was crazy.

Finally, I was on my way to my doctor's appointment. As I was driving, I was so nervous I was wondering if maybe I should make an appointment to see a psychiatrist. I was crazy at this moment.

I finally could settle down and enjoy the ride.

When I arrived at the doctor's office, I pulled in and parked the sissy van. I thought everything was in order, but then I tried to get out of the sissy van.

The door opened relatively quickly, but that's as far as it went. I twisted and turned, but I could not get out of my seat. My legs were jammed under the steering wheel, and I couldn't twist.

If only Chubby Checker could be here to help me twist.

It took me rather a few minutes, and I eventually was able to extract my body from the sissy van slowly. I got out, stood up, and looked back to ensure all of me was extracted.

Driving back after my doctor's appointment, I happened to think of how much I loved my truck. Everything about it fits me perfectly, and driving it is my greatest pleasure.

I didn't know how much I loved my truck, and I was forced to drive The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's sissy van. When I return, I will spend a little time telling my truck how much I appreciate it.

I often think about what the Apostle Paul said, "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth" (2 Thessalonians 1:33).

I am committed to thanking God for everyone in my life while I can still do it. Ginger is checking your text for mistakes...

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## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Have extreme weather events in places like Asheville, NC made people rethink where they consider to be good "climate refuges" as the world warms?

– K.L., Raleigh, NC

The concept of the "climate refuge," or a location relatively unaffected by extreme weather phenomena, arose in response to the growing frequency of tornadoes, hurricanes, flooding, droughts and other disasters. According to the Global Climate Resilience Ranking, the U.S. has one of the world's largest numbers of these "refuges" as a result of the nation's geography and ability to efficiently protect and rebuild assets and infrastructure.

Experts have long predicted that these least climate-affected communities lie in the interior Northeast, Midwest and Rust Belt. Yet many have also viewed areas in the inland South as meeting the qualifications of climate refuge. However, these communities have increasingly dealt with their own disasters. Vermont, ranked at the bottom of the climate risk index, is still recovering one year later from the Great Vermont Flood of 2023 which caused several fatalities and roughly \$2.2 billion in damage.

In late September 2024, mudslides in the Appalachian Mountains of Tennessee and North Carolina took dozens of lives and caused horrific damage. Asheville, NC, one of the hardest hit cities, has been one of the many "refuge" destinations for Americans moving inland from coastal areas, citing rising sea levels and heightened insurance costs as affecting their decision.

As the reach of disasters grows, experts push for investment into the states comprising the Rust Belt, interior Northeast and northern great plains. These fairly temperate states are located far from warming oceans, and are ideal geographically. However, there are other challenges to these "havens." Much of the Rust Belt struggles with high poverty rates and would require significant aid and investment to support a large population influx. But as the effect of extreme weather in the South, West and exterior Northeast regions have escalated, so has federal and private investment. In late September, the Energy Department closed a \$1.52 billion loan to revive the shuttered Palisades nuclear plant in Michigan. And the tech giant Micron Technology Inc. opened a 2022 chip plant in central NY, creating an anticipated 50,000 jobs.

The increasing reach of natural disasters across the U.S will likely shift the public's idea of a "climate refuge" upwards and inwards. But while these regions may offer greater refuge from climate-impacted disasters, the idea of a completely immune "haven" is unrealistic as proven throughout the past decade. Even the most isolated high-elevation community can be impacted by extreme weather.

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



**The devastating flooding in Asheville, North Carolina has made people question just which types of places are the best climate refuges.** Credit:

Bill McMannis, FlickrCC.



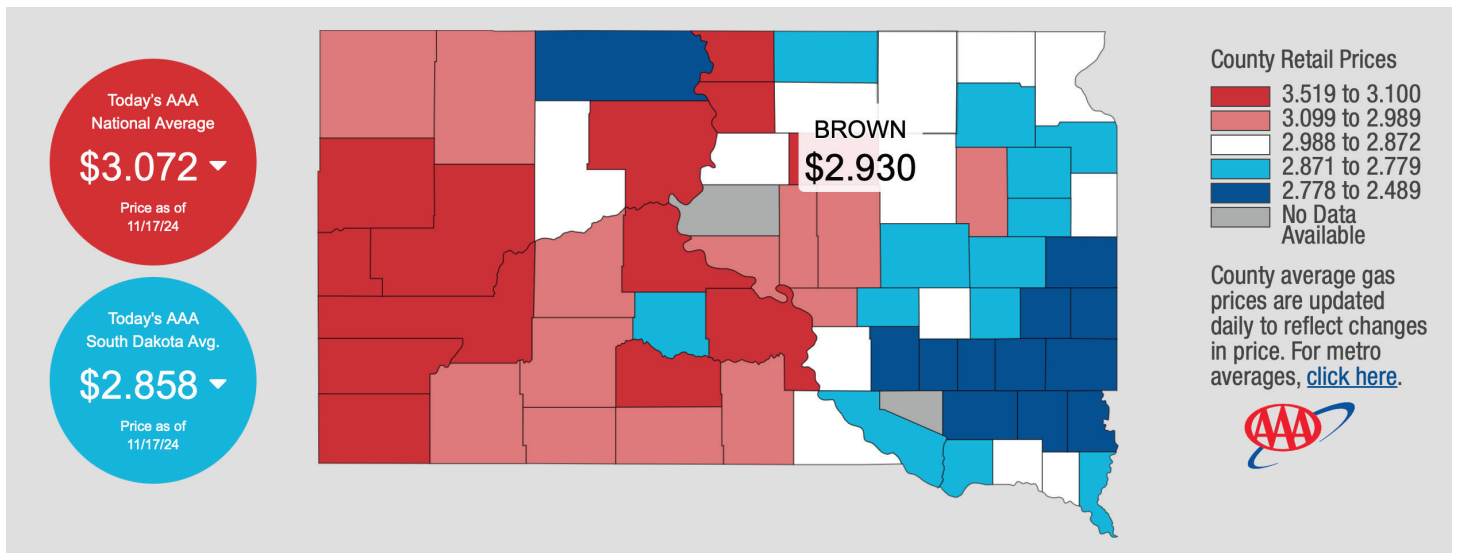
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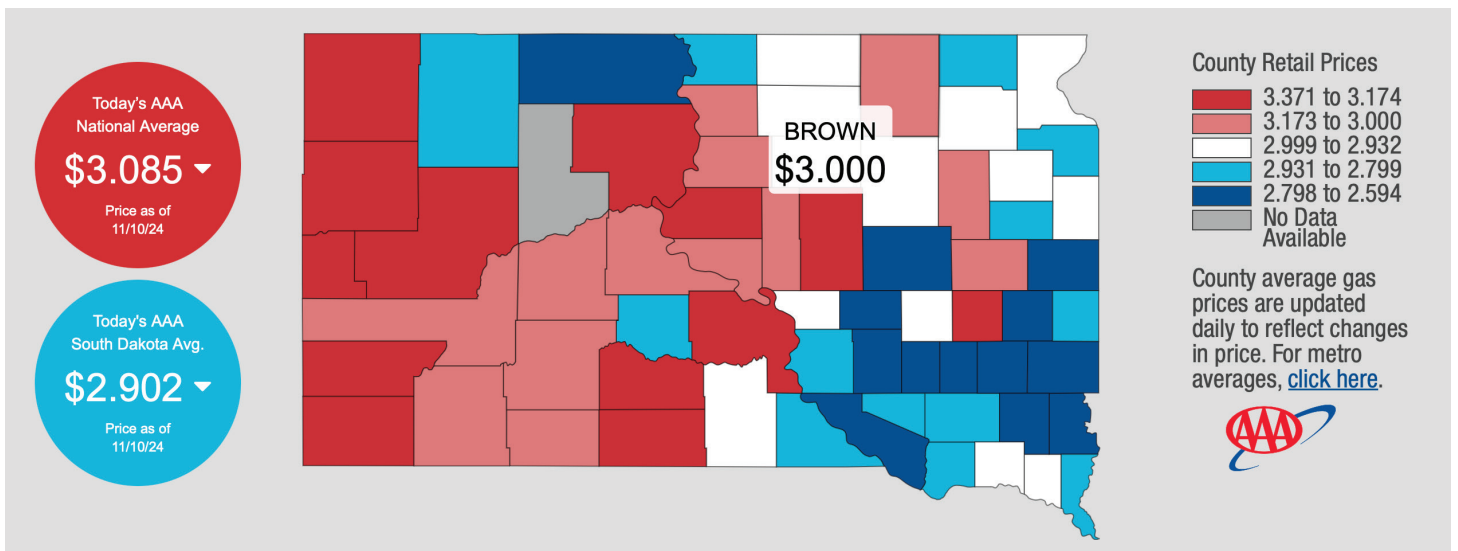
## South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$2.858	\$3.084	\$3.518	\$3.219
Yesterday Avg.	\$2.880	\$3.096	\$3.513	\$3.224
Week Ago Avg.	\$2.902	\$3.159	\$3.563	\$3.238
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.086	\$3.288	\$3.706	\$3.323
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.269	\$3.442	\$3.922	\$4.188

### This Week



### Last Week



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## Drought Classification

None

D0 (Abnormally Dry)

D1 (Moderate Drought)

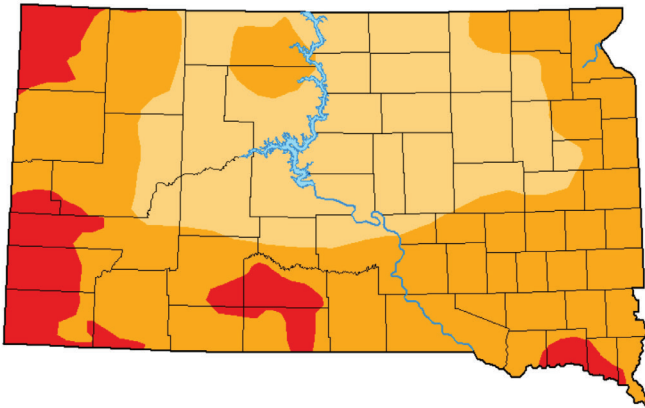
D2 (Severe Drought)

D3 (Extreme Drought)

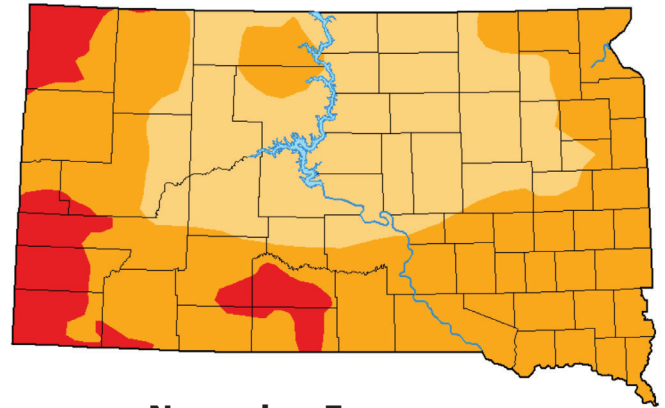
D4 (Exceptional Drought)

No Data

## Drought Monitor

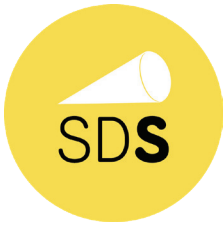


November 12



November 5

A potent 500-hPa low triggered widespread heavy precipitation over southern half of the Region, except along the eastern fringe, while amounts were limited to several tenths of an inch at most farther north. Between 2 and 4 inches of precipitation fell on a large swath covering the eastern half of Colorado, most of central and western Kansas, and adjacent Nebraska. In nearby areas, amounts ranging from a few tenths of an inch to a couple of inches were observed over the western half of Colorado amounts of 0.5 inch to approaching 2 inches in spots was observed across southeastern Wyoming, most other areas in Nebraska, and eastern Kansas. Moderate amounts fell on a swath across the central and southwestern Dakotas the remainder of this region reported little or no precipitation, as well as most of Wyoming. In some of the higher elevations of Colorado, this precipitation fell as heavy snow, with a few locations reporting snow piling up 3 to 4.5 feet deep (50 to 54 inches buried Fort Garland CO while 44 to 47 inches were reported near La Veta, Elbert, and Trinidad CO). All of this resulted in a large area of improvement depicted over southern and western Kansas, most of northern and eastern Colorado, part of southwestern Nebraska, and a few spots in eastern Wyoming. There were a few areas of 2-class improvement in southeastern Colorado, northwestern Kansas, and the fringes of south-central and southeastern Kansas. Elsewhere, due to relatively cool weather, the dry week didn't engender much deterioration, with most of these locations remaining unchanged from last week. One exception was in a small patch of northeastern Nebraska and adjacent South Dakota, where a new patch of extreme drought (D3) was identified.



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### Nursing home representatives hope Trump administration halts 'impossible' staffing rule

**BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - NOVEMBER 16, 2024 7:00 AM**

Organizations representing South Dakota nursing homes are hopeful President-elect Donald Trump will halt a staffing rule they say could devastate their industry.

The organizations have said for over a year that a new staffing rule imposed by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid under President Joe Biden will decimate nursing homes in the state. The price tag for South Dakota nursing homes will be just under \$20 million, or \$205,000 per facility, they estimate.

"I think we can look forward to different outcomes with those different policymakers in place, not taking that for granted or counting on it as we continue to pursue other strategies," said Brett Hoffman, director of public policy and communications with the South Dakota Health Care Association. He spoke to the Legislature's budget committee Thursday in Pierre.

The rule is aimed at increasing accountability and addressing chronically understaffed nursing homes, which can lead to low quality and unsafe care, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Urban areas of the state, such as Sioux Falls and Rapid City as well as midsize cities such as Aberdeen, Spearfish and Yankton, must meet requirements by May 2026. Rural areas have until May 2027.

The most controversial rules dictate that a registered nurse be on staff at all times and that nursing homes meet a staffing standard of 3.48 hours per resident day.

It would be "impossible" to implement the requirements in South Dakota, Hoffman said. He added that up to 600 nursing home residents — 12.5% of the statewide nursing home resident population — would be at risk for displacement.

After a sharp decline during the pandemic in staffing and slow recovery since then, the rule could cost significantly more if nursing homes must contract travel nurses, said Justin Hinker, vice president of post-acute care at the South Dakota Association of Healthcare Organizations.

About 5% of South Dakota facilities currently meet the hours per resident day requirement, Hinker added.

Two lawsuits are challenging the rule, including one involving South Dakota, and there are several federal bills that could overturn the rule, Hinker said. A potential U.S. Supreme Court decision in a separate case could impact federal agencies' rulemaking authority.

"We're not opposed to adequate staffing, but we're not in favor of a one-size-fits-all," Hinker said.

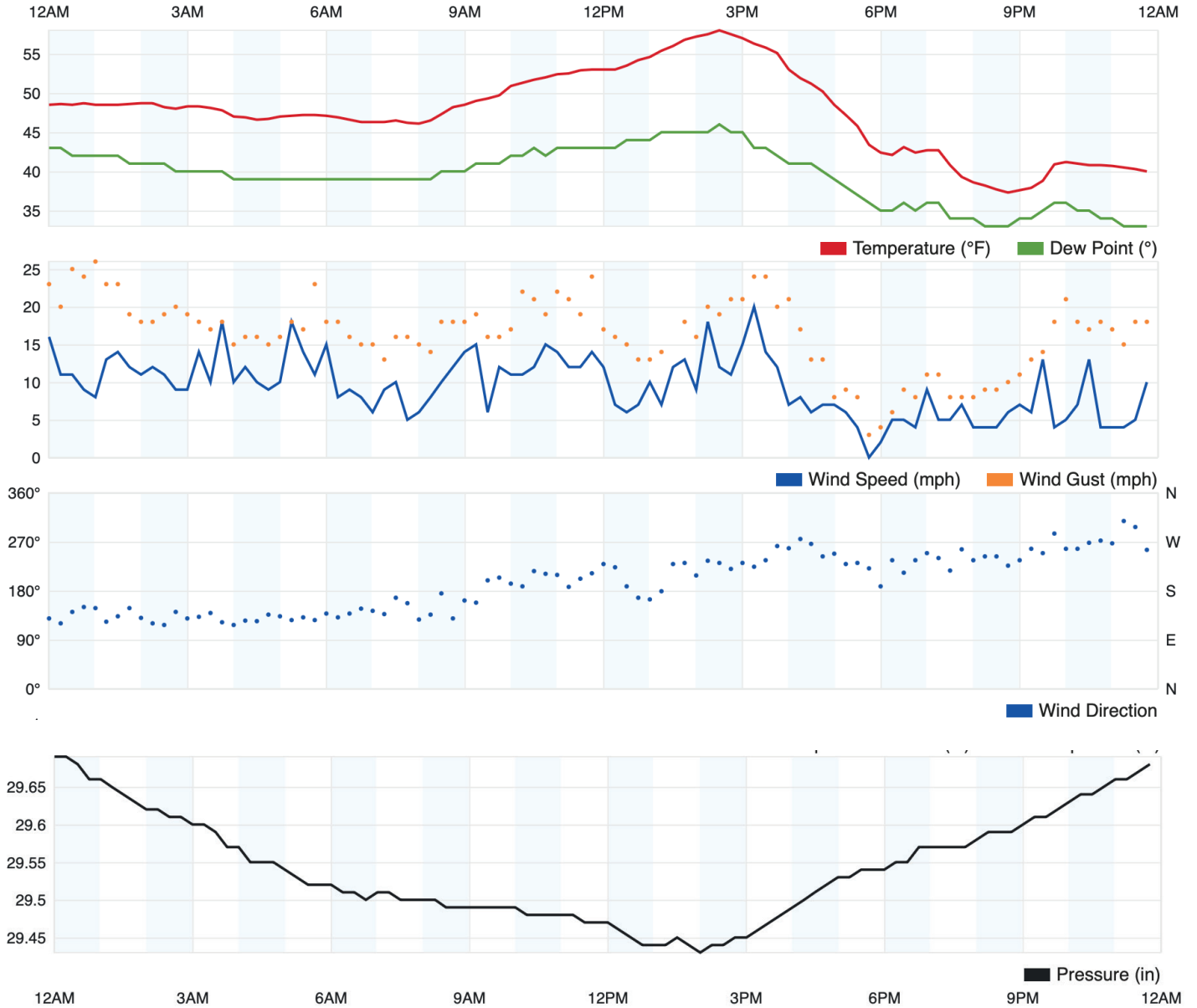
Hinker told lawmakers a withdrawal of the rule is not the only action needed to support nursing homes in the state. Lawmakers should continue to invest in the "health care continuum" for South Dakota seniors, he said, including assisted living, home health, hospice and palliative care.

*Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan who regularly reports on the intersection of politics and policy with health, education, social services and Indigenous affairs. Her work with South Dakota Searchlight earned her the title of South Dakota's Outstanding Young Journalist in 2024, and she was a 2024 finalist for the national Livingston Awards.*

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



High: 54 °F

Sunny

Tonight



Low: 26 °F

Clear

Monday



High: 54 °F

Mostly Sunny  
then Chance  
Rain

Monday Night



Low: 34 °F

Rain

Tuesday



High: 42 °F

Rain Likely  
and Breezy

## Sunday's Weather



Highs: 49-55 °F

Lows: 26-31 °F



Ab

Updated: November 16, 2024 2:30 PM

Sunday is expected to be less windy with highs in the low to mid 50s and sunny. Overnight lows are expected to dip below freezing.

# Broton Daily Independent

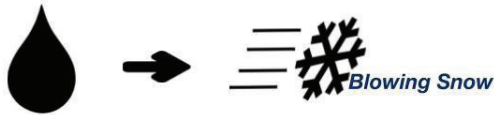
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## Snow potential Tuesday through Tuesday Night

November 17, 2024  
5:40 AM

Cold air to change rain to snow Tuesday through Tuesday night, mainly from west to east. 50% chance of 1" of snow or more through Tuesday night across the Leola Hills and Prairie Coteau. Additional light snow expected during the day Wednesday.



### Forecast Confidence Levels

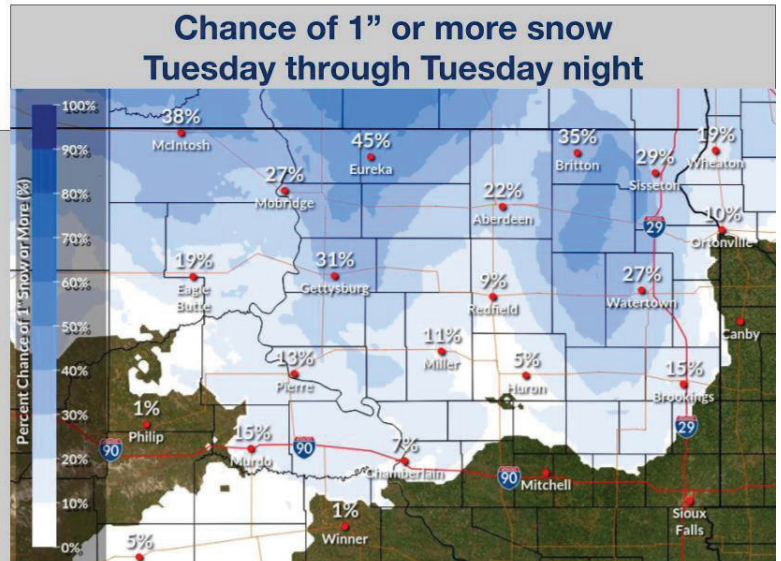
**Strong Winds** over 30 mph Tuesday afternoon & Wednesday



### Precipitation Timing and Amounts



### Snow Timing and Amounts



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

An area of low pressure over the Central Plains Monday is expected to shift northeast, across eastern South Dakota and Iowa before exiting across Minnesota on Tuesday. Rain Monday afternoon will slowly transition to light snow primarily from west to east Tuesday through Tuesday night. Light snow is forecast at this time. There is a 50% chance of 1 inch or more of snow from Tuesday through Tuesday night across the Leola Hills and Prairie Coteau. Chances for light snow will continue through the day Wednesday. Strong winds over 30 mph are possible Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday, strongest over central South Dakota. These strong winds will combine with any falling snow to create reduced visibilities. Stay up to date on the latest forecasts, as confidence remains low on specific snowfall amounts.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 58 °F at 2:36 PM

Low Temp: 37 °F at 8:51 PM

Wind: 26 mph at 12:56 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 9 hours, 28 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 72 in 1953

Record Low: -8 in 1959

Average High: 42

Average Low: 19

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.47

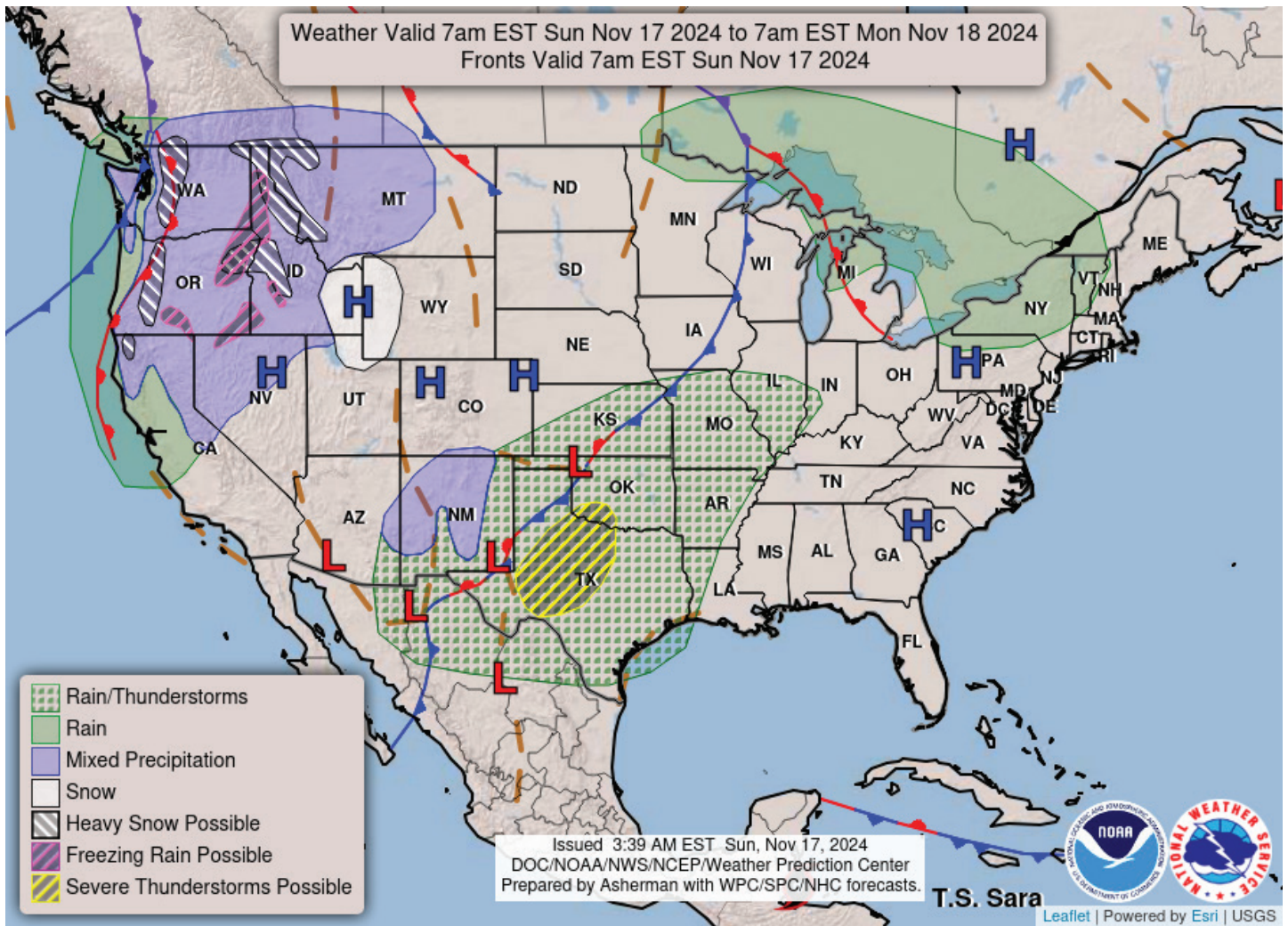
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.76

Average Precip to date: 20.94

Precip Year to Date: 20.64

Sunset Tonight: 5:01:34 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:34:46 am



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## Today in Weather History

November 17, 1971: Snow fell off and on from the 16th through the 18th from west central Minnesota to north central Minnesota. A series of weak low-pressure waves moving northeast generally along a Sioux City to Rochester line caused heavy snow of more than 4 inches in a narrow band from Morris to Alexandria; then the snow band widened to 100 miles from Park Rapids northeast into Canada. Milbank, South Dakota received 3 inches of snow, while Wheaton, Minnesota went from no snow on the 15th to reporting eight inches on the morning of the 17th.

November 17, 1986: Three to six inches of snow fell across eastern South Dakota on the 17th and 18th with the heaviest amount reported in Sisseton. Numerous accidents occurred in the southeast part of the state. The slick roads were a factor in the vehicle death of a woman on Interstate 29, near Beresford in Lincoln County. Browns Valley reported four inches of snow, and Milbank received 7 inches.

1927: A tornado (at times to 260 yards wide) cut a seventeen-mile path through Alexandria, Virginia across the District of Columbia from the Navy yard to Benning Rd. & 19th St. NE and Northeast to East Riverdale, Maryland. This storm injured 31 people. The tornado struck the Naval Air Station where a wind gust of 93 mph was recorded.

1869 - Southwest winds of hurricane force swept the Berkshire and Green Mountains of New England causing extensive forest and structural damage. (David Ludlum)

1953 - The temperature at Minneapolis, MN, reached 71 degrees, their warmest reading of record for so late in the autumn. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A storm in the Rockies produced 21 inches of snow at the Monarch ski resort in Colorado, with 14 inches reported at Steamboat Springs CO. Early morning thunderstorms in the southeastern U.S. drenched Mary Esther FL with 4.43 inches of rain. Gale force winds over the Great Lakes Region gusted to 49 mph at Johnstown PA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Another in a series of storms brought heavy snow to the mountains of the western U.S. Totals ranged up to 17 inches at Bob Scott Summit in Nevada. Winds around Reno NV gusted to 80 mph. The Alta and Sundance ski resorts in Utah received 14 inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Freezing temperatures overspread the southeastern U.S. in the wake of the severe weather outbreak of the previous two days. Eight cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Gilbert AR with a reading of 8 degrees. A fast moving storm blanketed the Great Lakes Region and Upper Ohio Valley with snow during the night. Totals ranged up to 12 inches at Pellston MI and Little Valley NY. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2013: An unusually powerful storm system spun up five dozen tornadoes from the Great Lakes to the Tennessee Valley. Two EF4 twisters struck Illinois, hitting the communities of Washington and New Minden.





## LET GOD BE THE JUDGE

Young Anthony was ending his prayers before leaving for school. "And, finally God, thank You for this beautiful day that You have given us. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

"But, Anthony," protested his mother, "this is not going to be a beautiful day. There are large thunderstorms approaching."

"I know, Mom," replied Anthony. "Never judge a day by its weather," he said as he ran out the door.

The Psalmist proclaimed, "This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it!"

Sometimes when we get halfway through a day, we feel that there is nothing to rejoice about or to be thankful for. Our problems mount, and their solutions evade us. Our plans are interrupted by meaningless demands that make no sense at all. Our decisions seem to be wrong no matter how hard we tried to get them right. Our sorrow overwhelms us, and our guilt appears beyond His forgiveness. What then? Rejoice? Makes no sense to most people.

But according to the Psalmist, that's the thing to do. When we read the Psalms carefully and allow God to speak to us clearly, we will discover that they were open and honest with God about their difficulties. And when they spoke to God sincerely, by the time they came to the close of their prayers, they ended in giving Him praise. Tell God the facts. He wants to help!

Prayer: Thank You, God, for always being with us in all of our difficulties. Help us to hear Your voice and to accept Your grace as a solution to our problems. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24-28

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

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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:  
11.15.24

5 17 35 55 69 19

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$420,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
11.16.24

4 5 7 24 29 4

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$15,230,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
11.16.24

6 11 18 20 29 4

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 23 Mins  
13 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
11.16.24

1 11 15 16 20

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$107,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
11.16.24

16 23 31 59 63 10

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

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
11.16.24

21 22 25 32 38 16

Power Play: 5x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$144,000,000**

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

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

### Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

SDHSAA State Playoffs

**Class 11AAA Championship:** Sioux Falls Lincoln 31, Brandon Valley 21

**Class 11A Championship:** Lennox 14, Sioux Falls Christian 6

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

### **Britt Prince, Natalie Potts help No. 21 Nebraska women romp past South Dakota 113-70**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Britt Prince finished with 23 points, Natalie Potts scored 22 and 21st-ranked Nebraska cruised to a 113-70 victory over South Dakota on Saturday night.

Prince made 10 of 13 shots from the floor with two 3-pointers and added four assists for the Cornhuskers (4-0). Potts buried 8 of 10 shots, including both of her 3-point attempts, and all four of her free throws. She grabbed seven rebounds.

Alexis Markowski pitched in with 14 points, seven assists and five rebounds for Nebraska. Kendall Coley came off the bench to score 12 on 4-for-4 shooting from beyond the arc. Reserve Kendall Moriarty pitched in with 13 points, four rebounds and three assists.

Grace Larkins topped the Coyotes (0-4) with 28 points, six assists and five rebounds. She made 11 of 18 shots with three 3-pointers and added three steals. Alexi Hempe hit four 3-pointers and scored 14. Carley Duffney scored 10.

Nebraska scored the first seven points, but Larkins answered with a 3-pointer for South Dakota and her layup at the 5:41 mark capped a 12-3 run and put the Coyotes up 15-13. Potts made two free throws, two baskets and a 3-pointer for Nebraska in a 16-3 run to close out the quarter and the Cornhuskers led 29-18 and were never threatened from there.

Nebraska shot 63% from the floor (41 for 65), made 20 of 34 shots from distance (58.8%), and all 11 of its foul shots. The Cornhuskers outrebounded the Coyotes 41-19 and turned 10 turnovers into 18 points.

Nebraska will play its fifth straight game at home on Tuesday when it hosts North Alabama.

### **Amar Johnson runs for 157 yards, 2 TDs to lead South Dakota State to 41-10 rout of Southern Illinois**

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Amar Johnson ran for 157 yards and two touchdowns and South Dakota State routed Southern Illinois 41-10 on Saturday.

South Dakota State (9-2, 6-1 Missouri Valley Football Conference), ranked third in the FCS coaches poll, has won four straight since its 13-9 loss against conference-leader and top-ranked North Dakota State on Oct. 19.

The Jackrabbits are in a three-way tie for second place with Missouri State and South Dakota. Next Saturday, South Dakota State travels to Missouri State and North Dakota State will be on the road against South Dakota in regular-season finales.

Amar Johnson scored on a 9-yard run late in the second quarter and his 3-yard TD run stretched the Jackrabbits' lead to 41-0 with 6:00 left in the third quarter.

Angel Johnson, Mark Gronowski and Kirby Vorhees also had touchdown runs for South Dakota State, which scored on five of its first six possessions and finished with 288 yards rushing and 503 yards overall.

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Michael Lindauer threw for 145 yards with a touchdown pass in the third quarter for Southern Illinois (3-8, 1-6).

## South Dakota tops North Dakota 42-36 behind Bouman, Pierre and Theis

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — Aidan Bouman threw three touchdown passes, Charles Pierre Jr. and Travis Theis both ran for more than 100 yards and a touchdown and South Dakota held on to beat North Dakota 42-36 on Saturday.

Theis, who had 150 yards on 16 carries, scored on an 8-yard run early in the fourth quarter to make it 35-21. Then Pierre, who had 173 yards on 15 carries, broke loose for a 76-yard touchdown to stretch the lead to three touchdowns with 9:35 to play.

Simon Romfo scored on a 7-yard run and then found Bo Belquist for a 3-yard touchdown pass and threw a 2-point conversion with 23 seconds left.

But the Coyotes (8-2, 6-1 Missouri Valley Football Conference), the No. 5 team in the FCS coaches poll, recovered the onside kick to set up a showdown with top-ranked North Dakota State next week.

Sawyer Seidl scored on a 51-yard run to give North Dakota a 7-0 lead after one quarter. Romfo threw short touchdown passes to Nick Kupfer and Quincy Vaughn and Bouman matched that, hitting Carter Bell and Quaron Adams, but the Fighting Hawks (5-6, 2-5) led 21-17 at the break.

South Dakota took the lead on a 53-yard Bouman-to-Pierre connection four plays into the second half. Bouman was 15 of 21 for 190 yards as the Coyotes had 512 total yards. Romfo was 20 of 30 for 180 as North Dakota finished with 322 yards.

## Senegal votes in election that will decide if president can carry out the reforms he promised

By MARK BANCHEREAU Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — Polls opened in Senegal on Sunday for a parliamentary election that is set to determine if the country's newly elected president can carry out ambitious reforms.

More than 7 million registered voters in the West African country are choosing 165 lawmakers in the national assembly, where the party of President Bassirou Diomaye Faye currently does not hold a majority.

Faye, who was elected in March on an anti-establishment platform, says that has blocked him from executing the reforms he pledged during his campaign, including fighting corruption, reviewing fishing permits for foreign companies and securing a bigger share from the country's natural resources for the population.

In September, he dissolved the opposition-led parliament, paving the way for a snap legislative election. His party is facing the Takku Wallu opposition platform led by former President Macky Sall, alongside 39 other registered parties and coalitions.

Polls will close at 6 p.m. (1800 GMT). The first provisional results are expected to be known by Monday morning, but the final count will only be published later during the week.

Faye's political party, PASTEF, needs at least 83 seats in order to gain a majority in the assembly. Analysts say it has a high chance of securing that, given its popularity and Faye's margin of victory in the March presidential election.

Faye, 44, was elected with 54% in the first round, becoming Africa's youngest elected leader, less than two weeks after he was released from prison. His rise has reflected widespread frustration among Senegal's youth with the country's direction — a common sentiment across Africa, which has the world's youngest population and a number of leaders accused of clinging to power for decades.

Over 60% of Senegalese are under 25 and 90% work in informal jobs. Senegal has been hit by skyrocketing inflation in recent years, making it difficult for them to get by.

The country is also a major source of irregular migration to Europe, with thousands leaving every year on rickety, artisanal fishing boats in search of economic opportunities.

The campaign for the legislative election was marked by sporadic clashes between supporters of different parties. The headquarters of an opposition party were set on fire in the capital, Dakar, and clashes have erupted between supporters in central Senegal in recent weeks, the interior ministry said Monday.

On Tuesday, Ousmane Sonko, the country's prime minister who helped catapult Faye to victory, denounced attacks against supporters of PASTEF in Dakar and other cities.

"May each patriot they have attacked and injured be proportionally avenged. We will exercise our legitimate right to respond," he wrote on X, before back-peddaling and asking his supporters to remain peaceful in a speech later that day.

Last month, Sonko's vehicle was attacked with stones as clashes broke out between his supporters and unidentified attackers while he was campaigning in Koungueul, in the center of the country. The leader of an allied party, former minister Malick Gackou, had his arm broken in the incident, according to local media.

The presidential election in March tested Senegal's reputation as a stable democracy in West Africa, a region rocked in recent years by coups and attempted coups.

Both Faye and Sonko were released from prison less than two weeks before the vote following a political amnesty announced by outgoing President Sall. Their arrests had sparked months of protests and concerns that Sall would seek a third term in office despite term limits. Rights groups said dozens were killed and about 1,000 were jailed.

## **Pope Francis calls for investigation to determine if Israel's attacks in Gaza constitute 'genocide'**

By GIADA ZAMPANO Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Pope Francis has called for an investigation to determine if Israel's attacks in Gaza constitute genocide, according to excerpts released Sunday from an upcoming new book ahead of the pontiff's jubilee year.

It's the first time that Francis has openly urged for an investigation of genocide allegations over Israel's actions in the Gaza Strip. In September, he said Israel's attacks in Gaza and Lebanon have been "immoral" and disproportionate, and that its military has gone beyond the rules of war.

The book, by Hernán Reyes Alcaide and based on interviews with the Pope, is entitled "Hope never disappoints. Pilgrims towards a better world." It will be released on Tuesday ahead of the pope's 2025 jubilee. Francis' yearlong jubilee is expected to bring more than 30 million pilgrims to Rome to celebrate the Holy Year.

"According to some experts, what is happening in Gaza has the characteristics of a genocide," the pope said in excerpts published Sunday by the Italian daily La Stampa.

"We should investigate carefully to determine whether it fits into the technical definition formulated by jurists and international bodies," he added.

Last year, Francis met separately with relatives of Israeli hostages in Gaza and Palestinians living through the war and set off a firestorm by using words that Vatican diplomats usually avoid: "terrorism" and, according to the Palestinians, "genocide."

Francis spoke at the time about the suffering of both Israelis and Palestinians after his meetings, which were arranged before the Israeli-Hamas hostage deal and a temporary halt in fighting was announced.

The pontiff, who last week also met with a delegation of Israeli hostages who were released and their families pressing the campaign to bring the remaining captives home had editorial control over the upcoming book.

The war started when the militant Hamas group attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing 1,200 people and abducting 250 as hostages and taking them back to Gaza, where dozens still remain.

Israel's subsequent yearlong military campaign has killed more than 43,000 people, according to Gaza health officials, whose count doesn't distinguish between civilians and fighters, though they say more than half of the dead are women and children.

The Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza has triggered several legal cases at international courts in The Hague

involving requests for arrest warrants as well as accusations and denials of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

In the new book, Francis also speaks about migration and the problem of integrating migrants in their host countries.

"Faced with this challenge, no country can be left alone and no one can think of addressing the issue in isolation through more restrictive and repressive laws, sometimes approved under the pressure of fear or in search of electoral advantages," Francis said.

"On the contrary, just as we see that there is a globalization of indifference, we must respond with the globalization of charity and cooperation," he added. Francis also mentioned the "still open wound of the war in Ukraine has led thousands of people to abandon their homes, especially during the first months of the conflict."

## **Russia launches one of the fiercest missile and drone attacks at Ukraine's infrastructure**

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia on Sunday launched a massive drone and missile attack on Ukraine, described by officials as the largest over the past months, targeting energy infrastructure and killing civilians.

The attack came as fears are mounting about Moscow's intentions to devastate Ukraine's power generation capacity ahead of the cold winter.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Russia had launched a total of 120 missiles and 90 drones in a large-scale attack across Ukraine. Various types of drones were deployed, he said, including Iranian-made Shaheds as well as cruise, ballistic and aircraft-launched ballistic missiles.

Ukrainian defenses shot down 140 air targets, Zelenskyy said in a statement on the Telegram messaging app.

"The enemy's target was our energy infrastructure throughout Ukraine. Unfortunately, there is damage to objects from hits and falling debris. In Mykolaiv, as a result of a drone attack, two people were killed and six others were injured, including two children," Zelenskyy said.

Two others were killed in the Odesa region, where the attack damaged energy infrastructure and disrupted power and water supplies, said local Gov. Oleh Kiper.

The combined drone and missile attack was the most powerful in three months, according to the head of Kyiv's City Military Administration Serhii Popko.

Russian strikes have hammered Ukraine's power infrastructure since Moscow's all-out invasion of its neighbor in February 2022, prompting repeated emergency power shutdowns and nationwide rolling blackouts. Ukrainian officials have routinely urged Western allies to bolster the country's air defenses to counter assaults and allow for repairs.

Explosions were heard across Ukraine on Sunday, including in capital Kyiv, the key southern port of Odesa, as well as the country's west and central regions, according to local reports.

The operational command of Poland's armed forces wrote on X that Polish and allied aircraft, including fighter jets, have been mobilized in Polish airspace because of the "massive" Russian attack on neighboring Ukraine. The steps were aimed to provide safety in Poland's border areas, it said.

One person was injured after the roof of a five-story residential building caught fire in Kyiv's historic center, according to Popko.

A thermal power plant operated by private energy company DTEK was "seriously damaged," the company said.



## Will the antitrust showdown launched under Biden turn into 'Let's Make A Deal' under Trump?

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The U.S. antitrust watchdogs that pounced on Big Tech and deterred corporate deal making throughout President Joe Biden's administration may be kept on a shorter leash by Donald Trump after he returns to the White House next year.

Although regulators began cracking down on tech powerhouses such as Google and Facebook during Trump's first term as president, most experts expect his second administration to ease up on antitrust enforcement and be more receptive to mergers and deal-making after years of hypervigilance under Biden's watch.

One of the biggest reasons underlying the anticipated pivot stems from the widespread belief that the chief architects of the Biden administration's get-tougher stance — Lina Khan of the U.S. Federal Trade Commission and the Justice Department's Jonathan Kanter — won't be part of the Trump regime.

Both the Justice Department and FTC didn't respond to request for comment.

Trump's announcement of billionaire Elon Musk, who once anointed himself as "Technoking," to oversee an advisory effort focused on slashing government spending could end up reducing the staffs and regulators trying to rein in deep-pocketed companies.

And Trump's nomination of combative supporter Matt Gaetz to be U.S. Attorney General has thrown even more uncertainty into the game. Gaetz has previously lashed out at social media platforms' policies he claims suppress conservative views, and has, at times, joined in on calls to break up Big Tech. He also has a track record of supporting causes trumpeted by Trump.

"There are going to be some profound changes" in antitrust policies, predicts John Kwoka, an economics professor at Northeastern University that has periodically worked on antitrust issues with the FTC and Justice Department. "Elon Musk could end up having a larger-than-life influence on policy, and that isn't something we have seen before, where a single person whispers in the ear of the President."

Other experts interviewed by The Associated Press mostly agree with Kwoka's sentiments. But they also believe it's highly unlikely the anticipated shift will result in regulators abandoning existing antitrust cases against Big Tech firms, partly because those legal showdowns coalesce with populist worries about the industry's increasing power and influence on people's lives.

"We are in uncharted territory, but the idea of going up against Big Tech still has legs to it," said Rebecca Allensworth, a Vanderbilt University law professor who tracks antitrust issues.

But the changing of the guard may open a door for Google, Apple, Amazon and Facebook to avert prolonged court battles and negotiate settlements under a president that relishes in deal making.

"Maybe Big Tech should buy a copy of 'The Art of The Deal' to figure out how to best negotiate with this administration," suggested Paul Swanson, an antitrust attorney for the law firm Holland & Hart. "I won't be surprised if they find ways to reach some accommodations and we end up seeing more negotiated resolutions and consent decrees."

While the fate of existing antitrust cases remains in a realm of pure speculation, almost everyone is betting the Trump administration will be more receptive to mergers that typically come with a promise of lower costs and other benefits for consumers.

The stage is set for "a golden era for deal flow among public and private tech players over the next 12 to 18 months," Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives wrote in a research note after Trump's reelection.

It's a belief widely shared by most investors, which helped fuel a run up in the overall stock market since Election Day and boosted shares in companies trying to close deals announced during the Biden administration. One such example involves Capital One Financial and Discover, who aim to consummate their merger in a stock swap next year. Capital One's market value has increased by 11% while Discover's market value has climbed 16%.

The change in administration could also sway a proposed merger between the country's two biggest supermarket chains, Kroger and Albertsons, which forged a \$24.6 billion deal to combine in 2022. But the

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FTC filed a lawsuit in federal court earlier this year to block the merger, claiming the deal would eliminate competition, leading to higher prices and lower wages for workers. But the two companies say a merger would help them lower prices and compete against bigger rivals like Walmart.

Given grocery prices remain a hot-button issue among consumers still feeling shell shocked from post-pandemic inflationary spikes, Allensworth believes the Trump administration is less likely to "abandon or soft pedal" the FTC's challenge to the Kroger-Albertsons merger.

In another case that has been cheered by hordes of consumers, the Justice Department is seeking to break up Ticketmaster and its corporate parent Live Nation in a lawsuit claiming their practices are driving up the cost of concerts and other entertainment.

Despite the grassroots support for that case, Live Nation executives are signaling they think they can preserve the current system under a Trump presidency.

"We are hopeful that we'll see a return to the more traditional antitrust approach, where the agencies have generally tried to find ways to solve problems they see with targeted remedies that minimize government intervention in the marketplace," Live Nation President Joe Berchtold said during a conference call with investors shortly after the election.

Deals that got torpedoed by the Biden administration could find new life with Trump in command. American and JetBlue are already considering resurrecting a partnership after an earlier proposal got torpedoed by a legal challenge by Biden's antitrust team — a decision that was recently upheld by a Boston appeals court.

"We are still taking a look at it," American Airlines CEO Robert Isom said shortly after the election. "We will take everything that the court has fed back, and we'll put that into consideration."

Similar conversations are likely taking place among other executives re-examining deals that seemed off-limits during the Biden administration, said Colin Kass, an antitrust attorney at the law firm Proskauer Rose, "It's almost certain there were deals that people put the brakes on because of antitrust concerns and those will be revisited to decide whether they still make economic sense," Kass said. "If so, they will present it to the DOJ. And if there needs to be a fix, it's more likely to get fixed than blocked outright. So it's worth taking a chance at getting these deals done."

As for the efforts to dismantle Big Tech monopolies, the first case brought by the Trump administration against Google is now in the hands of a federal judge who ruled in August that the company's dominant search engine is an illegal monopoly. U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta in Washington, D.C. is now weighing what kind of punishment to impose on Google. A decision is expected by August next year.

In a preliminary proposal filed last month, the Justice Department indicated it might try to persuade Mehta to order that key parts of Google be broken up to restore competition.

The Justice Department's final draft of recommended penalties is due this Wednesday. The filing isn't likely to be influenced by the specter of the Trump administration taking over next January as Kanter and the rest of the team he assembled at Justice get one final chance to state their case against Google, said David Olson, an associate law professor for Boston College.

A reshuffled team of antitrust regulators appointed by Trump could still backtrack from whatever position is staked out in the Nov. 20 filing and take a different stance when Mehta presides over the hearings about the proposed punishments next spring.

"It is disheartening to see," Kwoka said. "A tougher policy was in order because the tech companies in particular had been allowed to behave without any significant restraint for 20 years. And then we all recognized it was going to take more than four years to establish a tougher policy and show its merits. Now, that may not happen."

## Latest typhoon lashes the Philippines, causing tidal surges and displacing massive numbers of people

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A powerful typhoon wrecked houses, caused towering tidal surges and forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee to emergency shelters as it cut across the northern Philippines on Sunday in the sixth major storm to hit the country in less than a month.

Typhoon Man-yi slammed into the eastern island province of Catanduanes on Saturday night with sustained winds of up to 195 kilometers (125 miles) per hour and gusts of up to 240 kph (149 mph). The country's weather agency warned of a "potentially catastrophic and life-threatening situation" in provinces along its path.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from the typhoon, which was forecast to blow north-westward on Sunday across northern Luzon, the archipelago's most populous region. The capital region of metropolitan Manila would likely be spared from a direct hit but was placed, along with outlying regions, under storm alerts and warned of dangerous coastal storm surges.

"The rain was minimal, but the wind was very strong and had this eerie howling sound," Roberto Monterola, a disaster-mitigation officer in Catanduanes, told The Associated Press by telephone. "Along a main boulevard here, the tidal surges went up to more than 7 meters (23 feet) near the seaside houses. It looked really scary."

The entire province of Catanduanes had no power after the typhoon knocked down trees and electricity posts, and disaster-response teams were checking how many more houses were damaged in addition to those impacted by previous storms, he said.

"We need tin roofs and other construction materials, aside from food. Villagers tell us here that they still haven't gotten up from the past storm and were pinned down again by this typhoon," Monterola said. Nearly half of the island province's 80,000 people were sheltering in evacuation centers.

Catanduanes officials were so concerned as the typhoon approached that they threatened vulnerable villagers with arrest if they did not follow orders to evacuate to safer grounds. More than 750,000 people took refuge in emergency shelters, including churches and a shopping mall, due to Man-yi and two previous storms mostly in the northern Philippines, Assistant Secretary Cesar Idio of the Office of Civil Defense and other provincial officials said.

The rare number of back-to-back storms and typhoons that lashed Luzon in just three weeks left more than 160 people dead, affected 9 million people and caused such extensive damage to residential communities, infrastructure and farmlands that the Philippines may have to import more rice, a staple food for most Filipinos. In an emergency meeting as Man-yi approached, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. asked his Cabinet and provincial officials to brace for "the worst-case scenario."

At least 26 domestic airports and two international airports were briefly shut and inter-island ferry and cargo services were suspended due to rough seas, stranding thousands of passengers and commuters, according to the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines and the coast guard.

The United States, Manila's treaty ally, along with Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei provided cargo aircraft and other storm aid to augment the government's overwhelmed disaster-response agencies. Last month, the first major storm, Trami, left scores of people dead after dumping one to two months' worth of rain in just 24 hours in several towns.

The Philippines is battered by about 20 typhoons and storms each year. It's often hit by earthquakes and has more than a dozen active volcanoes, making it one of the world's most disaster-prone countries.

## Israeli strikes kill 12 in Gaza as arrests are made over flares fired at Netanyahu's home

By NATALIE MELZER, WAFAA SHURAFI and KAREEM CHEHAYEB Associated Press  
TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israeli strikes in the Gaza Strip overnight killed 12 people, Palestinian medical officials said Sunday. Israeli police meanwhile arrested three suspects after flares were fired at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's private residence in the coastal city of Caesarea.

In Lebanon, Israeli warplanes pounded the southern suburbs of Beirut after the military warned people to evacuate from at least seven buildings. The Hezbollah militant group has a strong presence in the area, known as the Dahiyeh, and the strikes came as Lebanese officials are considering a United States-brokered cease-fire proposal.

Netanyahu and his family were not at the residence when two flares were fired at it overnight, and there were no injuries, authorities said. A drone launched by Hezbollah struck the residence last month, also when Netanyahu and his family were away.

The police did not provide details about the suspects behind the flares, but officials pointed to domestic political critics of Netanyahu. Israel's largely ceremonial president, Isaac Herzog, condemned the incident and warned against "an escalation of the violence in the public sphere."

Netanyahu has faced months of mass protests over his handling of the hostage crisis unleashed by Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack into Israel, which ignited the ongoing war in Gaza.

Critics blame Netanyahu for the security and intelligence failures that allowed the attack to happen and for not reaching a deal with Hamas to release scores of hostages still held inside Gaza. Israelis rallied again in Tel Aviv on Saturday night to demand a cease-fire deal to return them.

Justice Minister Yariv Levin meanwhile seized on the flare attack to call for a revival of his plans to overhaul the Israeli judiciary, which had sparked months of mass protests before the war.

"The time has come to provide full support for the restoration of the justice system and the law enforcement systems, and to put an end to anarchy, rampage, refusal, and attempts to harm the Prime Minister," he said in a statement.

Supporters said the judiciary changes aim to strengthen democracy by circumscribing the authority of unelected judges and turning over more powers to elected officials. Opponents see the overhaul as a power grab by Netanyahu, who is on trial for corruption charges, and an assault on a key watchdog.

Opposition Leader Yair Lapid said in a post on X that he "strongly condemns" the firing of flares at Netanyahu's home while blasting Levin's proposal.

"Levin should go home with rest of this irresponsible government," Lapid wrote. "We will not let him turn Israel into an undemocratic state."

### Overnight strikes in central Gaza kill 12

Israeli strikes killed six people in Nuseirat and another four in Bureij, two built-up refugee camps in central Gaza dating back to the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation.

Another two people were killed in a strike on Gaza's main north-south highway, according to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the central city of Deir al-Balah, which received all 12 bodies.

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

The Health Ministry in Gaza says around 43,800 Palestinians have been killed in the war. The ministry does not distinguish between civilians and combatants but has said women and children make up more than half the fatalities. Around 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million Palestinians have been displaced, and large areas of the territory have been flattened by Israeli bombardment and ground operations.

### Israeli warplanes pound southern Beirut

The Israeli military posted evacuation warnings on X about an hour before the strikes on southern Beirut, which came early Sunday. Local media reported church bells ringing in and around the area to alert residents. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

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The Israeli military also renewed calls on Sunday for residents in over a dozen villages in southern Lebanon to flee as ground troops pushed farther north.

Hezbollah began firing rockets, missiles and drones into Israel the day after Hamas' 2023 attack, drawing retaliatory airstrikes. The conflict steadily escalated and erupted into all-out war in September. Israeli forces invaded Lebanon on Oct. 1.

More than 3,400 people have been killed in Lebanon, according to the country's Health Ministry, and over 1.2 million driven from their homes. It is not known how many of the dead are Hezbollah fighters.

On the Israeli side, Hezbollah's aerial attacks have killed at least 76 people, including 31 soldiers, and caused some 60,000 people to flee from communities in the north.

## As talks in Baku cross the halfway point, nations are no closer to a goal on cash for climate action

By SETH BORENSTEIN and SIBI ARASU Associated Press

BAKU, Azerbaijan (AP) — Distractions were bigger than deals in the first week of United Nations climate talks, leaving a lot to be done, especially on the main issue of money.

In week one, not a lot of progress was made on the issue of how much money rich countries should pay to developed ones to move away from dirty fuels and how to cope with rising seas and temperatures and pay for damage already caused by climate-driven extreme weather. But more is expected when government ministers fly in for week two to handle the hard political deal-making at the negotiations — known as COP29 — in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Countries remain about a trillion dollars a year apart in the big number to be settled.

"All the developing countries look very united behind \$1.3 trillion. That's not a ceiling. That's what they want. That's what they think they need," said Debbie Hillier, policy lead at Mercy Corps. "The U.S. and Canada are constantly talking about a floor of \$100 billion.... So you've got \$100 billion at one end and \$1.3 trillion" on the other end.

While poor countries have come up with a number for the total final package, the rich donor nations have assiduously avoided giving a total, choosing to pick a figure late in the bargaining game, Hillier said.

"The intention of developed countries to really come clean and show commitment is missing," said Harjeet Singh, global engagement director for the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative. "They have not uttered a single word on what the (final total) is going to be which is very disturbing."

Especially when it comes to this total, United Nations Climate Secretary Simon Stiell said, "negotiations on key issues need to be moving much faster."

"What's at stake here in Baku," Stiell said, is "nothing less than the capacity to halve emissions this decade and protect lives and livelihoods from spiraling climate impacts."

Climate talks run on 'brinkmanship'

At the moment, the sides are far away, which is sort of normal for this stage. The technical details that are worked out by negotiators now have to give way to the bigger, harder number decisions made by climate and finance ministers to make more political decisions, said Ani Dasgupta, president of World Resources Institute.

"Member states have not moved and parties have not moved as expeditiously as they need to do," said United Nations Environment Programme Executive Director Inger Andersen. "This is causing frustration. I understand that. So the answer is to push and push more and ensure that we land where we need to land."

Andersen said it's not smart to judge where countries will end up after just one week. Things change. It's the nature of how negotiations are designed, experts said.

That's how it usually goes.

"COP works on brinkmanship," said Avinash Persaud, a special climate adviser at the Inter-American Development Bank. "COP works on the fear of us not reaching agreement in the end, which makes the process appear chaotic from the outside."

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Ministers will also be consulting with their bosses half a world away and seven hours behind at the Group of 20 countries — the G20 — in Brazil from Monday. The G20 is comprised of the world's richest nations, who are also responsible for 77% of planet-heating gases being spewed.

Eyes are on the COP president

Usually, the second week is when the COP president takes over and pushes sides together for a deal. Different negotiations' presidents have different styles. Last year's president used sharp elbows to get things done, upsetting some people.

That's not the style of this year's COP29 President Mukhtar Babayev.

"What I see with Mukhtar is that he uses a gentle presence, a degree of humility in his very presence," Andersen said.

But Mohamed Adow, of the think tank Power Shift Africa said "the presidency is not giving any hope for how he will help the world strike the right compromises."

Babayev struck an optimistic tone in a statement to The Associated Press on how things are looking at the halfway point.

"We have made good progress in the first week. We're feeling positive but there is still much work to do," Babayev said. "Success does not depend on one country or party alone – it requires all of us."

At the talks' first week, there were many distractions

Much of the news from the talks' first weeks came from outside the negotiation rooms.

Host country president Ilham Aliyev triggered a few distractions himself. His combative welcome speech not only blasted neighbor Armenia and western mainstream media, but he called oil and gas — chief causes of climate change a "gift from the Gods."

And then he got into a verbal spat with France, prompting the environment minister to pull out from the talks.

Argentina called its delegation home in what may be a preview for the right-wing ruled country pulling out of the Paris climate agreement.

At the same time, a letter signed by a former United Nations secretary-general and ex-top climate negotiators called for dramatic reform of the talks. But several authors said the letter was being misinterpreted.

Activists blasted the talks as being too wedded to fossil fuels, citing Aliyev's comments, the fact that Azerbaijan is a big oil producer and that more than 1,700 people connected to the fossil fuel industry were part of the negotiations.

A sense of optimism, but not urgency

Some top leaders already at the climate talks expressed "cautious optimism" but added that the larger goal of climate talks should be front and center next week.

"We need to keep 1.5 alive," said Alliance of Small Island States Chair Cedric Schuster referring to the climate goal set nine years ago at the Paris climate talks to keep global heating to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial times.

Schuster, who is also the environment minister of Samoa, a Pacific island impacted by rising seas, added that "discussions are progressing, and we hope to get there."

Sehr Raheja from New Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment said countries have gone for the "lowest hanging fruit so far" and said developed nations "will have to engage in good faith on the issues of total money needed" if there's a chance of getting a strong outcome.

Climate Analytics CEO Bill Hare called for more urgency from the talks.

"Despite the recent devastation the world has experienced and the soaring rise in temperatures, the urgency really hasn't yet been felt here in Baku," he said.

## Russia grinds deeper into Ukraine after 1,000 days of grueling war

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — When Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine in February 2022, the conventional wisdom was that the capital, Kyiv, would soon fall and the rest of the country wouldn't last long against a much larger enemy.

Instead, it was that narrative that quickly collapsed. The Ukrainian army proved it could slow the advance of Russia's forces and, if not drive them out completely, then — with enough support from the West — at least forestall defeat.

But nearly three years later, the outlook is again grim. Russia is expending huge amounts of weaponry and human life to make small-but-steady territorial gains to the nearly one-fifth of Ukraine it already controls. Ukraine, meanwhile, is struggling to minimize losses, maintain morale and convince allies that, with more military aid, it can turn the tide.

As this brutal war of attrition grinds toward its 1,000th day, neither side seems eager to negotiate. President-elect Donald Trump has said he could quickly end the war, though it is unclear how or in whose favor he might tip the scales.

This backdrop appears to be driving Russia's strategy in eastern Ukraine, according to Phillips O'Brien, a professor of strategic studies at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. Trump could try to force an end to the war by halting the supply of weapons to Ukraine, he said.

"If Trump cuts aid to Ukraine and a cease-fire leads to a frozen conflict, Russia wants to secure as much territory as it can now," O'Brien said.

For Ukraine, the key to any cease-fire would be guarantees from the West that it won't allow Russia to re-invade in the future. Otherwise, O'Brien said, "a cease-fire is a recipe for constant instability in Europe."

Russia is advancing slowly but steadily in eastern Ukraine

In the war's first year, Ukraine lost huge amounts of territory — but it also achieved notable victories. It resisted a much larger adversary with superior air power to survive as an independent country, and it reclaimed some land through gutsy counteroffensives, giving the underdog — and its wealthy allies — the confidence to stay in the fight.

In the second year, which was punctuated by Ukraine's devastating loss of Bakhmut and its failed counteroffensive, the armies essentially fought to a standstill along a 1,000 kilometer (620 mile) front line. Toward the end of that year, the U.S. Congress delayed the approval of a \$61 billion package of aid for weapons, and economic and humanitarian assistance.

With Ukraine's ammunition dwindling, its outlook deteriorated significantly as the war's third year began. In February 2024, the town of Avdiivka fell after months of airstrikes by Russia, which used highly destructive Soviet-era bombs retrofitted with navigation systems.

The fall of Avdiivka created a major breach in Ukraine's defenses. When Russia later mounted an assault on the northeastern city of Kharkiv, Ukrainian troops were stretched further.

A bright spot for Ukraine came in August, when it launched a surprise incursion into Russia. It took — and still holds — hundreds of square kilometers in the Kursk region. While this could be an important chip in any cease-fire negotiations, it hasn't stopped Russian forces from taking more land in Ukraine's east.

"The Russians have paid a very high price to keep advancing, but they're willing to pay that price in lives to gain a few more meters of territory each day," said Justin Crump, head of the British strategic advisory firm Sibylline.

Tens of thousands of soldiers from both countries have been killed since the start of the war in 2022, according to estimates, and the U.N. says at least 11,700 Ukrainian civilians have been killed.

While the amount of land Russia has gained in 2024 — about 2,455 square kilometers (948 square miles) — is equal to less than 1% of Ukraine's pre-war territory, it is having a psychological impact.

With Ukraine in retreat, "we've now returned to a period reminiscent of the (war's) first months," said Mykola Bielieskov, an analyst at CBA Initiatives Center in Kyiv. "This strengthens Russia's position — not so much militarily, but in terms of morale."

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A war of attrition requires both sides to seek outside resources

To keep its war machine going, Russia — like Ukraine — has turned to allies for help.

Iran supplies Russia with drones and possibly missiles, and North Korea has sent ammunition — and even troops, who have been deployed to Russia's Kursk region.

Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed this year that 700,000 of his troops are fighting in Ukraine. Analysts say Putin would need a much larger force to accelerate Russia's advance, but that he is unlikely to mobilize more troops because it could stoke internal discontent.

Ukraine's foothold in Kursk is another complicating factor for Putin, and it could be used as a bargaining chip in any future cease-fire negotiations.

Captain Yevhen Karas, a Ukrainian commander in Kursk, said the fighting inside Russia is highly dynamic, but he believes it will prove effective in diverting Russia's attention and resources.

"Even a creeping, retreating front exhausts the enemy significantly," Karas said.

Ukraine has asked the West for longer range missiles and its blessing to fire at air bases deep inside Russia. But its allies have so far resisted, wary of escalating tensions with a nuclear-armed Russia.

The U.S. has provided more than \$64 billion in military aid to Ukraine since the war began 1,000 days ago. Soldiers worry about what would happen without sustained American support.

"Bravery, heroism, and spirit alone are not enough," said a Ukrainian soldier in the eastern Donetsk region who spoke on condition of anonymity, in line with military rules.

The soldier estimated that where he is stationed Russian infantry outnumber Ukrainian troops 10 to 1. As the war drags on and the death toll rises, it has become increasingly difficult for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to keep replacing troops.

The US will play a vital role in determining the war's next direction

What direction the war takes next will depend in large part on how the incoming Trump administration plays its hand.

Trump, who has touted his good relationship with President Vladimir Putin and called the Russian leader "pretty smart" for invading Ukraine, has repeatedly criticized American backing of Ukraine.

During his only campaign debate with Vice President Kamala Harris, Trump twice refused to directly answer a question about whether he wanted Ukraine to win — raising concerns that Kyiv could be forced to accept unfavorable terms in any negotiations.

Without security guarantees from the West, Ukraine could find itself vulnerable to future Russian aggression. Analysts say a cease-fire based on the current state of the battlefield would set a dangerous precedent, implying that Europe's borders are up for grabs through military action — something that hasn't happened since World War II.

"This would also have a lot of traction in countries like China, India, and elsewhere," said Richard Connolly, a Russia expert at the Royal United Services Institute in London. "They could present that as a strategic defeat not only for Ukraine, but also for the West."

As another winter of war approaches, Ukrainian soldiers say they remain resolute.

"We are standing strong, giving it our all, and we won't surrender," said a battalion chief of staff in the southern region of Zaporizhzhia. "The most important thing now is not to lose more land."

## 'Inside the NBA' will air on ESPN and ABC as part of settlement between WBD and NBA, AP sources say

By JOE REEDY AP Sports Writer

"Inside the NBA" will appear on ESPN and ABC beginning next season as part of a settlement between Warner Bros. Discovery and the NBA.

Warner Bros. Discovery, the parent company of TNT Sports, sued the NBA in New York state court after the league did not accept the company's matching offer for one of the packages in its new 11-year media rights deal, which will begin with the 2025-26 season.

The settlement is expected to be announced on Monday, three people with knowledge of the deal told



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The Associated Press on Saturday night.

The people spoke on condition of anonymity because litigation remains ongoing. The deadline to have the lawsuit dismissed is Tuesday.

The settlement was first reported by the Wall Street Journal.

Even though "Inside the NBA" will be on ESPN and ABC beginning with the 2025-26 season, TNT Sports will continue to produce the popular studio show and it will air from Atlanta, except when the show goes on the road.

The quartet of Ernie Johnson Jr., Charles Barkley, Kenny Smith and Shaquille O'Neal will remain with the show. Barkley signed an extension with WBD in August despite the company losing the NBA.

"Inside the NBA" is expected to air during key moments on the league's calendar — opening night, Christmas Day, the playoffs and the NBA Finals. It is also likely it will be on during Saturday nights the second half of the season when ABC has a prime-time package of games.

The settlement gives TNT Sports, Bleacher Report and House of Highlights a global content license for NBA content with no rights fee for the next 11 years.

Warner Bros. Discovery will also continue its relationship with the league's digital operations, including NBA.com, for five seasons.

Even though TNT Sports will not be airing games in the United States beginning next season, it does have rights to air a full package of games in select countries, including Latin America and Poland.

TNT Sports will also begin showing Big 12 football and men's basketball games next season as part of a sublicense with ESPN. TNT will air two College Football Playoff games beginning this season also under a sublicense with ESPN.

Warner Bros. Discovery acquired rights to the French Open tennis tournament as well as Big East basketball earlier this year.

Turner Sports has had an NBA package since 1984 and games have been on TNT since the network launched in 1988. That will end after this season.

## **A third November storm, Sara, serves notice that a busy hurricane season isn't over yet**

By RUSS BYNUM Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — As the third named storm to emerge during November, Tropical Storm Sara serves as a reminder that the Atlantic hurricane season hasn't quite ended.

Sara formed in the western Caribbean Sea before making landfall Thursday on the northern coast of Honduras, dumping torrential rains in a slow weekend crawl across parts of Central America. The National Hurricane Center in Miami said the storm could dump up to 40 inches (101.6 centimeters) of rain in some areas and is expected to move over Belize Sunday before dissipating over the Yucatan Peninsula early Monday.

Sara follows two other named storms so far this month. Tropical Storm Patty brought heavy rain to the Azores and dissipated without striking land. Then Hurricane Rafael struck Jamaica and the Cayman Islands before tearing across Cuba as a Category 3 storm.

That has made for an unusually active final month for the hurricane season, when forecasters typically see a single named storm every year or two. And the 2024 season still has two weeks to go.

Here are some things to know about November hurricanes.

Why does hurricane season typically wind down in November?

The hurricane season for storms in the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico officially runs from June 1 to Nov. 30.

Though named storms have been known to form before and after that six-month period, hurricane season reflects the months when weather conditions are more favorable for producing tropical storms and hurricanes.

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Ocean temperatures must reach at least 79 degrees Fahrenheit (26 Celsius) to fuel hurricanes. Hurricane season is also when the upper atmosphere tends to have reduced wind shear, or changes in wind speed and direction that tear hurricanes apart.

Those hostile winds tend to ramp up later into the fall, making it more difficult for November storms to form, said Levi Silvers, a hurricane researcher at Colorado State University.

"We have the water temperatures to allow for these storms to form," Silvers said. "But it's increasingly unlikely we're going to get the conducive winds."

How unusual are hurricanes in November?

Based on the 30-year period from 1991 to 2020, November typically sees one tropical storm every year or two. Storms that strengthen into hurricanes are rarer during the season's final month, with one occurring generally every two years, according to the hurricane center.

Since 1851, a total of 125 tropical storms have been recorded during November, said Brian McNoldy, a hurricane researcher at the University of Miami. About half of those storms, 63, went on to become hurricanes. And 12 strengthened into major hurricanes with winds above 110 mph (177 kph).

Rafael earlier this month forced the evacuation of 283,000 people in Cuba and destroyed 460 homes. It was the Atlantic basin's first November hurricane since 2022, when the season wrapped up with three storms. One of them, Hurricane Nicole, became the first November hurricane to make landfall in Florida since 1985.

Only two other November hurricanes are known to have struck the U.S., in 1861 and in 1935, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

What are some notable November storms?

Since 1953, there have been seven November hurricanes devastating enough to have their names retired, McNoldy said.

The last ones were Hurricanes Eta and Iota, both Category 4 storms when they smashed into the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua two weeks apart in November 2020. The back-to-back hurricanes were blamed for a combined 239 deaths and \$8.2 billion in damage across Central America.

They struck at the end of the most active hurricane season on record with 30 named storms. The busy 2020 season exhausted the year's alphabetical list of storm names by mid-September. Later storms, including Eta and Iota, were identified using Greek letters.

Other destructive November hurricanes that had their names retired were Otto in 2016, Paloma in 2008, Noel in 2007, Michelle in 2001 and Lenny in 1999, according to McNoldy.

Is climate change extending the threat of hurricanes?

There have been 18 named storms since 2000 that formed outside the official hurricane season, either before June or after November. One of them, Hurricane Alex, spun up on Jan. 12, 2016.

Does that mean climate change caused by humans is lengthening hurricane season?

"The role I could see climate change playing in extending the bounds of the traditional hurricane season is the warming ocean," said McNoldy, noting that sea surface temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean have remained unusually warm into mid-November.

However, scientists still have unsettled questions regarding what influence climate change may have on seasonal wind shear patterns that tend to keep tropical cyclones at bay outside the official hurricane season, Silvers said.

"The idea that we're seeing more hurricanes with climate change is still pretty controversial," Silvers said. "I think what seems clear is we've had a lot of high-impact hurricanes and rapidly intensifying hurricanes. It could be that, with climate change, you don't get more hurricanes, but you get stronger hurricanes."

## Ohio offers a new way to use public money for Christian schools. Opponents say it's unconstitutional

By JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Around the country, advocates for Christian education have been finding legal ways to tap taxpayer money used more typically for public schools. One new approach in Ohio is benefiting schools tied to a burgeoning conservative political group and facing objections from defenders of the separation of church and state.

In President-elect Donald Trump, backers of school choice have gained an ally in their efforts to share taxpayer money with families to pay for things like private school tuition. Trump has cast school choice as a way to counter what he calls leftist indoctrination in public classrooms and is expected to seek a boost for the movement at the federal level.

The Ohio case shows how governments can push the envelope to funnel money to private schools.

The state has put a small part of its budget surplus toward competitive grants for expanding and renovating religious schools. Most of the winning construction projects are associated with the Center for Christian Virtue, an Ohio-based advocacy group that's seen its revenues balloon amid the state's push to expand religious educational options.

Ohio last year established a universal voucher program that provides tuition to nonpublic schools, including religious ones, to any family in the state. Backers of the construction grants say they can help address a capacity problem created by the vouchers' popularity, particularly in rural areas.

The nonprofit Americans United for Separation of Church and State has objected to the capital investments in religious schools, calling the practice unconstitutional and unprecedented in scope. Where voucher programs involve spending decisions made by individual parents, the group argues the new program involves the government paying the schools directly.

"The religious freedom of taxpayers is violated when their taxes are forcibly taken from them and devoted to religious instruction of a faith to which those taxpayers do not subscribe," said Alex Luchenitser, the group's associate legal director.

The One-Time Strategic Community Investment Fund originated in the Republican-led Ohio Senate.

Spokesperson John Fortney rejected the claim that helping religious schools directly is unconstitutional. "This is laughable and a lie that the left is using to yet again vilify parents who send their students to a school of their choice," the Senate GOP spokesperson said in a statement.

Around the country, expanded school choice programs have benefited religious organizations seeking to increase their educational offerings. Of the 33 states with private school programs, 12 allow any student to apply for public money to subsidize private, religious or homeschool education, according to FutureEd, a think tank at Georgetown University.

The CCV and its education policy arm, Ohio Christian Education Network, advocated for several years for Ohio's primary voucher program, EdChoice, to apply to religious schools.

In an interview, Ohio Christian Education Network Executive Director Troy McIntosh said Ohio's voucher expansion didn't create new demand. It merely made the options families already wanted affordable. He said Ohio lawmakers had "a compelling interest" in addressing the capacity issue with the new construction grants.

"Parents who had children were paying taxes, but they were all going to schools that that parent would rather not be in," he said.

A total of \$4.9 million from the \$717 million One-Time Strategic Community Investment Fund went to religious school construction grants. Those include one new school campus, the retrofit of an old building into a new school, a cafeteria expansion, and dozens of new classrooms, according to grant applications obtained by The Associated Press through a public records request.

Six of eight schools to receive grants are part of Ohio Christian Education Network, which has grown from roughly 100 schools to 185 schools over the past three years. The network opened its first new school in 2022. The other two schools that received grants are Catholic.

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Another Ohio program allows nonprofits to take financial advantage of expanded school choice through entities called “scholarship-granting organizations,” or SGOs. These groups can collect money for private school scholarships, and donations of up to \$1,500 per household are made effectively free through a tax writeoff. Public records show Corrinne Vidales, an attorney and lobbyist for CCV and legal counsel to OCEN, was pivotal in laying the groundwork for the arrangement.

“We think SGOs will be great for the students of Ohio and would like to be instrumental in whatever way we can,” she emailed a member of Republican Attorney General Dave Yost’s staff in July 2021.

In a separate email exchange, Vidales said the center had reserved the name “Ohio Christian Education Network” some years earlier but not used it. They kept it active, she wrote, “for a purpose like this.”

Once a fringe anti-pornography group called Citizens for Community Values that was best known for its role in Ohio’s 2004 gay marriage ban, the group known today as the Center for Christian Virtue has remade itself over the past eight years and profited in the process.

Along with the school choice measures, the group lobbied for bills requiring public schools to keep transgender students out of girls’ restrooms and girls’ sports and to ban gender-affirming care. IRS filings show annual contributions to the center grew nearly tenfold, from \$412,000 in 2015, to \$3 million in 2021, to \$4.4 million in 2022. That was the year it established its own scholarship-granting organization.

In 2021, the group purchased a \$1.25 million building on Columbus’ Capitol Square, within sight of the Ohio Statehouse.

While CCV now boasts of being “Ohio’s largest Christian public policy organization,” McIntosh emphasized that the center’s bottom line is not fed by taxpayer money. While that is true, the impact of the SGO tax writeoff to Ohio’s budget has been estimated at as much as \$70 million a year, including via direct revenue lost to cities, towns and libraries.

Scott DiMauro, president of the Ohio Education Association, the state’s largest teachers union, said it’s clear that expanded school choice is redirecting money from public education to private schools and their operators. The union supports long-running litigation alleging EdChoice has created an unconstitutional system of separately funded private schools.

“It’s just patently evident that the profit motive is running through this movement,” he said.

Last year, after Ohioans voted overwhelmingly to protect abortion access in the state constitution, CCV President Aaron Baer blamed the public school system for undermining conservative values.

“The fact (is) that now every kid is eligible for a scholarship to get out of the public schools, right, and for us we need them to get into a real education, and a real education is a Christian education,” Baer said in a podcast.

Baer said he was aware such a statement would face criticism.

“But how in the world do you understand what’s going on around you, how things work, why things work, if you don’t understand who made them, and what He made them for?” he said. “And so for us, getting kids out of the public education system, getting them into church schools — that means starting more church schools — is huge.”

According to state business filings, CCV incorporated two for-profit entities this summer: the Ohio Christian Education Network LLC and the United States Christian Education Network LLC.

## The ‘super year’ of elections has been super bad for incumbents as voters punish them in droves

By DAVID RISING, JILL LAWLESS and NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Whether on the left or the right, regardless of how long they’ve been in power, sitting governments around the world have been drubbed this year by disgruntled voters in what has been called the “super year” for elections.

Donald Trump’s victory in the U.S. presidential election was just the latest in a long line of losses for incumbent parties in 2024, with people in some 70 countries accounting for about half the world’s population going to the polls.

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Issues driving voter discontent have varied widely, though there has been almost universal malaise since the COVID-19 pandemic as people and businesses struggle to get back on their feet while facing stubbornly high prices, cash-strapped governments and a surge in migration.

"There's an overall sense of frustration with political elites, viewing them as out of touch, that cuts across ideological lines," said Richard Wike, director of global attitudes research at the Pew Research Center.

He noted that a Pew poll of 24 countries found that the appeal of democracy itself was slipping as voters reported increasing economic distress and a sense that no political faction truly represents them.

"Lots of factors are driving this," Wike said, "but certainly feelings about the economy and inflation are a big factor."

Since the pandemic hit in 2020, incumbents have been removed from office in 40 of 54 elections in Western democracies, said Steven Levitsky, a political scientist at Harvard University, revealing "a huge incumbent disadvantage."

In Britain, the right-of-center Conservatives suffered their worst result since 1832 in July's election, which returned the center-left Labour Party to power after 14 years.

But just across the English Channel, the far right rocked the governing parties of France and Germany, the European Union's biggest and most powerful members, in June elections for the parliament of the 27-nation bloc.

The results pushed French President Emmanuel Macron to call a parliamentary election in hope of stemming a far-right surge at home. The anti-immigration National Rally party won the first round, but alliances and tactical voting knocked it down to third place in the second round, producing a fragile government atop a divided legislature.

In Asia, a group of South Korean liberal opposition parties, led by the Democratic Party, defeated the ruling conservative People Power Party in April's parliamentary elections.

India's Narendra Modi, meanwhile, had been widely expected to easily sweep to a third straight term in June but instead voters turned away from his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party in droves, costing it its majority in parliament, though it was able to remain in power with the help of allies.

Likewise, Japanese voters in October punished the Liberal Democratic Party, which has governed the country nearly without interruption since 1955.

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba will stay in power, but the greater-than-expected loss ended the LDP's one-sided rule, giving the opposition a chance to achieve policy changes long opposed by the conservatives.

"If you were to ask me to explain Japan in a vacuum, that's not too difficult," said Paul Nadeau, an adjunct assistant professor at Temple University's Japan campus in Tokyo.

"Voters were punishing an incumbent party for a corruption scandal, and this gave them a chance to express a lot more frustrations that they already had."

Globally, however, it's harder to draw conclusions.

"This is pretty consistent across different situations, different countries, different elections — incumbents are getting a crack on the shins," he said. "And I don't have any good big picture explanations for why that is."

Rob Ford, professor of political science at the University of Manchester, said inflation has been a major driver of "the greatest wave of anti-incumbent voting ever seen" — though the reasons behind the backlash may also be "broader and more diffuse."

"It could be something directly to do with the long-term effects of the COVID pandemic — a big wave of ill health, disrupted education, disrupted workplace experiences and so forth making people less happy everywhere, and they are taking it out on governments," he said.

"A kind of electoral long COVID."

In South Africa, high unemployment and inequality helped drive a dramatic loss of support for the African National Congress, which had governed for three decades since the end of the apartheid system of white minority rule. The party once led by Nelson Mandela lost its parliamentary majority in May's election and

was forced to go into coalition with opposition parties.

Other elections in Africa presented a mixed picture, said Alex Vines, director of the African Program at the international affairs think tank Chatham House, partially clouded by countries with authoritarian leaders whose reelections were not in doubt, like Rwanda's long-serving President Paul Kagame who got 99% of the vote.

In African countries with strong democratic institutions, however, the pattern of incumbents being punished holds, Vines said.

"The countries with stronger institutions — South Africa, Senegal, Botswana — have witnessed either a government of national unity or change of party of government," he said.

In Botswana, voters unexpectedly ejected a party that had ruled for 58 years since independence from Britain in an October election.

Vines said that across the continent, "you've got this electorate now who have no memory of decolonization or the end of apartheid and so have different priorities, who are also feeling the cost-of-living pressures."

In Latin America, one major country stands out for bucking the anti-incumbent wave — Mexico.

Andrés Manuel López Obrador, limited to a single term, selected Claudia Sheinbaum, a member of his party, to succeed him. Sheinbaum easily won the presidency in June's election.

Wike noted that Mexico is one of the few countries in Pew's survey where voters reported satisfaction with economic conditions.

Some newcomers to office have already found that the honeymoon following their victories has been short, as people have rapidly turned on them.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has seen his approval ratings plummet from a jaded electorate that wants lower prices and better public services — but is deeply skeptical of politicians' intention and ability to deliver change.

Ford, of the University of Manchester, said it's a problem for democracy when voters, whose task is to hold governments to account, are so quick to pass judgment.

"If voters are the electoral equivalent of a hanging judge, putting politicians to the gallows whether they be guilty or innocent, then what incentive is there for governments to try?" he asked. "The angels and the devils get chucked out alike, but being an angel is harder."

Trump first came to power as a challenger in the 2016 election, and then lost as an incumbent in the 2020 election to Joe Biden. This year, he defeated Biden's vice president, Kamala Harris, who stepped in late in the race when the president unexpectedly dropped out.

Trump's win is one of the conservative populist movement's highest-profile triumphs. But another icon of the cause, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, saw his own party suffer its worst showing in decades in this year's European Union election, demonstrating that no movement is safe from backlash.

Nadeau, of Temple University, suggested that perhaps analysts had previously misunderstood global electoral trends — parsing them as ideological shifts — "when all along it was actually an anti-incumbent mood."

"Maybe it has always been anti-incumbent, and we were just misdiagnosing it," he said.

## Trump attends UFC championship fight in New York, taking a break from Cabinet picks

By WILL WEISSERT and DAN GELSTON Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump walked out to a roaring standing ovation just ahead of the start of the UFC pay-per-view card at Madison Square Garden on Saturday night, combining two things close to his heart: fierce battles inside the octagon and New York City.

Trump was accompanied by UFC President Dana White and the pair headed to their cageside seats to Kid Rock's "American Bad Ass."

UFC aired a video package of Trump's road to reclaiming the White House, calling it, "The great comeback in American History," while fans stood and applauded. Trump, wearing a suit and red tie, pumped his fist

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toward the crowd when the video ended.

The president-elect also had his clenched fists pumping back and forth and briefly danced to the Village People's "YMCA" just outside the cage. He later again thrust his fist skyward as "Takin' Care of Business" played.

Elon Musk, picked by Trump to lead a new Department of Government Efficiency, and House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., joined the president-elect and White at the Garden, as did Robert Kennedy Jr., Trump's choice to lead the Department of Health and Human Services in his incoming administration.

Trump was flanked on his front-row seat by White on his right and Musk on his left and politely applauded the fight winners. Besieged by photographers and nearby fans, Trump stood to pose for pictures with White, Musk and other associates in breaks between fights. Trump even had a brief conversation with country singer Jelly Roll after the pair shook hands.

UFC fans wore red Trump hats and some waved flags emblazoned with his image during breaks in the action.

Trump shook hands with the UFC broadcast team that included Joe Rogan. Rogan hosted Trump on his podcast for hours in the final stages of the campaign ahead of his election win last week. The announcers for the pay-per-view audience later declared, "Festive doesn't even begin to describe" the scene before later proclaiming, "47's in the building. Let's go."

The MSG crowd chanted "USA! USA!" right before the main card was about to start and then again throughout the action. After a year delay, Stipe Miocic is getting his shot at a third heavyweight championship reign when he battles current champion Jon Jones in the main event at UFC 309.

Trump is a longtime UFC enthusiast and frequent attendee of major fights. He made promoting hyper-masculine tones a signature of his campaign — as he looked to further widen the gap among male voters between himself and his Democratic opponent, Vice President Kamala Harris.

Trump and his top supporters embraced alpha-male terms and often accentuated them with vulgar and demeaning language.

While campaigning, Trump appeared frequently on podcasts, gaming platforms, and with key supporters who described a vote for Trump as a way to demonstrate true manliness. While Trump taped a podcast with Rogan, who himself has spoken about hypermasculinity, Harris failed to do a similar appearance, citing scheduling conflicts.

A return to Madison Square Garden means revisiting the place where a comedian caused an uproar at a Trump rally last month by likening Puerto Rico to a "floating island of garbage." Yet Trump continues to relish visits to New York, where he lived for decades, before moving to his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida.

Trump's son, Don Jr., also attended the fight.

Except for a day trip to Washington this week to meet for nearly two hours with President Joe Biden, and separately address House Republicans, Trump has been spending his time since his Election Day victory at Mar-a-Lago. The club has hosted galas and conservative events throughout the week.

Trump has been close to White for more than two decades.

White hosted a 2001 UFC battle at Trump Taj Mahal, a former casino-hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and Trump has frequently attended UFC matches since — including during his 2024 campaign. Trump has turned up at fights recently with famous entourages, including White, musician Kid Rock and former Fox News Channel host Tucker Carlson.

In 2018, during Trump's first term, he and White starred in a UFC video where the then-president was called the "Combatant In Chief."

As Trump has strengthened his grip on the national Republican Party over the last near-decade, White's personal political profile has grown exponentially. White spoke at the 2016 and 2020 Republican conventions, and when the party gathered in Milwaukee this past July. He also addressed the crowd at Trump's Florida victory party in the wee hours of the morning after Election Day.

"This is what happens when the machine comes after you," White said then. "What you've seen over the last several years, this is what it looks like: couldn't stop him. He keeps going forward. He doesn't quit."

## **Jake Paul believes he can fight for a title, but Mike Tyson might be done in the ring at 58**

By SCHUYLER DIXON AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Jake Paul believes he can fight for a championship belt within two years. Mike Tyson might be finished in the ring after the 58-year-old former heavyweight champion's first sanctioned pro bout since 2005.

An event hyped like a prize fight turned into a glorified sparring session, the eight-round bout won by Paul in a lopsided unanimous decision at the home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys on Friday night.

There will continue to be questions for Paul over when he will fight a contender in his prime, as opposed to aging former champs, mixed martial artists or journeymen boxers.

The 27-year-old YouTuber-turned-boxer's answers have been consistent, and now he has a timeline.

"I think it could happen in the next 24 months," Paul said. "I truly, truly believe in my skills and my ability and my power. And the cruiserweight division is seemingly open for the taking on that timeline."

Tyson, whose last fight before retiring was a loss to Kevin McBride 19 years ago, said he was confident in taking on Paul because of an entertaining exhibition against Roy Jones Jr. in front of no fans during the pandemic in 2020.

A shorter fight (instead of 10 or 12 rounds) with shorter rounds (two minutes instead of three) and heavier gloves fell far short of entertaining.

The International Boxing Hall of Famer came at Paul hard in the opening seconds, and briefly again to start the second round. Otherwise, he mostly let Paul come to him, and Paul said he thought Tyson was too fatigued to be a threat beyond the third round.

Still, Tyson wouldn't say immediately afterward it was his last fight after the officially recorded loss dropped his record to 50-7 with 44 knockouts.

"It depends on the situation," Tyson said before suggesting a fight with Paul's older brother, Logan Paul, who was standing near him in the ring.

"I'll kill you, Mike," Logan Paul shot back, using an expletive for emphasis.

But Tyson said he had gone in the ring "one last time" in a social media post Saturday that provided details about the health scare he faced that forced the postponement from the fight's original date this summer.

"I almost died in June," Tyson wrote on X. "Had 8 blood transfusions. Lost half my blood and 25lbs in hospital and had to fight to get healthy to fight so I won."

There's no question the younger Paul will be back in the ring. The former social media influencer started boxing about 4 1/2 years ago and has always said he wants to be a championship fighter.

"He's a very good fighter," said Tyson, the undisputed heavyweight champ from 1987-90, after Paul won 80-72 on one judge's scorecard and 79-73 on the other two.

Paul still has plenty to prove, though. He is 11-1 with seven knockouts, the only loss to Tommy Fury, the less-accomplished brother of former heavyweight champion Tyson Fury.

The former Disney Channel star has proven he can create hype for just about any fight.

The first live sports event on Netflix was viewed in 60 million households, the streaming company said Saturday. Netflix said further details on viewership would be available next week.

According to reports, Paul's payday was \$40 million, compared with \$20 million for Tyson. Paul mentioned his number during a promotional event over the summer.

Organizers estimated the AT&T Stadium crowd at 72,000, and it appeared to be a legitimate number.

"There may never be another moment like this in boxing, but I believe we can find something," Paul said. "And I think there are a few names out there that make sense, that the events will be just as big."

In the days before his fight with Tyson, Paul mentioned super middleweight champion Canelo Alvarez, considered one of the best boxers in the world.

An opponent of that magnitude is probably at least several fights away for Paul, and it might not be long before age becomes an issue for the 34-year-old Alvarez.

Paul's camp will never question its ability to put on a show.



"Boxing is ebbs and flows, ups and downs, big events, small events, medium-size events," said Nakisa Bidarian, Paul's promoter. "Our philosophy is it's not about what is the decision that happens in the ring. It's about the attitude that you have and the product you create and how you entertain the fans. And there's no more entertaining of an athlete than Jake Paul."

## Park regulars in New Delhi's Lodhi Garden say toxic pollution levels won't force them out

By YIRMIYAN ARTHUR Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — For many in New Delhi, one of the world's most polluted cities, Lodhi Garden is an escape in the heart of India's capital. Park regulars say they won't let rising pollution levels deter them — even if they have to tweak their routine because of the smog.

The park is one of hundreds dotting the city. Those who love it say what makes it special is a combination of nature and other visitors — you're never lonely even when you're alone.

For others, it's the nostalgia for bygone times. Generations of the same family have walked the trail circling the park — a habit passed down, a habit that becomes tradition.

On any given day, retired bureaucrats walk in groups, discussing politics. Yoga practitioners meet for their dose of wellness and an aspiring marathon runner whizzes by. Young couples look for privacy behind trees while those more senior openly hold hands. On weekends, the park's lawns spill over with picnickers.

But as a toxic blanket of smog engulfed the city this month and New Delhi's air quality officially fell into the "severe" category, some of the park regulars shared how this has impacted their daily routine.

Old friends hashing out world problems

For over 20 years, Rajiv Sikri, 76, and Subodh Jain, 72, have been meeting in Lodhi Garden for a morning walk that kicks off their day.

"The pollution is worrying but how do you insulate yourself at home?" Sikri said. "We like to walk. One round or a little more than a round."

They "chat and solve the world's problems," he jokes.

"What is the option," Jain asks. "You can't just sit at home and do nothing."

Time to leave the city?

Rajiv Gupta, 54, and his wife, Manisha Gupta, 50, say they have considered moving out of New Delhi, home to more than 33 million people.

Regulars for 15 years, the couple says the park has lost some of its "magnetic power" because of the pollution — Rajiv says they've had scratchy throats and breathing problems.

"We come in the morning for fresh air and we are unable to get fresh air," he said. "What's the charm of coming to such a beautiful park then?"

For Manisha, "seeing people of all ages being so active ... encourages me to be like them." But she worries about their children and doesn't know "how to keep them safe from the pollution."

Tears in your eyes but hoping the trees will win

The park has been part of 60-year-old Bashir Ahmad Mir's daily two-hour run and exercise routine for the past 10 years. But the carpet seller who moved to New Delhi from Kashmir says the pollution is now affecting his eyes.

"I have to continuously clean my eyes," he said. "I know the pollution is bad for me but I have no choice. Where do I go?"

Vanita Pathak, 55, who has been coming for the past 20 years, says she is not giving up and hopes the trees can help "fight the pollution."

"We keep hearing (the) advisory to stay indoors but I do not feel that coming here is harmful," she said.

Many are worried, others not so much

Anita Gahtori says her in-laws stopped coming to the park since the start of the month, just after Diwali, the Hindu holiday when people traditionally shoot off fireworks and the city's pollution levels spike.

"I will stop bringing my children," she now says, her 12-year-old daughter Sakshi by her side. "I worry

for their health.”

Yoga teacher Ajay Chowdhary, 51, has been coming to the park every morning for more than 30 years — he says it’s great for both his physical and mental wellbeing.

But on the days when the pollution is high, he tweaks his workout.

“We change the style of exercise,” he said. “We do light exercises which do not involve deep breathing.”

A habit that grows on you

A white-haired man, walking his three dogs on a leash and wearing a facemask, said he’s been a regular at Lodhi Garden for more than 50 years and that it’s the “most wonderful place one can come to.”

“The pollution is a bothersome thing,” said Ajay, giving only his first name without explaining his reasons.

“But you see it’s a habit. So it grows on you.”

A boy at the park, Agastya Shankar Laul, said he didn’t think his mother, Charu Shankar, was worried about the pollution.

“Mom has given up,” Charu quipped. “I used to worry about it seven years ago. And year after year it’s just been the same story.”

At home, her air purifiers run all the time and she makes her own remedies against the pollution. But what really upsets her are the people in power who have done so little.

“Of course I’m angry, but that doesn’t mean I’m going to be locked up,” she said.

## ‘The Bear’ has a mirror image: Chicago crowns lookalike winner for show’s star Jeremy Allen White

CHICAGO (AP) — “The Bear” has a mirror image.

More than 50 contestants turned out Saturday in a Chicago park to compete in a lookalike contest vying to portray actor Jeremy Allen White, star of the Chicago-based television series “The Bear.”

Beyond the renown of being named White’s unofficial body double, the winner walked away with \$50 and a pack of cigarettes in recognition of the puff-prone character White plays in the series — Carmen “Carmy” Berzatto — a young, award-winning chef from the glittery world of fine dining who returns to the Windy City to captain his family’s dive sandwich shop.

On the show, the character is sometimes referred to as the “Bear,” and the chef had dreams of owning a fine dining restaurant that would carry that name.

As hundreds looked on and cheered, the prize went to 37-year-old mental health therapist Ben Shabad, the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

“This is the coolest thing I’ve done all week,” said Shabad, who was hoisted into the air in the middle of the crowd, a crown perched upon his head, the pack of cigarettes clutched in one hand.

Most of the wannabe doppelgangers were white men, but some women and people of different ethnicities got in on the fun, the newspaper said. There was even a toddler White lookalike.

Organizers were surprised by the big turnout, which included Jeremy Allen White fan Alexis Kline.

“He’s like a Roman god to me,” Kline said.

## Israeli troops reach deepest point in Lebanon since Oct. 1 invasion, Lebanese media say

By BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Israeli ground forces reached their deepest point in Lebanon since they invaded six weeks ago before pulling back Saturday after battles with Hezbollah militants, Lebanese state media reported.

The clashes and further Israeli bombardment came as Lebanese and Hezbollah officials study a draft proposal presented by the U.S. on ending the war.

Israeli troops briefly captured a strategic hill in the southern village of Chamaa, about 5 kilometers (3 miles) from the border, the state-run National News Agency reported. It said Israeli troops blew up the Shrine of Shimon the Prophet in Chamaa as well as several homes, but that could not be verified.

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Israel's military did not respond to requests for comment but said in a statement its troops continue "limited, localized" operations in southern Lebanon.

Israeli warplanes pounded Beirut's southern suburbs known as Dahiyeh, a Hezbollah stronghold, and several other areas including the port city of Tyre. An airstrike on the northeastern village of Khraibeh killed a couple and their four children, the National News Agency said.

Shrapnel from a strike in Dahiyeh wounded a teenage girl in the head and she was in intensive care, a hospital official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak about patients' conditions.

Israel's military said it hit multiple Hezbollah sites.

Since late September, Israel has dramatically escalated its bombardment of Lebanon, vowing to severely weaken the Iranian-backed Hezbollah and end its barrages in Israel that the militants have said are in solidarity with Palestinians during the war in Gaza.

Israel's military said a synagogue was struck and two civilians hurt in a "heavy rocket barrage" by Hezbollah on Haifa, northern Israel's largest city. Police said they were lightly injured. Hezbollah said it fired missiles at five Israeli military facilities in Haifa and its suburbs. Israel said Hezbollah fired more than 60 projectiles into Israel on Saturday.

More than 3,400 people have been killed in Lebanon by Israeli fire — 80% of them in the past eight weeks — according to Lebanon's Health Ministry. Israel has said it wants to ensure that thousands of Israelis can return to their homes near the border.

Israel's military said a soldier died in combat in southern Lebanon on Friday.

Meanwhile, in Gaza

In Gaza, an Israeli airstrike Saturday evening on a U.N.-run school sheltering displaced people killed 10 and wounded 20, the Palestinian news agency WAFA reported. It said two missiles were fired at the Abu Assi School in the Shati refugee camp on the edge of Gaza City.

Israel's military said it struck a Hamas command center in the compound.

A strike on a house in Nuseirat killed at least seven, including a child and three women.

The war between Israel and Hamas began after Palestinian militants stormed into Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing about 1,200 people — mostly civilians — and abducting 250 others.

Around 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, about a third of them believed to be dead. Israelis rallied again in Tel Aviv on Saturday night to demand a cease-fire deal to return them.

The Health Ministry in Gaza has said at least 43,799 Palestinians have been killed in the war. The ministry does not distinguish between civilians and combatants but has said more than half of those killed have been women and children.

The U.N. Security Council's 10 elected members on Thursday circulated a draft resolution demanding "an immediate, unconditional and permanent cease-fire" in Gaza. The U.S., Israel's closest ally, holds the key to whether the council adopts the resolution.

A search for peace

On Friday, Lebanon's caretaker prime minister apparently urged Iran to persuade Hezbollah to agree to a cease-fire deal with Israel, which would require the group to pull back from the border.

A copy of the draft proposal presented by the U.S. earlier this week was handed over to Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, who has been negotiating on behalf of Hezbollah, according to a Lebanese official. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak about the secret talks, said Berri is expected to give Lebanon's response on Monday.

Another Lebanese politician said Hezbollah officials had received the draft and would express their opinion to Berri. The politician spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media about the ongoing talks.

The proposal is based on U.N. Security Council resolution 1701, which ended the last Israel-Hezbollah war in 2006.

Berri told the pan-Arab Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper that the draft does not include any item that allows Israel to act in Lebanon if the deal is violated, saying: "We will not accept any infringement of our

sovereignty.”

He added that Lebanon does not accept the proposal to form a committee to supervise the agreement that includes members from Western countries. A U.N. peacekeeping force already operates near the border in Lebanon.

Berri said talks continue and “the atmosphere is positive but all relies on how things will end.”

## **Anxiety and dismay inside the Justice Department after Trump taps Gaetz as attorney general**

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump’s choice of Matt Gaetz to be attorney general has many Justice Department employees reeling, worried not only about their own jobs but the future of the agency that the Trump loyalist has railed against.

The president-elect’s pick of the Florida Republican sent a shock throughout the Cabinet department, considering Gaetz’s lack of experience in law enforcement and the fact that he was once the subject of a federal sex trafficking investigation. The names of well-regarded veteran lawyers had circulated as possible contenders for the job, but Gaetz’s selection was broadly interpreted as an indication of the premium that Trump places on personal loyalty and Trump’s desire to have a disruptor lead a department that for years investigated and ultimately indicted him.

Career lawyers at the department interviewed by The Associated Press, all of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to share their feelings publicly, described a widespread sense of being stunned by the nomination — even outrage. They spoke of being flooded with calls and messages from colleagues as soon as the news broke.

Some inside the department were not immediately sure that Gaetz, who graduated law school in 2007 but has spent most of his career as a lawmaker, including in Congress, was even a lawyer. And some are already looking for new jobs as concerns grow over Gaetz’s rhetoric about going after the “deep state.”

Gaetz has claimed the department is “corrupt and highly political,” and strongly criticized the federal prosecutions of Trump and the Jan. 6 rioters. He also has suggested abolishing two agencies he would oversee as attorney general, the FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. He would arrive in the job without the legal experience of his predecessors, including the current attorney general, Merrick Garland, who as a high-ranking Justice Department official supervised the prosecution of the Oklahoma City bombing case before becoming a federal appeals court judge.

Trump described Gaetz as the right person to “root out the systemic corruption” within the agency, end “weaponized” government and “restore Americans’ badly-shattered Faith and Confidence in the Justice Department.” Trump has yet to announce a similar leadership change at the FBI, though one may be coming given his long-running criticism of the director, Christopher Wray.

“I think he was picked to shake the whole thing and to throw a grenade into DOJ,” said John Fishwick Jr., a former U.S. attorney for the Western District of Virginia, who was nominated by Democratic President Barack Obama. “He’s a flamethrower and that’s what Trump wants.”

Fishwick said Justice Department lawyers he has been in touch with are “concerned about what this is going to mean for them individually.”

But one Justice Department lawyer was less bothered by the change, saying a leadership shakeup could be a welcome reset given the “mistrust from both the left and the right” that the attorney said was justified after a tumultuous stretch of politically charged investigations that have divided public opinion and put federal law enforcement on the defensive.

The FBI and Justice Department, in recent years, have grappled with hot-button investigations including classified information on Hillary Clinton’s private email server when the Democrats’ 2016 presidential nominee was Obama’s secretary of state and potential ties between Russia and Trump’s political campaign that same year. Both became subjects of inspector general reviews.

More recently, a special counsel was named to investigate President Joe Biden’s handling of classified

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information, an inquiry that closed without charges, while a separate special counsel investigation into Trump's retention of top secret documents and efforts to overturn the 2020 election produced federal indictments against Trump that now are in line to be erased.

It is unclear whether Gaetz has enough Republican support in the Senate to be confirmed. Some Republicans have praised his nomination, but several have expressed concern or refused to say publicly yet whether they will support him. Trump has broached the possibility of bypassing the traditional confirmation process by pushing through his nominees while the Senate is in recess.

Gaetz faces continued scrutiny over a federal sex trafficking investigation that ended without criminal charges. Before his resignation from the House on Wednesday, he had been under investigation by the House Ethics Committee, which was examining whether he engaged in sexual misconduct and illicit drug use, accepted improper gifts and tried to obstruct government investigations of his conduct.

House Speaker Mike Johnson said Friday that he will "strongly request" that the House committee not release the results of its investigation, rebuffing senators who are demanding access now that Gaetz has been picked for attorney general.

Gaetz has denied all the allegations. On Friday, he posted on X, formerly Twitter, that "lies were Weaponized" in an effort to try to destroy him.

Justice Department employees were already preparing for major shakeup to the agency's agenda around civil rights and others matters before Trump settled on Gaetz to be the nation's top federal law enforcement officer.

Trump has been known to take a keen interest in the FBI and Justice Department, expecting loyalty from leaders and calling for specific actions. He has railed against what he views as a politically motivated justice system over the cases brought against him by a special counsel. As a candidate, he repeatedly suggested that he would seek revenge on his perceived enemies for his prosecution.

Some career department lawyers leave for the private sector every time there is a new administration, but employees say there could be a dramatic departure of staff in the coming months.

"The department runs on career employees, people who are apolitical in work, and politics aside, if all of these people are so dismayed at the selection of the attorney general that they leave, who will carry out the functions of the department?" said one Justice Department lawyer, who is planning to leave the government.

Chris Mattei, a former federal prosecutor in Connecticut who prosecuted ex-Gov. John Rowland and later ran unsuccessfully for state attorney general as a Democrat, said he has heard a "significant level of concern" about Gaetz over the criminal investigation that Gaetz faced, the House ethics review, a potentially insufficient examination of his background and the prospect that the department could be led by "somebody who is highly compromised" and also may have a "personal vendetta" against it.

## Strike by workers at a casino near the Las Vegas Strip enters 2nd day

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A walkout by hundreds of hospitality workers at a casino near the Las Vegas Strip entered its second day with union members willing to undergo the financial hardships of being out of work as they wait for a new contract.

The work stoppage launched Friday at Virgin Hotels Las Vegas is the first open-ended strike in 22 years for the Culinary Workers Union, the largest labor union in Nevada, with about 60,000 members. Union members were on the picket line again on Saturday.

Workers at the casino also walked off the job for 48 hours earlier this year as negotiations escalated, hoping to pressure Virgin Hotels to agree to a new five-year deal with increased wages and better benefits.

The strike comes a year after casinos up and down the Strip narrowly avoided tens of thousands of hospitality workers walking off the job on the weekend the city was set to host its first Formula One race on the famous boulevard. But agreements were reached just before the union's deadline for a strike, giving workers a roughly 32% salary increase over the life of the contract, including a 10% bump in pay in the first year.

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After the breakthrough deals last November, the Culinary Union quickly reached similar agreements for the rest of its members at major hotel-casinos on the Strip, downtown and at off-Strip properties — with the exception of Virgin Hotels. The contracts on the Strip alone cover more than 40,000 workers.

While the union pays striking workers \$500 per week for picketing shifts for at least five days, union members at the picket line on Friday said that they were expecting financial pain while being out of work.

Lee McNamara, a lead dining room cook, said he took a second job for about eight months to save money in anticipation of the strike.

"A strike is hurtful to everybody, but it was a last resort for us," McNamara said. "We didn't have anything else we could do. The company wasn't coming our way, and they weren't seeing it our way and they haven't really budged much."

Diana Monjaraz, who works in housekeeping, expects hard times until a new contract comes.

"You have to suffer a little bit to win sometimes," Monjaraz said. "You don't get things handed to you right away."

Both the union and Virgin Hotels said negotiations stalled because of disagreements over pay.

"Workers overwhelmingly have chosen a strong Culinary Union contract that guarantees their benefits as the way they want to be protected," said Bethany Khan, a spokesperson for the union. "Hundreds of workers are on strike themselves to win these protections."

Virgin Hotels Las Vegas said it was committed to protecting the jobs of workers by ensuring the continued operation of the property. It also said the union "has bargained in bad faith — repeatedly refusing to engage in meaningful negotiations with Virgin Hotels Las Vegas." Culinary Union members last went on strike in 2002 for 10 days at the Golden Gate hotel-casino in downtown Las Vegas.

## **Kamala Harris raised \$1 billion-plus in defeat. She's still sending persistent appeals to donors**

By BILL BARROW and JOEY CAPPELLETTI Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Kamala Harris and the Democratic Party's prodigious fundraising operation raised more than \$1 billion in her loss to Donald Trump, but the vice president is still pushing donors for more money after the election.

Democrats are sending persistent appeals to Harris supporters without expressly asking them to cover any potential debts, enticing would-be donors instead with other matters: the Republican president-elect's picks for his upcoming administration and a handful of pending congressional contests where ballots are still being tallied.

"The Harris campaign certainly spent more than they raised and is now busy trying to fundraise," said Adrian Hemond, a Democratic strategist from Michigan. He said he was been asked by the campaign after its loss to Trump to help with fundraising.

The party is flooding Harris' lucrative email donor list with near-daily appeals aimed at small-dollar donors — those whose contributions are measured in the hundreds of dollars or less. But Hemond said the postelection effort also includes individual calls to larger donors.

The scramble now underscores the expense involved in a losing effort and the immediate challenges facing Democrats as they try to maintain a baseline political operation to counter the Trump administration and prepare for the 2026 midterm elections. It also calls into question how Democrats used their resources, including hosting events with musicians and other celebrities as well as running ads in a variety of nontraditional spaces such as Las Vegas' domed Sphere.

Internally, the apparent cash crunch is being blamed for the campaign's decision to stop paying many senior staff as of Saturday, even those initially told they would be paid through the end of the year. Facing internal frustration, the campaign notified those affected in recent days that their health insurance would be covered through the end of the year, according to one person with direct knowledge of the situation who spoke on condition of anonymity to share internal discussions.

Another person familiar with the fundraising effort and the Democratic National Committee's finances said

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the Harris campaign's expected shortfall is a relatively small sum compared to the breadth of the campaign, which reported having \$119 million cash on hand in mid-October before the Nov. 5 election. That person was not authorized to publicly discuss the campaign's finances and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Patrick Stauffer, chief financial officer for the Harris campaign, said in a statement that "there were no outstanding debts or bills overdue" on Election Day and there "will be no debt" listed for either the campaign or the DNC on their next financial disclosures, which are due to the Federal Election Commission in December.

The person familiar with the campaign and DNC's finances said it was impossible to know just where Harris' balance sheet stands currently. The campaign still is getting invoices from vendors for events and other services from near the end of the race. The campaign also has outstanding receipts; for example, from media organizations that must pay for their employees' spots on Air Force Two as it traveled for the vice president's campaign activities.

Within hours of Trump picking Florida Republican Matt Gaetz for attorney general on Wednesday, Harris' supporters got an appeal for more money for "the Harris Fight Fund," citing the emerging Trump team and its agenda.

Gaetz, who resigned his House seat after the announcement, "will weaponize the Justice Department to protect themselves," the email said. It said Democrats "must stop them from executing Trump's plans for revenge and retribution" and noted that "even his Republican allies are shocked by this" Cabinet choice.

Another appeal followed Friday in Harris' name.

"The light of America's promise will burn bright as long as we keep fighting," the email said, adding that "there are still a number of critical races across the country that are either too close to call or with the margin of recounts or certain legal challenges."

The emails do not mention Harris' campaign or its finances.

The "Harris Fight Fund" is a postelection label for the "Harris Victory Fund," which is the joint fundraising operation of Harris' campaign, the DNC and state Democratic parties. Despite the language in the recent appeals, most rank-and-file donors' contributions would be routed to the national party, unless a donor took the time to contact DNC directly and have the money go directly to Harris or a state party.

The fine print at the bottom of the solicitation explains that the first \$41,300 from a person and first \$15,000 from a political action committee would be allocated to the DNC. The next \$3,300 from a person or \$5,000 from a PAC would go to the Harris for President "Recount Account." Anything beyond that threshold, up to maximum contribution limits that can reach into the hundreds of thousands of dollars, would be spread across state parties.

Officials at the DNC, which is set to undergo a leadership change early next year, indicated the party has no plans to cover any shortfall for Harris but could not explicitly rule out the party shifting any money to the campaign.

## **NYC politicians call on Whoopi Goldberg to apologize for saying bakery denied order over politics**

By PHILIP MARCELO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City politicians are calling on Whoopi Goldberg to apologize for suggesting on air that a local bakery had declined to make "The View" co-host a batch of desserts for her birthday because of her political beliefs.

Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella was among the local leaders and supporters who joined Holtermann's Bakery owner Jill Holtermann at a news conference Friday in front of the 145-year-old institution in the city borough of Staten Island.

The Republican said the actor and comedian had "besmirched and defamed" the bakery by "making stuff up to suit their needs."

"Not everybody wakes up everyday thinking about politics," he said. "A good business person doesn't care about anyone's politics."

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Fossella explained that the bakery's decades-old boiler had malfunctioned and had to be replaced, so the store didn't want to commit to making a large order it couldn't fulfill.

"Just say you're sorry so we can put this behind us," he said without naming Goldberg.

Holtermann, speaking briefly, said she has been overwhelmed by the support as the bakery has been flooded with orders in response to the public spat.

"I know how hard my family has worked to keep this business alive," she said. "I wish my father was here today to see this."

Representatives for Goldberg didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment Saturday.

Goldberg is an outspoken liberal who has recently refused to say President-elect Donald Trump's name on the show.

The flap started Wednesday when Goldberg celebrated her 69th birthday on the ABC talk show by sharing a tray of Charlotte Russe — small sponge cakes topped with whipped cream and a cherry that she said were her mother's favorite dessert growing up.

But as the co-hosts were munching on the treats, she mentioned that getting them had taken some work.

"Now, I should tell you, Charlotte Russe has no political leanings, and the place that made these refused to make them for me," she said as the audience gasped and one of the co-hosts spit out the cake in joking protest. "They said that their ovens had gone down, but folks went and got them anyway, which is why I'm not telling you who made them."

"It's not because I'm a woman, but perhaps they did not like my politics," Goldberg continued. "But that's OK because you know what? Listen, this is my mother's celebration. Pick these up and celebrate with me and my mom. Thank you, everyone, for celebrating my birthday today."

Holtermann later confirmed it was her bakery and its distinctive-looking treats that Goldberg called out on air, but she maintained it wasn't about politics but equipment issues.

The actor, who is originally from New York, nevertheless took to Instagram Thursday to double down on her claim.

"It does seem a little odd that when we called a few weeks before my birthday and we were told they couldn't process the order for my birthday because of an equipment failure," Goldberg said in the follow-up video. "But somehow they were able to accept an order of a different 48 of the same dessert when somebody else called without using my name."

The actor ended the video saying the issue didn't spoil her special day.

"It's all okay, y'all, because I enjoyed my delicious dessert and I had a happy, sweet birthday," Goldberg said. "Nothing better than that."

## Fire engulfs hospital ward in northern India, killing 10 newborn babies

By BISWAJĒET BANERJĒE Associated Press

LUCKNOW, India (AP) — A fire tore through a neonatal intensive care unit in a hospital in northern India, killing 10 newborn babies and injuring 16 others, authorities said.

The fire occurred late Friday at a hospital in Jhansi city in India's Uttar Pradesh state. Officials said the blaze spread quickly through the ward, where 55 infants were being treated. Forty-five babies were rescued and are receiving medical care, said Bimal Kumar Dubey, a local official.

An initial investigation points to lapses in safety protocols, including expired fire extinguishers and non-functional fire alarms, which officials say delayed rescue efforts. Authorities are conducting a thorough probe to determine the cause of the fire and those responsible.

Brajesh Pathak, the deputy chief minister of the state, visited the hospital and met with families on Saturday. He pledged government support for the victims' families and promised a thorough investigation.

"We will identify those responsible for this tragedy and take strict action. The government stands with families during this difficult time," he said.

He added that DNA tests were being carried out after which the bodies of the babies will be handed over to their families.



The fire spread quickly through the neonatal ward. When the firefighters arrived, the ward was engulfed in flames and plumes of smoke. Rescuers had to break through windows to reach the newborn babies. Eyewitnesses said the rescue operation began about 30 minutes after the fire erupted, delaying evacuation efforts.

Praminder Singh Chandel, a paramedic at the hospital, said that since the ward was located on the ground floor, firefighters managed to rescue several newborn babies. The ward was divided into two — with one unit closer to the hospital entrance. The babies located there were the most affected by the fire, with some dying due to severe burns.

Shocked and grieving family members camped out near the hospital on Saturday demanding answers over what they believe were poor safety measures.

While fire alarms had been installed in the intensive care unit, parents and witnesses said they did not activate during the blaze. Hospital staff acted only after they saw signs of smoke and fire.

"If the safety alarm had worked, we could have acted sooner and saved more lives," said Naresh Kumar, a parent who lost his baby.

Akhtar Hussain, whose son was rescued and is receiving treatment in an adjacent ward, agreed that the tragedy could have been prevented if the hospital had better safety protocols.

Pathak, the state official, said the hospital's fire safety systems were last inspected in February, followed by a mock drill in June.

Fires are common in India, where building laws and safety norms are often flouted by builders and residents. Poor maintenance and lack of proper firefighting equipment in the country also leads to deaths.

## **Jake Paul, 27, beats 58-year-old Mike Tyson as the hits don't match the hype**

By SCHUYLER DIXON AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — The boos from a crowd wanting more action were growing again when Jake Paul dropped his gloves before the final bell and bowed toward 58-year-old Mike Tyson.

Paying homage to one of the biggest names in boxing history didn't do much for the estimated 72,000 fans who filled the home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys on Friday night.

Paul won an eight-round unanimous decision over Tyson as the hits didn't match the hype in a fight between the 27-year-old YouTuber-turned-boxer and the former heavyweight champion in his first sanctioned pro bout in almost 20 years.

All the hate from the prefight buildup was gone, replaced by boos from bewildered fans hoping for more from a fight that drew plenty of questions about its legitimacy long beforehand.

The fight wasn't close on the judge's cards, with one giving Paul an 80-72 edge and the other two calling it 79-73.

"Let's give it up for Mike," Paul said in the ring, not getting much response from a crowd that started filing out before the decision was announced. "He's the greatest to ever do it. I look up to him. I'm inspired by him."

Tyson came after Paul immediately after the opening bell and landed a couple of quick punches but didn't try much else the rest of the way.

Even fewer rounds than the normal 10 or 12 and two-minute rounds instead of three, along with heavier gloves designed to lessen the power of punches, couldn't do much to generate action.

Paul was more aggressive after the quick burst from Tyson in the opening seconds, but the punching wasn't very efficient. There were quite a few wild swings and misses.

"I was trying to hurt him a little bit," said Paul, who is 11-1 with seven knockouts. "I was scared he was going to hurt me. I was trying to hurt him. I did my best. I did my best."

Tyson mostly sat back and waited for Paul to come to him, with a few exceptions. It was quite the contrast to the co-main event, another slugfest between Katie Taylor and Amanda Serrano in which Taylor kept her undisputed super lightweight championship with another disputed decision.

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Paul, who said an ankle injury limited his sparring sessions in the final weeks of training camp, said he eased up starting in about the third round because he thought Tyson was tired and vulnerable.

"I wanted to give the fans a show, but I didn't want to hurt somebody that didn't need to be hurt," Paul said.

It was the first sanctioned fight since 2005 for Tyson, who fought Roy Jones Jr. in a much more entertaining exhibition in 2020. Paul started fighting a little more than four years ago.

"I didn't prove nothing to anybody, only to myself," Tyson said when asked what it meant to complete the fight. "I'm not one of those guys that looks to please the world. I'm just happy with what I can do."

The fight was originally scheduled for July 20 but had to be postponed when Tyson was treated for a stomach ulcer after falling ill on a flight. His record is now 50-7 with 44 knockouts.

Tyson slapped Paul on the face during the weigh-in a night before the fight, and they traded insults in several of the hype events, before and after the postponement.

The hate was long gone by the end of the anticlimactic fight.

"I have so much respect for him," Paul said. "That violence, war thing between us, like after he slapped me, I wanted to be aggressive and take him down and knock him out and all that stuff. That kind of went away as the rounds went on."

The fight set a Texas record for combat sports with a gate of nearly \$18 million, according to organizers, and Netflix had problems with the feed in the streaming platform's first live combat sports event. Netflix has more than 280 million subscribers globally.

"This is the biggest event," Paul said. "Over 120 million people on Netflix. We crashed the site."

Among the celebrities on hand were basketball Hall of Famer Shaquille O'Neal and former NFL star Rob Gronkowski, along with Cowboys owner Jerry Jones.

Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis, two foes from Tyson's heyday, greeted him in his locker room before the fight.

Tyson infamously bit Holyfield on the ear in a 1997 bout, and he appeared to have one of his gloves in his mouth several times during the Paul bout. He was asked if he had problem with his mouthpiece.

"I have a habit of biting my gloves," Tyson said. "I have a biting fixation."

"I've heard about that," the interview responded.

According to reports, Paul's payday was \$40 million, compared with \$20 million for Tyson. Paul mentioned his number during a promotional event over the summer. Tyson has a history of legal and financial troubles but had said he didn't take the fight for money.

Mario Barrios retained the WBC welterweight title in a draw with Abel Ramos on the undercard. Barrios was in control early before Ramos dominated the middle rounds. Each had a knockdown in the 12-round bout.

It was the first fight for the 29-year-old Barrios since he was appointed the WBC welterweight champ when Terence Crawford started the process of moving up from the 147-pound class.

Barrios, who is 29-2-1, won the interim WBC title with a unanimous decision over Yordenis Ugás last year. The 33-year-old Ramos is 28-6-3.

## From 'The Exorcist' to 'Heretic,' why holy horror can be a hit with moviegoers

By HOLLY MEYER Associated Press

In the new horror movie, "Heretic," Hugh Grant plays a diabolical religious skeptic who traps two scared missionaries in his house and tries to violently shake their faith.

What starts more as a religious studies lecture slowly morphs into a gory escape room for the two door-knocking members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, underscoring just how well-suited religion can be for terrifying and entertaining thrill-seeking moviegoers.

"I think it is a fascinating religion-related horror as it raises questions about the institution of religion, the patriarchy of religion," said Stacey Abbott, a film professor at Northumbria University in Newcastle,

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England, whose research interests include horror, vampires and zombies.

"But it also questions the nature of faith and confronts the audience with a debate about choice, faith and free will."

Horror has had a decades-long attraction to religion, Christianity especially in the U.S., with the 1970s "The Exorcist" and "The Omen" being prime examples. Beyond the jump scares, the supernatural elements of horror and its sublime nature pair easily with belief and spirituality — and religion's exploration of big existential questions, Abbott said. Horror is subversive. Real-life taboo topics and cultural anxieties are fair game.

"It is a rich canvas for social critique and it can also be a space to reassert traditional values," Abbott said in an email.

Death, demons and other tough topics religion and horror address

Religions and horror tackle similar questions about what it means to be human — how people relate to one another and the world, said Brandon Grafius, a Biblical studies professor at Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit and an expert on Christianity and horror.

"So much of religion is about how we grapple with the reality of death. ... Helping us make meaning even in the face of that reality," said Grafius. "Horror really serves that same process, as a way to reflect on death."

Not only does Christianity translate well for U.S. audiences, it has a lot of raw material for moviemakers to work with, he said.

"Christianity emerged as a strongly dualistic religion, where forces are either good or evil," Grafius said. "Even though the U.S. is moving away from being a nation dominated by Christianity, we still have that dualism deep in our bones."

Among the more recent religion-themed horror films, "The Conjuring" franchise, including "The Nun" movies, show paranormal investigators battling demons, Abbott said, while "The First Omen" and "Immaculate" offer critiques of patriarchal attempts to control women's bodies.

"These films seem to be a direct response to many of the debates that are happening in the U.S. these days," Abbott wrote in her email. "These different approaches to religion in horror illustrate the way in which the genre is engaging with a very live debate around religion or more specifically how religion is being used to assert control (which is what 'Heretic' is all about)."

Grant, who plays Mr. Reed in the new movie, told The Associated Press that he shared some of his "Heretic" character's skepticism, although not necessarily from a religious perspective:

"There is a part of me — probably a not very attractive part of me — that likes to smash people's idols. Anyone I feel is being a bit too smug or too pretentious, I don't like to see that. I like to just take them apart a little bit."

Horror can be challenging. It acts as a dark mirror that can reveal things people don't want to admit and fears they don't want to face, said the Rev. Ryan Duns, a Jesuit priest and theology chair at Marquette University in Milwaukee.

If done well, both religion and horror are unsettling, he said.

"Religion, when it unsettles, asks us am I living up to the person I have been called to be or am I complicit in systems of violence, oppression, injustice, going with the status quo," said Duns, who wrote the "Theology of Horror" and teaches a course on it as well. "In the horror movie, the monster threatens normality — threatens to destroy our status quo."

But they deviate from there. In horror, there is no way out, Duns said. He pointed out that defeating a movie's monster doesn't prevent sequels, hence "Jaws 2," "Terrifier 3," "Return of the Killer Tomatoes" and more.

In Christianity, it is Jesus and the Gospels threatening the status quo, but they offer hope and a way out, he said.

Ti West mixes religion into the narrative of his new movie, "MaXXXine," a horror film about an adult film star trying to break into mainstream movies. West, who also wrote and directed "The Sacrament," a horror movie inspired by the Jonestown Massacre in 1978, said he doesn't actively set out to tell stories

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with prominent religion narratives, but religion can be ripe for mining.

"It kind of depends on the story," West said, "Anything with morality wrapped up into it, they kind of go hand in hand at times. And it's like religion is such a major part of every culture everywhere that ... I feel like sometimes it's such a major part of life that gets put aside in movies."

When religion works in horror — and when it doesn't

Beyond poor storytelling, the mixing of horror and religion can go wrong if the movie is meant to offend the believers of a particular faith, said Lisa Morton, an award-winning horror author whose written books on Halloween and paranormal history.

But it can really go right. Morton's all-time favorite movie is "The Exorcist," a holy horror icon and a peak example of the genre. "The Omen" followed it.

"All of the contemporary bloodlines kind of trace back through those two," said Morton. "It's interesting how they keep getting rebooted over and over."

Abbott agrees religion should be portrayed respectfully, just as she expects accuracy and respect for science in movies, though not every detail needs to be perfect. "But some horror films, like exorcism movies, are built upon the fact that they are drawing upon real rituals and then taking them to a more extreme conclusion," she said.

Osgood Perkins, who wrote and directed "Longlegs," a horror movie about an occultist serial killer, invented the religious material in his film, piecing together whatever felt right from his imagination and real life.

"I just make it up," said Perkins. "But then you catch hold of something like the Bible verse and you're like, 'Wow, this is really rich.' Beasts coming out of the sea with heads and horns and crowns and things like that. I didn't make that up."

For Duns, an accurate portrayal of religious rituals and symbols — without over doing it — can add heft to a scene.

"The rituals of the churches have been stylized and lived out for centuries," Duns said. "When movies are silly or are sloppy with it, the power of the gesture and the power of the symbols are lost."

## From New Jersey to Hawaii, Trump made inroads in surprising places in his path to the White House

By MIKE CATALINI, PHILIP MARCELO AND AUDREY McAVOY Associated Press

TOTOWA, N.J. (AP) — Patrons at Murph's Tavern are toasting not just Donald Trump's return to the presidency but the fact that he carried their northern New Jersey county, a longtime Democratic stronghold in the shadow of New York City.

To Maria Russo, the woman pouring the drinks, the reasons behind Trump's win were as clear in the runup to the election as the shot glasses lined up on the high-top tables. A mother raising two kids on her own in Passaic County on a barkeep's income, she saw it not just in light of her own situation but those of the people around her.

"Anybody can see what's going on, you know? The prices of everything. And me being a single mom?" she said. "I notice that when I go shopping — just like everybody else does."

Although Trump's win once again reflected a deep political divide across the United States, he made inroads in surprising places. From the suburbs of New Jersey to Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's New York City congressional district to reliably liberal Hawaii, Trump gained ground even as support for Kamala Harris, the Democratic presidential nominee, dropped off.

AP VoteCast, a far-reaching survey of more than 120,000 voters nationwide, found that Trump made substantial gains among Black and Latino men, younger voters, and nonwhite voters without a college degree, compared with his 2020 performance.

Common themes emerged in the AP VoteCast data. Voters were most likely to see the economy and immigration as top issues facing the country. More voters said their family's financial situation was "falling behind," compared with 2020. When they voted, Trump supporters were thinking about high prices for

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gas, groceries and other goods and the situation at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Even in Hawaii, dominated by Democrats since the 1950s when labor unions organized sugar and pineapple plantation workers who built the state's middle class, Republicans had commanding victories.

In West Oahu, for example, where many plantations have given way to suburban development, school teacher Julie Reyes Oda, a Republican, flipped one state House district in the heavily blue-collar, working-class town of Ewa Beach. In the district next door, state Rep. Diamond Garcia held on to a seat he turned Republican two years ago. Democrats still control supermajorities in both chambers, but the GOP's nine House and three Senate seats are the most the party's had in the Legislature since 2004.

Newly elected Republican state Sen. Samantha DeCorte said voters in her Waianae district west of Honolulu have long been frustrated by a lack of resources for basic needs such as public safety. Residents feel like they have to look over their shoulders when they are pumping gas, DeCorte said.

"They don't want to go to the grocery store at night because they have to walk back to their car in the parking lot," she said.

Economic concerns, including the high cost of housing, may have figured prominently in the thinking of some Hawaii voters. On an island where the median cost of a single-family home tops \$1.1 million, many people, including large numbers of Native Hawaiians, have been forced to move to the continental U.S.

In New Jersey, AP VoteCast showed that Trump grew his support among nonwhite suburban voters and younger women, in addition to the demographic swings that showed up nationally. In New York, the survey showed especially large movement toward Trump among nonwhite men without a college education, although a majority of that group still supported Harris, the vice president.

About half of New Jersey voters said Trump would better handle the economy, according to AP VoteCast, while about one-third said this about Harris, giving him a slightly bigger advantage on the issue there compared with national numbers.

Few places better demonstrated Trump's strength in traditionally blue areas than Passaic County, where Trump became the first Republican presidential candidate to carry the county in more than three decades.

Interviews with voters and experts suggest Trump's hammering on the economy influenced how people voted or whether they stayed home.

"Those people taking the subway into Manhattan, they live in a very different world than those people who live in Manhattan," said Richard F. Bense, a political historian at Cornell University. "They live in very different worlds in terms of the pressures that they feel, challenges that they feel in life, and they don't want to be preached to."

Sebastian Giraldo, a member of the Air Force stationed in Del Rio, Texas, who was home in Queens on leave recently, said it was a "no brainer" to vote for Trump despite having supported Democrat Joe Biden four years ago.

"Just the current trajectory of the United States these last four years have obviously been downhill," he said. "I mean, for everybody, I think it's been harder to live. The grocery shopping, buying clothes and gasoline. Just living."

Ramon Ramirez-Baez, a 66-year-old writer and community activist in the Queens borough of New York, said he voted for Trump and encouraged others to do so despite being a registered Democrat who had voted for Democrats in the past four presidential elections and even ran unsuccessfully for the Legislature as a Democrat.

The native of the Dominican Republic, who came to Queens more than three decades ago, blamed Biden administration immigration policies for the explosion of prostitution, illegal brothels and unlicensed food carts that have bedeviled his neighborhood in recent years.

The White House's position on the war in Gaza peeled away some Muslim voters in key swing states such as Michigan, and it cost them elsewhere, too.

Selaedin Maksut, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations in New Jersey, said he voted for Green Party candidate Jill Stein over Harris, though he backed other Democrats.

"It's a protest vote," he said. "We're not going to just give you our vote."

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In New Jersey, U.S. Rep. Andy Kim, who previously captured a House district claimed by Trump in 2020, carried Passaic County in his winning Senate race. It shows, he said in an interview, that people see local and state issues differently than national ones. He said voters have told him they appreciate his focus on "broken politics."

"If these are people who are distrusting of government, I think my message is saying, like, look I am also frustrated with how things are happening."

Ocasio-Cortez, like Kim, invited split-ticket voters to weigh in on social media about how they could back both Trump and her. That resonated across the Hudson River in New Jersey, where John Coiro, a patron at Murph's and a Trump supporter, said he respected her for asking the question.

Trump's performance could force a reckoning among Democrats in places where they are accustomed to winning regularly.

Ralph Caputo, a former state legislator from northern New Jersey, said Trump, unlike Democrats, connected with different groups of voters. Trump was sharper, too, Caputo said, because he had been tested in the primaries, something Harris did not face because of Biden's late withdrawal from the race in July.

"Those days are over where you just put somebody up for election and think they're going to win because they're on a Democratic ballot," Caputo said. "They can't win automatically."

## Today in History: November 17, the NFL's infamous 'Heidi Game'

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Nov. 17, the 322nd day of 2024. There are 44 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Nov. 17, 1968, the last minutes of a tense NFL matchup on NBC between the New York Jets and the Oakland Raiders were preempted by the children's film "Heidi." The network received thousands of calls from angry viewers and formally apologized.

Also on this date:

In 1800, Congress held its first session in the partially completed U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

In 1869, the Suez Canal opened in Egypt.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon told a gathering of Associated Press managing editors at a televised news conference in Orlando, Florida: "People have got to know whether or not their president is a crook. Well, I'm not a crook."

In 1989, an estimated 10,000-15,000 Czechoslovakian students demonstrated in Prague against Communist rule; hundreds of thousands joined the protests in the following days. Dubbed the "Velvet Revolution" for its nonviolent nature, the protests led to the resignation of the Communist Party's leadership on Nov. 28.

In 1997, 62 people, most of them foreign tourists, were killed when militants opened fire at the Temple of Hatshepsut (haht-shehp-SOOT') in Luxor, Egypt; the attackers were killed by police.

In 2003, Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Austrian-born actor who had become one of America's biggest movie stars of the 1980s and '90s, was sworn in as the 38th governor of California.

In 2020, President Donald Trump fired the nation's top election security official, Christopher Krebs, who had refuted Trump's unsubstantiated claims of electoral fraud and vouched for the integrity of the vote.

Today's Birthdays: Film director Martin Scorsese (skor-SEH'-see) is 82. Actor-model Lauren Hutton is 81. Actor-director Danny DeVito is 80. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Jim Boeheim is 80. "Saturday Night Live" producer Lorne Michaels is 80. Basketball Hall of Famer Elvin Hayes is 79. Film director Roland Joffe is 79. Former House Speaker John Boehner (BAY'-nur) is 75. Actor Stephen Root is 73. TV host-entertainer RuPaul is 64. Actor Dylan Walsh is 61. TV host-model Daisy Fuentes is 58. R&B singer Ronnie DeVoe (New Edition; Bell Biv DeVoe) is 57. Actor Rachel McAdams is 46.