

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Sunday, Nov. 24

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Congregational meeting, League Pie Auction; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 6 p.m.

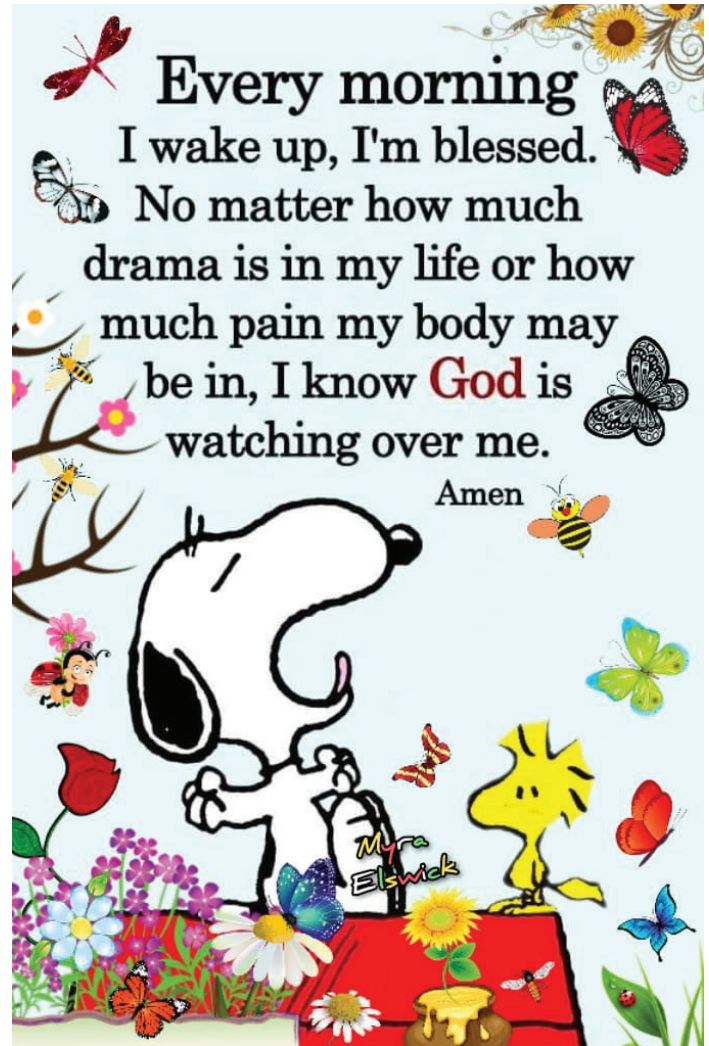
St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m., and at Zion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

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

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

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

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



## Monday, Nov. 25

Senior Menu: Spanish rice, green beans, peaches, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast sliders.

School Lunch: French bread pizza, peas.

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

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

First allowable day for girls basketball practice  
JH GBB at Britton (7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.)

Fall Sports Awards Night, 7 p.m., GHS Gym

Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, potluck at noon

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

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## FROSTY CLUE

I/My.....

24. Favorite winter pastime is bowling



## NSU Men's Basketball

### **Men's Basketball Drops Road Contest to Jamestown**

Jamestown, N.D. – The Northern State University men's basketball team dropped their first of two contests against the University of Jamestown this season. The Jimmies defeated the Wolves by a score of 79-64.

#### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 64, UJ 79

Records: NSU 1-4, UJ 3-4

Attendance: N/A

#### HOW IT HAPPENED

The Wolves tallied 25 points in the first and 39 points in the second, while the Jimmies scored 35 points in the first and 44 points in the second

Northern shot 41.7% from the floor, 20.0% from the 3-point line, and 76.9% from the foul line

They recorded 30 rebounds, eight assists, seven steals, four made 3-pointers, and one block; scoring 36 points in the paint and 12 points off the bench

Both team suffered 13 turnovers in the contest, however Jamestown capitalized scoring 23 points off turnovers

NSU was led by Kwat Abdelkarim and Tobi Obiora with 18 points each; career highs for both Wolves

Obiora shot 70.0% from the floor, while Abdelkarim shot 53.8% and led the team with eight rebounds and three assists

Ethan Russell, James Glenn, and Kaleb Mitchell each grabbed three rebounds, while Obiora added five

#### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Kwat Abdelkarim: 18 points, 53.8 field goal%, 8 rebounds, 3 assists

Tobi Obiora: 18 points, 70.0 field goal%, 5 rebounds

#### UP NEXT

Northern opens their NSIC slate at home on Tuesday, November 26 against UMary. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m. in Wachs Arena and fans are encouraged to bring canned food items to the contest.

## NSU Volleyball

### **No. 2 St. Cloud State Too Much for Northern in NSIC Tournament Rematch**

St. Cloud, Minn. – The No. 18 Northern State University volleyball team fell to No. 2 St. Cloud State on Saturday evening in the semifinal round of the NSIC Tournament. The Wolves fell in straight sets to the NSIC Champions and host Huskies.

#### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 0, SCSU 3

Records: NSU 21-7, SCSU 26-2

Attendance: 2111

#### HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern dropped the match with set scores of 25-21, 25-15, and 25-19

They hit .135 in the loss, recording 29 kills, 28 assists, 38 digs, six blocks, and five aces

The St. Cloud State offense fired on all cylinders with two Huskies in double figures and a .268 team attack percentage

Hanna Thompson and Natalia Szybinska led the team with seven jills a piece, followed by Morissen Samuels with six

Keri Walker dished out 26 assists and was second on the team with two blocks, alongside Samuels and Victoria Persha

On defense, Abby Brooks led the team at the net with three blocks, while Abby Meister tallied ten digs Reese Johnson led the team from the service line with four aces, while Mia Hinsz added the fifth

#### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Keri Walker: 26 assists, 7 digs, 2 blocks

Hanna Thompson: 7 kills, 1 block, 1 dig

Natalia Szybinska: 7 kills, 1 dig

#### UP NEXT

Northern sat ninth in last week's NCAA Central Region Rankings. Heading into the selection show, NSU holds a 1-1 record with a win over Southwest Minnesota State and the loss to the Huskies. The NCAA Volleyball selection show will be streamed online on Monday, November 25 at 6:30 p.m. (CT) on NCAA.com. The top eight teams in the region will advance, with automatic bids are granted to the winners of the MIAA, GAC and NSIC postseason tournaments.

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Pray for the  
GRENZ FAMILY

Serving in East Asia



For the Worth of the Lamb

Daniel and Karla

Moriah, Zadok, Miriam  
Jael, Elicora, Ezra

Contending Prayer

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## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying:

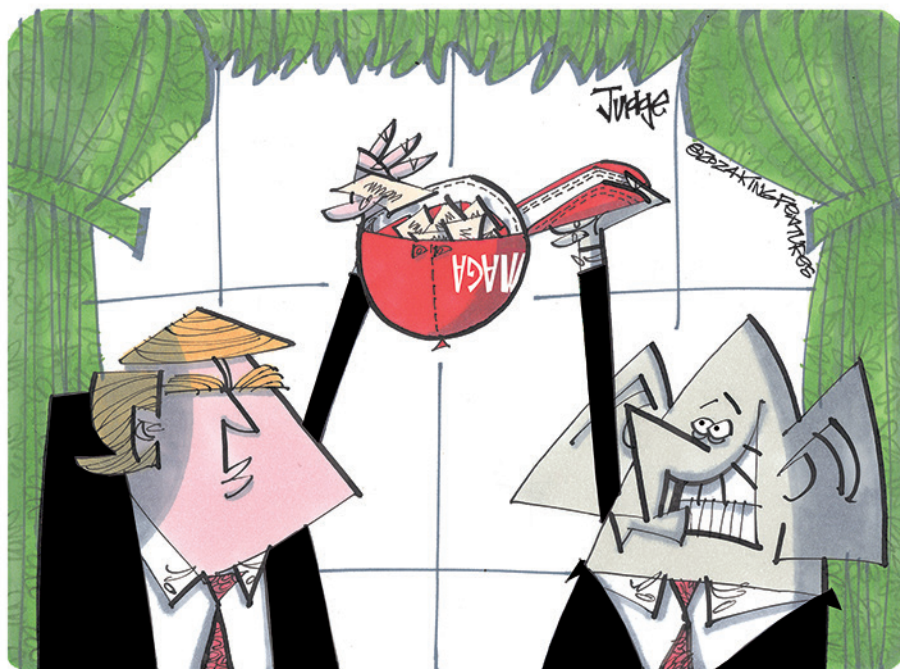
“Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever.

REVELATION 7: 11,12



Woodcut from Chaucer's Canterbury Tales (1484)

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DONALD TRUMP PICKS HIS STAFF

## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Which book of the Bible (KJV) mentions the word “thanksgiving” the most times at eight? *Genesis, Nehemiah, Psalms, Isaiah*

2. In 2 Timothy 3:1 - 2, what human qualities does Paul list as being signs of the last days? *Adulterers, Sun worshipers, Renegades, Unthankful people*

3. From Psalms 106:1: “O give thanks unto the Lord; for his \_\_\_\_\_ endureth for ever.” *Love, Good, Mercy, Spirit*

4. From 1 Thessalonians 5:18: “In every thing give thanks: for this is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.” *Power, Will, Gratitude, Travail*

5. From Leviticus 22, a sacrifice of thanksgiving is most meaningful when it is ...? *Sincere, Often, At your own will, Extravagant*

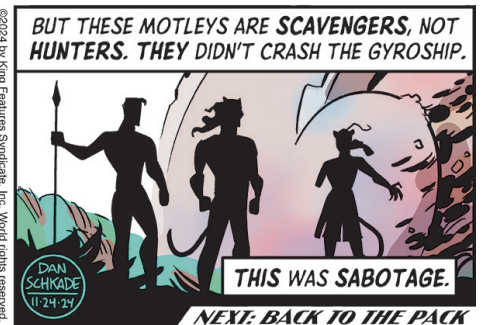
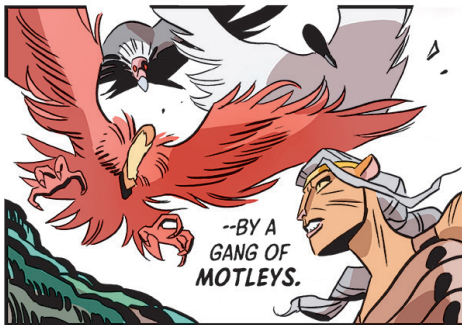
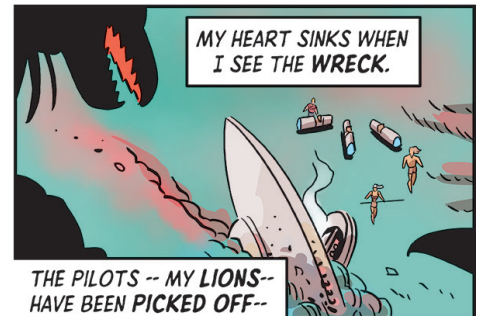
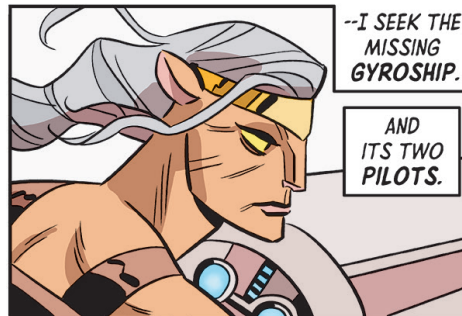
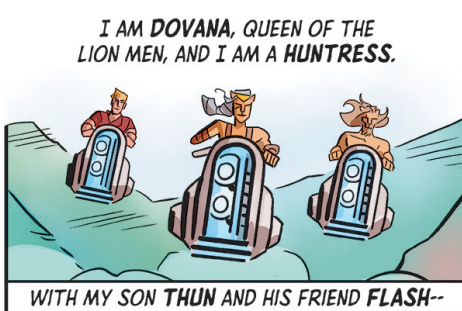
6. Where was Jonah when he prayed with the voice of thanksgiving? *Fish’s belly, Aboard ship, In the wilderness, Mountaintop*

ANSWERS: 1) Psalms, 2) Unthankful people, 3) Mercy, 4) Will, 5) At your own will, 6) Fish’s belly

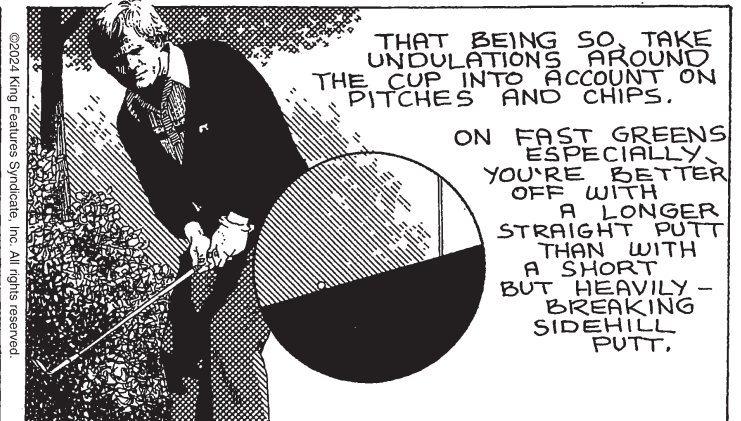
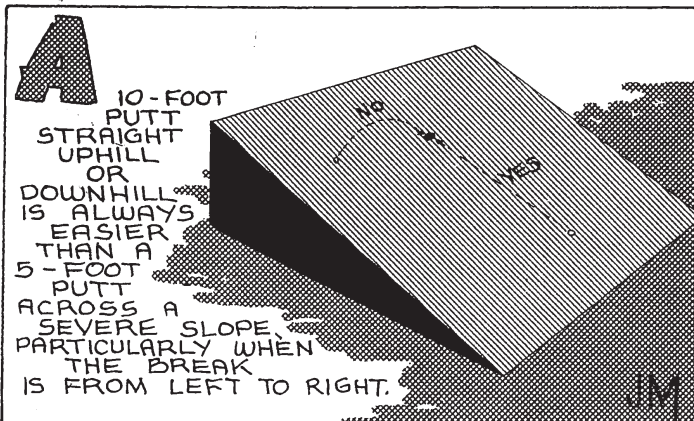
*Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey’s subscribersite at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy).*

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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS







## Rheumatoid Arthritis Patient Should Continue Biweekly Injections

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm a 67-year-old healthy male, but I do take Humira for rheumatoid arthritis (RA). It does a wonderful job for me with no side effects. It does such a good job that I can periodically extend the time between injections, such as one every three weeks instead of the recommended dose every two weeks. I can even go as long as six months between injections without noticing much of the RA symptoms.

My rheumatologist is aware of this and encourages me to use the lesser amount if I still get relief. My quandary is that I was recently talking to my gastroenterologist about Humira, and he said that they use a very similar drug for gastrointestinal issues. But apparently, you aren't supposed to

stop taking it consecutively because the body will become immune to the drug, and the drug can lose its effectiveness.

Naturally, I don't want to lose the great relief I am lucky to be getting, but I also know it's a strong drug. It seems that the less I take of it, the better. -- J.C.

ANSWER: I share your gastroenterologist's concern. He may be thinking of a similar medication, vedolizumab (Entyvio). When this drug is stopped in someone with Crohn's disease, it will cause a flare-up in about half of the cases within six months. In a third of them, the medication will no longer be effective.

The situation is similar with adalimumab (Humira), as there is the possibility of a relapse if you stop it entirely. Taking it every three weeks led to a flare-up in 36% of people who had their disease well-controlled for years. The researchers were unable to identify any way to predict who would flare up. Restarting Humira regained control for over half of the study participants -- but not everybody.

I do understand that these are powerful medicines with side effects. Even if you aren't noticing any, many people will, and there can be very serious side effects to many organs. Fortunately, these are uncommon, and in most cases, it is far better to stay on the medicine, as long as you are being monitored.

As a medical student, I remember seeing what RA looked like before we had effective medications such as methotrexate and TNF inhibitors like Humira. Years of inflammation caused terrible hand deformities, mostly in the women I saw. Since you aren't having any side effects, and it is working well, I don't recommend the three-week dosing -- and certainly not six months between doses.

\*\*\*

DR. ROACH WRITES: A recent column on hair loss and thyroid disease prompted many readers to write me with their experiences. One reader noted that increasing protein in their diet seemed to slow down hair loss and even cause some regrowth. Another reader recommended biotin. I often recommend this as a trial, despite a lack of good evidence that it works. Biotin is a B-type vitamin that is very safe, although it can interfere with a lab assay when it comes to thyroid levels and other hormone levels.

Note that both hair loss and thyroid disease are very common, and it is not always the case that thyroid disease causes hair loss.

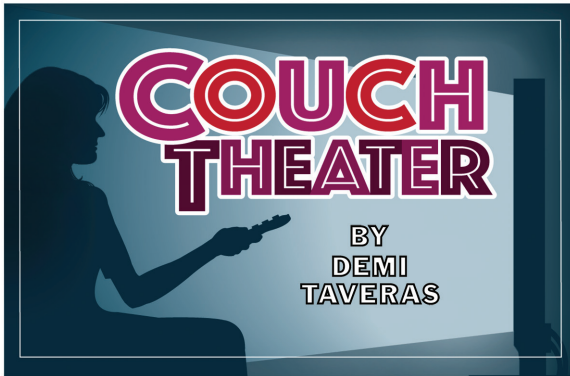
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).

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**Nathalie Emmanuel and Giancarlo Esposito star in "Megalopolis."** (Courtesy of MovieStillsDB )

"Saturday Night" (R) -- Director Jason Reitman ("Ghostbusters: Afterlife") takes on this biographical-drama film that centers around the premiere night of NBC's "Saturday Night," which would later be famously known as "Saturday Night Live." The film's ensemble cast is hefty, full of names like

Willem Dafoe, Finn Wolfhard, Dylan O'Brien, and Kaia Gerber, but Gabriel LaBelle leads the film as none other than the creator of "SNL" himself, Lorne Michaels. Viewers get to watch as Michaels nervously attempts to rally his dysfunctional cast together for the pilot, while merciless executives wait in the wings and expect the show to flop majorly. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Outer Banks: Season 4, Part 2" (TV-MA) -- The second part of the latest season of "Outer Banks" is out now, completing the fourth season since the show's inception in 2020. During the first half of the season, our favorite group of Pogues managed to spend all of the earnings they spent three seasons trying to locate, while simultaneously diving headfirst into a new treasure hunt. JJ received some seriously shocking news, and Rafe, of course, is still up to no good trying to get his hands on some money. What awaits in the second half of the season will leave you on the edge of your seat, as the Pogues try to track the mysterious Blue Crown all the way to Morocco. This time, though, one of our dear Pogues won't be returning. (Netflix)

"Megalopolis" (R) -- The latest film from legendary Francis Ford Coppola ("The Godfather" trilogy) has quite a lore behind its creation. While Coppola originally conceptualized the idea for the film in 1977, the film spent decades in development hell and was only brought out of it when Coppola was able to put \$120 million of his own money toward the film. He also shot the film in an experimental style with lots of last-minute add-ins that cost him several of his crew members, including the art department and visual effects team. In the film, Adam Driver ("Ferrari") portrays Cesar Catilina, a genius architect in the futuristic city of New Rome who can stop time. However, Cesar has made many enemies throughout his time in New Rome, including new mayor Franklyn Cicero (Giancarlo Esposito). So, when a romantic connection ensues between Cesar and the mayor's daughter, Cesar's enemies triple, and his vision for the future of New Rome hangs in the balance. Out now to rent. (Apple TV+)

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1. Name the group that released "Up On the Roof."
2. Name the singer-songwriter who released "Everything Is Beautiful."
3. Which artist released "Little Bitty Tear"?
4. What was the subject of "Another Day in Paradise," by Phil Colling?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Make me feel that you still love me, If it's just, if it's just for one more day."

Answers

1. The Drifters, in 1962. The song appears on the list of "The Songs That Shaped Rock and Roll," created by the curator of

the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame museum in Cleveland.

2. Ray Stevens, in 1970. The song picked up two Grammy awards and was played on a variety of radio stations, from adult contemporary to country. It was heard around the globe, from Australia to Canada to Belgium.

3. Burl Ives, in 1961.

4. Problems of the homeless. The song was controversial but still topped the charts in several countries.

5. "Break It to Me Gently," by Brenda Lee, in 1962. The song topped the adult charts in both the U.S. and Canada and was used at the end of season 2 of "Mad Men" in 2008.

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

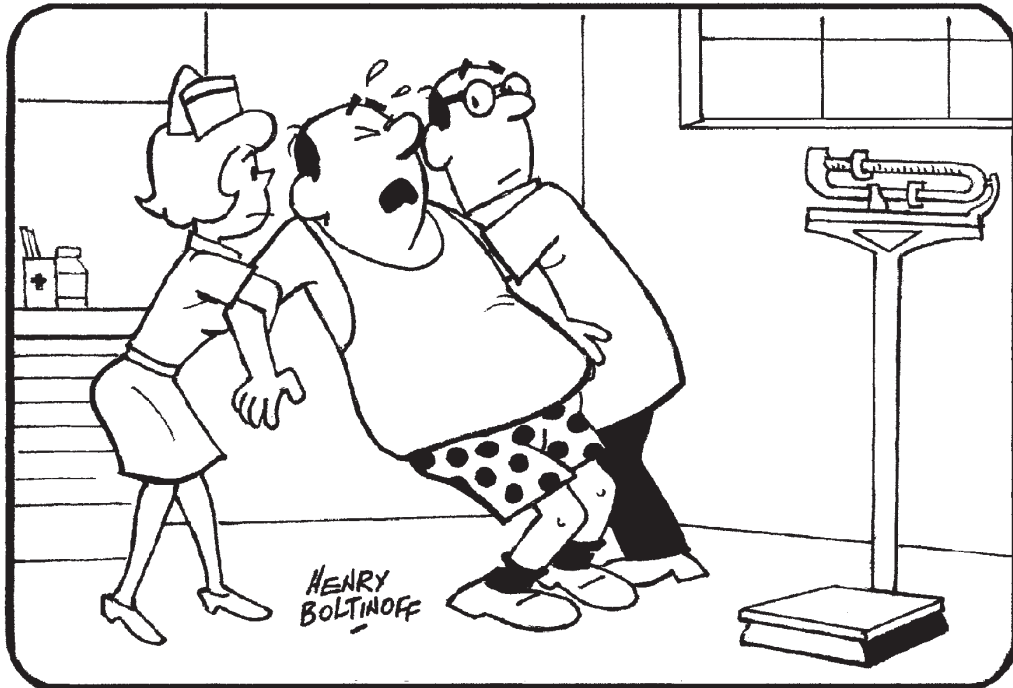
Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



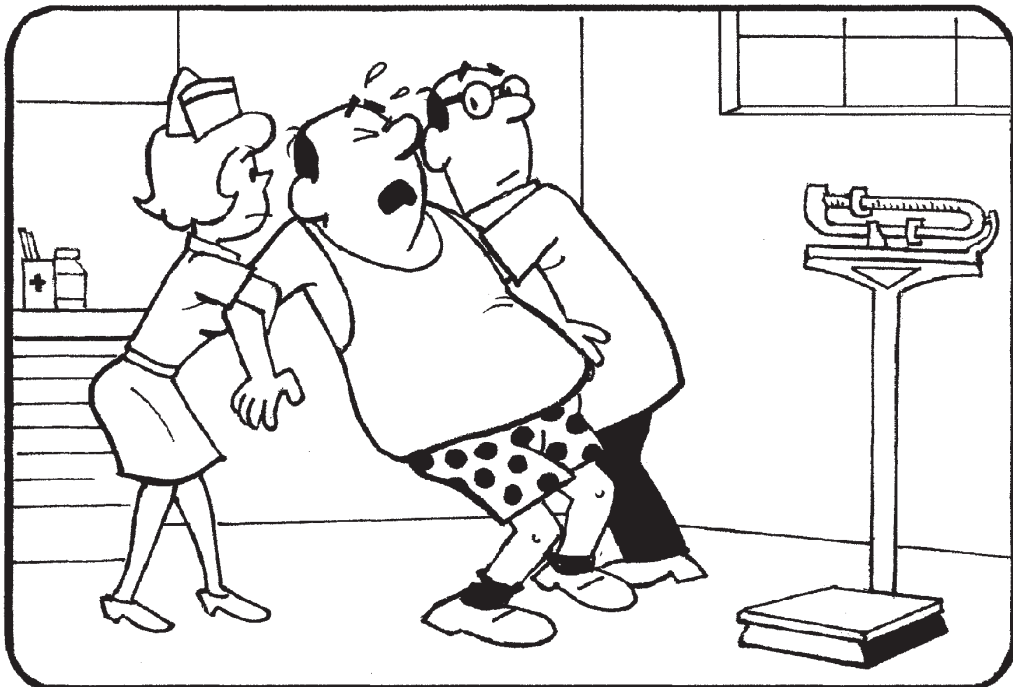
"Rodney will be here in a moment. ... He's flirting with your receptionist."

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

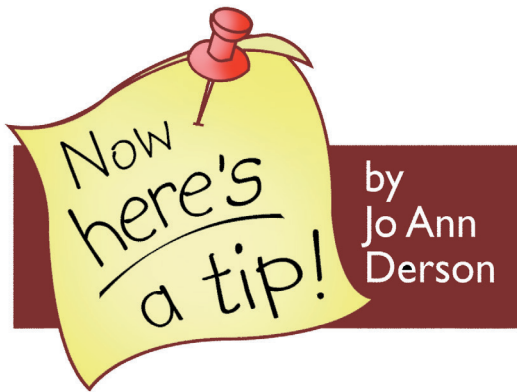


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Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Scale is shorter. 3. Nurse's foot is shorter. 4. Cabinet is not as wide. 5. Window is smaller. 6. Sock is shorter.

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\* "Digital picture books are very easy to make these days, and they make great gifts. But here's a way we use our digital photos to keep the kids engaged at our family gatherings. Each family prints out a selection of photos. We let the kids make their own books using half sheets of paper, glue and markers. They design frames, etc. After they have several pages done, we tie them together and make a cover of heavy card-stock. It's a great take-home craft, a special souvenir for visitors, and it gets them talking about family moments." -- R.E. in Alabama

\* Want to mix it up a bit with your traditional chocolate chip cookies? Try rolling them in different types of chopped nuts or sprinkles. Even crushed pretzels are really good. Or change the flavor of the chip. Add minced dried fruit, quick oats or other

seeds for a change of taste. Melt chocolate chips and dip one side in it, then let dry on waxed paper. Endless possibilities!

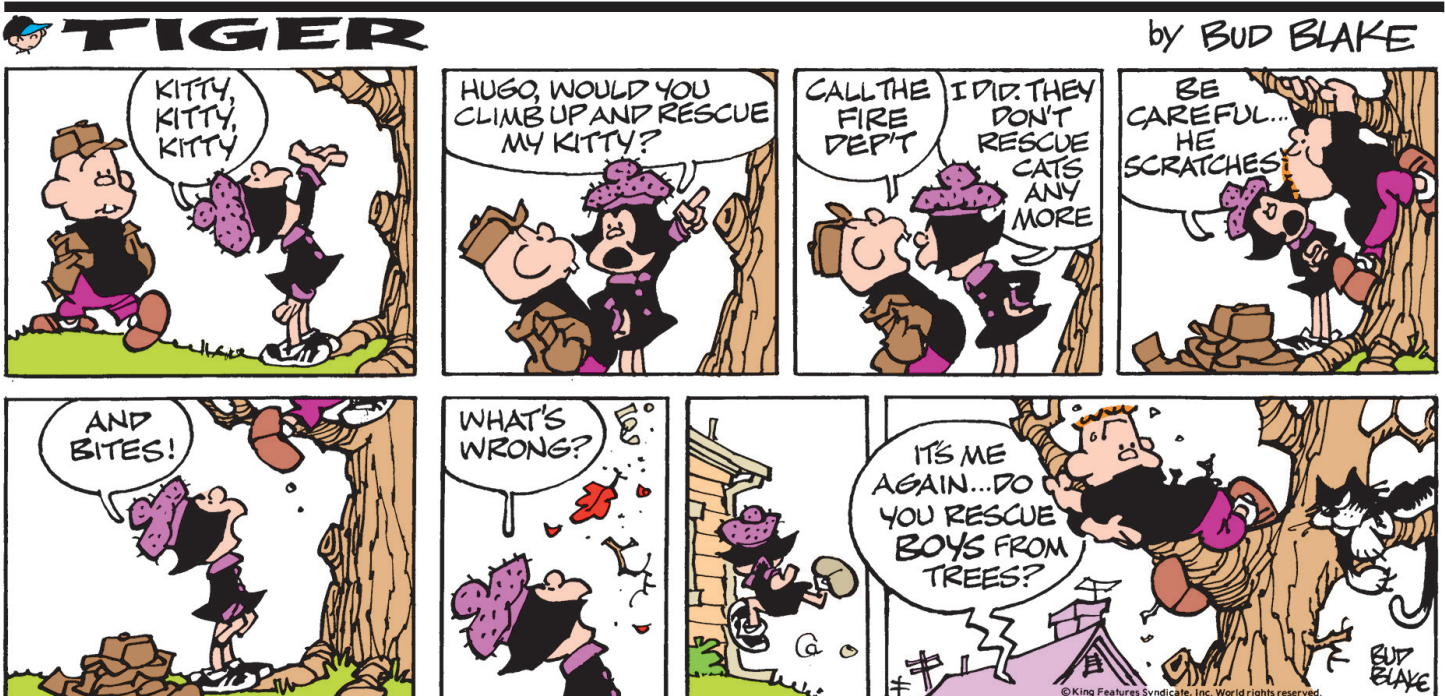
\* At a loss of what to do with Christmas cards from years past? Why not try making a wreath? Cut out a large ring from a cardboard box or other sturdy material. Arrange cards at different angles around the circle. Add holiday picks and ribbon or a bow for depth.

\* Having a holiday party? Put foods and drinks in separate areas, as these are places that guests tend to linger. With different stops for each, guests will not bunch up in one place trying to do both, and it actually encourages mingling!

\* Looking for a great cause for gifting this year? Go to [www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org) to find out more about how your prospective charities rank in areas like CEO pay, money spent on fundraising, etc.

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

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Newt
- 4 Former Delta rival
- 7 Very dry
- 11 Bjorn of tennis fame
- 13 Documentarian Burns
- 14 Portrayal
- 15 Afrikaner
- 16 Fire sign?
- 17 Pinnacle
- 18 Lieu
- 20 Trumpet
- 22 Actress Vardalos
- 24 Trite
- 28 Basking venue
- 32 Skiing spot
- 33 Twistable treat

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			44			45		46		47	48	49
50	51	52			53		54		55			
56					57				58			
59					60					61		

- 34 TV's Danson
- 36 Autobahn auto
- 37 Open-mouthed
- 39 Swiss cheese
- 41 Wards off
- 43 Resort
- 44 Pleasing
- 46 Batter's dry spell
- 50 Spiced tea
- 53 Vitamin stat
- 55 Bangkok cuisine
- 56 Hayloft site
- 57 Whatever

- 58 Christmas
  - 59 Unforeseen problem
  - 60 Skillet
  - 61 Chart-topping song
- DOWN**
- 1 Recedes
  - 2 Shoe insert
  - 3 Shade provider
  - 4 — -la-la
  - 5 Desire
  - 6 Sneeze sound
  - 7 Basis for repeat purchases
  - 8 Sinbad's bird
  - 9 City on the Danube
  - 10 Golf peg
  - 12 Banner at a new store
  - 19 Conk out
  - 21 "Kidnapped" monogram
  - 23 Play part
  - 25 Aspiration
  - 26 Mimic
  - 27 Prefix with conference
  - 28 Fly high
  - 29 Incite
  - 30 Tide type
  - 31 Small barrel

- 35 Hosp. workers
- 38 Football's Manning
- 40 Boom times
- 42 Discard
- 45 — St. Vincent Millay
- 47 "Nope!"
- 48 Algeria's neighbor
- 49 Artist Mondrian
- 50 "CSI" aier
- 51 Solo in space
- 52 Altar constellation
- 54 Novelist Rand

## — King Crossword —

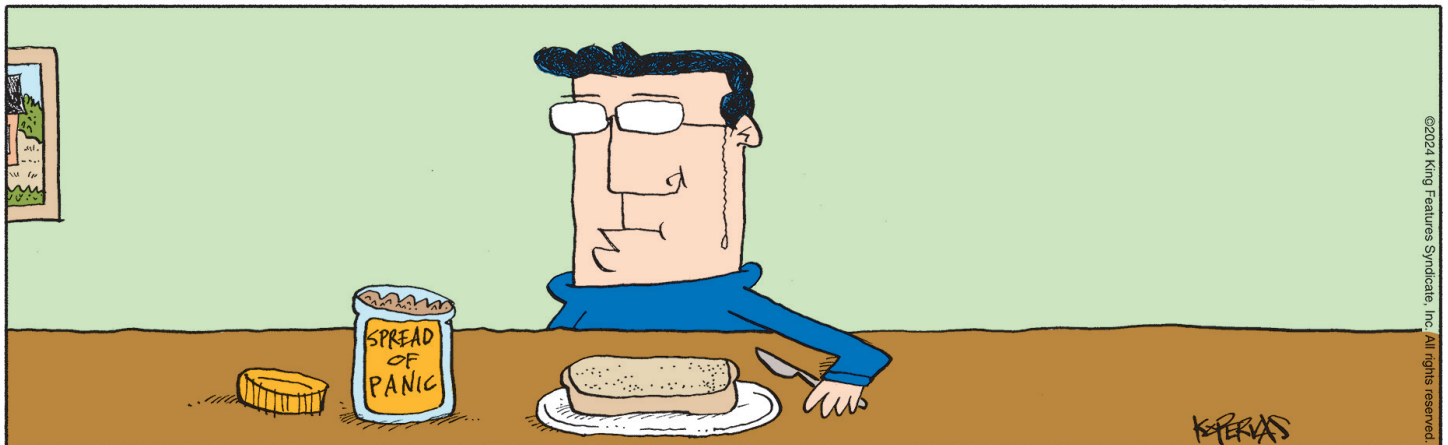
Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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S	T	E	A	D		H	O	R	N				
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Out on a Limb

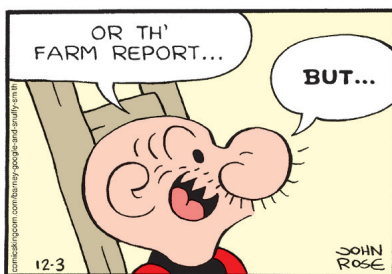
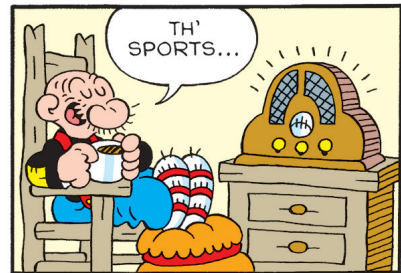
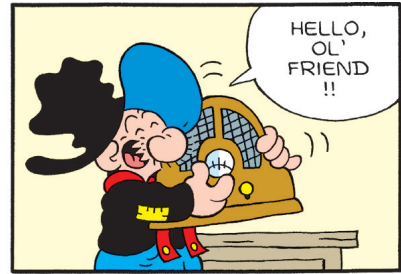
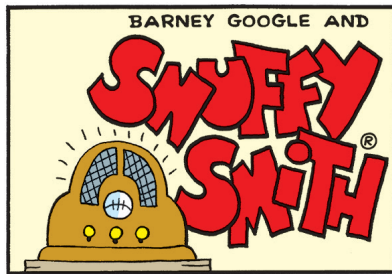
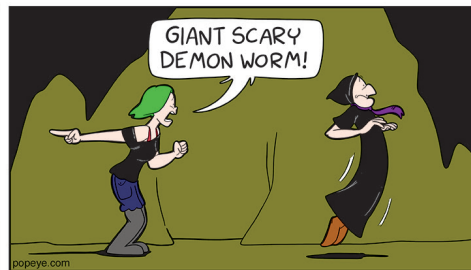
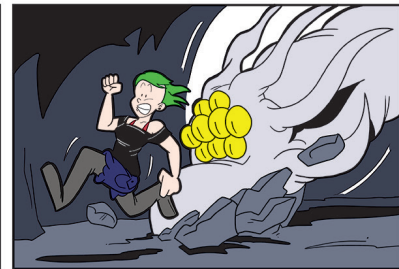
by Gary Kopervas



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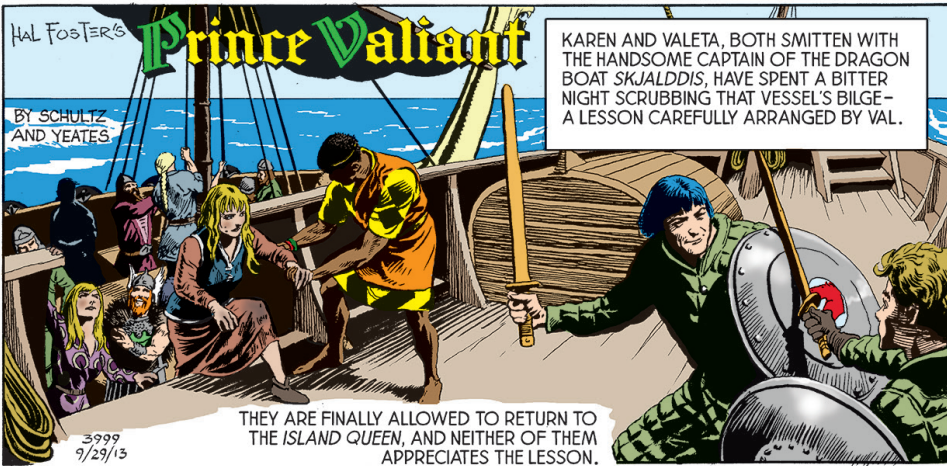
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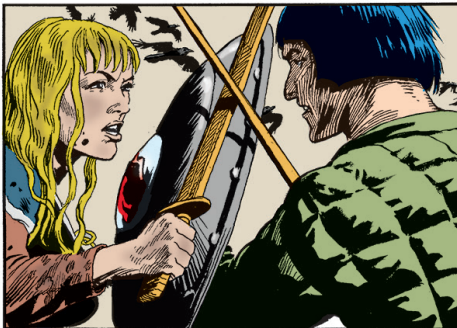


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## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Rebuilding lost muscle

Some of the facts are scary: As we age, we lose muscle mass. The more inactive we are, the more we lose. The muscle loss began at age 30, but we probably didn't really notice it until age 60 or later. Eventually the muscle loss can reach the point where we cannot take care of our daily activities.

The good news -- and clinical trials have proven it -- is that we can get some of that muscle back and slow the decline.

Strength training, also called resistance training, involves using weights, machines or stretchy bands to build muscles. Whether it's done in a gym or at home, building muscles helps us reduce the risk of falls, fractures and hospitalizations.

Don't do this on your own, however, especially if you have health conditions. Ask your doctor about any physical cautions. Ask about the amounts of muscle-building protein to add to your diet and specifically how to get that.

If you live in a "no sun all winter" climate," ask about taking a vitamin D supplement or using a sunlamp several times per week.

Check your Medicare Advantage Part C plan, if you have one, to see if it includes a membership in Silver Sneakers. If so, that will get you access to a gym and classes for seniors on yoga, weight training and others. If you have an AARP/United Healthcare plan, investigate their Renew Active program. If don't have an Advantage plan, ask your local gyms if they have special programs and discount fees for seniors.

If all those avenues are closed to you, there is always the internet and exercises you can do at home. "Senior strength workout" or "weight training for seniors" are good search terms on YouTube.

Again, don't do this on your own. Get advice from your doctor before you embark on an exercise plan or a big change in your diet. And don't give up. Rebuilding lost muscle is worth it.

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Physical Therapy. **\$20 a month**

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1. He played wide receiver at Notre Dame and was drafted by the Green Bay Packers in 2018. His younger brother played wide receiver at USC and was drafted by the Detroit Lions in 2021. Who are they?

2. What St. Louis Cardinals outfielder hit four home runs and tied the Major League Baseball record for RBIs in a single game with 12 during a 15-2 win over the Cincinnati Reds in 1993?

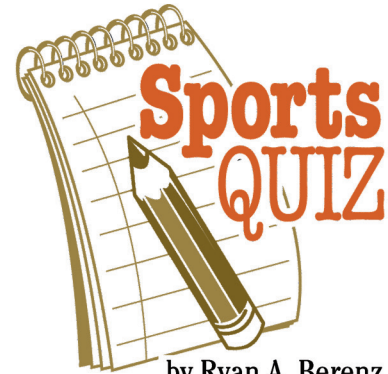
3. What organization, based in France, is the global governing body of table football (aka foosball)?

4. In January 1920, Joe Malone of the Quebec Bulldogs set the still-standing NHL record of goals scored in a single game with how many?

5. Name the LPGA Tour golfer who became the youngest player to claim a major tournament title when she won the 2007 Kraft Nabisco Championship at age 18.

6. In 2017, what NBA player released the Big Baller Brand ZO2 athletic shoe with a price tag of \$495?

7. Annette Bening was nominated for a Best Actress Oscar at the 96th Academy Awards for her starring role as what long-distance swimmer?



by Ryan A. Berenz

## Answers

1. Equanimeous and Amon-Ra St. Brown.

2. Mark Whiten.

3. The International Table Soccer Federation (ITSF).

4. Seven.

5. Morgan Pressel.

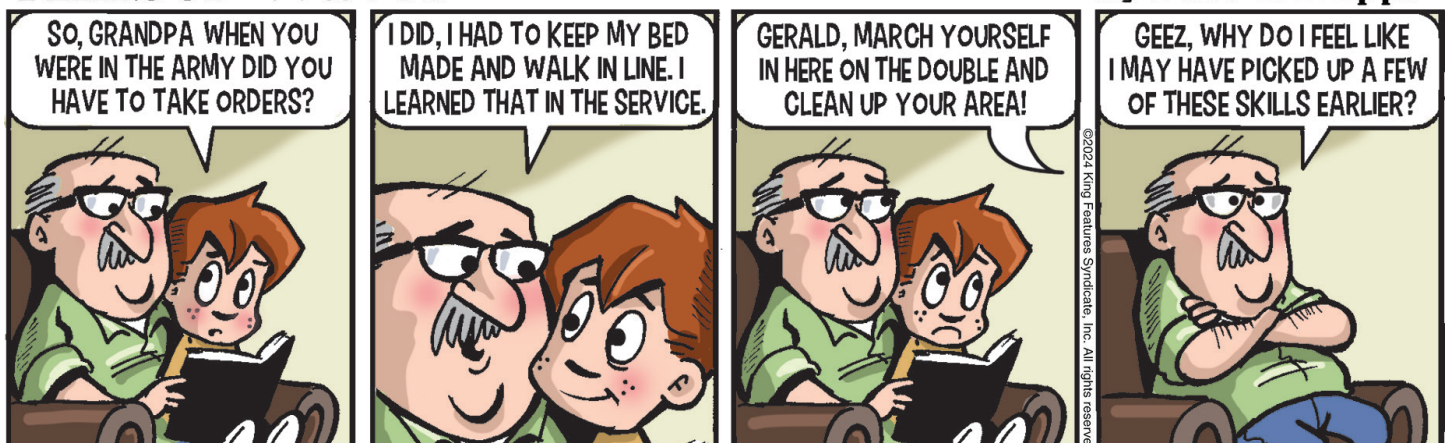
6. Lonzo Ball.

7. Diana Nyad.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





## Winter coat & booties can keep pets healthy in the winter

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: We had a cold snap a couple of weeks ago, and the morning temperature dipped below freezing. After taking my Labradoodle, "Pierre," for a walk around the block, I noticed he was shivering, and he walked with a tiny limp the rest of the day. He's OK now, but it didn't seem so cold when we went out. From now on, I'll make sure he has a doggie sweater and booties on for walks, even if there is no snow on the ground. -- Sara in Bennington, Vermont

DEAR SARA: That's a good plan. I'm glad Pierre is doing fine now, but I'm sure that was a scary lesson. Small dogs can be quickly affected by cold temperatures. Even when the weather is above freezing, their little bodies

can get chilled very quickly.

Even large dogs can suffer from the cold. And ice-cold pavement can be dangerous for paws, no matter how big or small your dog is. The pads on their paws can get frostbitten. Dry, cold temperatures can cause the skin of the pads to chap and crack, resulting in a lot of discomfort.

Put a protective jumper or coat on your pet before going out when temperatures dip into the 40s (or single-digit Celsius). Booties will protect their paws from frozen sidewalks and from ice or other debris that might injure their pads. At the end of each walk, check their paws for cuts. If the pads appear dry, apply a balm for pet paws like Musher's Secret, Bag Balm or Burt's Bees.

Some dogs don't like wearing booties or coats. Work with them between walks to make them more comfortable: Put their coat on in the house for a minute, then five, then 10. Same with the booties. Give them lots of praise and treats during the process; they'll eventually tolerate it.

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

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## Strange BUT TRUE

\* As part of David Hasselhoff's divorce settlement, he kept possession of the nickname "Hoff" and the catchphrase "Don't Hassle the Hoff."

\* The fuller your refrigerator, the more energy-efficient it is.

\* Dr. Seuss coined the word "nerd." The term originated in the 1950 book "If I Ran the Zoo." The sentence goes: "And then, just to show them, I'll sail to Ka-Troo. And bring back an IT-KUTCH, a PREEP and a PROO, a NERKLE, NERD, and a

SEERSUCKER, too!"

\* Nobel Prize winner Niels Bohr was given a perpetual supply of beer piped into his house.

\* Between 1848 and 1850, the population of San Francisco grew from 900 to 35,000 people thanks to the Gold Rush.

\* During his World War II service, LBJ was due to fly in the observation seat of the B-26 bomber Wabash Cannonball. However, he was replaced when he had to go to the toilet before takeoff. The Wabash Cannonball was shot down during that flight over New Guinea with no survivors.

\* A Chinese millionaire sold canned air to people on the streets to raise awareness of air pollution and then donated the money to charity.

\* Newborn babies can only see in black and white for a few months.

\* Seventy percent of the dirt on your clothes is invisible.

\* In "The Empire Strikes Back," an extra can be seen running with what appears to be an ice cream maker. The character became legendary among fans, and was eventually given a name (Willow Hood) and a backstory.

\* Some scientists believe that dogs can tell when you're coming home by how much of your scent is left in the house.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "I figure if a girl wants to be a legend, she should just go ahead and be one." -- Calamity Jane

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### The Garden Bug



### Prayer plant



This popular tropical houseplant (*Maranta leuconeura*) is known for its striking foliage and for how its leaves stay flat during the day, then fold up like praying hands at night. It is very slow-growing, but can eventually reach up to a foot in height indoors if conditions are suitable. Give these plants bright light to maintain growth, but avoid

prolonged exposure to direct sunlight. Use well-draining, acidic soil and keep it evenly moist. Water with filtered or distilled water once the top layer of soil has dried out. - Brenda Weaver

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



by Freddy Groves

## Expanded telehealth access

In an effort to get health care to veterans in communities that are medically underserved, the Department of Veterans Affairs is proposing to get rid of copayments for telehealth services. Additionally, it wants to create a grant program for VA telehealth access points in places that are not VA facilities.

The plan for the grant program, called ATLAS (Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations), is to provide locations where veterans can access their telehealth remotely in a place with high speed internet and privacy.

Telehealth can be accessed in several ways:

-- From home, using your computer or mobile device. By using the VA Video Connect app, you can have a video visit with your doctor, and your caregiver can be included if VA staff do an "invite" via the Caregiver Connect option. Use telehealth to send your data and vital signs to your doctor. (No "white coat syndrome" to make your BP go up if you're sitting at home.)

-- If you need a specialist (there are 50 types), you can connect with them via telehealth video while at any VA clinic location. While you're talking to the specialist, your regular primary care doctor can listen in. Mental health care is available this way as well.

-- If you're in the hospital, telehealth can be used to hook up your provider with specialists at other locations so they can come up with a plan for your care.

If you've never used the VA telehealth services, see [telehealth.va.gov](https://telehealth.va.gov) for all the info you need.

To download the mobile app, see [mobile.va.gov/app/va-video-connect](https://mobile.va.gov/app/va-video-connect).

To find ATLAS locations near you, go to [telehealth.va.gov/atlas](https://telehealth.va.gov/atlas).

If you don't have internet or any internet-connected devices, you might be eligible for help. Several companies, such as AT&T and others, will let you avoid data charges when doing video connections for telehealth. Check out [mobile.va.gov/cellular-data-program](https://mobile.va.gov/cellular-data-program) for info. To see if you qualify for help getting a device, contact Lifeline ([lifelinesupport.org](https://lifelinesupport.org)) at 800-234-9473 to ask about subsidies.

Whatever you need from the VA, the best first number to call is 800-698-2411. They're available 24/7/365 for veterans, caregivers, survivors and families.

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## Wishing Well®

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

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

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1. GEOGRAPHY: In which country would you find the Angkor Wat temple?
2. SCIENCE: Which vitamin aids in blood clotting?
3. MUSIC: Which pop music icon has a Pantone color named after him?
4. TELEVISION: Which 1990s TV comedy series features the theme song "Cleveland Rocks"?
5. U.S. STATES: Which state is last alphabetically?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is an adult female turkey called?
7. MOVIES: Which popular 1994 movie features a character named Red?
8. AD SLOGANS: Which company's advertising slogan is "Like a Good Neighbor"?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How long is the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade route?
10. ANATOMY: What are beta cells?

### Answers

1. Cambodia.
2. Vitamin K.
3. Prince ("Love Symbol #2," a purple shade).
4. "The Drew Carey Show."
5. Wyoming.
6. A hen.
7. "The Shawshank Redemption."
8. State Farm.
9. 2.5 miles.
10. Specialized cells in the pancreas that produce insulin.

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South Dakota Governor

**Kristi Noem**



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

## **Apprenticeships in Action: Celebrating Opportunity**

**By: Sec. Marcia Hultman**

This year, 2024, marks 10 years of raising awareness and celebrating “National Apprenticeship Week.” Apprenticeships are an effective approach for South Dakotans to gain on-the-job training plus classroom instruction to earn a nationally recognized credential while continuing to earn a living for their family. In the last two years, we have taken apprenticeships to a whole new level in our state.

A year and a half ago, Governor Kristi Noem invested just under \$8 million to increase the number of apprenticeship opportunities available in South Dakota. Since this investment, South Dakota has significantly increased the number of programs available, growing from 102 programs to 145. Nearly 300 South Dakota businesses have inquired about starting a registered apprenticeship program. And 50 new programs are in development. I’m so proud of my team who has put in the hard work to make this happen.

I want to give an example of one profession that has especially benefited from apprenticeships and is near and dear to my heart: teaching. Just like my grandmother and mother before me, I was trained to be a teacher. However, the options to get there look quite different today.

In many recent years, teachers have been hard-to-fill positions with some of the highest number of job openings in South Dakota. To address this need, the Department of Labor and Regulation (DLR) worked with the Department of Education and our post-secondary education partners to launch a Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway.

The Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway keeps costs low for current paraeducators as they continue to gain work-based learning experience combined with technical instruction to become licensed teachers. The program allows individuals to earn and learn while staying in their home community. All coursework is offered virtually at convenient times, so participants can continue to work while enrolled. School districts provide a local mentor to support the apprentices throughout the process. Northern State University and Dakota State University offer the necessary coursework over a two-year period to earn a bachelor’s degree in education, as well as a teaching certificate.

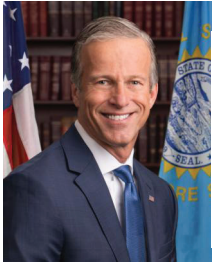
This pathway has already achieved great results. 88 participants joined the program in the first year. More than 90% of these teacher apprentices are sticking with the program, and 100% say they are very likely or somewhat likely to stay in South Dakota throughout their education career. That will make a real difference in our teacher workforce well into the future. And thanks to support from the legislature, this effort is expanding as a second cohort of teacher apprentices began this fall.

Our first graduate of the Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway, Kandy Flowers, is now teaching in Wessington Springs. When she graduated, Kandy thanked everyone involved in the program and shared how she is now able to continue working with the students she has been assisting – but with the addition of her teaching certification. Kandy shared her hopes for the continued success of the Teacher Apprenticeship Pathway because “it works.”

This is but one example of the ways apprenticeships are launching careers and changing lives in South Dakota. It’s simple; apprenticeships work. And DLR is here to continue advancing apprenticeship opportunities in South Dakota for years to come. We thank Governor Noem for her support of these efforts. I can’t wait to see how opportunities continue to grow and evolve for the people of South Dakota.

*Marcia Hultman is Cabinet Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation.*





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

## Support South Dakota's Small Businesses

Soon after the snow starts in South Dakota, Thanksgiving ushers in the holiday season. I love this time of year: gathering around the Thanksgiving feast with my family, throwing the football around outside, and giving thanks to God for our many blessings.

Of course, the holiday season also means a long to-do list: picking up groceries, finding the perfect gift, and getting gas for the trip to see family. Whatever it is you need and wherever the holidays take you, South Dakota's small businesses will have you covered.

For a number of years now, the Saturday after Thanksgiving has marked Small Business Saturday. It's a special opportunity to support the roughly 95,000 small businesses that are the backbone of our state's and many communities' economies. Shopping small has a big impact. Small businesses are often a lot more than a storefront on Main Street, they are a big part of our communities. Dollars spent at a small business stay local, and small businesses often turn around and support their communities through booster clubs, Chambers of Commerce, or even offering a young person his or her first job.

I also have a great appreciation for the important role small businesses play in helping people achieve the American Dream. After immigrating from Norway and helping build the railroad across South Dakota, my grandfather and his brother opened a hardware store in Mitchell. My grandfather opened another location in Murdo, and my parents worked there after World War II. I also got my start working at a small business: the Star Family Restaurant. I worked my way up from busboy to cook, and it taught me invaluable lessons about hard work and what it takes to run a small business.

As I'm traveling around South Dakota, it's always a pleasure to drop in to small businesses wherever I am. It's great to have a chance to hear directly from business owners and see what their operation is all about. Just recently I stopped into the Daily Grind in Lemmon for a cup of coffee, and got some treats for my grandkids at Grandma's Chocolates. I was at the Meathouse in Andover, and popped into Mike's Food Center down the road in Webster. And I grabbed lunch at Toby's Lounge in Meckling on my way to tour Masaba's manufacturing facility in Vermillion.

These visits give me valuable insight when I return to Washington. Small business owners need pro-growth policies that help them reinvest in their businesses, hire more workers, and grow. Next year, Congress will have an important debate about tax policy as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act expires at the end of 2025. President Trump and Republican majorities in Congress are committed to preserving lower tax rates and policies that ushered in a strong economy and grew paychecks during the first Trump administration. As always, I'll rely on the input from South Dakota small businesses for this important debate.

Small businesses are at the heart of the American spirit. Whether they're working out of a storefront on Main Street or working late nights at their kitchen table to get a business off the ground, small business owners are preserving the American Dream. I hope you'll join me in supporting South Dakota's small businesses this Small Business Saturday, throughout the holiday season, and all year round.

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## Making Washington Work for You

### **BIG Update**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Director testified in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee this week to address concerns about the Agency's response to disasters. It was recently reported that employees were directed to skip homes that displayed Trump signs or flags.

I joined Fox Business to discuss the hearing..

### **BIG Idea**

Our veterans served to keep America the way the Founders intended—free. In return for their service, they deserve the best support and care we can provide. I've heard from veterans and veterans' groups in the past that the current system isn't doing enough to meet their needs. To address these concerns and remedy deficiencies in the VA, I voted to pass the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act which covers a broad range of veterans' health care and benefits policies.

To name a few, the bill would streamline the Veterans Community Care Program, including the patient scheduling system, dental treatment availability, and outreach to veterans. It also provides much-needed support for caregivers, increases assistance for nursing home alternatives and establishes a program to provide in-home care services. The bill also provides resources and support to Native American veterans and homeless veterans.

The Elizabeth Dole Act is a huge win for veterans to provide overdue updates to make sure our veterans don't get the short end of the stick during and after their service.

### **BIG News**

Earlier this year, the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) announced it would be restructuring post offices across the country, including two in South Dakota. Following opposition to these changes from Congress and citizens, the USPS put the plan on pause to reevaluate their decision. This week, the USPS announced it will not be changing the services at the Sioux Falls post office. This is great news for those in Sioux Falls who won't experience drastically higher processing times for local mail. I'm glad the USPS is changing its course.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

## It All Boils Down To One Thing

Of all the things I have learned, one has made a difference in my life.

I hear stories about how married couples are unhappy. Today, something must be wrong with you if you haven't been divorced and remarried five times.

I always figure that the person who has been married five times hasn't learned anything from their first four marriages. They're going to repeat the same mistakes, over and over.

Somebody should pass a law forbidding people to be stupid. Why does stupidity seem to run our country? If we would forbid stupidity, we would have no politicians screwing up our country, but then, is that bad?

Being married has been a long journey for both The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and her fantastic husband. We celebrated 53 years of marriage.

There have been some stress points in our marriage, although at this point, I can't remember one. That's why it's important to forget things when you get older. But our marriage has been a wonderful ride in the park—I just can't remember which park.

After 53 years of marriage, I have discovered that true happiness boils down to one thing. Discovering that one thing is a treasure of gold. Most people have never discovered this one thing, which is why their lives are not happy.

I know five marriage counselors, and each have been divorced and remarried at least three times. You would think they would understand what makes a marriage happy and pleasant. I wouldn't see those five marriage counselors for any advice.

This came to me about a month ago. I was talking to a young man who asked me about our marriage secret. I had to tell him that we had no secrets. Then it occurred to me what our marriage's driving point was. I had discovered one important secret.

It all boils down to one point: how many married couples are happy? If only one is happy, it is not a good marriage. If both are happy, well, you know the answer.

The explanation of what happy means will help us understand this whole scenario.

For some people, being happy means they are always right and always get what they want, when they want it.

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My mother used to say when I would ask her if she was alright. "No, son," she would say with a smile, "I'm half left."

Then she would say, "If we were to be right all the time, why did God give us a left hand?"

So, to be happy, I don't necessarily have to be right all the time. I don't always have to have everything my way. Sometimes I do need that left hand for balance.

Looking back over my life, if I had everything my way, I would be in so much trouble today that I'm not sure I could get out of it. My way hasn't always been the important way. It's hard to acknowledge that.

If the wife is happy, then I'm happy. If the wife is not happy, I'm in serious trouble.

The important aspect of marriage is discovering what makes the other person happy. Once I figured that out, everything was a ski-ride down the mountains.

When you first marry, you don't know what makes the other person happy or sad. It's a learning experience and you better get busy studying this subject before you get married.

The only rocky point in our marriage had to do with "broccoli." She has a fascinating love for broccoli, I have a deplorable hatred for broccoli and the twain shall never meet on the same dinner table.

When we were first married, I did not know this about her and broccoli. But it wasn't long after we were married that I discovered this. Up to that point, I had never tasted broccoli, and I wasn't about to start tasting it then; with deep respect to my tongue.

When we were married, she didn't know about my fascination with Apple Fritters. I grew up in Pennsylvania Dutch country where Apple Fritters are king of the hill. We just love our Apple Fritters.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was happy when she was eating broccoli and I was happy when I was eating Apple Fritters. These two things cannot be done on the same table, if you know what I mean.

At that point, it all boiled down to one thing. Are we going to determine what the other person likes? Or, will we accept them as long as it makes them happy?

That's so critical that I don't know anything more important.

If I can master this one thing, then there will be nothing but happiness in our marriage. I don't demand that she like what I like, and she doesn't demand that I like what she likes. We just put up with certain things and don't make an issue of them.

My secret is, if she passes before me, I'll make sure there is broccoli in her casket that she can take with her.

The key to marriage is agreement. I like what it says in Amos 3:3, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

If you walk down a path going to a certain destination, although, you both are going in the same direction but one can look to the left and the other to the right. It is the destination that is important.

## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that using robots can help us reduce our carbon footprint? This sounds great but what are the tradeoffs of increased utilization of robots?  
-- Robert Pardue, Reno, NV

Robots are increasingly integral to addressing environmental challenges, from cleaning oceans to aiding reforestation. For instance, Clearbot removes some 15 liters of oil and 200 kilograms of trash from oceans daily, mitigating marine pollution. Robots also accelerate tree planting, restoring forests faster and more precisely than humans. In cities, robots are helping lower carbon footprints. Delivery robots can cut road congestion by 29 percent and reduce emissions by 16 percent compared to traditional vehicles. Often powered by renewable energy like solar, these robots further minimize environmental impact.

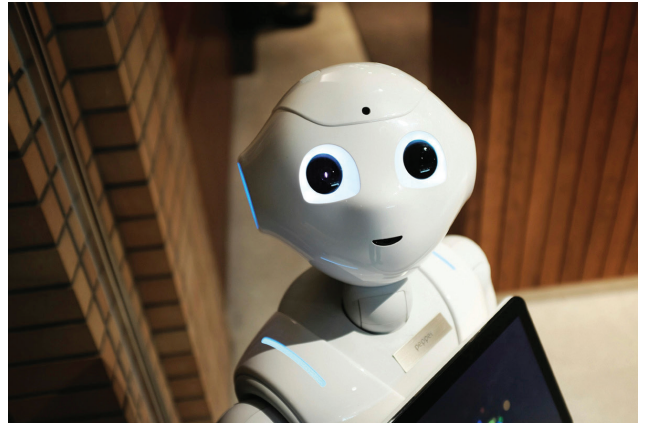
Similarly, robots are making an impact in transportation. Electric vehicles equipped with self-driving features are becoming more common, following Tesla's lead. Since EVs run on electricity rather than gas, they help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Many of these autonomous vehicles also include features like automatic braking, lane detection and speed control, which can enhance safety and efficiency on the road.

Robots have also made their way into industrial settings, where they improve efficiency and help cut down carbon emissions. A 2022 study found that the use of robots in manufacturing has enhanced carbon emission reduction efforts across 35 countries. By automating repetitive tasks, robots can help reduce errors and improve the overall energy efficiency of production processes.

However, the environmental benefits of robots come with significant tradeoffs. Most robots rely on batteries made from lithium and cobalt, which are not evenly distributed around the world. Mining these materials is resource-intensive and often leads to environmental degradation. The extraction process consumes large amounts of energy, releases air pollutants and can contaminate local water supplies.

Once in use, robots—like any other technology—are subject to wear and tear. When they break or become outdated, they add to the growing problem of electronic waste. The faster pace of production enabled by robots also fuels consumer demand, further increasing waste. And these impacts often hit poorer nations hardest, as they are disproportionately affected by pollution and resource depletion.

Long term, as robot designs improve and new technologies are developed, some of these challenges may be mitigated. Companies like AI for Good, Echo Tech Daily and Redwood Materials are developing more sustainable robots. But for now, it's important to weigh the benefits and tradeoffs carefully. While robots hold great promise for helping us reduce our carbon footprint, they are far from a perfect solution.



**Caption: Robots are increasingly integral to addressing environmental challenges, from cleaning oceans to aiding reforestation.** Credit: Pexels.com.

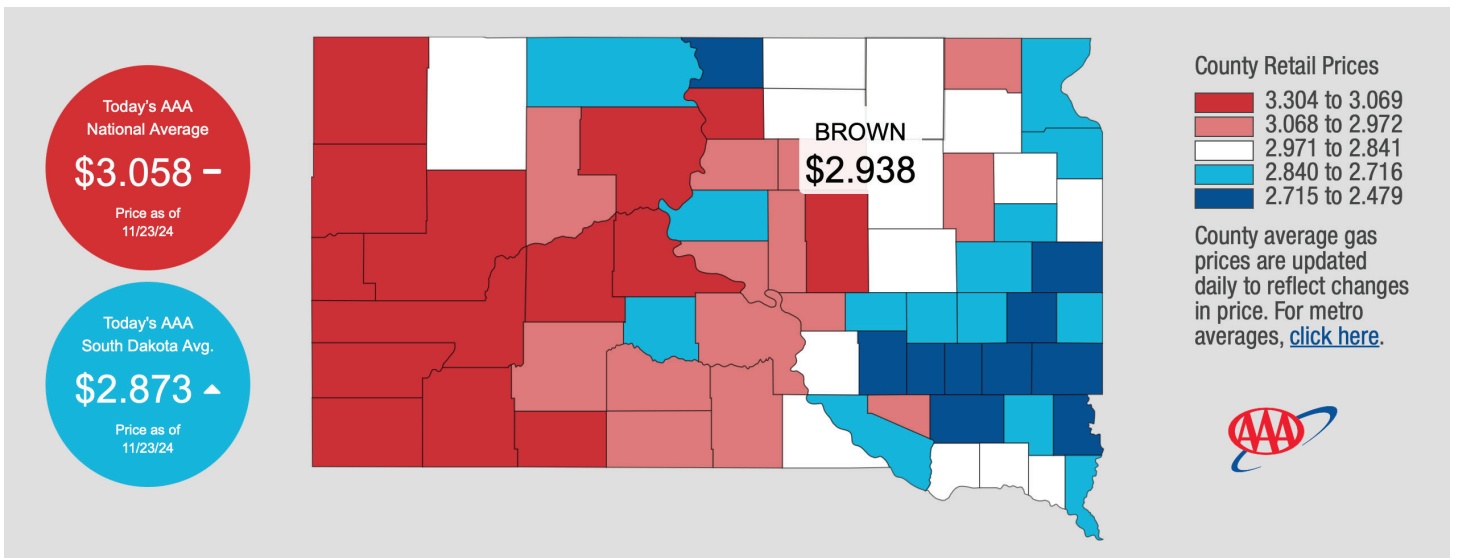
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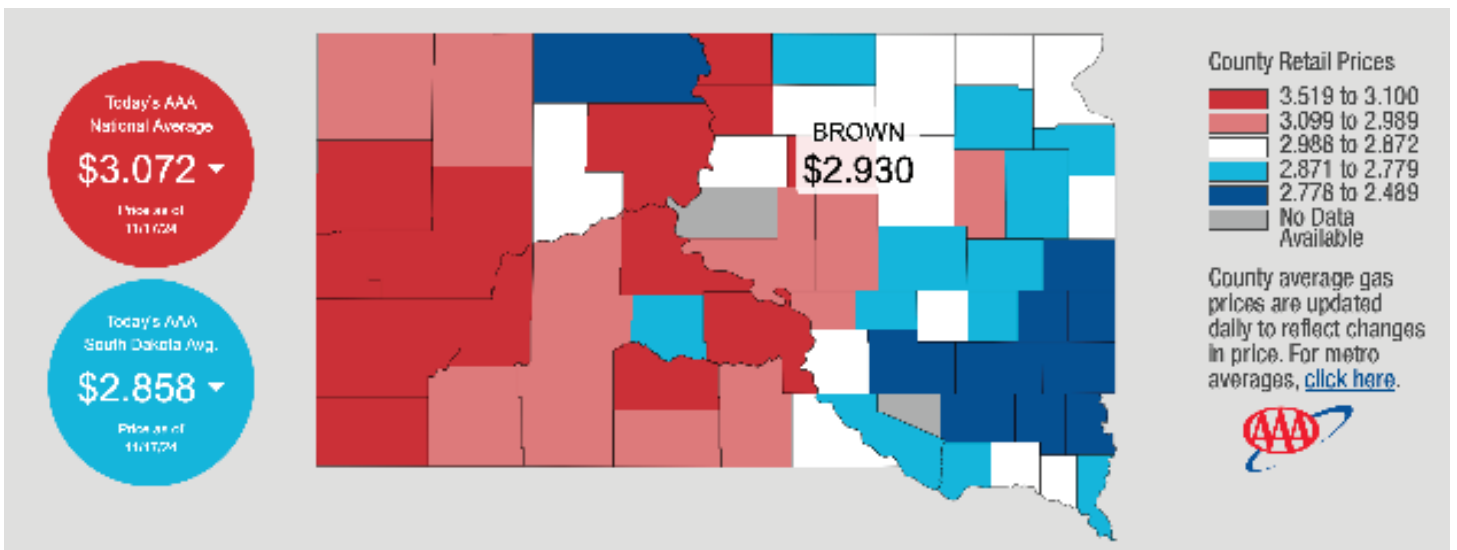
## South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$2.873	\$3.077	\$3.482	\$3.248
Yesterday Avg.	\$2.867	\$3.077	\$3.472	\$3.232
Week Ago Avg.	\$2.880	\$3.096	\$3.513	\$3.224
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.072	\$3.260	\$3.697	\$3.309
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.199	\$3.373	\$3.878	\$4.090

### This Week



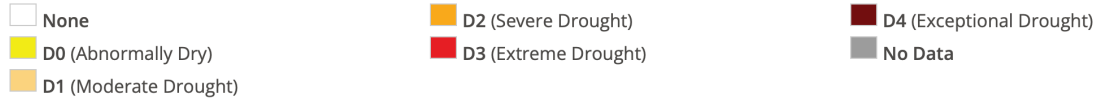
### Last Week



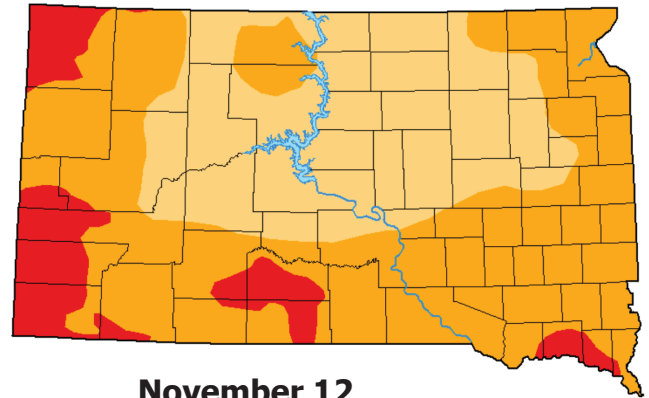
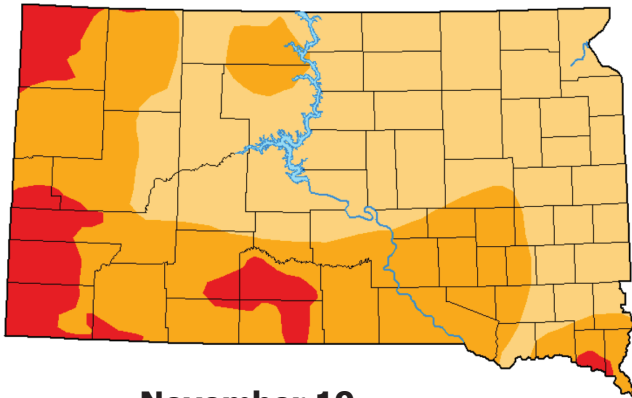
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## Drought Classification



## Drought Monitor



Moderate to heavy precipitation was widespread across the southern and eastern reaches of the High Plains Region, and moderate amounts were observed in some of the higher elevations of Wyoming and central Colorado, and over northern North Dakota. Elsewhere, only a few tenths of an inch, at most, was measured. In the areas of heaviest precipitation (1.5 to approaching 3.0 inches), improvement was introduced. This included significant parts of Kansas, southeastern Colorado, eastern sections of Nebraska and South Dakota, and a relatively small area in southeastern North Dakota. The remainder of the region, under a regime of light to moderate precipitation at best, dryness and drought assessments were unchanged.



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### COMMENTARY

## Return of Open Meetings Commission is good, and a membership tweak could make it better

by Dana Hess

Anyone who cares about open government in South Dakota was cheered by the recent news of the reemergence of the Open Meetings Commission.

The commission, established by the Legislature in 2004, considers complaints against local governmental bodies that have allegedly run afoul of the state's open meetings law. The commission is made up of five state's attorneys appointed by the attorney general. At its recent meeting, commissioners issued unanimous rulings in five of the six cases brought against local governments.



**Attorney Sara Frankenstein speaks to members of the South Dakota Open Meetings Commission on Nov. 18, 2024, in Pierre.**

(Courtesy of SD Attorney General's Office)

Attorney General Marty Jackley was instrumental in resurrecting the commission. Any praise for getting the commission going again has to be tempered by the fact that no one faces much punishment for breaking the law. The commission will issue written reprimands for the offenders, a punishment that is something akin to being stoned with popcorn. The best the commissioners can do is offer a public shaming of the offending elected officials, though no one will be forced to wear a scarlet letter.

The irony of having state's attorneys serve on the commission is that there has never been, in the history of the state's open meetings law, a state's attorney who filed charges against an offending board or council. Not once. This traditional lack of law enforcement led to the creation of the commission, figuring that some public exposure of wrongdoing is better than nothing at all. Given the overall weakness of South Dakota's open meetings law, it only seems natural that the punishment for breaking that law be a delicate slap on the wrist.

The Open Meetings Commission has been out of action since the last day of December, 2020. It shut down during the dark days of Jason Ravensborg's tenure as attorney general. Initially Jackley had trouble restarting the commission because he couldn't find enough state's attorneys to serve. In the last legislative session, Jackley convinced lawmakers to broaden the commission's membership to include deputy



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state's attorneys.

Given Jackley's difficulty in finding enough state's attorneys to serve on the commission, there's something to be said for broadening its membership. Open meetings law isn't that complicated. It's neatly explained in a brochure available on the attorney general's website at [atg.sd.gov](http://atg.sd.gov). Under the "Legal Resources" tab click on "Open Government" and then on "Open Meetings Commission."

There are any number of people without law degrees who might be qualified to serve on the commission. Out of necessity, many journalists in this state are well-schooled in the open meetings law. The ranks of the commission could also be filled by former elected officials who know the law and value open government.

Certainly an attorney would need to be on hand to advise the commission, but there's no need for each meeting to look like a law school alumni event. Specific expertise is not required in other state boards and commissions. Board of Regents members need not be educators. There's no requirement to know anything about hunting, fishing or camping to serve on the Game, Fish and Parks Commission. The Board of Water and Natural Resources isn't limited to hydrologists.

The next time Jackley has a tough time finding enough state's attorneys to fill out the commission, he should consider offering legislation that broadens its membership beyond members of the bar. As it turns out, there may be an open meetings bill introduced in the next session of the Legislature. The South Dakota NewsMedia Association has crafted a bill that would require local governments to have their lawyer review with them the attorney general's open meetings brochure each year.

The people who serve in local government get elected for a variety of reasons. Chances are, before their election, they don't give much thought to the open meetings law. Consequently, when they run afoul of the law, it's an inadvertent misstep rather than an attempt at graft and corruption. Getting a refresher each year can only serve to ensure that elected officials adhere to the law and provide transparency in the way that they govern.

Originally intended to meet twice a year, the Open Meetings Commission will be meeting twice in November to deal with the backlog of cases that have accrued since 2020. The six cases the commission heard at its first meeting and the seven still on the docket show that there's a need for the people who serve in local governments to be schooled in the open meetings law so they can avoid unintended violations.

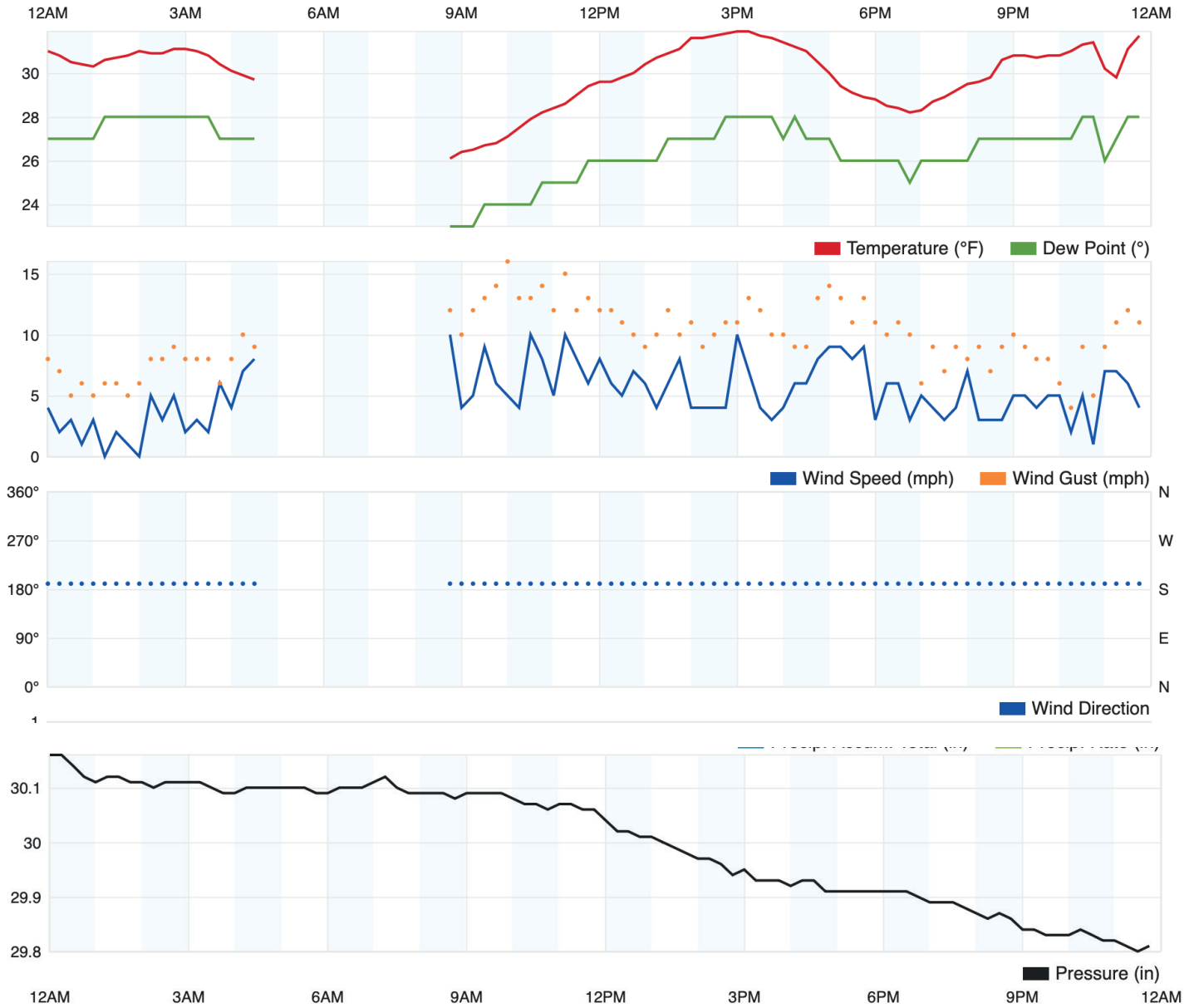
With more education, there may come a time when the commission goes dark again — not out of neglect or because there's no one to serve, but because there are so few violations.

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

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Broton Daily Independent

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Today



High: 54 °F

Sunny

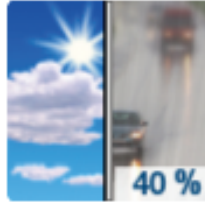
Tonight



Low: 26 °F

Clear

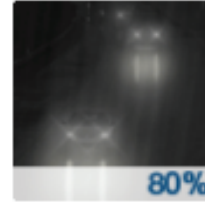
Monday



High: 54 °F

Mostly Sunny  
then Chance  
Rain

Monday Night



Low: 34 °F

Rain

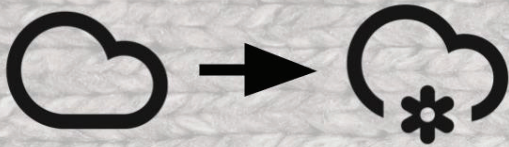
Tuesday



High: 42 °F

Rain Likely  
and Breezy

Today



Highs: 31-36°F

Lows: 9-17°F

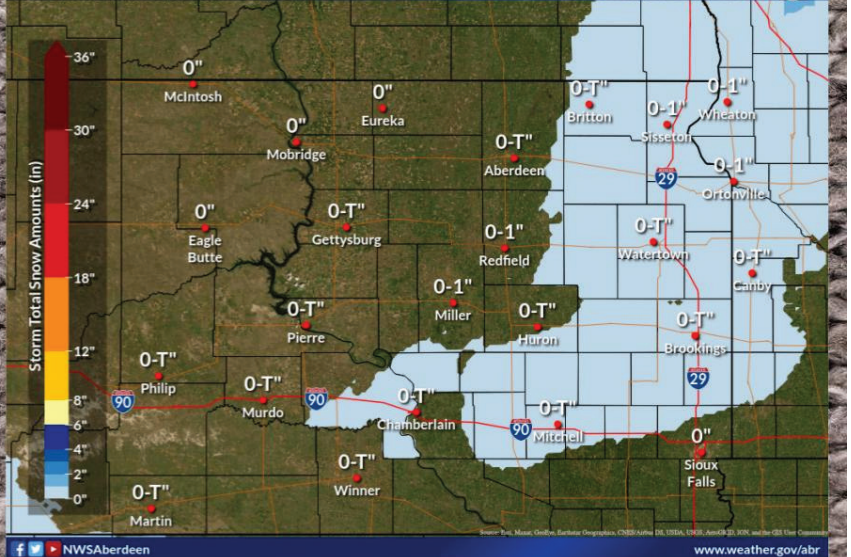
30-60% chance of PM snow  
(highest in northeastern SD)

Accumulations up to 1 inch  
possible

## Expected Snowfall - Official NWS Forecast

Valid Sun 6:00PM through Mon 12:00AM CST

Weather Forecast Office  
Aberdeen, SD  
Issued Nov 24, 2024 1:03 AM CST



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.

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## Chance of Low Temperatures Less Than 0°F

Friday Morning, Nov 29 - Tuesday Morning, Dec 3

	Fri 11/29	Sat 11/30	Sun 12/1	Mon 12/2	Tue 12/3
Aberdeen	60%	65%	70%	55%	40%
Miller	25%	35%	45%	40%	25%
Mobridge	25%	45%	50%	45%	30%
Murdo	3%	10%	30%	25%	20%
Ortonville	10%	20%	35%	30%	25%
Pierre	20%	35%	45%	40%	25%
Sisseton	20%	40%	45%	40%	30%
Watertown	35%	45%	55%	45%	35%

Percent Chance (%)

### Information:

The table displays the percent chance of a weather event occurring based on model predictions from the National Blend of Models. A higher number means greater certainty.

## Additional Details

### ↘ Cold Air Update

- Increasing confidence on colder air moving in over the area for the end of next week through the weekend
- Coldest morning is forecasted to be Sunday morning with a 30 to 70% chance of lows below 0°F
- Highest chances over northeastern SD



### When Do We Normally See Our First Below Zero Reading?

- Usually late November into the first week of December

Valid: Fri 06 am CST - Tue 06 am CST

Confidence is increasing on colder air filtering in over the area for the end of next week into the weekend with a 30-70% chance of morning lows below zero, highest over northeastern SD

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 32 °F at 2:57 PM

Low Temp: 26 °F at 8:44 AM

Wind: 16 mph at 9:58 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 9 hours, 13 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 65 in 1932

Record Low: -17 in 1996

Average High: 38

Average Low: 16

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.62

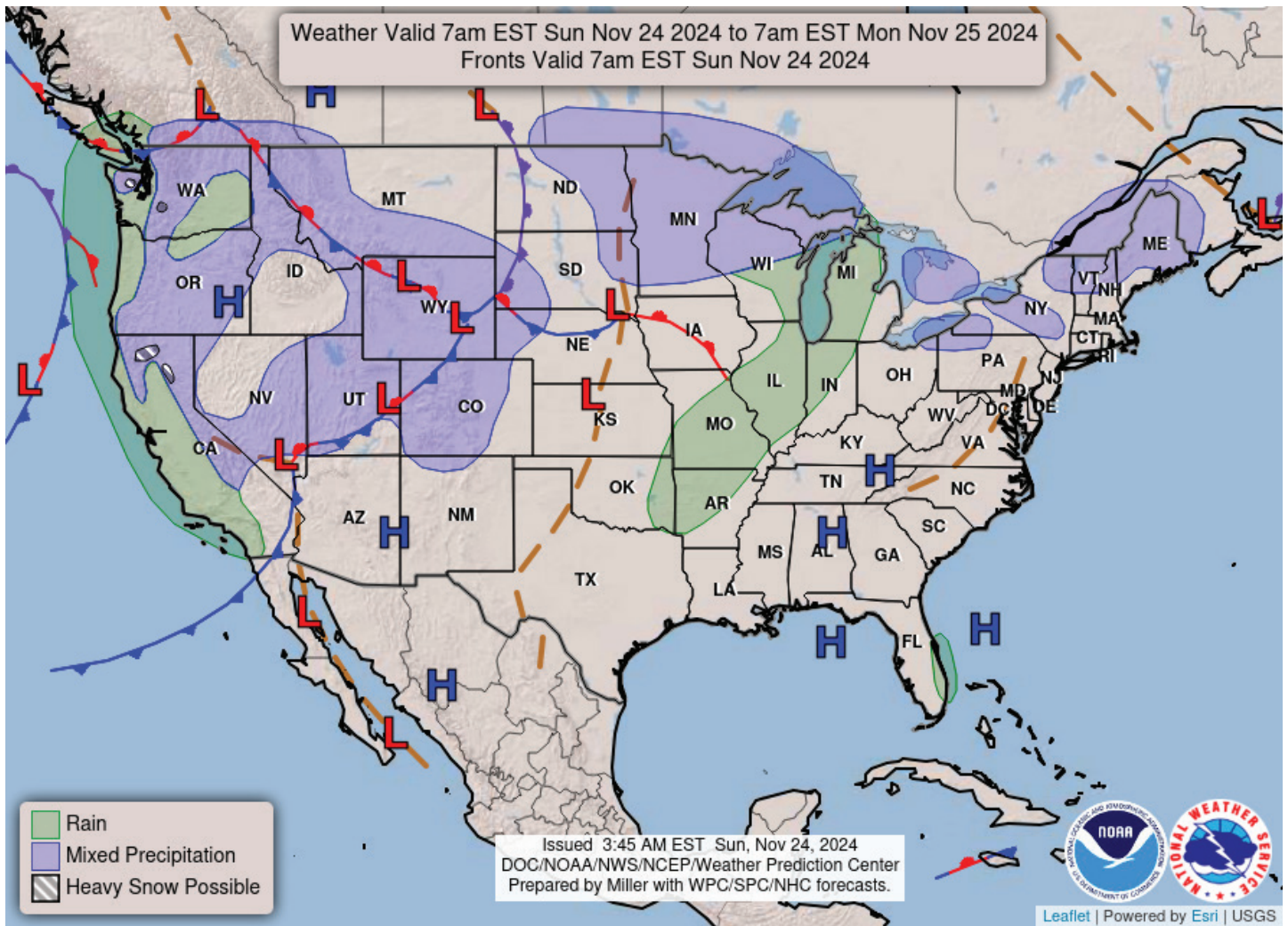
Precip to date in Nov.: 1.83

Average Precip to date: 21.09

Precip Year to Date: 21.71

Sunset Tonight: 4:55:59 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:43:51 am



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## Today in Weather History

November 24, 1993: A major slow-moving storm system traveled across the upper Midwest during the Thanksgiving holiday, dumping heavy snow across most of South Dakota and Minnesota from November 24 through the 27th. The highest snowfall amounts of two to three feet occurred in northeast South Dakota. Over a foot of snow accumulated in west central Minnesota, and needless to say, travel became tough across the entire area. Storm total snowfall amounts included 31.8 inches at Westport, 29.5 inches at Leola, 28 inches at Britton, 25.3 inches at Aberdeen, 24.3 inches at Mellette, 24.0 inches at McLaughlin, and 22.0 inches near Victor. The snowfall of 25.3 inches at Aberdeen was a single storm record (that still stands today), and it made November 1993 one of the snowiest months on record in Aberdeen with a total of 30.1 inches of snowfall. Only three months have recorded more snow: November 1898, February 1915, and November 2000. The storm closed numerous schools and offices on November 24th across the area, resulting in an early start to the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Some freezing rain and freezing drizzle preceded the snowstorm in southeast South Dakota from late on the 23rd to the 24th, causing at least 60 vehicle accidents. The heavy snow also clogged roads, causing vehicles to become stuck and resulting in numerous accidents. As a consequence of the heavy snow, low wind chills, and low visibilities, a 23-year old man was stranded in his pickup truck in a snow bank north of Aberdeen for 18 hours on the 23rd and 24th. The weight of snow collapsed many structures in northeast South Dakota from the 25th to the 26th. The roof of a metal barn collapsed two miles northwest of Aberdeen, killing one dairy cow in the barn. In Castlewood, a 100-foot by 40-foot metal pole shed fell in, causing damage to a grain truck inside. A machine shed also caved in on a farm east of Bowdle. During the afternoon of the 26th, part of the roof and wall of the Roscoe Senior Center collapsed, causing a near-total loss to the building. Strong northwest winds followed the snowstorm in western and central South Dakota, causing considerable blowing and drifting snow and wind chills as low as 50 degrees below zero. In North Dakota, over two feet of snow fell over a large part of central and southeastern portions of the state. Most of North Dakota had over a foot of snow from this storm. The greatest snowfall amount was reported at Oakes, in Dickey County where 31 inches fell. At the National Weather Service office in Bismarck, 28.3 inches of snow were measured during the 108-hour snow event. This amount set a new single storm record for snow in Bismarck. The snow began the evening on the 22nd and did not end until the morning of the 27th. Except for about six hours during the day on the 26th, the snow was continuous through this period. Fortunately, the wind was only 10 to 25 mph during this storm, so it was well below blizzard conditions and blowing and drifting of snow was not a problem.

1812 - Southwesterly winds of hurricane force sank ships and unroofed buildings at Philadelphia and New York City. (David Ludlum)

1863 - The battle above the clouds was fought on Lookout Mountain near Chattanooga. Pre-frontal clouds obscured the upper battle- field aiding a Union victory. (David Ludlum)

1950 - The temperature at Chicago, IL, dipped to 2 below zero to equal their record for the month established on the 29th in 1872. On the first of the month that year Chicago established a record high for November with a reading of 81 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1982 - Hurricane Iwa lashed the Hawaiian Islands of Niihau, Kauai, and Oahu with high winds and surf. Winds gusting to 120 mph caused extensive shoreline damage. Damage totalled 150 million dollars on Kauai, and fifty million dollars on Oahu. The peak storm surge on the south shore was six to eight feet. It marked the first time in 25 years that Hawaii had been affected by a hurricane. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Showers and thunderstorms produced heavy rain in southern Missouri, southeast Kansas and northeastern Oklahoma. Flooding was reported in Greene County of southwestern Missouri. Springfield MO was drenched with more than six inches of rain. Thunderstorms over southern Texas produced more than eight inches of rain in Caldwell County and Hayes County, and thunderstorms over south central Oklahoma produced one inch hail at Temple twice within an hour. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Low pressure brought heavy snow and high winds to the Northern and Central Rockies. Snowfall totals in Colorado ranged up to 40 inches at Wolf Creek Pass, with 27 inches falling in 24 hours. Telluride CO received 32 inches of snow, and winds atop Mines Peak gusted to 95 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



## THAT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ME!

A young mother went to Mr. Duffy for him to do a portrait of her so that her children would know what she looked like as a young lady. Mr. Duffy was known for his "idealized" paintings – painting his clients as they could be if they were "ideal".

When she returned after several months of waiting, she was shocked by what she saw. Angrily she said, "That doesn't look like me."

"I know," he replied graciously, "but try your best to look as lovely as it does."

Mr. Duffy saw in the mother what she could become. And so, when he painted her portrait, he brought out the best in her, the "ideal." He wanted to help her achieve her best.

One day after Andrew met and accepted Jesus as the Messiah, he brought Simon to meet Jesus. As Jesus looked intently at him He saw an "ideal" disciple and said, "You are Simon, the son of John – but you will be called Cephas (which means Peter)."

Jesus saw not only who Simon was but who he would become. That is the reason He gave him a new name. Peter was not always a "solid rock" throughout the Gospels but that is what he became "rock-solid" as he grew in Christ.

Christ always sees more in us than we see in ourselves. He sees us as we can be – rock-solid – in our walk with and witness for Him. Come. Follow me!

Prayer: Lord, may we walk with You, in faith, believing that You have great plans for our lives. May we trust You completely and become "ideal" disciples. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter). John 1:42

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

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- Colored.....\$79.88/year
- Colored.....\$42.60/6 months
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\* The E-Weekly is a PDF file emailed to you each week. It does not grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.22.24

13 20 26 32 65 2

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$489,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.23.24

2 8 10 14 49 9

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$15,760,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.23.24

11 20 21 26 31 7

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 11 Mins  
28 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.23.24

18 20 28 30 33

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$118,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.23.24

36 40 41 50 60 13

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.23.24

12 13 34 44 67 8

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$184,000,000**

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 VOLLEYBALL

SDHSAA Playoffs

#### Class AA

**Champion:** Harrisburg def. Sioux Falls Washington, 25-14, 25-17, 24-26, 25-13

**Consolation Champion:** Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Watertown, 18-25, 19-25, 25-20, 25-19, 15-13

**Third Place:** O'Gorman High School def. Sioux Falls Jefferson, 25-22, 15-25, 25-17, 17-25, 15-11

**Seventh Place:** Brandon Valley def. Aberdeen Central High School, 23-25, 19-25, 25-20, 25-19, 15-13

#### Class A

**Champion:** Dell Rapids def. Dakota Valley, 25-21, 25-23, 16-25, 25-11

**Third Place:** Sioux Falls Christian def. Hamlin, 25-10, 25-17, 25-21

**Consolation Champion:** Miller def. Sioux Valley, 25-16, 33-31, 25-12

**Seventh Place:** Mt. Vernon/Plankinton def. Winner, 25-21, 26-24, 25-21

#### Class B

**Champion:** Chester def. Warner, 18-25, 25-23, 23-25, 25-15, 15-10

**Third Place:** Burke def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 25-19, 25-21, 25-16

**Consolation Champion:** Colman-Egan def. Castlewood, 25-21, 25-19, 21-25, 22-25, 19-17

**Seventh Place:** Gayville-Volin High School def. Kadoka, 25-19, 25-23, 20-25, 25-16

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

### South Dakota State ensures share of MVFC title smashing FBS-bound Missouri State 45-9

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) — Mark Gronowski threw for 258 yards and two touchdowns and Amar Johnson ran for two touchdowns and South Dakota State overwhelmed Missouri State 45-9 on Saturday and claimed a share of the Missouri Valley Football Conference regular-season title.

With the win and North Dakota State's loss to South Dakota, the Bison, Coyotes and Jackrabbits (10-2, 7-1) all secure a three-way tie for the Missouri Valley Football Conference regular-season title.

Missouri State (8-4, 6-2) entered averaging 37 points per game.

It was Missouri State's final game as a Missouri Valley Football Conference member before joining Conference USA and the FBS ranks in 2025. Missouri State kicks off next season on Aug. 30 when it travels to Southern Cal.

### South Dakota scores with 12 seconds left to beat FCS top-ranked North Dakota State 29-28

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Aidan Bouman threw a 25-yard touchdown pass to Javion Phelps with 12 seconds left and South Dakota defeated FCS top-ranked North Dakota State 29-28 on Saturday to claim a share of its first Missouri Valley Football Conference championship.

The Coyotes (9-2, 7-1) trailed 28-17 when Bouman threw deep to Jack Martens for a 40-yard touchdown with 3:22 remaining. They got the ball back with 1:16 left and six plays later Bouman was sacked. The Coyotes quickly lined up and Bouman found Phelps alone 2 yards shy of the end zone along the left sideline and he easily scored.

South Dakota won its first game against the Bison in Vermillion since a four-overtime thriller in 2002.

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The Bison had won the last five meetings in the DakotaDome.

The Coyotes took a 14-0 lead on two Travis Theis rushing touchdowns but the Bison (10-2, 7-1) tied the game with two scores in the final 2:26 of the first half, a 23-yard pass from Cam Miller to Braylon Henderson and a 3-yard TD run by Miller.

Miller scored from 2 yards out late in the third quarter and CharMar Brown completed a 20-play, 99-yard drive that took nearly 11 minutes with a 1-yard score for a 28-17 Bison lead with just over four minutes to go.

Bouman was 18-of-30 for 271 yards and two touchdowns.

Miller was 9-of-21 passing with one touchdown and he rushed for 82 yards and another score.

## Japan holds Sado mines memorial despite South Korean boycott amid lingering historical tensions

By MARI YAMAGUCHI and KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SADO, Japan (AP) — Japanese officials on Sunday paid tribute to workers at the country's Sado Island Gold Mines but offered no apology over Japan's brutal wartime use of Korean forced laborers, highlighting lingering tensions between the neighbors over the issue.

South Korea a day earlier announced that it was boycotting the memorial, saying it had been impossible to settle unspecified disagreements between both governments in time for the event. The Korean absence is a major setback in the rapidly improving ties between the two countries, which since last year have set aside their historical disputes to prioritize U.S.-led security cooperation.

The Sado mines were listed in July as a UNESCO World Heritage site after Japan moved past years of disputes with South Korea and reluctantly acknowledged the mines' dark history, promising to hold an annual memorial service for all victims, including hundreds of Koreans who were mobilized to work in the mines.

The first ceremony of what Japan has promised will be an annual event held at a facility near the mines took place with more than 20 seats for South Korean attendees empty.

"As a local resident, I must say (their absence) is very disappointing after all the preparations we made," said Sado Mayor Ryugo Watanabe. "I wish we could have held the memorial with South Korean attendees."

Families of Korean victims of mine accidents were expected to separately hold their own ceremony near the mine on Monday.

At Sunday's ceremony four Japanese representatives, including central and local government officials and the head of the organizing group, thanked all mine workers for their sacrifice and mourned for those who died. None offered any apology to Korean forced laborers for the harsh treatment at the mines.

Akiko Ikuina, a parliamentary vice minister, representing Japan's government, praised the craftsmanship of the laborers and their contribution to the Sado mines.

She noted that "many people from the Korean Peninsula were at the mines under Japan's wartime labor policies" and that they engaged in difficult work under dangerous and severe conditions away from home and their loved ones, and some died in accidents or from illnesses. But she did not acknowledge their forced labor or Japan's colonization of the Korean Peninsula.

There has been speculation that the South Korean boycott might have been because of Ikuina's past visit to Tokyo's controversial Yasukuni Shrine — in August 2022, weeks after she was elected as a lawmaker. Japan's neighbors view Yasukuni, which commemorates 2.5 million war dead including war criminals, as a symbol of Japan's past militarism.

Ikuina belonged to a Japanese ruling party faction of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who led the whitewashing of Japan's wartime atrocities in the 2010s during his leadership.

For instance, Japan says the terms "sex slavery" and "forced labor" are inaccurate and insists on the use of highly euphemistic terms such as "comfort women" and "civilian workers" instead.

South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul said Saturday that Ikuina's Yasukuni visit was an issue of contention between the countries' diplomats.

The 16th-century mines on the island of Sado, off Japan's north-central coast, operated for nearly 400

years before closing in 1989 and were once the world's largest gold producer.

Historians say about 1,500 Koreans were mobilized to Sado as part of Japan's use of hundreds of thousands of Korean laborers, including those forcibly brought from the Korean Peninsula, at Japanese mines and factories to make up for labor shortages because most working-age Japanese men had been sent to battlefronts across Asia and the Pacific.

Japan's government has maintained that all wartime compensation issues between the two countries were resolved under a 1965 normalization treaty.

South Korea had long opposed the listing of the site as World Heritage on the grounds that the Korean forced laborers, despite their key role in the wartime mine production, were missing from the exhibition. Seoul's backing for Sado came as South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol prioritized improving relations with Japan.

Some South Koreans had criticized Yoon's government for supporting the event without securing a clear Japanese commitment to highlight the plight of Korean laborers. There were also complaints over South Korea agreeing to pay for the travel expenses of Korean victims' family members to Sado.

## **Pakistan partially stops mobile and internet services ahead of pro-Imran Khan protest**

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan Sunday suspended mobile and internet services "in areas with security concerns" as supporters of imprisoned former premier Imran Khan geared up for a protest in the capital.

The government and Interior Ministry posted the announcement on social media platform X, which is banned in Pakistan. They did not specify the areas, nor did they say how long the suspension would be in place.

"Internet and mobile services will continue to operate as usual in the rest of the country," the posts said. A spokesperson for the Interior Ministry was not immediately available for comment.

Meanwhile, telecom company Nayatel sent out emails offering customers "a reliable landline service" as a workaround in the areas suffering suspended cellphone service.

Khan has been in prison for more than a year and has over 150 criminal cases against him. But he remains popular and his political party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf or PTI, says the cases are politically motivated.

His supporters rely heavily on social media to demand his release and use messaging platforms like WhatsApp to share information, including details of events.

Pakistan has already sealed off the capital Islamabad with shipping containers and shut down major roads and highways connecting the city with PTI strongholds in the provinces of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The government is imposing social media platform bans and targeting VPN services, according to monitoring service Netblocks. On Sunday, Internet-access advocacy group, Netblocks said live metrics showed WhatsApp backends are restricted in Pakistan, affecting media sharing on the app.

The U.S. embassy issued a security alert for Americans in the capital, encouraging them to avoid large gatherings and warning that even "peaceful gatherings can turn violent."

Last month, authorities suspended the cellphone service in Islamabad and Rawalpindi to thwart a pro-Khan rally. The shutdown disrupted communications and affected everyday services such as banking, ride-hailing and food delivery.

The latest crackdown comes on the eve of a visit by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.

## **Here's what to know about the new funding deal that countries agreed to at UN climate talks**

By MELINA WALLING Associated Press

BAKU, Azerbaijan (AP) — In the wee hours Sunday at the United Nations climate talks, countries from around the world reached an agreement on how rich countries can cough up the funds to support poor countries in the face of climate change.

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It's a far-from-perfect arrangement, with many parties still deeply unsatisfied but some hopeful that the deal will be a step in the right direction.

World Resources Institute president and CEO Ani Dasgupta called it "an important down payment toward a safer, more equitable future," but added that the poorest and most vulnerable nations are "rightfully disappointed that wealthier countries didn't put more money on the table when billions of people's lives are at stake."

The summit was supposed to end on Friday evening but negotiations spiraled on through early Sunday. With countries on opposite ends of a massive chasm, tensions ran high as delegations tried to close the gap in expectations.

Here's how they got there:

What was the finance deal agreed at climate talks?

Rich countries have agreed to pool together at least \$300 billion a year by 2035. It's not near the full amount of \$1.3 trillion that developing countries were asking for, and that experts said was needed. But delegations more optimistic about the agreement said this deal is headed in the right direction, with hopes that more money flows in the future.

The text included a call for all parties to work together using "all public and private sources" to get closer to the \$1.3 trillion per year goal by 2035. That means also pushing for international mega-banks, funded by taxpayer dollars, to help foot the bill. And it means, hopefully, that companies and private investors will follow suit on channeling cash toward climate action.

The agreement is also a critical step toward helping countries on the receiving end create more ambitious targets to limit or cut emissions of heat-trapping gases that are due early next year. It's part of the plan to keep cutting pollution with new targets every five years, which the world agreed to at the U.N. talks in Paris in 2015.

The Paris agreement set the system of regular ratcheting up climate fighting ambition as away to keep warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels. The world is already at 1.3 degrees Celsius (2.3 degrees Fahrenheit) and carbon emissions keep rising.

What will the money be spent on?

The deal decided in Baku replaces a previous agreement from 15 years ago that charged rich nations \$100 billion a year to help the developing world with climate finance.

The new number has similar aims: it will go toward the developing world's long laundry list of to-dos to prepare for a warming world and keep it from getting hotter. That includes paying for the transition to clean energy and away from fossil fuels. Countries need funds to build up the infrastructure needed to deploy technologies like wind and solar power on a large scale.

Communities hard-hit by extreme weather also want money to adapt and prepare for events like floods, typhoons and fires. Funds could go toward improving farming practices to make them more resilient to weather extremes, to building houses differently with storms in mind, to helping people move from the hardest-hit areas and to help leaders improve emergency plans and aid in the wake of disasters.

The Philippines, for example, has been hammered by six major storms in less than a month, bringing to millions of people howling wind, massive storm surges and catastrophic damage to residences, infrastructure and farmland.

"Family farmers need to be financed," said Esther Penunia of the Asian Farmers Association. She described how many have already had to deal with millions of dollars of storm damage, some of which includes trees that won't again bear fruit for months or years, or animals that die, wiping out a main source of income.

"If you think of a rice farmer who depends on his or her one hectare farm, rice land, ducks, chickens, vegetables, and it was inundated, there was nothing to harvest," she said.

Why was it so hard to get a deal?

Election results around the world that herald a change in climate leadership, a few key players with motive to stall the talks and a disorganized host country all led to a final crunch that left few happy with a flawed compromise.

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The ending of COP29 is “reflective of the harder geopolitical terrain the world finds itself in,” said Li Shuo of the Asia Society. He cited Trump’s recent victory in the US — with his promises to pull the country out of the Paris Agreement — as one reason why the relationship between China and the EU will be more consequential for global climate politics moving forward.

Developing nations also faced some difficulties agreeing in the final hours, with one Latin American delegation member saying that their group didn’t feel properly consulted when small island states had last-minute meetings to try to break through to a deal. Negotiators from across the developing world took different tacks on the deal until they finally agreed to compromise.

Meanwhile, activists ramped up the pressure: many urged negotiators to stay strong and asserted that no deal would be better than a bad deal. But ultimately the desire for a deal won out.

Some also pointed to the host country as a reason for the struggle. Mohamed Adow, director of climate and energy think tank Power Shift Africa, said Friday that “this COP presidency is one of the worst in recent memory,” calling it “one of the most poorly led and chaotic COP meetings ever.”

The presidency said in a statement, “Every hour of the day, we have pulled people together. Every inch of the way, we have pushed for the highest common denominator. We have faced geopolitical headwinds and made every effort to be an honest broker for all sides.”

Shuo retains hope that the opportunities offered by a green economy “make inaction self-defeating” for countries around the world, regardless of their stance on the decision. But it remains to be seen whether the UN talks can deliver more ambition next year.

In the meantime, “this COP process needs to recover from Baku,” Shuo said.

## **Nigeria turns to natural gas as transport prices soar after petrol subsidies were removed**

By DYEPAKAZAH SHIBAYAN Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — When Nigeria’s President Bola Tinubu ended the costly subsidies that made petrol affordable for many in Africa’s most populous country, Ahmed Halilu knew his e-hailing cab business in the capital, Abuja, was about to run into huge losses.

Transportation costs skyrocketed as the price of petrol more than tripled in the months that followed last year’s decision, resulting in the country’s worst cost-of-living crisis in a generation. That meant a massive drop in the number of Halilu’s passengers and ultimately in his earnings.

In what they said would eventually lower transportation costs by almost 50%, Nigerian authorities in August introduced a compressed natural gas (CNG) initiative to tap its huge gas reserves — Africa’s largest — and roll out CNG buses while switching petrol-powered vehicles to use it.

More than 100,000 vehicles have been adapted to run on CNG or with the hybrid option of CNG and petrol, and at least \$200 million has been invested by the government under the initiative, according to its director, Michael Oluwagbemi.

The government aims to convert 1 million of Nigeria’s over 11 million vehicles in the next three years, but analysts say the process has been slow, pointing to poor implementation and limited infrastructure.

Although Nigeria is one of Africa’s top oil producers, it depends on imported refined petroleum products because its refineries are struggling, with production at its lowest in decades amid massive oil theft.

Together with other reforms introduced by Tinubu after coming to power in May last year, the removal of subsidies was supposed to save the government money and shore up dwindling foreign investments.

However, it has affected the price of just about everything, and soaring transportation costs force people to abandon their vehicles and walk to work.

Switching over to gas is hard. In addition to the lack of an adequate network of CNG conversion and filling stations — available in 13 of Nigeria’s 36 states — the success of the government’s initiative also has been limited by low public awareness.

That has left room for misinformation and hesitancy among drivers.

"People are not keen about it because of a lack of orientation," Halilu said. He converted his vehicle and now saves \$240 monthly on petrol costs in his e-hailing business.

Some drivers have expressed fear that their cars could explode with the CNG conversion — claims that regulatory agencies have said are untrue unless the equipment is installed inappropriately. In southern Edo state, authorities found that a CNG-powered vehicle that exploded had been worked on by an unaccredited vendor.

Even in Abuja and the economic hub of Lagos, filling stations are scarce and the few available conversion workshops are often lined with commercial vehicles waiting for days to switch to CNG at subsidized rates.

Meanwhile, the cost for private vehicles to switch is 20 times Nigeria's minimum monthly wage of \$42.

A colleague had to travel about 200 kilometers (124 miles) to Abuja to refill his cylinder, said Abdul Manasseh, an e-hailing taxi driver in Abuja.

Another challenge that has slowed the initiative is Nigeria's limited gas pipeline, which makes supplying stations difficult. As a result, most parts of the northern and eastern states have not been reached.

The challenges echo those for the shift to electric vehicles in Nigeria, where the adoption by private operators has been slow. The power supply remains fitful for most of the country's 210 million citizens, mainly as a result of underinvestment and vandalism.

The government understands there is still "a lot of uncertainty" around the CNG initiative and is working to correct the misconceptions and provide the needed infrastructure, said Tosin Coker, the initiative's head of commercial matters.

"CNG is a cleaner fuel, it is a cheaper fuel and it is a safer fuel compared to the petrol that we are used to," Coker said. "So you will have more money in your pocket and it's cleaner for the environment."

## Forecasts warn of possible winter storms across US during Thanksgiving week

By GODOFREDO A. VASQUEZ Associated Press

WINDSOR, Calif. (AP) — Forecasters through the U.S. issued warnings that another round of winter weather could complicate travel leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday, while California and Washington state continue to recover from storm damage and power outages.

In California, where a person was found dead in a vehicle submerged in floodwaters on Saturday, authorities braced for more precipitation while grappling with flooding and small landslides from a previous storm. Thousands in the Pacific Northwest remained without power after multiple days in the dark.

The National Weather Service office in Sacramento, California, issued a winter storm warning for the state's Sierra Nevada for Saturday through Tuesday, with heavy snow expected at higher elevations and wind gusts potentially reaching 55 mph (88 kph). Total snowfall of roughly 4 feet (1.2 meters) was forecast, with the heaviest accumulations expected Monday and Tuesday.

The Midwest and Great Lakes regions will see rain and snow Monday and the East Coast will be the most impacted on Thanksgiving and Black Friday, forecasters said.

A low pressure system is forecast to bring rain to the Southeast early Thursday before heading to the Northeast. Areas from Boston to New York could see rain and strong winds, with snowfall possible in parts of northern New Hampshire, northern Maine and the Adirondacks. If the system tracks further inland, there could be less snow and more rain in the mountains, forecasters said.

Deadly 'bomb cyclone' on West Coast

Earlier this week, two people died when the storm arrived in the Pacific Northwest. Hundreds of thousands lost power, mostly in the Seattle area, before strong winds moved through Northern California. A rapidly intensifying "bomb cyclone" that hit the West Coast on Tuesday brought fierce winds that resulted in home and vehicle damage.

Rescue crews in Guerneville, California, recovered a body inside a vehicle bobbing in floodwaters around 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sonoma County Sheriff's Deputy Rob Dillion said, noting the deceased was presumed to be a victim of the storm but an autopsy had not yet been conducted.



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Santa Rosa, California, saw its wettest three-day period on record with about 12.5 inches (32 centimeters) of rain by Friday evening, the National Weather Service in the Bay Area reported. Vineyards in nearby Windsor, California, were flooded on Saturday.

Tens of thousands without power in Seattle area

Some 80,000 people in the Seattle area were still without electricity after this season's strongest atmospheric river, a long plume of moisture that forms over an ocean and flows over land.

The power came back in the afternoon at Katie Skipper's home in North Bend, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) east of Seattle, after being out since Tuesday. She was tired from taking cold showers, warming herself with a wood stove and using a generator to run the refrigerator, but Skipper said those inconveniences paled in comparison to the damage other people suffered, such as from fallen trees.

"That's really sad and scary," she said.

Northeast gets needed precipitation

Another storm brought rain to New York and New Jersey, where rare wildfires have raged in recent weeks, and heavy snow to northeastern Pennsylvania. The precipitation was expected to help ease drought conditions after an exceptionally dry fall.

"It's not going to be a drought buster, but it's definitely going to help when all this melts," said Bryan Greenblatt, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Binghamton, New York.

Heavy snow fell in northeastern Pennsylvania, including the Pocono Mountains. Higher elevations reported up to 17 inches (43 centimeters), with lesser accumulations in valley cities including Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. Less than 80,000 customers in 10 counties lost power.

Precipitation in West Virginia helped put a dent in the state's worst drought in at least two decades and boosted ski resorts preparing to open their slopes in the weeks ahead.

## Israel says rabbi who went missing in the UAE was killed

By TIA GOLDENBERG and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israel said Sunday that the body of an Israeli-Moldovan rabbi who went missing in the United Arab Emirates has been found after he was killed in what it described as a "heinous antisemitic terror incident."

The statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Israel "will act with all means to seek justice with the criminals responsible for his death." There was no immediate comment from the UAE.

Zvi Kogan, 28, an ultra-Orthodox rabbi who went missing on Thursday, ran a Kosher grocery store in the futuristic city of Dubai, where Israelis have flocked for commerce and tourism since the two countries forged diplomatic ties in the 2020 Abraham Accords.

The agreement has held through more than a year of soaring regional tensions unleashed by Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack into southern Israel. But Israel's devastating retaliatory offensive in Gaza and its invasion of Lebanon, after months of fighting with the Hezbollah militant group, have stoked anger among Emiratis, Arab nationals and others living in the the UAE.

Iran, which supports Hamas and Hezbollah, has also been threatening to retaliate against Israel after a wave of airstrikes Israel carried out in October in response to an Iranian ballistic missile attack.

The Emirati government did not respond to a request for comment.

Early Sunday, the UAE's state-run WAM news agency acknowledged Kogan's disappearance but pointedly did not acknowledge he held Israeli citizenship, referring to him only as being Moldovan. The Emirati Interior Ministry described Kogan as being "missing and out of contact."

"Specialized authorities immediately began search and investigation operations upon receiving the report," the Interior Ministry said.

Israel's largely ceremonial president, Isaac Herzog, condemned the killing and thanked Emirati authorities for "their swift action." He said he trusts they "will work tirelessly to bring the perpetrators to justice."

Kogan was an emissary of the Chabad Lubavitch movement, a prominent and highly observant branch of ultra-Orthodox Judaism based in Brooklyn's Crown Heights neighborhood in New York City. It said he

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was last seen in Dubai. The UAE has a burgeoning Jewish community, with synagogues and businesses catering to kosher diners.

The Rimon Market, a Kosher grocery store that Kogan managed on Dubai's busy Al Wasl Road, was shut Sunday. As the wars have roiled the region, the store has been the target of online protests by supporters of the Palestinians. Mezuzahs on the front and the back doors of the market appeared to have been ripped off when an Associated Press journalist stopped by on Sunday.

Kogan's wife, Rivky, is a U.S. citizen who lived with him in the UAE. She is the niece of Rabbi Gavriel Holtzberg, who was killed in the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

The UAE is an autocratic federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula and is also home to Abu Dhabi. Local Jewish officials in the UAE declined to comment.

While the Israeli statement did not mention Iran, Iranian intelligence services have carried out past kidnappings in the UAE.

Western officials believe Iran runs intelligence operations in the UAE and keeps tabs on the hundreds of thousands of Iranians living across the country.

Iran is suspected of kidnapping and later killing British Iranian national Abbas Yazdi in Dubai in 2013, though Tehran has denied involvement. Iran also kidnapped Iranian German national Jamshid Sharmahd in 2020 from Dubai, taking him back to Tehran, where he was executed in October.

## Chuck Woolery, smooth-talking game show host of 'Love Connection' and 'Scrabble,' dies at 83

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Chuck Woolery, the affable, smooth-talking game show host of "Wheel of Fortune," "Love Connection" and "Scrabble" who later became a right-wing podcaster, skewering liberals and accusing the government of lying about COVID-19, has died. He was 83.

Mark Young, Woolery's podcast co-host and friend, said in an email early Sunday that Woolery died at his home in Texas with his wife, Kristen, present. "Chuck was a dear friend and brother and a tremendous man of faith, life will not be the same without him," Young wrote.

Woolery, with his matinee idol looks, coiffed hair and ease with witty banter, was inducted into the American TV Game Show Hall of Fame in 2007 and earned a daytime Emmy nomination in 1978.

In 1983, Woolery began an 11-year run as host of TV's "Love Connection," for which he coined the phrase, "We'll be back in two minutes and two seconds," a two-fingered signature dubbed the "2 and 2." In 1984, he hosted TV's "Scrabble," simultaneously hosting two game shows on TV until 1990.

"Love Connection," which aired long before the dawn of dating apps, had a premise that featured either a single man or single woman who would watch audition tapes of three potential mates and then pick one for a date.

A couple of weeks after the date, the guest would sit with Woolery in front of a studio audience and tell everybody about the date. The audience would vote on the three contestants, and if the audience agreed with the guest's choice, "Love Connection" would offer to pay for a second date.

Woolery told The Philadelphia Inquirer in 2003 that his favorite set of lovebirds was a man aged 91 and a woman aged 87. "She had so much eye makeup on, she looked like a stolen Corvette. He was so old he said, 'I remember wagon trains.' The poor guy. She took him on a balloon ride."

Other career highlights included hosting the shows "Lingo," "Greed" and "The Chuck Woolery Show," as well as hosting the short-lived syndicated revival of "The Dating Game" from 1998 to 2000 and an ill-fated 1991 talk show. In 1992, he played himself in two episodes of TV's "Melrose Place."

Woolery became the subject of the Game Show Network's first attempt at a reality show, "Chuck Woolery: Naturally Stoned," which premiered in 2003. It shared the title of the pop song in 1968 by Woolery and his rock group, the Avant-Garde. It lasted six episode and was panned by critics.

Woolery began his TV career at a show that has become a mainstay. Although most associated with Pat Sajak and Vanna White, "Wheel of Fortune" debuted Jan. 6, 1975, on NBC with Woolery welcoming

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contestants and the audience. Woolery, then 33, was trying to make it in Nashville as a singer.

"Wheel of Fortune" started life as "Shopper's Bazaar," incorporating Hangman-style puzzles and a roulette wheel. After Woolery appeared on "The Merv Griffin Show" singing "Delta Dawn," Merv Griffin asked him to host the new show with Susan Stafford.

"I had an interview that stretched to 15, 20 minutes," Woolery told The New York Times in 2003. "After the show, when Merv asked if I wanted to do a game show, I thought, 'Great, a guy with a bad jacket and an equally bad mustache who doesn't care what you have to say — that's the guy I want to be.'"

NBC initially passed, but they retooled it as "Wheel of Fortune" and got the green light. After a few years, Woolery demanded a raise to \$500,000 a year, or what host Peter Marshall was making on "Hollywood Squares." Griffin balked and replaced Woolery with weather reporter Pat Sajak.

"Both Chuck and Susie did a fine job, and 'Wheel' did well enough on NBC, although it never approached the kind of ratings success that 'Jeopardy!' achieved in its heyday," Griffin said in "Merv: Making the Good Life Last," an autobiography from the 2000s co-written by David Bender. Woolery earned an Emmy nod as host.

Born in Ashland, Kentucky, Woolery served in the U.S. Navy before attending college. He played double bass in a folk trio, then formed the psychedelic rock duo The Avant-Garde in 1967 while working as a truck driver to support himself as a musician.

The Avant-Garde, which toured in a refitted Cadillac hearse, had the Top 40 hit "Naturally Stoned," with Woolery singing, "When I put my mind on you alone/I can get a good sensation/Feel like I'm naturally stoned."

After The Avant-Garde broke up, Woolery released his debut solo single "I've Been Wrong" in 1969 and several more singles with Columbia before transitioning to country music by the 1970s. He released two solo singles, "Forgive My Heart" and "Love Me, Love Me."

Woolery wrote or co-wrote songs for himself and everyone from Pat Boone to Tammy Wynette. On Wynette's 1971 album "We Sure Can Love Each Other," Woolery wrote "The Joys of Being a Woman" with lyrics including "See our baby on the swing/Hear her laugh, hear her scream."

After his TV career ended, Woolery went into podcasting. In an interview with The New York Times, he called himself a gun-rights activist and described himself as a conservative libertarian and constitutionalist. He said he hadn't revealed his politics in liberal Hollywood for fear of retribution.

He teamed up with Mark Young in 2014 for the podcast "Blunt Force Truth" and soon became a full supporter of Donald Trump while arguing minorities don't need civil rights and causing a firestorm by tweeting an antisemitic comment linking Soviet Communists to Judaism.

"President Obama's popularity is a fantasy only held by him and his dwindling legion of juice-box-drinking, anxiety-dog-hugging, safe-space-hiding snowflakes," he said.

Woolery also was active online, retweeting articles from Conservative Brief, insisting Democrats were trying to install a system of Marxism and spreading headlines such as "Impeach him! Devastating photo of Joe Biden leaks."

During the early stages of the pandemic, Woolery initially accused medical professionals and Democrats of lying about the virus in an effort to hurt the economy and Trump's chances for reelection to the presidency.

"The most outrageous lies are the ones about COVID-19. Everyone is lying. The CDC, media, Democrats, our doctors, not all but most, that we are told to trust. I think it's all about the election and keeping the economy from coming back, which is about the election. I'm sick of it," Woolery wrote in July 2020.

Trump retweeted that post to his 83 million followers. By the end of the month, nearly 4.5 million Americans had been infected with COVID-19 and more than 150,000 had died.

Just days later, Woolery changed his stance, announcing his son had contracted COVID-19. "To further clarify and add perspective, COVID-19 is real and it is here. My son tested positive for the virus, and I feel for those suffering and especially for those who have lost loved ones," Woolery posted before his account was deleted.

Woolery later explained on his podcast that he never called COVID-19 "a hoax" or said "it's not real,"

just that "we've been lied to." Woolery also said it was "an honor to have your president retweet what your thoughts are and think it's important enough to do that."

In addition to his wife, Woolery is survived by his sons Michael and Sean and his daughter Melissa, Young said.

## Israeli strikes in central Beirut kill at least 20 as diplomats push for a cease-fire

By ABBY SEWELL and BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli airstrikes Saturday in central Beirut killed at least 20 people, officials said, as the once-rare attacks on the heart of Lebanon's capital continued without warning while diplomats scrambled to broker a cease-fire.

Lebanon's Health Ministry said 66 people were wounded in the strikes, which were the fourth in central Beirut in less than a week.

The escalation comes after U.S. envoy Amos Hochstein traveled to the region in pursuit of a deal to end months of fighting between Israel and Hezbollah that has erupted into full-on war.

Israeli attacks have killed more than 3,500 people in Lebanon, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry. The fighting has displaced about 1.2 million people, or a quarter of Lebanon's population. On the Israeli side, about 90 soldiers and nearly 50 civilians have been killed by bombardment in northern Israel and the fighting.

An eight-story building is turned to rubble

The 4 a.m. strikes destroyed an eight-story building in central Beirut. Hezbollah legislator Amin Shiri said no Hezbollah officials were inside. The attack stripped the facades from some nearby buildings and crumpled cars.

"The area is residential, with closely packed buildings and narrow streets, making the situation challenging," said Walid Al-Hashash, a first responder with the Lebanese Civil Defense.

Israel's military did not comment on the casualties.

Also Saturday, a drone strike killed two people and injured three in the southern Lebanese port city of Tyre, according to the Lebanese state-run National News Agency.

Mohammed Bikai, spokesperson for the Fatah Palestinian faction in the Tyre area, said those killed were Palestinian refugees from nearby al-Rashidieh camp who were out fishing.

Despite a warning last month by Israel's army to avoid Lebanon's southern coast, "you can't tell someone who needs to eat that you can't fish," Bikai said.

The Health Ministry said other airstrikes killed eight people, including four children, in the eastern town of Shmustar, five others in the southern village of Roumin, and another five people in the northeastern village of Budai.

Sticking points in cease-fire talks

Two Western diplomatic officials on Saturday described disputed points between Israel and Lebanon in cease-fire negotiations. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the talks.

The current proposal calls for a two-month cease-fire during which Israeli forces would withdraw from Lebanon and Hezbollah would end its armed presence along the southern border south of the Litani River. Thousands more Lebanese army troops would patrol the border area with U.N. peacekeepers, and an international committee would monitor the deal's implementation.

The officials said Israel wanted more guarantees that Hezbollah's weapons are removed from the border area. Israeli officials have said they would not agree to a deal that did not explicitly grant them freedom to strike in Lebanon if they believe Hezbollah is violating it.

Lebanese officials have said the inclusion of such a term would violate their country's sovereignty. And Hezbollah leader Naim Kassem said this week that the militant group would not agree to a deal that does not entail a "complete and comprehensive end to the aggression."

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Lebanon and Israel also dispute which countries would sit on the monitoring committee. The officials said Israel refused to allow France, which has been close with Lebanon since its colonial rule there ended. Lebanon refused to have Britain, a close ally of Israel.

Deadly strikes in Gaza and people trapped in rubble

In northern Gaza, the Health Ministry said at least 80 people were killed on Thursday and Friday, including near the Kamal Adwan and Al-Ahli hospitals. It said dozens of people were trapped under the rubble.

Israel's army said it wasn't aware of a strike near Kamal Adwan, and it didn't respond to questions about the other attacks.

On Saturday, at least six people, including three children and two women, were killed in the southern city of Khan Younis, according to Associated Press reporters and staff at Nasser Hospital.

"Suddenly we woke up to dust, smoke and a fire," said one grieving father, Ahmad Ghassan. "We found him dead and his brother injured." Another father wept as he carried his child's body in a bloodstained sheet.

And Al-Awda Hospital said it received six bodies after Israel shelled a house north of the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza.

The Palestinian death toll from the 13-month-long war surpassed 44,000 this week, according to the Health Ministry, which doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants in its count. It has said more than half the dead are women and children. The Israeli military says it has killed over 17,000 militants, without providing evidence.

The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting another 250. Around 100 hostages are still inside Gaza, at least a third believed to be dead.

The Israeli offensive in Gaza has devastated wide areas, and around 90% of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been displaced, often multiple times. Hundreds of thousands live in tent camps with little food, water or basic services.

At least two women were shot dead Saturday while waiting in line for bread in central Deir al-Balah, relatives and witnesses told the AP. It was unclear who shot them and why.

The United Nations says its attempts to support hard-hit northern Gaza, which has been the focus of a renewed Israeli offensive for weeks, have been denied or impeded, and that less than 20% of the population has remained there since the offensive began.

Jordan security forces kill man who opened fire near Israeli Embassy

Authorities in Jordan say they shot and killed a man who opened fire on a police patrol near the Israeli Embassy, an attack that left three police officers hurt.

The shooting happened early Sunday in the Rabiah neighborhood of Amman, the Jordanian capital.

Jordan's Public Security Directorate said in a statement that a man was shooting in the area, and police pursued the shooter.

"He was chased and surrounded, so he started firing gunshots at the security force, which in turn applied the rules of engagement, which resulted in the killing of the perpetrator," the statement said.

It did not identify the shooter.

Israel and Jordan reached a peace deal in 1994. Tensions have been high between the two countries amid the Israel-Hamas war, which has decimated the Gaza Strip, and the Israeli ground offensive in Lebanon.

## Israel cracks down on Palestinian citizens who speak out against the war in Gaza

By SAM MCNEIL Associated Press

UMM AL-FAHM, Israel (AP) — Israel's yearlong crackdown against Palestinian citizens who speak out against the war in Gaza is prompting many to self-censor out of fear of being jailed and further marginalized in society, while some still find ways to dissent — carefully.

Ahmed Khalefa's life turned upside down after he was charged with inciting terrorism for chanting in

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solidarity with Gaza at an anti-war protest in October 2023.

The lawyer and city counselor from central Israel says he spent three difficult months in jail followed by six months detained in an apartment. It's unclear when he'll get a final verdict on his guilt or innocence. Until then, he's forbidden from leaving his home from dusk to dawn.

Khalefa is one of more than 400 Palestinian citizens of Israel who, since the start of the war in Gaza, have been investigated by police for "incitement to terrorism" or "incitement to violence," according to Adalah, a legal rights group for minorities. More than half of those investigated were also criminally charged or detained, Adalah said.

"Israel made it clear they see us more as enemies than as citizens," Khalefa said in an interview at a cafe in his hometown of Umm al-Fahm, Israel's second-largest Palestinian city.

Israel has roughly 2 million Palestinian citizens, whose families remained within the borders of what became Israel in 1948. Among them are Muslims and Christians, and they maintain family and cultural ties to Gaza and the West Bank, which Israel captured in 1967.

Israel says its Palestinian citizens enjoy equal rights, including the right to vote, and they are well-represented in many professions. However, Palestinians are widely discriminated against in areas like housing and the job market.

Israeli authorities have opened more incitement cases against Palestinian citizens during the war in Gaza than in the previous five years combined, Adalah's records show. Israeli authorities have not said how many cases ended in convictions and imprisonment. The Justice Ministry said it did not have statistics on those convictions.

Just being charged with incitement to terrorism or identifying with a terrorist group can land a suspect in detention until they're sentenced, under the terms of a 2016 law.

In addition to being charged as criminals, Palestinian citizens of Israel — who make up around 20% of the country's population — have lost jobs, been suspended from schools and faced police interrogations posting online or demonstrating, activists and rights watchdogs say.

It's had a chilling effect.

"Anyone who tries to speak out about the war will be imprisoned and harassed in his work and education," said Oumaya Jabareen, whose son was jailed for eight months after an anti-war protest. "People here are all afraid, afraid to say no to this war."

Jabareen was among hundreds of Palestinians who filled the streets of Umm al-Fahm earlier this month carrying signs and chanting political slogans. It appeared to be the largest anti-war demonstration in Israel since the Oct. 7 Hamas attack. But turnout was low, and Palestinian flags and other national symbols were conspicuously absent. In the years before the war, some protests could draw tens of thousands of Palestinians in Israel.

Authorities tolerated the recent protest march, keeping it under heavily armed supervision. Helicopters flew overhead as police with rifles and tear gas jogged alongside the crowd, which dispersed without incident after two hours. Khalefa said he chose not to attend.

Shortly after the Oct. 7 attack, Israel's far-right government moved quickly to invigorate a task force that has charged Palestinian citizens of Israel with "supporting terrorism" for posts online or protesting against the war. At around the same time, lawmakers amended a security bill to increase surveillance of online activity by Palestinians in Israel, said Nadim Nashif, director of the digital rights group 7amleh. These moves gave authorities more power to restrict freedom of expression and intensify their arrest campaigns, Nashif said.

The task force is led by Itamar Ben-Gvir, a hard-line national security minister who oversees the police. His office said the task force has monitored thousands of posts allegedly expressing support for terror organizations and that police arrested "hundreds of terror supporters," including public opinion leaders, social media influencers, religious figures, teachers and others.

"Freedom of speech is not the freedom to incite ... which harms public safety and our security," his office said in a statement.

But activists and rights groups say the government has expanded its definition of incitement much too

far, targeting legitimate opinions that are at the core of freedom of expression.

Myssana Morany, a human rights attorney at Adalah, said Palestinian citizens have been charged for seemingly innocuous things like sending a meme of a captured Israeli tank in Gaza in a private WhatsApp group chat. Another person was charged for posting a collage of children's photos, captioned in Arabic and English: "Where were the people calling for humanity when we were killed?" The feminist activist group Kayan said over 600 women called its hotline because of blowback in the workplace for speaking out against the war or just mentioning it unfavorably.

Over the summer, around two dozen anti-war protesters in the port city of Haifa were only allowed to finish three chants before police forcefully scattered the gathering into the night. Yet Jewish Israelis demanding a hostage release deal protest regularly — and the largest drew hundreds of thousands to the streets of Tel Aviv.

Khalefa, the city counselor, is not convinced the crackdown on speech will end, even if the war eventually does. He said Israeli prosecutors took issue with slogans that broadly praised resistance and urged Gaza to be strong, but which didn't mention violence or any militant groups. For that, he said, the government is trying to disbar him, and he faces up to eight years in prison.

"They wanted to show us the price of speaking out," Khalefa said.

## Haiti wonders what's next as gang violence surges and UN peacekeeping mission flops

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — When Kenyan police arrived in Haiti as part of a U.N.-backed mission earlier this year to tackle gang violence, hopes were high.

Coordinated gang attacks on prisons, police stations and the main international airport had crippled the country's capital and forced the prime minister to resign, plunging Haiti into an unprecedented crisis.

But the crisis has only deepened since the international policing contingent arrived. The main international airport closed for the second time this year after gangs opened fire on commercial flights in mid-November, striking a flight attendant. Gunmen also are attacking once-peaceful communities to try and seize control of the entire capital, taking advantage of political infighting that led to the abrupt dismissal of the prime minister earlier this month.

Now, a new prime minister is tasked with turning around a nation that sees no escape from its troubles as Haitians wonder: How did the country reach this point?

'No functioning authority'

Bloody coups, brutal dictatorships and gangs created by Haiti's political and economic elite have long defined the country's history, but experts say the current crisis is the worst they've seen.

"I'm very bleak about the future," said Robert Fatton, a Haitian politics expert at the University of Virginia. "The whole situation is really collapsing."

The government is anemic, the U.N.-backed mission that supports Haiti's understaffed police department lacks funding and personnel, and gangs now control 85% of the capital. Then, on Wednesday, another blow.

Doctors Without Borders announced it was suspending critical care in Port-au-Prince as it accused police of targeting its staff and patients, including threats of rape and death. It's the first time the aid group has stopped working with new patients since it began operating in Haiti more than 30 years ago.

"Every day that we cannot resume activities is a tragedy, as we are one of the few providers of a wide range of medical services that have remained open during this extremely difficult year," said Christophe Garnier, mission director in Haiti.

Lionel Lizarre, deputy spokesman for Haiti's National Police, did not return messages for comment. Neither did officials with Kenya's mission when asked about the surge in gang violence.

In a recent statement, the Kenyan-led mission said it was "cognizant of the road ahead that is fraught with challenges." But it noted that ongoing joint patrols and operations have secured certain communities

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and forced gangs to change the way they operate.

André François Giroux, Canada's ambassador to Haiti, told The Associated Press on Saturday that his country and others have been trying to bolster the Kenyan-led mission. "They've done miracles, I think, considering all the challenges that we've been facing," he said.

"What we have to keep in mind is that it's still very much in deployment mode," Giroux said. "There are not even 400 on the ground right now."

A spokesman for Haiti's new prime minister, Alix Didier Fils-Aimé, did not return messages for comment. In a statement Thursday, his administration said authorities were strengthening security along the capital's main roads and had formed a special security council.

"The prime minister renews his commitment to find lasting solutions to current problems," it said.

The statement was issued just days after gangs launched a pre-dawn attack Tuesday around an upper-class community in Haiti's capital, forcing residents armed with machetes and guns to fight side-by-side with police to repel gunmen.

At least 28 gang members were killed, but not before some reached an area near an upscale hotel long considered safe.

"It tells you that there is no functioning authority in Haiti," Fatton said.

Dwindling aid and growing isolation

A main concern in the ongoing crisis is the temporary closure of the main international airport in Port-au-Prince.

It means critical aid is not reaching those who need it the most in a country where nearly 6,000 people are starving and nearly half of the more than 11 million inhabitants are experiencing crisis levels of hunger or worse. Gang violence also has left more than 700,000 people homeless in recent years.

"We are deeply concerned about the isolation of Port-au-Prince from the rest of Haiti and the world," said Laurent Uwumuremyi, Mercy Corps' country director for Haiti.

The aid group helps people including more than 15,000 living in makeshift shelters, but persistent gang violence has prevented workers from reaching a growing number of them in the capital and beyond.

Basic goods also are dwindling as the suspension of flights has delayed imports of critical supplies.

"Before, there were some neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince that we considered safe that the gangs had never reached, but now they are threatening to take over the control of the entire capital," Uwumuremyi said.

At least 150 people were reported killed in the capital and 20,000 forced to flee their homes in the second week of November alone. Overall, more than 4,500 people were reported killed in Haiti so far this year, the U.N. said.

Jimmy Chérizier, a former elite police officer who became a gang leader known as Barbecue, warned that a gang coalition known as Viv Ansanm will keep attacking as they demand the resignation of a transitional presidential council tasked with leading the country along with the new prime minister. The council also is supposed to organize general elections for the first time in nearly a decade so voters can choose a president, a position left empty since President Jovenel Moïse was killed at his private residence in July 2021.

'What else are you left with?'

The U.S. and other countries pushed for a U.N. peacekeeping mission in Haiti at a U.N. Security Council meeting this week. Only about 400 officers from Kenya have arrived, along with a handful of police and soldiers from other countries — way short of the 2,500 personnel slated for the mission.

"This is not just another wave of insecurity; it is a dramatic escalation that shows no signs of abating," Miroslav Jenča, U.N. assistant secretary general for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas, said Wednesday at the meeting.

But Russia and China oppose a U.N. peacekeeping mission, leaving many to wonder what other options are left for Haiti.

Giroux, the Canadian ambassador, said his country supports a peacekeeping operation "when the time is right."



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"Everybody is looking at a peacekeeping mission as a silver bullet," he said, adding that even if that were to happen, it wouldn't be able to deploy for another six to 12 months. "We need to be realistic."

Giroux said he is hopeful that some 600 Kenyans will arrive in Haiti in upcoming weeks, but added that "none of this matters if the political elite doesn't get its act together."

The nine-member transitional presidential council has been marred by accusations of corruption and infighting and was criticized for firing the previous prime minister.

"I'm at a loss for any short-term solution for Haiti, let alone any long-term solutions," Fatton said. "The gangs have seen that they shouldn't be afraid of the Kenyan mission."

He said one option may be for the government to negotiate with the gangs.

"At the moment, it is perceived as utterly unacceptable," he said. "But if the situation deteriorates even more, what else are you left with?"

## Uruguay's once-dull election has become a dead heat in the presidential runoff

By NAYARA BATSCHKE Associated Press

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP) — Uruguayans will return to the polls on Sunday for a second round of voting to choose their next president, with the conservative governing party and the left-leaning coalition locked in a close runoff after failing to win an outright majority in last month's vote.

The election has turned into a hard-fought race between Álvaro Delgado, the incumbent party's candidate, and Yamandú Orsi from the Broad Front, a coalition of leftist and center-left parties that governed for 15 years until the 2019 victory of center-right President Luis Lacalle Pou. It oversaw the legalization of abortion, same-sex marriage and the sale of marijuana in the small South American nation.

Orsi's Broad Front took 44% of the vote while Delgado's National Party won just 27% in the first round of voting Oct. 27. But the other conservative parties that make up the government coalition — in particular, the Colorado Party — notched 20% of the vote collectively, enough to give Delgado an edge over his challenger this time around.

Congress ended up evenly split in the October vote. Most polls have shown a virtual tie between Delgado and Orsi, with nearly 10% of Uruguayan voters undecided even at this late stage.

Analysts say the candidates' lackluster campaigns and broad consensus on key issues have helped generate extraordinary voter indecision and apathy in an election dominated by discussions about taxes and social spending but largely free of the anti-establishment rage that has vaulted populist outsiders to power elsewhere.

"The question of whether Frente Amplio (the Broad Front) raises taxes is not an existential question, unlike what we saw in the U.S. with Trump and Kamala framing each other as threats to democracy," said Nicolás Saldías, a Latin America and Caribbean senior analyst for the London-based Economist Intelligence Unit. "That doesn't exist in Uruguay."

Both candidates are also appealing to voter angst over a surge in violent crime that has shaken a nation long regarded as one of the region's most safe and stable.

Delgado, 55, a rural veterinarian with a long career in the National Party, campaigned on a vow to continue the legacy of current President Lacalle Pou — in some ways making the election into a referendum on his leadership. He campaigned under the slogan "re-elect a good government."

While a string of corruption scandals briefly tainted Lacalle Pou's government last year, the president — who constitutionally cannot run for a second consecutive term — now enjoys high approval ratings and a strong economy expected to grow 3.2% this year, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Delgado served most recently as Secretary of the Presidency for Lacalle Pou and promises to press on with his predecessor's pro-business, market-friendly policies. His coalition would likely continue pursuing a prospective trade deal with China that has raised hackles in Mercosur, an alliance of South American countries that promotes regional commerce.

Orsi, 57, a former history teacher and two-time mayor from a working-class background, is widely seen

as an heir to iconic former President José "Pepe" Mujica, a former Marxist guerilla who boosted Uruguay's profile as one of the region's most socially liberal and environmentally sustainable nations during his 2010-2015 term.

"He was born from ordinary workers," Mujica said in a closing campaign ad for Orsi. "He represents, precisely, the average type of what Uruguay is."

Promising to forge a "new left" in Uruguay, Orsi has proposed tax incentives to lure investment and industrial policy to boost Uruguay's critical agricultural sector.

He has also floated social security reforms that would buck the demographic trend in lowering the retirement age but fall short of a radical overhaul sought by Uruguay's unions.

The contentious plebiscite on whether to boost pension payouts failed to pass in October, with Uruguayans rejecting generous pensions in favor of fiscal constraint.

"This is a normal election, which is rare," said Saldías. "It's indicative of Uruguay's strength as a democracy." \_\_\_\_\_

Associated Press writer Isabel DeBre in Villa Tunari, Bolivia, contributed to this report.

## **The Philippine vice president publicly threatens to have the president assassinated**

By JIM GOMEZ Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine Vice President Sara Duterte said Saturday she has contracted an assassin to kill the president, his wife and the House of Representatives speaker if she herself is killed, in a brazen public threat that she warned was not a joke.

Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin referred the "active threat" against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to an elite presidential guards force "for immediate proper action." It was not immediately clear what actions would be taken against the vice president.

The Presidential Security Command boosted Marcos' security and said it considered the vice president's threat, which was "made so brazenly in public," a national security issue.

The presidential security force said it was "coordinating with law enforcement agencies to detect, deter, and defend against any and all threats to the president and the first family."

Duterte, a lawyer, later tried to walk back her remarks and said they were not an actual threat but only an expression of concern over an unspecified threat to her own life.

"If I expressed the concern, they will say that's a threat to the life of the president?" she said.

"Why would I kill him if not for revenge from the grave? There is no reason for me to kill him. What's the benefit for me?" Duterte told journalists.

Under the Philippine penal code, such public remarks may constitute a crime of threatening to inflict a wrong on a person or his family and is punishable by a jail term and fine.

The Philippine Constitution says that if a president dies, sustains a permanent disability, is removed from office or resigns, the vice president takes over and serves the rest of the term.

Marcos ran with Duterte as his vice-presidential running mate in the May 2022 elections and both won with landslide victories on a campaign call of national unity.

The two leaders and their camps, however, rapidly had a bitter falling-out over key differences, including in their approaches to China's aggressive actions in the disputed South China Sea. Duterte resigned from the Marcos Cabinet in June as education secretary and head of an anti-insurgency body.

Like her equally outspoken father, former President Rodrigo Duterte, the vice president became a vocal critic of Marcos, his wife Liza Araneta-Marcos and House Speaker Martin Romualdez, the president's ally and cousin, accusing them of corruption, incompetence and politically persecuting the Duterte family and its close supporters.

Her latest tirade was set off by the decision by House members allied with Romualdez and Marcos to detain her chief of staff, Zuleika Lopez, who was accused of hampering a congressional inquiry into the possible misuse of her budget as vice president and education secretary. Lopez was later transferred to a

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hospital after falling ill and wept when she heard of a plan to temporarily lock her up in a women's prison.

In a pre-dawn online news conference, an angry Sara Duterte accused Marcos of incompetence as a president and of being a liar, along with his wife and the House speaker in expletives-laden remarks.

When asked about concerns over her security, the 46-year-old suggested there was an unspecified plot to kill her. "Don't worry about my security because I've talked with somebody. I said 'if I'm killed, you'll kill BBM, Liza Araneta and Martin Romualdez. No joke, no joke,'" the vice president said without elaborating and using the initials that many use to call the president.

"I've given my order, 'If I die, don't stop until you've killed them.'" And he said, 'yes,'" the vice president said.

Amid the political divisions, military chief Gen. Romeo Brawner issued a statement with an assurance that the 160,000-member Armed Forces of the Philippines would remain nonpartisan "with utmost respect for our democratic institutions and civilian authority."

"We call for calm and resolve," Brawner said. "We reiterate our need to stand together against those who will try to break our bonds as Filipinos."

The vice president is the daughter of Marcos' predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, whose police-enforced anti-drugs crackdown when he was a city mayor and later as president left thousands of mostly petty drug suspects dead in killings that the International Criminal Court has been investigating as a possible crime against humanity.

The former president denied authorizing extrajudicial killings under his crackdown but has given conflicting statements. He told a public Philippine Senate inquiry last month that he had maintained a "death squad" of gangsters to kill other criminals when he was mayor of southern Davao city.

## Will a winter storm hit the US over Thanksgiving week?

### Here's what forecasts show so far

By GODOFREDO A. VASQUEZ and OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ Associated Press

WINDSOR, Calif. (AP) — Forecasters warned over the weekend that another round of winter weather could complicate travel leading up to Thanksgiving in parts of the U.S.

In California, where a person was found dead in a vehicle submerged in floodwaters on Saturday, authorities braced for more precipitation while still grappling with flooding and small landslides from a previous storm. And thousands in the Pacific Northwest remained without power after multiple days in the dark.

A winter storm warning in California's Sierra Nevada on Saturday was in effect through Tuesday, according to the National Weather Service's Sacramento office, with heavy snow expected at higher elevations and wind gusts potentially reaching 55 mph (88 kph). Total snowfall of roughly 4 feet (1.2 meters) was forecast, with the heaviest accumulations coming Monday and Tuesday.

Forecasters said the Midwest and Great Lakes regions will see rain and snow Monday, and the East Coast will be the most impacted on Thanksgiving and Black Friday.

A low pressure system will bring rain to the Southeast early Thursday before heading to the Northeast, where areas from Boston to New York could see rain and strong winds. Parts of northern New Hampshire, northern Maine and the Adirondacks could get snow. If the system tracks further inland, the forecast would call for less snow for the mountains and more rain.

#### Deadly 'bomb cyclone' on West Coast

The storm on the West Coast arrived in the Pacific Northwest earlier this week, killing two people and knocking out power to hundreds of thousands, mostly in the Seattle area, before its strong winds moved through Northern California. The system roared ashore on the West Coast on Tuesday as a "bomb cyclone," which occurs when a cyclone intensifies rapidly. It unleashed fierce winds that toppled trees onto roads, vehicles and homes.

Santa Rosa, California, saw its wettest three-day period on record with about 12.5 inches (32 centimeters) of rain falling by Friday evening, according to the National Weather Service in the Bay Area. On Saturday vineyards in Windsor, about 10 miles (16 kilometers) to the north, were flooded.

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To the west, rescue crews in Guerneville recovered a body inside a vehicle bobbing in floodwaters around 11:30 a.m. Saturday, according to Rob Dillion, a Sonoma County sheriff's deputy and spokesperson. The deceased was presumed to be a victim of the storm, but an autopsy had not yet been conducted.

Dominick Conti, a 19-year-old volunteer firefighter, and a friend drove around the Santa Rosa area Friday helping people whose vehicles were swamped. With his 2006 Dodge Ram pickup truck and a set of ropes, they were able to rescue the driver of a sedan that stalled out in water, a truck stuck in a giant mudhole and a farmer stranded on a dirt road.

Tens of thousands remain without power in Seattle area

Some 80,000 people in the Seattle area were still without electricity after this season's strongest atmospheric river — a long plume of moisture that forms over an ocean and flows over land. Crews worked to clear streets of downed lines, branches and other debris, while cities opened warming centers so people heading into their fourth day without power could get warm food and plug in their cellphones and other devices.

The power came back in the afternoon at Katie Skipper's home in North Bend, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) east of the city in the foothills of the Cascades, after being out since Tuesday. It was tiring to take cold showers, rely on a wood stove for warmth and use a generator to keep the refrigerator cold, Skipper said, but those inconveniences paled in comparison to the damage other people suffered, such as from fallen trees.

"That's really sad and scary," she said.

Northeast gets much-needed precipitation

Another storm brought rain to New York and New Jersey, where rare wildfires have raged in recent weeks, and heavy snow to northeastern Pennsylvania. Parts of West Virginia were under a blizzard warning through Saturday morning, with up to 2 feet (61 centimeters) of snow and high winds making travel treacherous.

Despite the mess, the precipitation was expected to help ease drought conditions after an exceptionally dry fall.

"It's not going to be a drought buster, but it's definitely going to help when all this melts," said Bryan Greenblatt, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Binghamton, New York.

Heavy snow fell in northeastern Pennsylvania, including the Pocono Mountains. Higher elevations reported up to 17 inches (43 centimeters), with lesser accumulations in valley cities like Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. Less than 80,000 customers in 10 counties lost power, and the state transportation department imposed speed restrictions on some highways.

Parts of West Virginia also experienced their first significant snowfall of the season Friday and overnight Saturday, with up to 10 inches (25.4 centimeters) in the higher elevations of the Allegheny Mountains. Some areas were under a blizzard warning.

The precipitation helped put a dent in the state's worst drought in at least two decades. It also was a boost for West Virginia ski resorts preparing to open their slopes in the weeks ahead.

## **Fred Harris, former US senator from Oklahoma and presidential hopeful, dies at 94**

By RIO YAMAT Associated Press

Fred Harris, a former U.S. senator from Oklahoma, presidential hopeful and populist who championed Democratic Party reforms in the turbulent 1960s, died Saturday. He was 94.

Harris' wife, Margaret Elliston, confirmed his death to The Associated Press. It was not immediately clear where he died, but he had lived in New Mexico since 1976 and was a resident of Corrales at the time of his death.

"Fred Harris passed peacefully early this morning of natural causes. He was 94. He was a wonderful and beloved man. His memory is a blessing," Elliston said in a text message.

Harris served eight years in the Senate, first winning in 1964 to fill a vacancy, and made unsuccessful bid for the presidency in 1976.

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It fell to Harris, as chairman of the Democratic National Committee in 1969 and 1970, to help heal the party's wounds from the tumultuous national convention in 1968 when protesters and police clashed in Chicago.

He ushered in rule changes that led to more women and minorities as convention delegates and in leadership positions.

"I think it's worked wonderfully," Harris recalled in 2004, when he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Boston. "It's made the selection much more legitimate and democratic."

"The Democratic Party was not democratic, and many of the delegations were pretty much boss-controlled or -dominated. And in the South, there was terrible discrimination against African Americans," he said.

Harris ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1976, quitting after poor showings in early contests, including a fourth-place win in New Hampshire. The more moderate Jimmy Carter went on to win the presidency.

Harris moved to New Mexico that year and became a political science professor at the University of New Mexico. He wrote and edited more than a dozen books, mostly on politics and Congress. In 1999 he broadened his writings with a mystery set in Depression-era Oklahoma.

Throughout his political career, Harris was a leading liberal voice for civil rights and anti-poverty programs to help minorities and the disadvantaged.

"Democrats everywhere will remember Fred for his unparalleled integrity and as a pioneer for instituting core progressive values of equity and opportunity for prosperity as core tenets of our party," the Democratic Party of New Mexico said in a statement.

Along with his first wife, LaDonna, a Comanche, he also was active in Native American issues.

"I've always called myself a populist or progressive," Harris said in a 1998 interview. "I'm against concentrated power. I don't like the power of money in politics. I think we ought to have programs for the middle class and working class."

New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham praised his work for their shared state and the nation.

"In addition to being a highly accomplished politician and professor, he was a decent, honorable man who treated everyone with warmth, generosity, and good humor," she said in a statement. "Sen. Harris was a lesson in leadership that public officials would be wise to emulate now and forever."

Harris was a member of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, the so-called Kerner Commission, appointed by then-President Lyndon Johnson to investigate the urban riots of the late 1960s.

The commission's groundbreaking report in 1968 declared, "our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white — separate and unequal."

Thirty years later, Harris co-wrote a report that concluded the commission's "prophecy has come to pass."

"The rich are getting richer, the poor are getting poorer and minorities are suffering disproportionately," said the report by Harris and Lynn A. Curtis, president of the Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation, which continued the work of the commission.

Norman Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute said Harris rose to prominence in Congress as a "fiery populist."

"That resonates with people ... the notion of the average person against the elite," Ornstein said. "Fred Harris had a real ability to articulate those concerns, particularly of the downtrodden."

In 1968, Harris served as co-chairman of the presidential campaign of then-Vice President Hubert Humphrey. He and others pressed Humphrey to use the convention to break with Johnson on the Vietnam War. But Humphrey waited to do so until late in the campaign, and narrowly lost to Republican Richard Nixon.

"That was the worst year of my life, '68. We had Dr. Martin Luther King killed. We had my Senate seat-mate Robert Kennedy killed and then we had this terrible convention," Harris said in 1996.

"I left the convention — because of the terrible disorders and the way they had been handled and the failure to adopt a new peace platform — really downhearted."

After assuming the Democratic Party leadership post, Harris appointed commissions that recommended reforms in the procedures for selecting delegates and presidential nominees. While lauding the greater openness and diversity, he said there had been a side effect: "It's much to the good. But the one result

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of it is that conventions today are ratifying conventions. So it's hard to make them interesting."

"My own thought is they ought to be shortened to a couple of days. But they are still worth having, I think, as a way to adopt a platform, as a kind of pep rally, as a way to get people together in a kind of coalition-building," he said.

Harris was born Nov. 13, 1930, in a two-room farmhouse near Walters, in southwestern Oklahoma, about 15 miles from the Texas line. The home had no electricity, indoor toilet or running water.

At age 5 he was working on the farm and received 10 cents a day to drive a horse in circles to supply power for a hay bailer.

He worked part-time as a janitor and printer's assistant to help for his education at University of Oklahoma. He earned a bachelor's degree in 1952, majoring in political science and history. He received a law degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1954, and then moved to Lawton to practice.

In 1956, he won election to the Oklahoma state Senate and served for eight years. In 1964, he launched his career in national politics in the race to replace Sen. Robert S. Kerr, who died in January 1963.

Harris won the Democratic nomination in a runoff election against J. Howard Edmondson, who left the governorship to fill Kerr's vacancy until the next election. In the general election, Harris defeated an Oklahoma sports legend — Charles "Bud" Wilkinson, who had coached OU football for 17 years.

Harris won a six-year term in 1966 but left the Senate in 1972 when there were doubts that he, as a left-leaning Democrat, could win reelection.

Harris married his high school sweetheart, LaDonna Vita Crawford, in 1949, and had three children, Kathryn, Byron and Laura. After the couple divorced, Harris married Margaret Elliston in 1983. A complete list of survivors was not immediately available Saturday.

## **A \$300B a year deal for climate cash at UN summit sparks outrage for some and hope for others**

By SETH BORENSTEIN, SIBI ARASU, MELINA WALLING and MICHAEL PHILLIS Associated Press  
BAKU, Azerbaijan (AP) — United Nations climate talks adopted a deal to inject at least \$300 billion annually in humanity's fight against climate change, aimed at helping developing nations cope with the ravages of global warming in tense negotiations.

The \$300 billion will go to developing countries who need the cash to wean themselves off the coal, oil and gas that causes the globe to overheat, adapt to future warming and pay for the damage caused by climate change's extreme weather. It's not near the full amount of \$1.3 trillion that developing countries were asking for, but it's three times a deal of \$100 billion a year from 2009 that is expiring. Some delegations said this deal is headed in the right direction, with hopes that more money flows in the future.

But it was not quite the agreement by consensus that these meetings usually operate with and some developing nations were livid about being ignored.

COP29 President Mukhtar Babayev gaveled the deal into acceptance before any nation had a chance to speak. When they did they blasted him for being unfair to them, the deal for not being enough and the world's rich nations for being too stingy.

"It's a paltry sum," India negotiator Chandni Raina said, repeatedly saying how India objected to rousing cheers. "I'm sorry to say we cannot accept it."

She told The Associated Press that she has lost faith in the United Nations system.

Nations express their discontent

A long line of nations agreed with India and piled on, with Nigeria's Nkiruka Maduekwe, CEO of the National Council on Climate Change, calling the deal an insult and a joke.

"I'm disappointed. It's definitely below the benchmark that we have been fighting for for so long," said Juan Carlos Monterrey, of the Panama delegation. He noted that a few changes, including the inclusion of the words "at least" before the number \$300 billion and an opportunity for revision by 2030, helped push them to the finish line.

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"Our heart goes out to all those nations that feel like they were walked over," he said.

The final package pushed through "does not speak or reflect or inspire confidence," India's Raina said.

"We absolutely object to the unfair means followed for adoption," Raina said. "We are extremely hurt by this action by the president and the secretariat."

Speaking for nearly 50 of the poorest nations of the world, Evans Davie Njewa of Malawi was more mild, expressing what he called reservations with the deal. And the Alliance of Small Island States' Cedric Schuster said he had more hope "that the process would protect the interests of the most vulnerable" but nevertheless expressed tempered support for the deal.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a post on X that he hoped for a "more ambitious outcome." But he said the agreement "provides a base on which to build."

After tough talks, some feel relief

There were somewhat satisfied parties, with European Union's Wopke Hoekstra calling it a new era of climate funding, working hard to help the most vulnerable. But activists in the plenary hall could be heard coughing over Hoekstra's speech in an attempt to disrupt it.

Eamon Ryan, Ireland's environment minister, called the agreement "a huge relief."

"It was not certain. This was tough," he said. "Because it's a time of division, of war, of (a) multilateral system having real difficulties, the fact that we could get it through in these difficult circumstances is really important."

U.N. Climate Change's Executive Secretary Simon Stiell called the deal an "insurance policy for humanity," adding that like insurance, "it only works if the premiums are paid in full, and on time."

The deal is seen as a step toward helping countries on the receiving end create more ambitious targets to limit or cut emissions of heat-trapping gases that are due early next year. It's part of the plan to keep cutting pollution with new targets every five years, which the world agreed to at the U.N. talks in Paris in 2015.

The Paris agreement set the system of regular ratcheting up climate fighting ambition as away to keep warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels. The world is already at 1.3 degrees Celsius (2.3 degrees Fahrenheit) and carbon emissions keep rising.

Hope that more climate cash will follow

Countries also anticipate that this deal will send signals that help drive funding from other sources, like multilateral development banks and private sources. That was always part of the discussion at these talks — rich countries didn't think it was realistic to only rely on public funding sources — but poor countries worried that if the money came in loans instead of grants, it would send them sliding further backward into debt that they already struggle with.

"The \$300 billion goal is not enough, but is an important down payment toward a safer, more equitable future," said World Resources Institute President Anil Dasgupta. "This deal gets us off the starting block. Now the race is on to raise much more climate finance from a range of public and private sources, putting the whole financial system to work behind developing countries' transitions."

And even though it's far from the needed \$1.3 trillion, it's more than the \$250 billion that was on the table in an earlier draft of the text, which outraged many countries and led to a period of frustration and stalling over the final hours of the summit.

Other deals agreed at COP29

The several different texts adopted early Sunday morning included a vague but not specific reference to last year's Global Stocktake approved in Dubai. Last year there was a battle about first-of-its-kind language on getting rid of the oil, coal and natural gas, but instead it called for a transition away from fossil fuels. The latest talks only referred to the Dubai deal, but did not explicitly repeat the call for a transition away from fossil fuels.

Countries also agreed on the adoption of Article 6, creating markets to trade carbon pollution rights, an idea that was set up as part of the Paris Agreement to help nations work together to reduce climate-causing pollution. Part of that was a system of carbon credits, allowing nations to put planet-warming

gasses in the air if they offset emissions elsewhere. Backers said a U.N.-backed market could generate up to an additional \$250 billion a year in climate financial aid.

Despite its approval, carbon markets remain a contentious plan because many experts say the new rules adopted don't prevent misuse, don't work and give big polluters an excuse to continue spewing emissions.

"What they've done essentially is undermine the mandate to try to reach 1.5," said Tamara Gilbertson, climate justice program coordinator with the Indigenous Environmental Network. Greenpeace's An Lam-brechts, called it a "climate scam" with many loopholes.

With this deal wrapped up as crews dismantle the temporary venue, many have eyes on next year's climate talks in Belem, Brazil.

## **A man called 911 for help during a home invasion. Las Vegas police fatally shot him**

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A Las Vegas man called for police help during a home invasion before an officer fatally shot him, according to authorities and 911 calls.

Brandon Durham called 911 early Nov. 12, saying he was hiding with his 15-year-old daughter after someone broke into his home, Assistant Sheriff Dori Koren said.

Durham is heard pleading with the dispatcher to "send someone ASAP" in audio recordings obtained this week by KVVU-TV in Las Vegas.

Koren identified the officer who shot Durham as Alexander Bookman, 26.

Bookman was one of the first officers to arrive and kicked in the front door. Koren said the officer found Durham in a hallway struggling over a knife with the intruder.

In a short clip of body camera video released by police, the officer yells for them to drop the knife, then fires one round. Durham and the intruder both fall to the floor, then the officer moves closer and fires five more rounds while standing over them, the video shows.

Durham, 43, died in his home.

Koren said Durham and the intruder knew each other. The intruder was arrested and charged with home invasion and assault.

David Roger, general counsel for the union representing Las Vegas police officers, said Saturday in a statement that Bookman was not at fault.

"While Mr. Durham's death is tragic, Officer Bookman was doing his job and did not intend to commit a crime. The person responsible for Mr. Durham's death is in custody," he said.

Durham's family wants Bookman fired and charged in the shooting.

"Mr. Durham was not threatening anyone. There's no justification for the use of force against Mr. Durham," Lee Merritt, a civil rights attorney representing the family, said at a news conference, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported.

Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson said in a statement that it was too early in the investigation for him to comment on possible charges.

Bookman is on paid leave while the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department investigates.

## **The week that upped the stakes of the Ukraine war**

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — This past week has seen the most significant escalation in hostilities that Ukraine has witnessed since Russia's full-scale invasion and marks a new chapter in the nearly three-year war — one tinged with uncertainty and fear.

It began with U.S. President Joe Biden reversing a longstanding policy by granting Kyiv permission to deploy American longer-range missiles inside Russian territory and ended with Moscow striking Ukraine with a new experimental ballistic weapon that has alarmed the international community and heightened fears of further escalation.



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Here is a look at the events in Ukraine in the span of a week that has fundamentally altered the stakes of the war:

**SUNDAY:** U.S. approves strikes using longer-range American weapons

Washington eased limits on what Ukraine can strike with its American-made Army Tactical Missile System, or ATACMS, after months of ruling out such a move over fears of escalating the conflict and bringing about a direct confrontation between Russia and NATO.

The change came after the U.S., South Korea and NATO said North Korean troops were inside Russia and being deployed to help Moscow drive Ukrainian troops from Russia's Kursk region. But the scope of the new firing guidelines wasn't clear.

**MONDAY:** Russia warns of escalation if Western weapons are used inside its territories

The Kremlin warned that Biden's decision would escalate international tensions even higher.

"It is obvious that the outgoing administration in Washington intends to take steps, and they have been talking about this, to continue adding fuel to the fire and provoking further escalation of tensions around this conflict," spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

**TUESDAY:** Ukraine fires American longer-range missiles into Russia for first time; Putin lowers threshold for nuclear attack

Ukraine fired several ATACMS, striking an ammunition warehouse in Russia's Bryansk region, the first time Kyiv had used the weapons inside enemy territory, according to widespread reports. Ukrainian officials have not officially confirmed the strikes which occurred on the 1,000th day since the invasion.

Also Tuesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin formally lowered the threshold for using nuclear weapons, opening the door to a potential nuclear response by Moscow to even a conventional attack by any nation supported by a nuclear power. That could include Ukrainian attacks backed by the U.S.

**WEDNESDAY:** U.S. approves giving Ukraine anti-personnel mines

In the second major shift in U.S. policy, the Biden administration announced it will give Ukraine antipersonnel mines to help slow Russia's battlefield advances. Biden had previously put off signing off on this because of international objections to the use of such mines due to the risks they pose to civilians. Russia deploys them freely.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the shift in Washington's policy was needed to counter changing Russian tactics.

Ukraine also struck targets inside Russia using the British Storm Shadow missile, an equivalent of the ATACMS system, further vexing Moscow.

The U.S. and some other Western embassies in Kyiv temporarily closed in response to the threat of a potentially major Russian aerial attack on the Ukrainian capital.

**THURSDAY:** Russia uses new, experimental ballistic missile for the first time

The Kremlin fired a new intermediate-range ballistic missile at Ukraine in response to Kyiv's use of American and British missiles, Putin said.

In a televised address to the country, the Russian president warned that U.S. air defense systems would be powerless to stop the new missile, which he said flies at 10 times the speed of sound and which he called the Oreshnik — Russian for hazelnut tree — based on Russia's RS-26 Rubezh intercontinental ballistic missile, which can carry nuclear warheads.

Putin also said it could be used to attack any Ukrainian ally whose missiles are used to attack Russia. Moscow gave Washington a 30-minute warning of the attack, which struck a weapons factory in the central Ukrainian city of Dnipro.

**FRIDAY:** NATO calls emergency meeting as Ukraine's parliament closes

NATO and Ukraine scheduled emergency talks slated for Tuesday, the alliance said. The meeting will be held at the request of Ukraine and will convene at the level of ambassadors.

Ukraine's parliament also canceled a session as security was tightened in the city. Lawmakers said there was a credible threat of an attack on government buildings.

Ukraine's partners weighed in on the dangerous new phase of the conflict. Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk said the conflict is "entering a decisive phase" and "taking on very dramatic dimensions."

SATURDAY: Zelenskyy says he believes war could be ended next year  
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Saturday he was confident the war could be ended in 2025. "There are appropriate steps for this, they are included in our peace formula," he told journalists attending the Grain from Ukraine international conference on food security in Kyiv. "We realize that Russia will not take all these steps. But there is a U.N. charter and we hope that all our steps based on the U.N. charter will be supported by our partners."

"We are open, I will say it again, and by the way, to the leaders of African countries, Asia, and the Arab states ... we are ready to see their proposals," he said. "I also want to see the proposals of the new president of the United States of America. I think we will see these proposals in January. And I think we will have a plan to end this war."

## After Trump's Project 2025 denials, he is tapping its authors and influencers for key roles

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As a former and potentially future president, Donald Trump hailed what would become Project 2025 as a road map for "exactly what our movement will do" with another crack at the White House.

As the blueprint for a hard-right turn in America became a liability during the 2024 campaign, Trump pulled an about-face. He denied knowing anything about the "ridiculous and abysmal" plans written in part by his first-term aides and allies.

Now, after being elected the 47th president on Nov. 5, Trump is stocking his second administration with key players in the detailed effort he temporarily shunned. Most notably, Trump has tapped Russell Vought for an encore as director of the Office of Management and Budget; Tom Homan, his former immigration chief, as "border czar;" and immigration hardliner Stephen Miller as deputy chief of policy.

Those moves have accelerated criticisms from Democrats who warn that Trump's election hands government reins to movement conservatives who spent years envisioning how to concentrate power in the West Wing and impose a starkly rightward shift across the U.S. government and society.

Trump and his aides maintain that he won a mandate to overhaul Washington. But they maintain the specifics are his alone.

"President Trump never had anything to do with Project 2025," said Trump spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt in a statement. "All of President Trump's Cabinet nominees and appointments are whole-heartedly committed to President Trump's agenda, not the agenda of outside groups."

Here is a look at what some of Trump's choices portend for his second presidency.

As budget chief, Vought envisions a sweeping, powerful perch

The Office of Management and Budget director, a role Vought held under Trump previously and requires Senate confirmation, prepares a president's proposed budget and is generally responsible for implementing the administration's agenda across agencies.

The job is influential but Vought made clear as author of a Project 2025 chapter on presidential authority that he wants the post to wield more direct power.

"The Director must view his job as the best, most comprehensive approximation of the President's mind," Vought wrote. The OMB, he wrote, "is a President's air-traffic control system" and should be "involved in all aspects of the White House policy process," becoming "powerful enough to override implementing agencies' bureaucracies."

Trump did not go into such details when naming Vought but implicitly endorsed aggressive action. Vought, the president-elect said, "knows exactly how to dismantle the Deep State" — Trump's catch-all for federal bureaucracy — and would help "restore fiscal sanity."

In June, speaking on former Trump aide Steve Bannon's "War Room" podcast, Vought relished the potential tension: "We're not going to save our country without a little confrontation."

Vought could help Musk and Trump remake government's role and scope

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The strategy of further concentrating federal authority in the presidency permeates Project 2025's and Trump's campaign proposals. Vought's vision is especially striking when paired with Trump's proposals to dramatically expand the president's control over federal workers and government purse strings — ideas intertwined with the president-elect tapping mega-billionaire Elon Musk and venture capitalist Vivek Ramaswamy to lead a "Department of Government Efficiency."

Trump in his first term sought to remake the federal civil service by reclassifying tens of thousands of federal civil service workers — who have job protection through changes in administration — as political appointees, making them easier to fire and replace with loyalists. Currently, only about 4,000 of the federal government's roughly 2 million workers are political appointees. President Joe Biden rescinded Trump's changes. Trump can now reinstate them.

Meanwhile, Musk's and Ramaswamy's sweeping "efficiency" mandates from Trump could turn on an old, defunct constitutional theory that the president — not Congress — is the real gatekeeper of federal spending. In his "Agenda 47," Trump endorsed so-called "impoundment," which holds that when lawmakers pass appropriations bills, they simply set a spending ceiling, but not a floor. The president, the theory holds, can simply decide not to spend money on anything he deems unnecessary.

Vought did not venture into impoundment in his Project 2025 chapter. But, he wrote, "The President should use every possible tool to propose and impose fiscal discipline on the federal government. Anything short of that would constitute abject failure."

Trump's choice immediately sparked backlash.

"Russ Vought is a far-right ideologue who has tried to break the law to give President Trump unilateral authority he does not possess to override the spending decisions of Congress (and) who has and will again fight to give Trump the ability to summarily fire tens of thousands of civil servants," said Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, a Democrat and outgoing Senate Appropriations chairwoman.

Reps. Jamie Raskin of Maryland and Melanie Stansbury of New Mexico, leading Democrats on the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability, said Vought wants to "dismantle the expert federal workforce" to the detriment of Americans who depend on everything from veterans' health care to Social Security benefits.

"Pain itself is the agenda," they said.

Homan and Miller reflect Trump's and Project 2025's immigration overlap

Trump's protests about Project 2025 always glossed over overlaps in the two agendas. Both want to reimpose Trump-era immigration limits. Project 2025 includes a litany of detailed proposals for various U.S. immigration statutes, executive branch rules and agreements with other countries — reducing the number of refugees, work visa recipients and asylum seekers, for example.

Miller is one of Trump's longest-serving advisers and architect of his immigration ideas, including his promise of the largest deportation force in U.S. history. As deputy policy chief, which is not subject to Senate confirmation, Miller would remain in Trump's West Wing inner circle.

"America is for Americans and Americans only," Miller said at Trump's Madison Square Garden rally on Oct. 27.

"America First Legal," Miller's organization founded as an ideological counter to the American Civil Liberties Union, was listed as an advisory group to Project 2025 until Miller asked that the name be removed because of negative attention.

Homan, a Project 2025 named contributor, was an acting U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement director during Trump's first presidency, playing a key role in what became known as Trump's "family separation policy."

Previewing Trump 2.0 earlier this year, Homan said: "No one's off the table. If you're here illegally, you better be looking over your shoulder."

Project 2025 contributors slated for CIA and Federal Communications chiefs

John Ratcliffe, Trump's pick to lead the CIA, was previously one of Trump's directors of national intelligence. He is a Project 2025 contributor. The document's chapter on U.S. intelligence was written by Dustin

Carmack, Ratcliffe's chief of staff in the first Trump administration.

Reflecting Ratcliffe's and Trump's approach, Carmack declared the intelligence establishment too cautious. Ratcliffe, like the chapter attributed to Carmack, is hawkish toward China. Throughout the Project 2025 document, Beijing is framed as a U.S. adversary that cannot be trusted.

Brendan Carr, the senior Republican on the Federal Communications Commission, wrote Project 2025's FCC chapter and is now Trump's pick to chair the panel. Carr wrote that the FCC chairman "is empowered with significant authority that is not shared" with other FCC members. He called for the FCC to address "threats to individual liberty posed by corporations that are abusing dominant positions in the market," specifically "Big Tech and its attempts to drive diverse political viewpoints from the digital town square."

He called for more stringent transparency rules for social media platforms like Facebook and YouTube and "empower consumers to choose their own content filters and fact checkers, if any."

Carr and Ratcliffe would require Senate confirmation for their posts.

## **Trump taps Rollins as agriculture chief, completing proposed slate of Cabinet secretaries**

By BILL BARROW, ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump said Saturday that he will nominate former White House aide Brooke Rollins to be his agriculture secretary, the last of his picks to lead executive agencies and another choice from within his established circle of advisers and allies.

The nomination must be confirmed by the Senate, which will be controlled by Republicans when Trump takes office Jan. 20, 2025. Rollins would succeed Tom Vilsack, President Joe Biden's agriculture secretary who oversees the sprawling agency that controls policies, regulations and aid programs related to farming, forestry, ranching, food quality and nutrition.

Rollins, an attorney who graduated from Texas A&M University with an undergraduate degree in agricultural development, is a longtime Trump associate who served as White House domestic policy chief during his first presidency. The 52-year-old is president and CEO of the America First Policy Institute, a group helping to lay the groundwork for a second Trump administration. Rollins previously served as an aide to former Texas Gov. Rick Perry and ran a think tank, the Texas Public Policy Foundation. She worked as a litigation attorney in Dallas and also clerked for a federal judge in the Northern District of Texas after earning her law degree from the University of Texas.

The pick completes Trump's selection of the heads of executive branch departments, just two and a half weeks after the former president won the White House once again. Several other picks that are traditionally Cabinet-level remain, including U.S. Trade Representative and head of the small business administration.

Rollins, speaking on the Christian talk show "Family Talk" earlier this year, said Trump was an "amazing boss" and confessed that she thought in 2015, during his first presidential campaign that he would not last as a candidate in a crowded Republican primary field.

"I was the person that said, 'Oh, Donald Trump is not going to go more than two or three weeks in the Republican primary. This is to up his TV show ratings. And then we'll get back to normal,'" she said. "Fast forward a couple of years, and I am running his domestic policy agenda."

Trump didn't offer many specifics about his agriculture policies during the campaign, but farmers could be affected if he carries out his pledge to impose widespread tariffs. During the first Trump administration, countries like China responded to Trump's tariffs by imposing retaliatory tariffs on U.S. exports like the corn and soybeans routinely sold overseas. Trump countered by offering massive multibillion-dollar aid to farmers to help them weather the trade war.

President Abraham Lincoln founded the USDA in 1862, when about half of all Americans lived on farms. The USDA oversees multiple support programs for farmers; animal and plant health; and the safety of meat, poultry and eggs that anchor the nation's food supply. Its federal nutrition programs provide food to low-income people, pregnant women and young children. And the agency sets standards for school meals.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Trump's nominee to lead the Department of Health and Human Services, has

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vowed to strip ultraprocessed foods from school lunches and to stop allowing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program beneficiaries from using food stamps to buy soda, candy or other so-called junk foods. But it would be the USDA, not HHS, that would be responsible for enacting those changes.

In addition, HHS and USDA will work together to finalize the 2025-2030 edition of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. They are due late next year, with guidance for healthy diets and standards for federal nutrition programs.

## **Trump's Republican Party is increasingly winning union voters. It's a shift seen in his labor pick**

By JOSH BOAK and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Working-class voters helped Republicans make steady election gains this year and expanded a coalition that increasingly includes rank-and-file union members, a political shift spotlighting one of President-elect Donald Trump's latest Cabinet picks: a GOP congresswoman, who has drawn labor support, to be his labor secretary.

Oregon Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer narrowly lost her bid for a second term this month, despite strong backing from union members, a key part of the Democratic base but gravitating in the Trump era toward a Republican Party traditionally allied with business interests.

"Lori's strong support from both the Business and Labor communities will ensure that the Labor Department can unite Americans of all backgrounds behind our Agenda for unprecedented National Success - Making America Richer, Wealthier, Stronger and more Prosperous than ever before!" Trump said in a statement announcing his choice Friday night.

For decades, labor unions have sided with Democrats and been greeted largely with hostility by Republicans. But with Trump's populist appeal, his working-class base saw a decent share of union rank-and-file voting for Republicans this year, even as major unions, including the AFL-CIO and the United Auto Workers, endorsed Democrat Kamala Harris in the White House race.

Trump sat down with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters union leadership and members this year, and when he emerged from that meeting, he boasted that a significant chunk of union voters were backing him. Of a possible Teamsters endorsement, he said, "Stranger things have happened."

The Teamsters ultimately declined to endorse either Trump, the former president, or Harris, the vice president, though leader Sean O'Brien had a prominent speaking slot at the Republican National Convention.

Kara Deniz, a Teamsters spokesperson, told the Associated Press that O'Brien met with more than a dozen House Republicans this past week to lobby on behalf of Chavez-DeRemer. "Chavez-DeRemer would be an excellent choice for labor secretary and has his backing," Deniz said.

The work of the Labor Department affects workers' wages, health and safety, ability to unionize, and employers' rights to fire employers, among other responsibilities.

On Election Day, Trump deepened his support among voters without a college degree after running just slightly ahead of Democrat Joe Biden with noncollege voters in 2020. Trump made modest gains, earning a clear majority of this group, while only about 4 in 10 supported Harris, according to AP VoteCast, a sweeping survey of more than 120,000 voters nationwide.

Roughly 18% of voters in this year's election were from union households, with Harris winning a majority of the group. But Trump's performance among union members kept him competitive and helped him win key states such as Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin.

Chavez-DeRemer was one of few House Republicans to endorse the "Protecting the Right to Organize" or PRO Act, which would allow more workers to conduct organizing campaigns and add penalties for companies that violate workers' rights. The measure would weaken "right-to-work" laws that allow employees in more than half the states to avoid participating in or paying dues to unions that represent workers at their places of employment.

Trump's first term saw firmly pro-business policies from his appointees across government, including those on the National Labor Relations Board. Trump, a real estate developer and businessman before

winning the presidency, generally has backed policies that would make it harder for workers to unionize. During his recent campaign, Trump criticized union bosses, and at one point suggested that UAW members should not pay their dues. His first administration did expand overtime eligibility rules, but not nearly as much as Democrats wanted, and a Trump-appointed judge has since struck down the Biden administration's more generous overtime rules.

He has stacked his incoming administration with officials who worked on the Heritage Foundation's "Project 2025" blueprint, which includes a sharp swing away from Biden's pro-union policies.

"Chavez-DeRemer's record suggests she understands the value of policies that strengthen workers' rights and economic security," said Rebecca Dixon, president and CEO of National Employment Law Project, which is backed by many of the country's major labor unions. "But the Trump administration's agenda is fundamentally at odds with these principles, threatening to roll back workplace protections, undermine collective bargaining, and prioritize corporate profits over the needs of working people. This is where her true commitment to workers will be tested."

Other union leaders also issued praise, but also sounded a note of caution.

"Educators and working families across the nation will be watching ... as she moves through the confirmation process," the president of the National Education Association, Becky Pringle, said in a statement, "and hope to hear a pledge from her to continue to stand up for workers and students as her record suggests, not blind loyalty to the Project 2025 agenda."

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler welcomed the choice while taking care to note Trump's history of opposing policies that support unions.

"It remains to be seen what she will be permitted to do as secretary of labor in an administration with a dramatically anti-worker agenda," Shuler said.

## **A look at how some of Trump's picks to lead health agencies could help carry out Kennedy's overhaul**

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

The team that President-elect Donald Trump has selected to lead federal health agencies in his second administration includes a retired congressman, a surgeon and a former talk-show host.

All could play pivotal roles in fulfilling a political agenda that could change how the government goes about safeguarding Americans' health — from health care and medicines to food safety and science research. In line to lead the Department of Health and Human Services secretary is environmental lawyer and anti-vaccine organizer Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Trump's choices don't have experience running large bureaucratic agencies, but they know how to talk about health on TV.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid pick Dr. Mehmet Oz hosted a talk show for 13 years and is a well-known wellness and lifestyle influencer. The pick for the Food and Drug Administration, Dr. Marty Makary, and for surgeon general, Dr. Janette Nesheiwat, are frequent Fox News contributors.

Many on the list were critical of COVID-19 measures like masking and booster vaccinations for young people. Some of them have ties to Florida like many of Trump's other Cabinet nominees: Dave Weldon, the pick for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, represented the state in Congress for 14 years and is affiliated with a medical group on the state's Atlantic coast. Nesheiwat's brother-in-law is Rep. Mike Waltz, R-Fla., tapped by Trump as national security adviser.

Here's a look at the nominees' potential role in carrying out what Kennedy says is the task to "reorganize" agencies, which have an overall \$1.7 trillion budget, employ 80,000 scientists, researchers, doctors and other officials, and effect Americans' daily lives:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The Atlanta-based CDC, with a \$9.2 billion core budget, is charged with protecting Americans from disease outbreaks and other public health threats.

Kennedy has long attacked vaccines and criticized the CDC, repeatedly alleging corruption at the agency.

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He said on a 2023 podcast that there is “no vaccine that is safe and effective,” and urged people to resist the CDC’s guidelines about if and when kids should get vaccinated. The World Health Organization estimates that vaccines have saved more than 150 million lives over the past 50 years, and that 100 million of them were infants.

Decades ago, Kennedy found common ground with Weldon, 71, who served in the Army and worked as an internal medicine doctor before he represented a central Florida congressional district from 1995 to 2009.

Starting in the early 2000s, Weldon had a prominent part in a debate about whether there was a relationship between a vaccine preservative called thimerosal and autism. He was a founding member of the Congressional Autism Caucus and tried to ban thimerosal from all vaccines. Kennedy, then a senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council, believed there was a tie between thimerosal and autism and also charged that the government hid documents showing the danger.

Since 2001, all vaccines manufactured for the U.S. market and routinely recommended for children 6 years or younger have contained no thimerosal or only trace amounts, with the exception of inactivated influenza vaccine. Meanwhile, study after study after study found no evidence that thimerosal caused autism.

Weldon’s congressional voting record suggests he may go along with Republican efforts to downsize the CDC, including to eliminate the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, which works on topics like drownings, drug overdoses and shooting deaths. Weldon also voted to ban federal funding for needle-exchange programs as an approach to reduce overdoses, and the National Rifle Association gave him an “A” rating for his pro-gun rights voting record.

## Food and Drug Administration

Kennedy is extremely critical of the FDA, which has 18,000 employees and is responsible for the safety and effectiveness of prescription drugs, vaccines and other medical products, as well as overseeing cosmetics, electronic cigarettes and most foods.

Makary, Trump’s pick to run the FDA, is closely aligned with Kennedy on several topics. The professor at Johns Hopkins University who is a trained surgeon and cancer specialist has decried the overprescribing of drugs, the use of pesticides on foods and the undue influence of pharmaceutical and insurance companies over doctors and government regulators.

Kennedy has suggested he’ll clear out “entire” FDA departments and also recently threatened to fire FDA employees for “aggressive suppression” of a host of unsubstantiated products and therapies, including stem cells, raw milk, psychedelics and discredited COVID-era treatments like ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine.

Makary’s contrarian views during the COVID-19 pandemic included questioning the need for masking and giving young kids COVID-19 vaccine boosters.

But anything Makary and Kennedy might want to do when it comes to unwinding FDA regulations or revoking long-standing vaccine and drug approvals would be challenging. The agency has lengthy requirements for removing medicines from the market, which are based on federal laws passed by Congress.

## Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services

The agency provides health care coverage for more than 160 million people through Medicaid, Medicare and the Affordable Care Act, and also sets Medicare payment rates for hospitals, doctors and other providers. With a \$1.1 trillion budget and more than 6,000 employees, Oz has a massive agency to run if confirmed — and an agency that Kennedy hasn’t talked about much when it comes to his plans.

While Trump tried to scrap the Affordable Care Act in his first term, Kennedy has not taken aim at it yet. But he has been critical of Medicaid and Medicare for covering expensive weight-loss drugs — though they’re not widely covered by either.

Trump said during his campaign that he would protect Medicare, which provides insurance for older Americans. Oz has endorsed expanding Medicare Advantage — a privately run version of Medicare that is popular but also a source of widespread fraud — in an AARP questionnaire during his failed 2022 bid for a U.S. Senate seat in Pennsylvania and in a 2020 Forbes op-ed with a former Kaiser Permanente CEO.

Oz also said in a Washington Examiner op-ed with three co-writers that aging healthier and living lon-

ger could help fix the U.S. budget deficit because people would work longer and add more to the gross domestic product.

Neither Trump nor Kennedy have said much about Medicaid, the insurance program for low-income Americans. Trump's first administration reshaped the program by allowing states to introduce work requirements for recipients.

Surgeon general

Kennedy doesn't appear to have said much publicly about what he'd like to see from surgeon general position, which is the nation's top doctor and oversees 6,000 U.S. Public Health Service Corps members.

The surgeon general has little administrative power, but can be an influential government spokesperson on what counts as a public health danger and what to do about it — suggesting things like warning labels for products and issuing advisories. The current surgeon general, Vivek Murthy, declared gun violence as a public health crisis in June.

Trump's pick, Nesheiwat, is employed as a New York City medical director with CityMD, a group of urgent care facilities in the New York and New Jersey area, and has been at City MD for 12 years. She also has appeared on Fox News and other TV shows, authored a book on the "transformative power of prayer" in her medical career and endorses a brand of vitamin supplements.

She encouraged COVID-19 vaccines during the pandemic, calling them "a gift from God" in a February 2021 Fox News op-ed, as well as anti-viral pills like Paxlovid. In a 2019 Q&A with the Women in Medicine Legacy Foundation, Nesheiwat said she is a "firm believer in preventive medicine" and "can give a dissertation on hand-washing alone."

National Institutes of Health

As of Saturday, Trump had not yet named his choice to lead the National Institutes of Health, which funds medical research through grants to researchers across the nation and conducts its own research. It has a \$48 billion budget.

Kennedy has said he'd pause drug development and infectious disease research to shift the focus to chronic diseases. He'd like to keep NIH funding from researchers with conflicts of interest, and criticized the agency in 2017 for what he said was not doing enough research into the role of vaccines in autism — an idea that has long been debunked.

## **Even with access to blockbuster obesity drugs, some people don't lose weight**

By JONEL ALECCIA AP Health Writer

Unlike scores of people who scrambled for the blockbuster drugs Ozempic and Wegovy to lose weight in recent years, Danielle Griffin had no trouble getting them.

The 38-year-old information technology worker from New Mexico had a prescription. Her pharmacy had the drugs in stock. And her health insurance covered all but \$25 to \$50 of the monthly cost.

For Griffin, the hardest part of using the new drugs wasn't access. It was finding out that the much-hyped medications didn't really work for her.

"I have been on Wegovy for a year and a half and have only lost 13 pounds," said Griffin, who watches her diet, drinks plenty of water and exercises regularly. "I've done everything right with no success. It's discouraging."

In clinical trials, most participants taking Wegovy or Mounjaro to treat obesity lost an average of 15% to 22% of their body weight — up to 50 pounds or more in many cases. But roughly 10% to 15% of patients in those trials were "nonresponders" who lost less than 5% of their body weight.

Now that millions of people have used the drugs, several obesity experts told The Associated Press that perhaps 20% of patients — as many as 1 in 5 — may not respond well to the medications. It's a little-known consequence of the obesity drug boom, according to doctors who caution eager patients not to expect one-size-fits-all results.

"It's all about explaining that different people have different responses," said Dr. Fatima Cody Stanford,



an obesity expert at Massachusetts General Hospital

The drugs are known as GLP-1 receptor agonists because they mimic a hormone in the body known as glucagon-like peptide 1. Genetics, hormones and variability in how the brain regulates energy can all influence weight — and a person's response to the drugs, Stanford said. Medical conditions such as sleep apnea can prevent weight loss, as can certain common medications, such as antidepressants, steroids and contraceptives.

"This is a disease that stems from the brain," said Stanford. "The dysfunction may not be the same" from patient to patient.

Despite such cautions, patients are often upset when they start getting the weekly injections but the numbers on the scale barely budge.

"It can be devastating," said Dr. Katherine Saunders, an obesity expert at Weill Cornell Medicine and co-founder of the obesity treatment company FlyteHealth. "With such high expectations, there's so much room for disappointment."

That was the case for Griffin, who has battled obesity since childhood and hoped to shed 70 pounds using Wegovy. The drug helped reduce her appetite and lowered her risk of diabetes, but she saw little change in weight.

"It's an emotional roller coaster," she said. "You want it to work like it does for everybody else."

The medications are typically prescribed along with eating behavior and lifestyle changes.

It's usually clear within weeks whether someone will respond to the drugs, said Dr. Jody Dushay, an endocrine specialist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Weight loss typically begins right away and continues as the dosage increases.

For some patients, that just doesn't happen. For others, side effects such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea force them to halt the medications, Dushay said. In such situations, patients who were counting on the new drugs to pare pounds may think they're out of options.

"I tell them: It's not game over," Dushay said.

Trying a different version of the new class of drugs may help. Griffin, who didn't respond well to Wegovy, has started using Zepbound, which targets an additional hormone pathway in the body. After three months of using the drug, she has lost 7 pounds.

"I'm hoping it's slow and steady," she said.

Other people respond well to older drugs, the experts said. Changing diet, exercise, sleep and stress habits can also have profound effects. Figuring out what works typically requires a doctor trained to treat obesity, Saunders noted.

"Obesity is such a complex disease that really needs to be treated very comprehensively," she said. "If what we're prescribing doesn't work, we always have a backup plan."

## **Andy Murray will coach Novak Djokovic through the Australian Open**

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

The recently retired Andy Murray is going to team up with longtime rival Novak Djokovic as his coach, they both announced Saturday, with plans to prepare for — and work together through — the Australian Open in January.

It was a stunning bit of news as tennis moves toward its offseason, a pairing of two of the most successful and popular players in the sport, both of whom are sometimes referred to as members of a so-called Big Four that also included Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

Djokovic is a 24-time Grand Slam champion who has spent more weeks at No. 1 than any other player in tennis history. Murray won three major trophies and two Olympic singles gold medals and finished 2016 atop the ATP rankings. He ended his playing career after the Paris Summer Games in August.

Both men are 37 and were born a week apart in May 1987. They started facing each other as juniors and wound up meeting 36 times as professionals, with Djokovic holding a 25-11 advantage.

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"We played each other since we were boys — 25 years of being rivals, of pushing each other beyond our limits. We had some of the most epic battles in our sport. They called us game-changers, risk-takers, history-makers," Djokovic posted on social media over photos and videos from some of their matches. "I thought our story may be over. Turns out, it has one final chapter. It's time for one of my toughest opponents to step into my corner. Welcome on board, Coach — Andy Murray."

Djokovic's 2024 season is over, and it was not up to his usual, high standards. He didn't win a Grand Slam trophy; his only title, though, was meaningful to him: a gold medal for Serbia in singles at the Summer Games.

Djokovic has been without a full-time coach since splitting in March from Goran Ivanisevic.

"I'm going to be joining Novak's team in the offseason, helping him to prepare for the Australian Open," Murray said in a statement released by his management team. "I'm really excited for it and looking forward to spending time on the same side of the net as Novak for a change, helping him to achieve his goals."

Their head-to-head series on tour includes an 11-8 lead for Djokovic in finals, and 8-2 at Grand Slam tournaments.

Djokovic beat Murray four times in the Australian Open final alone — in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2016.

Two of the most important victories of Murray's career came with Djokovic on the other side of the net. One was in the 2012 U.S. Open final, when Murray claimed his first Grand Slam title. The other was in the 2013 Wimbledon final, when Murray became the first British man in 77 years to win the singles championship at the All England Club.

Next year's Australian Open starts on Jan. 12.

## What to know about Scott Turner, Trump's pick for housing secretary

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

Scott Turner, President-elect Donald Trump choice to lead the Department of Housing and Urban Development, is a former NFL player who ran the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council during Trump's first term.

Turner, 52, is the first Black person selected to be a member of the Republican's Cabinet.

Here are some things to know about Turner:

From professional football to politics

Turner grew up in a Dallas suburb, Richardson, and graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He was a defensive back and spent nine seasons in the NFL beginning in 1995, playing for the Washington Redskins, San Diego Chargers and Denver Broncos.

During offseasons, he worked as an intern then-Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif. After Turner retired in 2004, he worked full time for the congressman. In 2006, Turner ran unsuccessfully as a Republican in California's 50th Congressional District.

Turner joined the Texas House in 2013 as part of a large crop of tea party-supported lawmakers. He tried unsuccessfully to become speaker before he finished his second term in 2016. He did not seek a third term.

Motivational speaker and pastor

Turner also worked for a software company in a position called "chief inspiration officer" and said he acted as a professional mentor, pastor, and councilor for the employees and executive team. He has also been a motivational speaker.

He and his wife, Robin Turner, founded a nonprofit promoting initiatives to improve childhood literacy. His church, Prestonwood Baptist Church, lists him as an associate pastor. He is also chair of the center for education opportunity at America First Policy Institute, a think tank set up by former Trump administration staffers to lay the groundwork if he won a second term.

Headed council in Trump's first term

Trump introduced Turner in April 2019 as the head of the new White House Opportunity and Revitaliza-

tion Council. Trump credited Turner with "helping to lead an Unprecedented Effort that Transformed our Country's most distressed communities."

The mission of the council was to coordinate with various federal agencies to attract investment to so-called "Opportunity Zones," which were economically depressed areas eligible to be used for the federal tax incentives.

The role of HUD

HUD is responsible for addressing the nation's housing needs. It also is charged with fair housing laws and oversees housing for the poorest Americans, sheltering more than 4.3 million low-income families through public housing, rental subsidy and voucher programs.

The agency, with a budget of tens of billions of dollars, runs a multitude of programs that do everything from reducing homelessness to promoting homeownership. It also funds the construction of affordable housing and provides vouchers that allow low income families pay for housing in the private market.

During the campaign, Trump focused mostly on the prices of housing, not public housing. He railed against the high cost of housing and said he could make it more affordable by cracking down on illegal immigration and reducing inflation. He also said he would work to reduce regulations on home construction and make some federal land available for residential construction.

## **Hydrate. Make lists. Leave yourself time. And other tips for reducing holiday travel stress**

By KATHERINE ROTH Associated Press

Travel can be stressful in the best of times. Now add in the high-level anxiety that seems to be baked into every holiday season and it's clear that travelers could use some help calming frazzled nerves.

Travel pros say there is plenty you can do ahead of time to make for a happier and less-stressful holiday journey.

Make a list and check things off

A week before you leave, write down things you need to bring and tasks you need to do before the trip. "This can include essential packing items, as well as simple tasks like cleaning out old food from the fridge or watering the plants," says Jess Feldman, special projects editor at Travel and Leisure magazine. "The key is to leave the list out for the entire week before you go. I cross the to-dos off throughout the week, and it helps me feel extremely prepared, lessening the stress every time."

Carry your comfort zone with you

Noise-canceling headphones can go a long way toward blocking out annoyances during travel, although if you use them you should keep an eye on display boards or your phone for any flight or gate changes.

Spotify, YouTube and other sites offer music playlists with names like "Relaxing Chill Out Calming Music for Airports" and "Perfect — Music Travel Relax." Or try "Music for Airports," a groundbreaking album that launched the ambient music genre in 1978.

It's also good to carry extra medications, a change of clothes, a toothbrush and a phone-charging cable, just in case.

Bringing along some snacks or a sandwich from home can feel comforting and be a great alternative to pricey airport offerings.

"I tend to pack for worst-case scenarios, such as flight delays and cancellations. This includes bringing things to do of course, like more than one book, knitting materials, or a few extra downloaded movies," Feldman says. For longer journeys, she might bring a meal in a Tupperware container.

Stay hydrated

To counter the dry air on flights, bring along an empty water bottle (fill it after you go through security ) and a small pouch with lip balm and travel-size moisturizers.

Hallie Gould, editor in chief of Byrdie, a digital site for beauty care, recommends "loading up on skin hydration before your flight. That means drinking extra fluids and applying moisturizing skin products to

boost hydration, so you're covering your bases inside and out."

And don't forget your hair.

"Just as the low humidity on the airplane is dehydrating for your skin, it can also dry out your hair. If possible, use a deep conditioner before your trip," Gould says.

Get app-y and know the rules

"Every airline has different requirements when it comes to the boarding process, paying for perks in advance, or seat upgrades," Feldman says. "It's best to understand all of the above before getting to the airport so that you are not taken off guard."

Having the airline's app lets you know about gate changes, flight delays or cancellations sooner and allows you to more quickly find alternative flights or connections if needed.

Give yourself the gift of extra time

Security lines can be much longer — and slower — than expected, and so can the walk through a large airport. So giving yourself plenty of extra time can reduce stress. The general rule of thumb is to arrive at the airport two hours before departure for domestic flights and three hours before international flights.

If you're too early, you can always explore the airport shops and lounges or settle in with a good book somewhere.

"I always confirm whether or not there is a lounge I have access to in my departing gate ahead of time," Feldman says. But even without lounge access, she says, "I like to know what the restaurants and waiting areas (near) the gate are like."

Try to identify the source of your anxiety

"If you have a sense of why you are feeling stressed, it can help to figure out ways to reduce that stress," says Lynn F. Bufka, head of practice for the American Psychological Association. "So if you're feeling overwhelmed, are there things that you can outsource? Is there someone in your family who can help with parts of the planning?"

Recognize that crowds, bad weather and canceled flights are beyond your control.

And some people just don't like to travel far or to fly.

"If it's fear, like fear of flying, it's important to know that it can be treated, and that treatment can really improve the quality of your life," Bufka says.

Prepare to welcome yourself home

A little extra time tidying your home and making sure you have some easy-to-prepare food ready in the freezer or pantry will make for a much more welcoming return.

"Always, always, always clean your space before leaving for a trip. You are inevitably going to feel a bit off after a long travel day, and coming home to an unorganized space will make it so much worse," Feldman says.

Wash the sheets, take out the trash, put away clothes, clean the countertops. "Arriving home to a neat and tidy space is the best homecoming, especially after a long time away," she says.

## **Fighting between armed sectarian groups in restive northwestern Pakistan kills at least 37 people**

By RIAZ KHAN Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — Fighting between armed Sunni and Shiite groups in northwestern Pakistan killed at least 37 people and injured 25 others, a senior police officer from the region said Saturday.

The overnight violence was the latest to rock Kurram, a district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, and comes days after a deadly gun ambush killed 42 people.

Shiite Muslims make up about 15% of the 240 million people in Sunni-majority Pakistan, which has a history of sectarian animosity between the communities.

Although the two groups generally live together peacefully, tensions remain, especially in Kurram.

The station house police officer in Kurram, Saleem Shah, said armed men in Bagan and Bacha Kot torched shops, houses and government property.

Intense gunfire was ongoing between the Alizai and Bagan tribes in the Lower Kurram area.

"Educational institutions in Kurram are closed due to the severe tension. Both sides are targeting each other with heavy and automatic weapons," said Shah.

Videos shared with The Associated Press showed a market engulfed by fire and orange flames piercing the night sky. Gunfire can also be heard.

A government delegation arrived in the city of Parachinar on Saturday to defuse the crisis. A spokesman for the provincial government, Muhammad Ali Saif, said the delegation was meeting tribal elders.

"Detailed meetings were held with Shiite leaders and positive discussions took place to address the issues," he told the media. "In the next phase, meetings will be held with Sunni leaders. Our priority is to secure a cease-fire between both sides and establish a lasting peace."

The location of Thursday's convoy attack was also targeted by armed men, who marched on the area.

Survivors of the gun ambush said assailants emerged from a vehicle and sprayed buses and cars with bullets. Nobody has claimed responsibility for the attack and police have not identified a motive.

Dozens of people from the district's Sunni and Shiite communities have been killed since July, when a land dispute erupted in Kurram that later turned into general sectarian violence.

## **Japan will hold first memorial for 'all workers' at Sado gold mines but blurs WWII atrocity. Why?**

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

SADO, Japan (AP) — Japan will hold a memorial ceremony on Sunday near the Sado Island Gold Mines, which were listed this summer as a UNESCO World Heritage site after the country moved past years of historical disputes with South Korea and reluctantly acknowledged the mines' dark history.

At these mines, hundreds of Koreans were forced to labor under abusive and brutal conditions during World War II, historians say. The Japanese government said Sunday's ceremony will pay tribute to "all workers" who died at the mines, but without spelling out who they are — part of what critics call a persistent policy of whitewashing Japan's history of sexual and labor exploitation before and during the war.

The ceremony, which was supposed to further mend their wounds, renewed tensions between the two sides. On Saturday, South Korea's government said it will boycott the memorial service due to unspecified disagreements with Tokyo over the event.

Masashi Mizobuchi, assistant press secretary at Japan's Foreign Ministry, called the South Korean decision "disappointing." He said Japan has thoroughly communicated with the South Korean side, but declined to comment further.

Ahead of the ceremony on Sunday, The Associated Press explains the Sado mines, their history and the controversy.

What are the Sado gold mines?

The 16th century mines on the island of Sado, about the size of the Pacific island of Guam, off the western coast of Niigata prefecture, operated for nearly 400 years beginning in 1601 and were once the world's largest gold producer. They closed in 1989. During the Edo period, from 1600 to 1868, the mines supplied gold currency to the ruling Tokugawa Shogunate.

Today, the site has been developed as a tourist facility and hiking site where visitors can learn about the changes in mining technology and production methods while looking at the remains of mine shafts and ore dressing facilities.

Critics say the Japanese government only highlights the glory of the mines and covers up its use of Korean victims of forced labor and their ordeals. The mines were registered as a cultural heritage site in July after Japan agreed to include an exhibit on the conditions of Korean forced laborers and to hold a memorial service annually after repeated protests from the South Korean government.

What's the controversy?

At the July meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, the Japanese delegate said Tokyo had

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installed new exhibition material to explain the "severe conditions of (the Korean laborers') work and to remember their hardship."

Japan also acknowledged that Koreans were made to do more dangerous tasks in the mine shaft, which caused some to die. Those who survived also developed lung diseases and other health problems. Many of them were given meager food rations and nearly no days off and were caught by police if they escaped, historians say. But the Japanese government has refused to admit they were "forced labor."

South Korea had earlier opposed the listing of the site for UNESCO World Heritage on the grounds that the Korean forced laborers used at the mines were missing from the exhibition. South Korea eventually supported the listing after consultations with Japan and Tokyo's pledge to improve the historical background in the exhibit and to hold a memorial that also includes Koreans.

Historians say Japan used hundreds of thousands of Korean laborers, including those forcibly brought from the Korean Peninsula, at Japanese mines and factories to make up for labor shortages because most working-age Japanese men had been sent to battlefronts across Asia and the Pacific. About 1,500 Koreans were forced to work at the Sado mines, according to Yasuto Takeuchi, an expert on Japan's wartime history, citing wartime Japanese documents.

The South Korean government has said it expects Japan to keep its pledge to be truthful to history and to show both sides of the Sado mines.

"The controversy surrounding the Sado mines exhibit underscores a deeper problem" of Japan's failure to face up to its wartime responsibility and its growing "denialism" of its wartime atrocities, Takeuchi said.

Who does the ceremony commemorate?

All workers who died at the Sado mines will be honored. That includes hundreds of Korean laborers who worked there during Japan's 1910-1945 colonization of the Korean Peninsula.

Officials say the ceremony is organized by a group of local Japanese politicians, business owners and other volunteers who campaigned for the Sado mines to win the UNESCO status, but preparations were handled by local government officials, who did not disclose details, including guests and programs, until the last minute.

Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya announced the ceremony on Friday, but he declined to comment on "diplomatic exchanges."

Officials at Sado city and the Foreign Ministry said about 100 people, including officials from Japan's local and central government, as well as South Korean Foreign Ministry officials and the relatives of Korean wartime laborers, have been invited. Attendants are expected to observe a moment of silence for the victims who died at the mines due to accidents and other causes.

The ceremony dredged up long-standing frustrations in South Korea, where the Foreign Ministry said in a statement it was impossible to settle the disagreements between both governments before the planned event on Sunday, without specifying what those disagreements were.

The cancellation came a day after Japan said it will send a parliamentary vice minister, Akiko Ikuina, who in 2022 visited Tokyo's controversial Yasukuni Shrine, which honors Japan's 2.5 million war dead including convicted war criminals and is seen by Japan's neighbors as a symbol of its wartime militarism.

Some South Koreans had criticized the Seoul government throwing its support behind an event without securing a clear Japanese commitment to highlight the plight of Korean laborers. There were also complaints over South Korea agreeing to pay for the travel expenses of Korean victims' family members who were invited to attend the ceremony.

How has Japan faced up to its wartime atrocities?

Critics say Japan's government has long been reluctant to discuss wartime atrocities. That includes what historians describe as the sexual abuse and enslavement of women across Asia, many of them Koreans who were deceived into providing sex to Japanese soldiers at frontline brothels and euphemistically called "comfort women," and the Koreans who were mobilized and forced to work in Japan, especially in the final years of World War II.

Korean compensation demands for Japanese atrocities during its brutal colonial rule have strained relations between the two Asian neighbors, most recently after a 2018 South Korean Supreme Court ruling

ordered Japanese companies to pay damages over their wartime forced labor.

Japan's government has maintained that all wartime compensation issues between the two countries were resolved under the 1965 normalization treaty. Ties between Tokyo and Seoul have improved recently after Washington said their disputes over the historical issues were hampering crucial security cooperation as China's threat grows in the region.

Japan's whitewashing of wartime atrocities has risen since the 2010s, particularly under the past government of revisionist leader Shinzo Abe. For instance, Japan says the terms "sex slavery" and "forced labor" are inaccurate and insists on the use of highly euphemistic terms such as "comfort women" and "civilian workers" instead.

South Korea's conservative President Yoon Suk Yeol announced in March 2023 that his country would use a local corporate fund to compensate forced labor victims without demanding Japanese contributions. Japan's then-Prime Minister Fumio Kishida later expressed sympathy for their suffering during a Seoul visit. Security, business and other ties between the sides have since rapidly resumed.

Takeuchi said listing Japan's modern industrial historical sites as a UNESCO World Heritage is a government push to increase tourism. The government, he said, wants "to commercialize sites like the Sado mines by beautifying and justifying their history for Japan's convenience."

## **These Peruvian women left the Amazon, but their homeland still inspires their songs and crafts**

By MARÍA TERESA HERNÁNDEZ Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Sadith Silvano's crafts are born from ancient songs. Brush in hand, eyes on the cloth, the Peruvian woman paints as she sings. And through her voice, her ancestors speak.

"When we paint, we listen to the inspiration that comes from the music and connect to nature, to our elders," said Silvano, 36, from her home and workshop in Lima, Peru, where she moved two decades ago from Paoyhan, a Shipibo-Konibo Indigenous community nestled in the Amazon.

"These pieces are sacred," she added. "We bless our work with the energy of our songs."

According to official figures, close to 33,000 Shipibo-Konibo people inhabit Peru.

Settled in the surroundings of the Uyacali river, many relocated to urban areas like Cantagallo, the Lima neighborhood where Silvano lives.

Handpainted textiles like the ones she crafts have slowly gained recognition. Known as "kené," they were declared part of the "Cultural Heritage of the Nation" by the Peruvian government in 2008.

Each kené is unique, Shipibo craftswomen say. Every pattern speaks of a woman's community, her worldview and beliefs.

"Every design tells a story," said Silvano, dressed in traditional clothing, her head crowned by a beaded garment. "It is a way in which a Shipibo woman distinguishes herself."

Her craft is transmitted from one generation to another. As wisdom is rooted in nature, the knowledge bequeathed by the elders connects younger generations to their land.

Paoyhan, where Silvano was born, is a flight and a 12-hour boat trip away from Lima.

In her hometown, locals rarely speak languages other than Shipibo. Doors and windows have no locks and people eat from Mother Nature.

Adela Sampayo, a 48-year-old healer who was born in Masisea, not too far from Paoyhan, moved to Cantagallo in the year 2000, but says that all her skills come from the Amazon.

"Since I was a little girl, my mom treated me with traditional medicine," said Sampayo, seated in the lotus position inside the home where she provides ayahuasca and other remedies for those ailing with a wounded body or soul.

"She gave me plants to become stronger, to avoid getting sick, to be courageous," said Sampayo. "That's how the energy of the plants started growing inside me."

She, too, conveys her worldview through her textiles. Though she does not paint, she embroiders, and each thread tells a tale from home.

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"Each plant has a spirit," said the healer, pointing to the leaves embroidered in the cloth. "And medicinal plants come from God."

The plants painted by Silvano also bear meaning. One of them represents pure love. Another symbolizes a wise man. One more, a serpent.

"The anaconda is special for us," Silvano said. "It's our protector, like a god that cares for us and provides food and water."

In ancient times, she said, her people believed that the sun was their father and the anacondas were their guardians. Colonization brought a new religion — Catholicism — and their Indigenous worldview was diluted.

"Nowadays we have different religions," Silvano said. "Catholic, evangelical, but we respect our other beliefs too."

For many years, after her father took her to Lima hoping for a better future, she yearned for her mountains, her clear sky and her time alone in the jungle. Life in Paoyhan was not precisely easy, but from a young age she learned how to stay strong.

Back in the 1990s, Amazonian communities were affected by violence from the Shining Path insurgency and illegal logging. Poverty and sexism were also common, which is why many Shipibo women taught themselves how to navigate their anguish through the heartfelt music they sing.

"When we encounter difficult times, we overcome them with our therapy: designing, painting, singing," Silvano said. "We have a song that is melodic and heals our soul, and another one that is inspiring and brings us joy."

Few Shipibo girls are encouraged to study or make a living of their own, Silvano said. Instead, they are taught to wait for a husband. And once married, to endure any abuse, cheating or discomfort they may encounter.

"Even though we suffer, people tell us: Take it, he's the father of your children. Take it, he is your husband," Silvano said. "But deep inside, we are wounded. So what do we do? We sing."

The lesson is taught from mothers to daughters: If you hurt at home, grab your cloth, your brush and leave. Go far away, alone, and sit. Connect with your *kené* and paint. And while you paint, sing.

"That's our healing," Silvano said. "Through our songs, our *kenés*, we are free."

In the workshop where she now works and raises her two children on her own, Delia Pizarro crafts jewelry. She, too, sings as she creates birds out of colorful beads.

"I didn't use to sing," Pizarro said. "I was very submissive and I didn't like to speak, but Olin, Sadith's sister, told me, 'You can do this.' So now I'm a single mother, but I can go wherever I want. I know how to defend myself and fight. I feel valued."

The figures in the products they craft for sale are varied. Aside from anacondas, they like to depict jaguars, which represent women, and herons, which were treasured by the elders.

A Shipibo textile can take up to a month and a half to be completed. Materials required to craft it — the cloth, the natural pigments — are brought from the Amazon.

The black color used by Silvano is extracted from a bark tree that grows in Paoyhan. The cloth is made of local cotton. The mud used to set the colors comes from the Uyacali river.

"I like it when a foreigner comes and leaves with something from my community," said Silvano, touching one of her freshly painted textiles to bless it for a quick sale.

She said that her people's crafts were barely known when she and her father first arrived in Lima 20 years ago. But in her view, things have now changed.

In Cantagallo, where around 500 Shipibo families have settled, many make a living selling their crafts.

"My art has empowered me and is my loyal companion," Silvano said. "Thanks to my mother, my grandmother and my sisters, I have a knowledge that has allowed me to open doors."

"Here's the energy of our children, our ancestral world and our community," she added, her textiles still between her hands. "Here's the inspiration from our songs."



## Deadly alcohol poisoning casts shadow over the Laotian backpacker town

By JINTAMAS SAKSORNCHAI Associated Press

VANG VIENG, Laos (AP) — A little town known as a backpacker paradise in northern Laos has come under spotlight for a mass poisoning case that has killed at least six tourists and potentially injured scores of others.

News broke earlier this week that two Australian teens became critically ill after a night out drinking in the town of Vang Vieng. They died in Thai hospitals, with one confirmed case of methanol poisoning. A British woman was also confirmed dead. An American and two Danes also died, though their exact causes of death have not been released. A New Zealander has been sickened.

Since then, many tourists have become worried as it's unclear how many have been affected, said Neil Farmiloe, a New Zealander who owns a restaurant in the town.

The incident has stirred up dark memories of the town once known for reckless partying involving young backpackers. But despite the tragedy, the town, especially at night, was packed by visitors in its main neighborhood bustling with bars, restaurants and food stalls. During the daytime, many kayaks floated along the river, with tourists shouting and splashing water at each other.

Frida Svedberg left Sweden five weeks ago for her big Southeast Asia trip with no firm return plan. She said she had heard about the news just before she arrived in Laos and has been bombarded with messages from concerned family members and friends. She still went ahead with her original plan to spend three nights in the town. She found it as beautiful as expected.

"Obviously it's like a famous backpacker place. You go from Thailand Luang Prabang and then to Vang Vieng and then you keep going. I've just heard good things about it and it's where most people go," the 24-year-old said.

Vang Vieng used to be more dangerous

Landlocked Laos, a one-party communist state, is one of Southeast Asia's poorest nations and a popular tourist destination, particularly Vang Vieng.

Soutjai Xayphankhaun, who has run his Sout Jai Guesthouse in Vang Vieng for 17 years, said the town back in 2005-2006 started to become popular among European backpackers, who were attracted by serene nature and activities like river tubing, where tourists sit on a tube and float along the Nam Song River, stopping to party at many different bars on the banks.

It could get rowdy with cheap booze, illegal drugs and river sports sometimes turning deadly. People drowned or took a fatal blow after jumping into the river on a rope swing. In 2011, the town recorded 27 deaths related to river activities, forcing the government to step in with regulations.

After that, Farmiloe said Vang Vieng has been receiving much more eclectic groups of tourists who enjoy a wider range of activities aside from nightlife. There are still a lot of young Western backpackers, but the town is also visited by many Chinese and South Koreans.

Tour agencies scattered along the main streets advertised a range of packages offering the clear turquoise water of the Blue Lagoon, serene mountaintop views and many different caves. Those more adventurous try kayaking, zip line, paragliding or hot air balloons. Tubing is still there, but with far fewer riverbank bars to visit than in the past.

Locals worry the incident could hit tourism

Vang Vieng received more than 600,000 tourists in 2023, and expected to see even more this year, the state-owned Laos News Agency quoted the district governor as saying earlier this year.

But with the latest tourist deaths, guesthouse owner Soutjai is a little worried.

"It's about tourists and the confidence of tourists. The news was all around the world. There will definitely be an impact," he said.

Swedish tourist Anton Honkanen said what happened did affect his experience.

"I think it destroys the value of backpacking a little bit. Because everyone just enjoys this time. Maybe meeting some new people at the hostels, taking some drinks with all kinds of people from all around the

world. And now I won't do it today because of the poisoning," he said.

Svedberg, however, said what happened was unfortunate and shouldn't stop people from coming. "Things can happen anywhere, everywhere. So I think it doesn't have to affect tourism. Just be cautious."

The Nana Backpacker Hostel, where the two Australian teens stayed, shut its gate on Saturday. It had not been allowed to take new guests since early this week and was accommodating the remaining visitors until Friday. Its manager and owner, who are Vietnamese, have been detained for questioning by the Lao police.

Methanol is sometimes added to mixed drinks at disreputable bars as a cheaper alternative to ethanol, but can cause severe poisoning or death. It is also a byproduct of poorly distilled homebrew liquor, and could have found its way into bar drinks inadvertently.

The Laotian government on Saturday officially acknowledged the case and promised to bring the perpetrators to justice.

## **Doctor at the heart of Turkey's newborn baby deaths case says he was a 'trusted' physician**

By ANDREW WILKS Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — The Turkish doctor at the center of an alleged fraud scheme that led to the deaths of 10 babies told an Istanbul court Saturday that he was a "trusted" physician.

Dr. Firat Sari is one of 47 people on trial accused of transferring newborn babies to neonatal units of private hospitals, where they were allegedly kept for prolonged and sometimes unnecessary treatments in order to receive social security payments.

"Patients were referred to me because people trusted me. We did not accept patients by bribing anyone from 112," Sari said, referring to Turkey's emergency medical phone line.

Sari, said to be the plot's ringleader, operated the neonatal intensive care units of several private hospitals in Istanbul. He is facing a sentence of up to 583 years in prison in a case where doctors, nurses, hospital managers and other health staff are accused of putting financial gain before newborns' wellbeing.

The case, which emerged last month, has sparked public outrage and calls for greater oversight of the health care system. Authorities have since revoked the licenses and closed 10 of the 19 hospitals that were implicated in the scandal.

"I want to tell everything so that the events can be revealed," Sari, the owner of Medisense Health Services, told the court. "I love my profession very much. I love being a doctor very much."

Although the defendants are charged with the negligent homicide of 10 infants since January 2023, an investigative report cited by the state-run Anadolu news agency said they caused the deaths of "hundreds" of babies over a much longer time period.

Over 350 families have petitioned prosecutors or other state institutions seeking investigations into the deaths of their children, according to state media.

Prosecutors at the trial, which opened on Monday, say the defendants also falsified reports to make the babies' condition appear more serious so as to obtain more money from the state as well as from families.

The main defendants have denied any wrongdoing, insisting they made the best possible decisions and are now facing punishment for unavoidable, unwanted outcomes.

Sari is charged with establishing an organization with the aim of committing a crime, defrauding public institutions, forgery of official documents and homicide by negligence.

During questioning by prosecutors before the trial, Sari denied accusations that the babies were not given the proper care, that the neonatal units were understaffed or that his employees were not appropriately qualified, according to a 1,400-page indictment.

"Everything is in accordance with procedures," he told prosecutors in a statement.

The hearings at Bakirkoy courthouse, on Istanbul's European side, have seen protests outside calling for private hospitals to be shut down and "baby killers" to be held accountable.

The case has also led to calls for the resignation of Health Minister Kemal Memisoglu, who was the Is-

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tambul provincial health director at the time some of the deaths occurred. Ozgur Ozel, the main opposition party leader, has called for all hospitals involved to be nationalized.

In a Saturday interview with the A Haber TV channel, Memisoglu characterized the defendants as "bad apples" who had been "weeded out."

"Our health system is one of the best health systems in the world," he said. "This is a very exceptional, very organized criminal organization. It is a mistake to evaluate this in the health system as a whole."

Memisoglu also denied the claim that he shut down an investigation into the claims in 2016, when he was Istanbul's health director, calling it "a lie and slander."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said this week that those responsible for the deaths would be severely punished but warned against placing all the blame on the country's health care system.

"We will not allow our health care community to be battered because of a few rotten apples," he said.

## Today in History: November 24 Jack Ruby shoots Lee Harvey Oswald

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Nov. 24, the 329th day of 2024. There are 37 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Nov. 24, 1963, Jack Ruby shot and mortally wounded Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, in a scene captured on live television.

Also on this date:

In 1859, British naturalist Charles Darwin published "On the Origin of Species," which explained his theory of evolution by means of natural selection.

In 1865, Mississippi became the first Southern state to enact laws that came to be known as "Black Codes" aimed at limiting the rights of newly freed Blacks; other states of the former Confederacy soon followed.

In 1947, a group of writers, producers and directors, who would become known as the "Hollywood Ten," was cited for contempt of Congress for refusing to answer questions about alleged Communist influence in the movie industry.

In 1971, a hijacker calling himself "Dan Cooper" (but who became popularly known as "D.B. Cooper") parachuted from a Northwest Orient Airlines 727 over the Pacific Northwest after receiving \$200,000 in ransom; his fate remains unknown.

In 1974, the bone fragments of a 3.2 million-year-old hominid were discovered by scientists in Ethiopia; the skeletal remains were nicknamed "Lucy."

In 1991, Queen singer Freddie Mercury died in London at age 45 of AIDS-related pneumonia.

In 2012, fire raced through a garment factory in Bangladesh that supplied major retailers in the West, killing 112 people; an official said many of the victims were trapped because the eight-story building lacked emergency exits.

In 2014, it was announced that a grand jury in St. Louis County, Missouri, had decided against indicting Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson in the death of Michael Brown; the decision enraged protesters who set fire to buildings and cars and looted businesses in the area where Brown had been fatally shot.

In 2021, three white men were convicted of murder in the killing of Ahmaud Arbery, the Black man who was running through a Georgia subdivision in February 2020 when they chased and shot him.

Today's Birthdays: Basketball Hall of Famer Oscar Robertson is 86. Former NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue (TAG'-lee-uh-boo) is 84. Rock drummer Pete Best is 83. Actor-comedian Billy Connolly is 82. Basketball Hall of Famer Dave Bing is 81. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Rudy Tomjanovich is 76. Filmmaker Emir Kusturica is 70. Author Arundhati Roy is 63. Actor Colin Hanks is 47. Actor Katherine Heigl (HY'-guh) is 46. Actor Sarah Hyland is 34.