

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Sunday, Dec. 1

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion: St. John's at 9 a.m.; Zion at 11 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; No Sunday School; Choir, 6 p.m.

FFA State LDE, Rapid City

Pancake Sunday: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Groton Community Center (proceeds benefit the Historical Society's jail restoration.

Snow Queen Contest, 4:30 p.m., GHS Gym.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. (Daniel and Karla Grenz will be speaking); worship, 10:30 a.m.

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

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

United Methodist: Worship with communion: Conde at 8:30 a.m.; Groton at 10:30 a.m.; No Sunday School, Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.



## Monday, Dec. 2

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, corn, garlic bread, fruit.

School Breakfast: French Toast.

School Lunch: Chicken patty, sweet potato puffs.

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

First day of allowable boys' basketball practice

FFA State LDE in Rapid City

JH and JV Boys Wrestling Invitational at Faulkton

JH GBB at Clark (7th at 6 p.m., 8th at 7 p.m.)

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

### **\*\*LAND AUCTION\*\***

Up for auction is 66+/- acres land. 22.91 acres of tillable, 24.10 acres of CRP/CREP, 19.12+/- acres of hunting in Groton, SD on US Hwy 12. No easements on any of the acres. Unlimited possibilities ranging from recreational property of development property. You can bid online at HIBid.com up until we start the live auction Dec. 7th at 1 p.m. From there we will be taking live bids and internet bids. Auction will be held at the American Legion in Groton at 1 p.m.

Terms of the auction, 10% down on sale day (non-refundable). Closing within 20 days of auction at Kolker Law Office in Groton SD.

SAM HANSON, EXIT REALTY CONNECTION

1001 9th Ave SE., Watertown, SD 57201, 605-520-6349

shauctioneer@hotmail.com

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

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## Basketball

Red=GBB • Blue=BBB • Black=DH

- Mon., Dec. 2** First day of Practice  
**Mon., Dec. 2** JHGBB at Clark, 6:00 p.m.  
**Tuesday, Dec. 3** JHGBB hosts Redfield, 6:15 p.m.  
**Friday, Dec. 6** Girls Basketball hosts Timber Lake (C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow)  
**Saturday, Dec. 7** JHGBB Jamboree at Groton Area, 10 a.m.  
**Monday., Dec. 9** JHGBB hosts Northwestern, 6:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday, Dec. 10** JHGBB at James Valley Christian, 5 p.m.  
**Friday, Dec. 13** Basketball Double Header at Hamlin  
(Boys C/Girls JV at 4 p.m.; Boys JV/Girls C at 5:15 p.m.; Girls Varsity and Boys Varsity to follow)  
**Tuesday, Dec. 17** Basketball Double Header hosts Sisseton  
(Boys C/Girls JV at 4 p.m.; Boys JV/Girls C at 5:15 p.m.; Girls Varsity and Boys Varsity to follow)  
**Thursday, Dec. 19** JHGBB at Aberdeen Roncalli  
**Friday, Dec. 20** Basketball Double Header hosts West Central  
(Boys C/Girls JV at 4 p.m.; Boys JV/Girls C at 5:15 p.m.; Girls Varsity and Boys Varsity to follow)  
**Monday, Dec. 30** Boys Basketball at Webster (C at 5 p.m., JV at 6:15 p.m., varsity to follow)  
**Saturday, Jan. 4** Basketball Double Header hosts Redfield  
(Boys Girls JV at 1 p.m.; Boys JV/ at 2 p.m.; Girls Varsity and Boys Varsity to follow)  
**Tuesday, Jan. 7** Basketball Double Header hosts Warner  
(Girls JV at 4 p.m.; Boys JV at 5:15 p.m.; Girls Varsity and Boys Varsity to follow)  
**Thursday, Jan. 9** Girls Basketball hosts Clark/Willow Lake (JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow)  
**Friday, Jan. 10** Boys Basketball at Clark (C at 5 p.m., JV at 6:15 p.m., varsity to follow)  
**Saturday, Jan. 11** Basketball Double Header hosts Lennox  
(Boys C/Girls JV at 1 p.m.; Boys JV/Girls C at 2:15 p.m.; Girls Varsity and Boys Varsity to follow)  
**Thursday, Jan. 16** Basketball Double Header at Tiospa Zina  
(Girls JV 4 p.m., Boys JV at 5 p.m., Girls Varsity and Boys Varsity to follow)  
**Saturday, Jan. 18** Girls Basketball at Hanson Classic at the Corn Palace  
**Saturday, Jan. 18** Boys Basketball at Dakota Valley  
**Tuesday, Jan. 21** Girls Basketball hosts Northwestern (JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow)  
**Thursday, Jan. 23** Basketball Double Header at Milbank  
(Boys C/Girls JV at 4 p.m.; Boys JV/Girls C at 5:15 p.m.; Girls Varsity and Boys Varsity to follow)  
**Tuesday, Jan. 28** Girls Basketball hosts Aberdeen Roncalli (C-5 p.m., JV-6:15, varsity to follow)  
**Thursday, Jan. 30** Girls Basketball hosts Webster Area (C-5 p.m., JV-6:15, varsity to follow)  
**Saturday, Feb. 1** Boys Basketball - NEC - DAK12 Clash at Madison  
**Monday, Feb. 3** Girls Basketball at Florence (C at 5 p.m., JV at 6:15 p.m., varsity to follow)  
**Tuesday, Feb. 4** Boys Basketball at Aberdeen Roncalli (C-5 p.m., JV-6:15, varsity to follow)  
**Thursday, Feb. 6** Basketball Double Header hosts Deuel  
(Boys C/Girls JV at 4 p.m.; Boys JV/Girls C at 5:15 p.m.; Girls Varsity and Boys Varsity to follow)  
**Friday, Feb. 7** Boys Basketball at Vermillion (C at 4 p.m., JV at 5:15, varsity to follow)  
**Saturday, Feb. 8** Girls Basketball - NEC-DAK12 Clash at Madison  
**Monday, Feb. 10** Girls Basketball at Great Plains Lutheran (C at 5, JV at 6:15, varsity to follow)  
**Tuesday, Feb. 11** Boys Basketball hosts Leola-Frederick (JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow)  
**Saturday, Feb 15** Basketball Double Header at Mobridge  
(Girls C at 11 a.m., Boys C at noon, Boys JV/Girls JV at 1 p.m., Girls Varsity and Boys Varsity to follow)  
**Monday, Feb. 17** Boys Basketball hosts Florence/Henry (C at 5 p.m., JV at 6:15, varsity to follow)

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**Friday, Feb. 21** Basketball Double Header at Britton  
(Boys C/Girls C at 4 p.m.; Boys JV/Girls JV at 5:15 p.m.; Girls Varsity and Boys Varsity to follow)  
**Feb. 25 & 27** Girls Basketball Region 1A  
**Friday, Feb. 28** Boys BB vs. Aberdeen Christian at Aberdeen Civic Center (JV-6, varsity to follow)  
**Tuesday, March 4** Boys Basketball Region 1A  
**Thursday, March 6** Girls Basketball SoDak 16  
**Friday, March 7** Boys Basketball Region 1A  
**Tuesday, March 11** Boys Basketball SoDak 16  
**March 13-15** State Girls Basketball Tournament at Black Hills State University, Spearfish  
**March 20-22** State Boys Basketball Tournament at Sioux Falls

## Wrestling

**Mon., Nov. 18** First Day of Practice  
**Mon., Dec. 2** JH/JV Wrestling at Faulkton  
**Fri., Dec. 6** Girls Wrestling at Watertown, 4:00  
**Sat., Dec. 7** Girls at Dell Rapids, 9:00  
**Sat., Dec. 7** Boys at Clark, 9:30  
**Mon., Dec. 9** JH Boys Invitational at Sisseton, 5:00  
**Tues., Dec. 10** JH Boys Wrestling at Pierre, 4:00  
**Dec. 13-14** Girls Wrestling at Rapid City  
**Mon., Dec. 16** Boys JH/JV at Webster, 4:30  
**Thurs., Dec. 19** NEC at Groton  
**Sat., Dec. 21** Girls at Ashley, N.D., 9:00  
**Sat., Dec. 21** Boys at Sioux Valley (Volga), 10:00  
**Mon., Dec. 30** Girls Wrestling at Sioux Falls  
**Fri., Jan. 3** Girls at McCook Central (Salem). 2:00  
**Sat., Jan. 4** Tournament at Webster, 10:00  
**Mon., Jan. 6** Boys JH/JV Wrestling at McCook Central (Salem), 5:00  
**Fri., Jan. 10** Girls Wrestling at Miller, 4:00  
**Sat., Jan. 11** Girls at Lyman, 10:00  
**Sat., Jan. 11** Boys at Garretson. 9:30  
**Mon., Jan. 13** Boys JH/JV Wrestling in Groton, 5:00  
**Thurs., Jan. 16** Triangular in Groton, 6:00  
**Fri., Jan. 17** Girls at Harrisburg, 2:00  
**Sat., Jan. 18** Tournament at Gettysburg, 10:00  
**Mon., Jan. 20** Boys JH/JV at Redfield, 5:30  
**Tues., Jan. 21** Boys JH/JV at Simmons, 4:00  
**Tues., Jan. 21** Boys Wrestling Triangular at Clark, 6:00  
**Fri., Jan. 24** Boys host Deuel, 6:00  
**Fri., Jan. 24** Girls at Pierre, 4:00  
**Sat., Jan. 25** Tournament at Arlington, 10:00  
**Fri., Jan. 31** Quadrangular in Groton, 6:00  
**Sat., Feb. 1** Tournament in Groton, 10:00  
**Fri., Feb. 7** Girls at Yankton, 9:00  
**Fri., Feb. 7** Boys at Lyman, 6:00  
**Sun., Feb. 16** Boys JH at Pierre  
**Sat., Feb. 22** Boys region at Hamlin  
**Sat., Feb. 22** Girls region at Clark  
**Feb. 27-Mar. 1** State at Rapid City

## X SERIES | Cub Cadet

### PUT WINTER IN ITS PLACE.






**2X** TWO-STAGE POWER

INTELLIPOWER<sup>®</sup> TRAC MAX EFI

When the winters get tough, the Cub Cadet<sup>®</sup> 2X gets tougher. This two-stage snow blower is engineered for clearing between 12-18 inches of powder and slush. If you measure snow in feet instead of inches, step up to the commercial-grade 2X MAX<sup>™</sup> trim package to help tackle the deep stuff. Featuring trigger-controlled power steering, push-button electric start, dual LED headlights, 16-inch X-Trac<sup>™</sup> tires and a 3-year limited warranty.\*\*

#### ENGINEERED FOR

SNOWFALL	DRIVEWAY	SURFACES
		
Up to 18"-23" (18"-23" for EFI and MAX <sup>™</sup> units)	Up to 8-15' cars	Smooth & gravel



#### 2X 24" WITH INTELLIPOWER<sup>®</sup>

Clear paths with the 2X 24" snow blower featuring a 243cc Cub Cadet<sup>®</sup> engine with IntelliPOWER<sup>®</sup>.

- ▶ IntelliPOWER<sup>®</sup> engine technology delivers consistent power in heavy and wet snow conditions
- ▶ Trigger-control power steering
- ▶ Single-hand remote chute and pitch control
- ▶ 3-year limited residential / 1-year commercial limited warranty\*\*

**\$1,199\***

Additional models available with 26", 28" clearing width



#### 2X 26" TRAC WITH INTELLIPOWER<sup>®</sup>

Designed to provide steady traction in extreme weather conditions—try the 2X 26" TRAC with IntelliPOWER<sup>®</sup>.

- ✦ TRAC drive designed for traction on slopes, inclines and gravel
- ✦ Heavy-duty 14-gauge steel side plates and auger housing
- ✦ 23" intake height
- ✦ Heated hand grips
- ✦ High-arc steel chute
- ✦ Cast aluminum auger gear box w/ 5-year limited warranty\*\*

**\$1,999\***



#### 2X 30" MAX INTELLIPOWER<sup>®</sup>

Take on winter with the 357cc Cub Cadet<sup>®</sup> engine with IntelliPOWER<sup>®</sup>.

- ✦ 14" augers and impeller
- ✦ Sealed ball bearings on auger and wheel shafts
- ✦ LED light bar on auger housing
- ✦ Heavy-duty 14-gauge steel side plates and auger housing
- ✦ 23" intake height
- ✦ Heated hand grips
- ✦ High-arc steel chute
- ✦ Cast aluminum auger gear box w/ 5-year limited warranty\*\*

**\$2,399\***

✦ Indicates step-up feature

INDEPENDENT DEALER  
Cub Cadet

#### YOUR INDEPENDENT DEALER – EXPERT SERVICE. LOCALLY OWNED.

The advice, service, selection and support you need to find the right fit for you.

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<sup>1</sup> Restrictions apply. See dealer or cubcadet.com/en\_US/financing for details.

\* Actual retail prices are set by dealer and may vary. Taxes are additional and vary by location. Freight and PDI charges may be additional and vary by dealer. Models subject to limited availability. Images may not reflect dealer inventory and/or unit specifications.

\*\* See owner's manual for warranty details and information.

Certain restrictions apply.

© 2024 Cub Cadet SNOW\_2X\_QUARTER

EXCEPTIONAL FINANCING  
OFFERS AVAILABLE!



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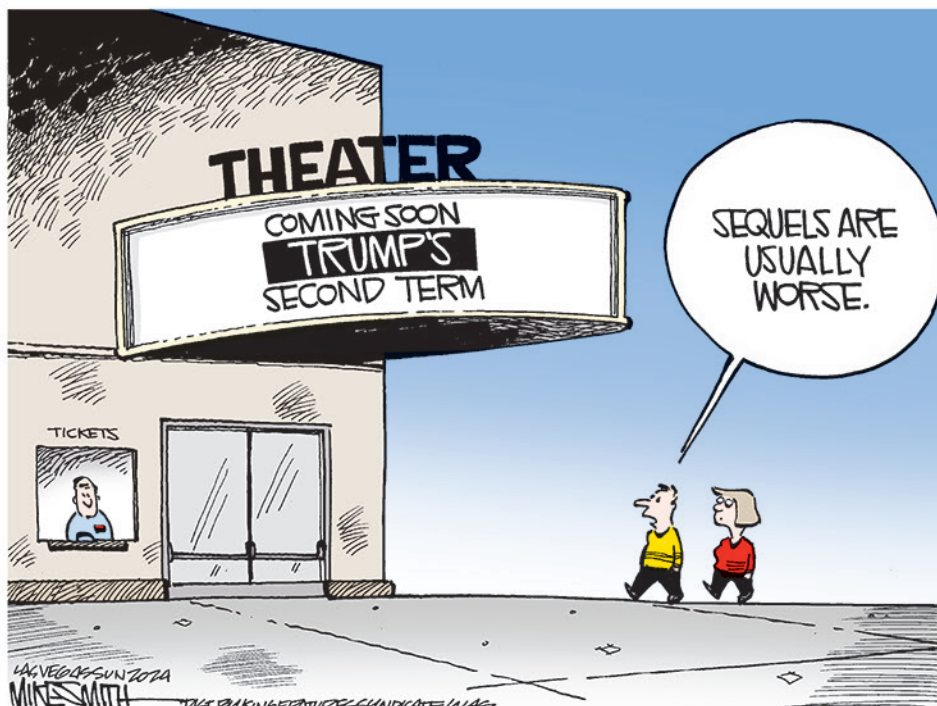
## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*The wicked flee  
when no one pursues,  
but the righteous  
are bold as a lion.*

PROVERBS 28:1



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## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. What was the innkeeper's name who turned away the pregnant Mary as there was not room? *Eliada, Jesimiel, Phlegon, Bible does not say*

3. According to the Gospel of Matthew, the Wise Men saw the star in the ...? *North, East, South, West*

4. Jesus was born in Bethlehem of \_\_\_\_\_ in the days of Herod the king. *Nazarene, Jerusalem, Judaea, Capernaum*

5. In what type of clothes did Mary wrap the newborn Jesus? *Admonishing, Resurrecting, Swaddling, Castling*

6. How many times is "swaddling clothes" mentioned in the Bible? *1, 2, 3, 4*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Bible does not say, 3) East, 4) Judaea, 5) Swaddling, 6) Two (Luke 2:7, 12)

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

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## FLASH GORDON

FOR MOST OF MY LIFE, THE ONLY OTHER LION I SAW WAS IN THE MIRROR.

NOW I'M WITH THUN -- KIND, HANDSOME PRINCE OF THE LION MEN. IT'S EVERYTHING I COULD'VE DREAMED OF.

I'M JUST SCARED I'M GOING TO WAKE UP.

FLASH GORDON CALLS IN -- HE, THE QUEEN AND THUN FOUND THE CRASHED GYROSHIP.



HE SAYS IT WAS SABOTAGED.

THE SHARK CITY AMBASSADOR, VELLE, WON'T ANSWER KING JUGRID'S QUESTIONS ABOUT IT.



RELUCTANTLY, HE TAKES HER INTO CUSTODY.

NOW, I'M JUST DOVA. I WAS A SERVING GIRL A FEW MONTHS AGO. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ESPIONAGE.



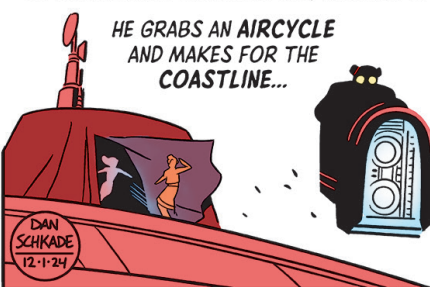
BUT DALE ARDEN DOES... AND SHE THINKS VELLE DIDN'T DO IT.

SHE FIGURES OUT THE RADIO TECH WHO REPORTED THE SHIP MISSING...



...WAS ALSO THE LAST ONE TO SERVICE IT.

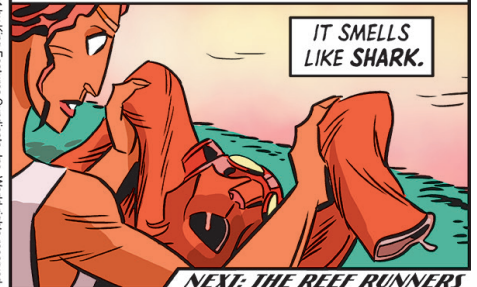
AS SOON AS WE QUESTION HIM, HE BOLTS.



HE GRABS AN AIRCYCLE AND MAKES FOR THE COASTLINE...

DAN SCHKADE 12-1-24

...WHERE WE FIND HIS DISCARDED SKINSUIT.

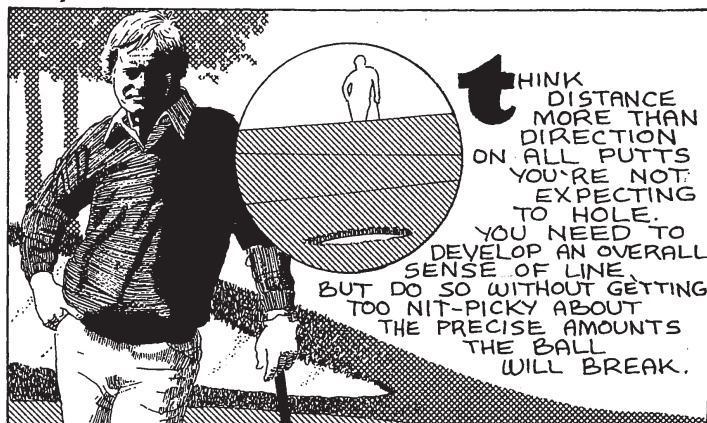


IT SMELLS LIKE SHARK.

NEXT: THE REEF RUNNERS

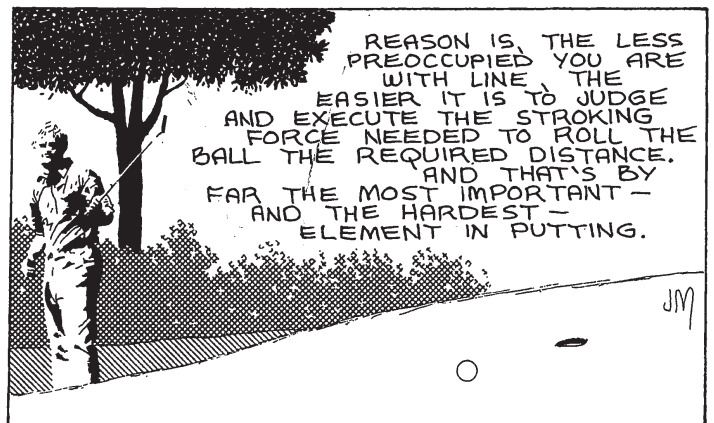
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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



**T**HINK DISTANCE MORE THAN DIRECTION ON ALL PUTTS YOU'RE NOT EXPECTING TO HOLE. YOU NEED TO DEVELOP AN OVERALL SENSE OF LINE BUT DO SO WITHOUT GETTING TOO NIT-PICKY ABOUT THE PRECISE AMOUNTS THE BALL WILL BREAK.

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REASON IS, THE LESS PREOCCUPIED YOU ARE WITH LINE THE EASIER IT IS TO JUDGE AND EXECUTE THE STROKING FORCE NEEDED TO ROLL THE BALL THE REQUIRED DISTANCE. AND THAT'S BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT -- AND THE HARDEST -- ELEMENT IN PUTTING.

JM



## Cardiologist Doesn't Recommend Over-the-Counter Sleep Aids

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am an 81-year-old man in reasonably good health. When I had trouble falling asleep, I would take a swig of Zzzquil, which worked perfectly every time. However, since then, my cardiologist told me to stop taking such products, so I turned to 5-mg tablets of melatonin in the evening to help induce drowsiness. Sometimes it worked, and sometimes it didn't.

One night, after I had three beers, I also took two gelcaps of Gas-X to alleviate the bloated feeling just before bed. It was about an hour or so after the melatonin, and I quickly dozed off to sleep. Since then, I noticed that if I awoken in the night and take another Gas-X, I shortly doze off again

and have remarkable, complex dreams. Is this self-protocol of mine medically unsound in any way? -- W.G.

ANSWER: There's a lot going on here. First off, I completely agree with your cardiologist that the sleep aid you were taking, like most over-the-counter sleep aids, contains diphenhydramine, an antihistamine that sedates some people. The problem with this medicine is that the quality of sleep isn't good for many people. It also increases the risk of falls in older people and the risk of motor vehicle accidents in people who drive. It's not a good choice for older adults.

Melatonin is safer and has fewer side effect, one of them being vivid dreams. However, 5 mg is a big dose. I usually recommend 0.5-1 mg in my older patients. Gas-X (simethicone) isn't absorbed into the body and shouldn't cause vivid dreams. A search found no reports of abnormal dreams with simethicone, so it was almost certainly the melatonin that caused the dreams. Maybe Gas-X allowed you to sleep while the melatonin was still around enough to give you vivid dreams.

In addition, three beers on a regular basis are more than what is considered healthy for anyone, and a man in his 80s will be affected by three beers much more than a younger man of the same size.

\*\*\*

DEAR DR. ROACH: Seven years ago, I went to the emergency room and was told I had blood clots in my arms that traveled to my lungs. I started Eliquis. The doctor said I had a problem with factor V, but I don't have my blood results. Do I need to stay on this blood thinner? I know it has severe side effects. -- M.T.

ANSWER: Factor V is a protein that is critical in making clots, and an abnormality in this protein can make a person bleed (although this is very rare).

What's more common is a condition called factor V Leiden (FVL), which makes the body resistant to the activated protein C, a natural anticoagulant. (Anticoagulants decrease blood-clotting and are sometimes referred to as "blood thinners.") So, the net effect of FVL is that it makes blood clots a little more likely. Many people have FVL, but most will not develop a blood clot.

However, you apparently developed blood clots in both arms that caused the clots to move to the lungs, which are called pulmonary emboli. Determining the duration of therapy takes clinical judgment. Because you had clots in your arms rather than your legs, had a pulmonary embolus, and have FVL, some experts would treat you for the rest of your lifetime.

I wouldn't say that Eliquis has severe side effects. Because it reduces blood-clotting, there is a chance of bleeding. For most people with a low to average risk of bleeding, the likelihood is on the order of 1% to 2% per year. If the risk of a life-threatening clot is higher than the risk of bleeding, then continued anticoagulation is preferred.

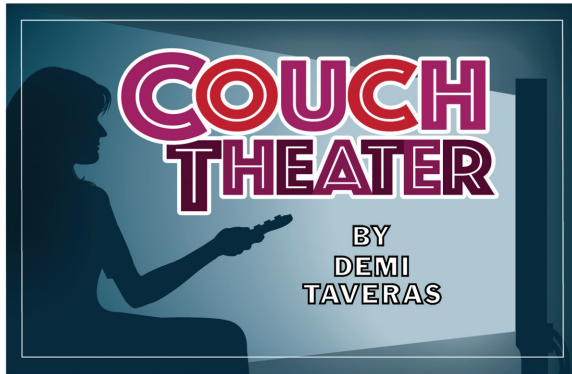
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).

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**From left, Diane Keaton, Kathy Bates and Alfre Woodard star in "Summer Camp."**

(Courtesy of MovieStillsDB )

"The Wild Robot" (PG) -- This animated sci-fi film became the fourth-highest-grossing film of 2024, garnering \$309.7 million against a \$78 million cost. A sequel for the film is already in development following its great commercial success, with critics praising its watercolor animation style and

emotional storytelling. Lupita Nyong'o ("A Quiet Place: Day One") lends her voice to portray Roz, a service robot who gets shipwrecked on an island that seems to be the antithesis of her technological makeup. But as Roz befriends the local wildlife in the area, including Fink the fox (Pedro Pascal) and Brightbill the goose (Kit Connor), she not only figures out how to exist on the island -- she also finds her home. Out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Conclave" (PG) -- The magnetic yet terrifying Ralph Fiennes ("The Menu") stars in this mystery-thriller film based on the 2016 novel by Robert Harris. (Although with a PG rating, how thrilling can it really be?) In the film, Cardinal Thomas Lawrence (Fiennes) is tasked with leading the papal conclave to select the new pope, after the current Pope dies of a heart attack. With four candidates to choose from but none who really strikes a chord with the College of Cardinals, Lawrence must hold vote after vote until the cardinals decide on who will be the most powerful man in the Catholic church. Between these votes, plenty of shady politics and secrets transpire. Stanley Tucci and John Lithgow co-star in "Conclave," out now to rent. (Apple TV+)

"Dear Santa" (PG-13) -- Jack Black ("Borderlands") leads this Christmas comedy movie, co-starring Keegan-Michael Key ("Transformers One") and Jason Alexander ("Stealing Pulp Fiction"). "Dear Santa" follows a young boy named Liam, who accidentally makes a crucial spelling error when writing his annual Christmas letter to Santa. Instead of being delivered to the North Pole, the letter gets delivered to literal hell as it is, indeed, addressed to Satan. So, when the horned devil appears to grant him three wishes, rather than the jolly old man he was expecting, he knows he's in for quite an adventure. Out now. (Paramount+)

"Summer Camp" (PG-13) -- Nothing keeps Diane Keaton ("Maybe I Do") from a comedy film about a group of older women, as evidenced by her starring in this film from the same producers of her other buddy-comedy franchise "Book Club." In "Summer Camp," Keaton plays Nora, who is best friends with Ginny (Kathy Bates) and Mary (Alfre Woodard), and their trio used to spend every summer as kids at sleepaway camp together. Although they're now much older than your normal camper, when they get the opportunity to attend a summer camp reunion, the women see it as a rare chance to bond and reminisce on their glory days. Eugene Levy, Josh Peck and Nicole Richie co-star in the film, out on Dec. 6. (Hulu)

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1. What was "Band of Gold" about?
2. Name the group that released "Love Don't Live Here Anymore."
3. Who was Big Bad John in the song of that name?
4. "Born to Be Wild" was best known for being used in which film?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "As we walk along and I hold her hand, I may never even speak, But my love is strong and she understands."

Answers

1. Freda Payne's 1970 hit (a song she didn't even want to record) was about a newly married couple who end up sleeping in separate rooms.
2. Rose Royce, in 1976. The song was one of the first to use a Pollard Syndrum, an electric drum with reverb. The song only reached 32 on the Hot 100 chart, but reached single digits in several countries such as New Zealand and Ireland.
3. He was a miner who saved others when a mine caved in.
4. The Steppenwolf hit was used in "Easy Rider" in 1969.
5. "Still Waters Run Deep," by Brook Benton, in 1962. The song appeared on Benton's "Golden Hits Volume 2" album, along with "Hotel Happiness" and "Lie to Me." Benton (born Benjamin Franklin Peay in Lugoff, South Carolina) died of pneumonia in 1988.

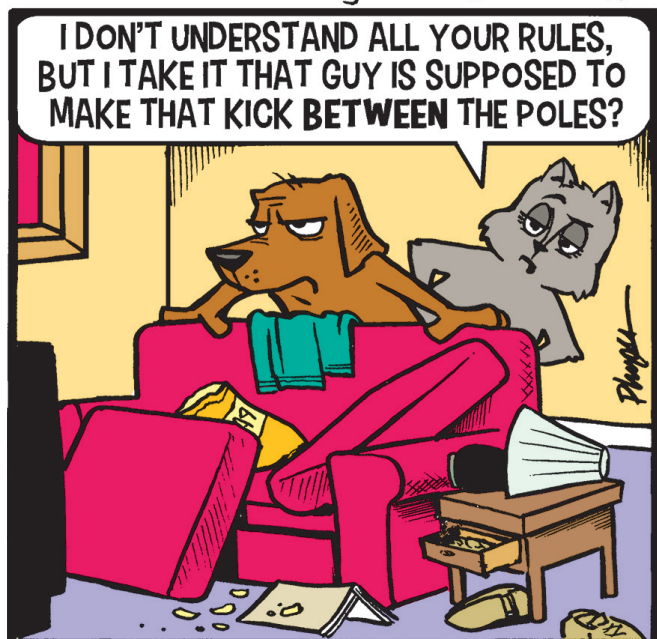
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## GRIN and BEAR IT Wagner



"My client was merely trying to finish his Christmas shopping early ... before the stores opened."

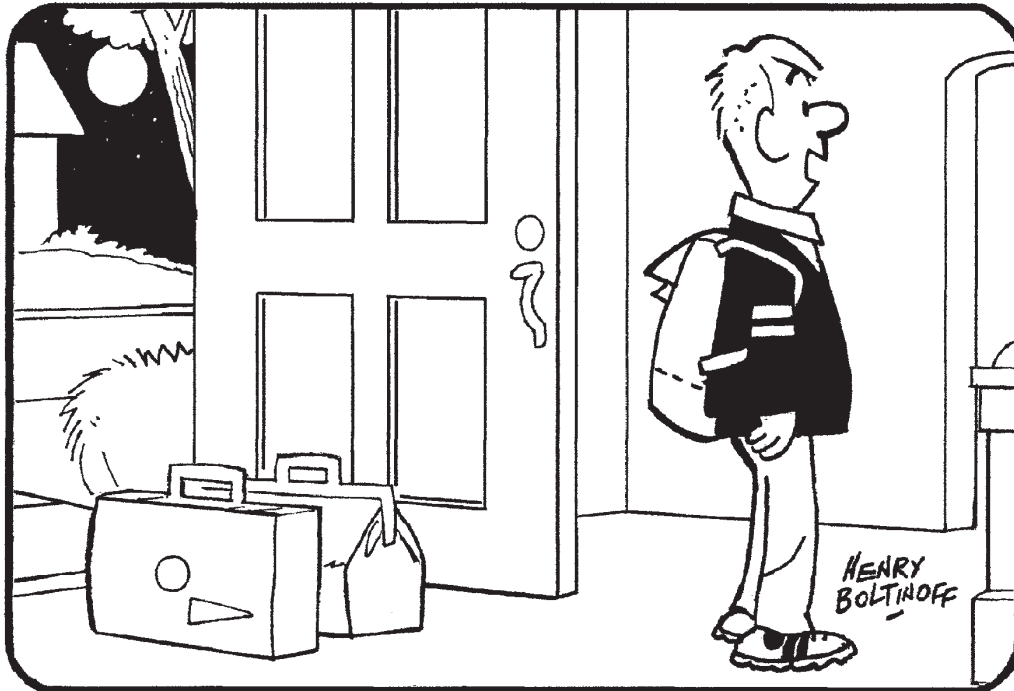
## Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Suitcase is larger. 2. Backpack is smaller. 3. Moon is different. 4. Window is added. 5. Mouth is closed. 6. Bush is larger.

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\* If you are serving hot rolls on a buffet, line the basket with aluminum foil before you line it with a towel. They lose heat less quickly that way.

\* "I've loved this little trick since I saw it used at a party years ago. I serve iced tea (or punch) at most of my get-togethers, and instead of ice cubes, I freeze several pounds of cleaned, de-stemmed white grapes. They are a hit at every party." -- M.A. in New York

\* Need almost-instant party snacks? Try a package of store-bought cheese tortellini. Cook according to package instructions (usually only a few minutes), toss with oil or salad dressing and stick each on a toothpick.

\* "A great way to make things comfortable for guests is to print out a copy of the channel lineup for your cable service provider. You also can print out common remote control buttons or any remote-control or TV instructions for streaming movies, etc. This helps us older folks enjoy a few hours of TV time while the younger kids are out at work or school." -- H.P. in Nebraska

\* At holiday parties, try this tip to avoid overeating: Keep a drink in your dominant hand. You'll be less likely to graze on high-fat chips and other snack foods. Need a little something? Hope for a veggie platter. But whether it's veggies or chips, grab a couple then WALK AWAY from the table before you can hit the dip.

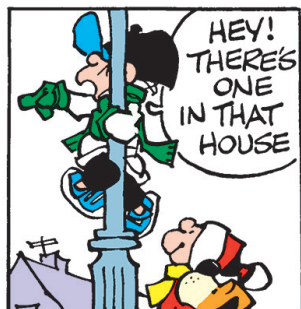
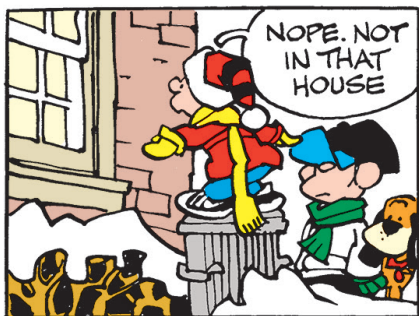
\* Here's a great conversation piece: Get a big, shallow bowl or box, fill it with loose snapshots (preferably of holidays past) and set it on your coffee table. People can't resist photos.

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

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## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



# Groton Daily Independent

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Winter coast-er
- 5 Gear tooth
- 8 Guesser's words
- 12 "Arrivederci!"
- 13 Notre Dame coach
- 14 German refusal
- 15 Well-known
- 17 Body powder
- 18 "Now, where — I?"
- 19 Novelist Deighton
- 20 One of the Kardashians
- 21 Squeak stopper
- 22 Golfer Trevino

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15				16					17			
18				19				20				
			21				22					
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30					31				32			
33				34				35				
			36				37					
38	39	40				41				42	43	44
45					46				47			
48					49				50			
51					52				53			

- 23 Lake flock
- 26 Neighbor of Germany
- 30 Penny
- 31 Physique
- 32 Sci-fi race
- 33 Boise native
- 35 Labor group
- 36 Work unit
- 37 Prof's degree
- 38 Presentation aid
- 41 Romance
- 42 "Right you —!"
- 45 Petty of "Tank Girl"
- 46 Working
- 48 "Topaz" author

- 49 — Dhabi
- 50 Roman censor
- 51 Ordered
- 52 Prof's helpers
- 53 Strong farm team
- 8 Getting better
- 9 Authentic
- 10 Missile shelter
- 11 Formerly
- 16 Yale students
- 20 "Community" actor Jeong
- 21 Up-and-coming
- 22 Guided
- 23 Biol. or chem.
- 24 Marry
- 25 Santa — winds
- 26 Mafia boss
- 27 Foreman foe
- 28 Aussie hopper
- 29 Family
- 31 Satchel
- 34 Scrap
- 35 "Oops!"
- 37 VIP on Air Force One
- 38 Sandwich type
- 39 Circle dance
- 40 Bone-dry
- 41 Connecticut Sun's org.
- 42 Trojan War hero
- 43 Memory method
- 44 Black, in verse
- 46 Feedbag tidbit
- 47 — -friendly

### DOWN

- 1 Garbage barge
- 2 Director Wertmuller
- 3 Comestibles
- 4 Homer's lament
- 5 Caravan beast
- 6 Algerian port
- 7 Hiatus

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## — King Crossword —

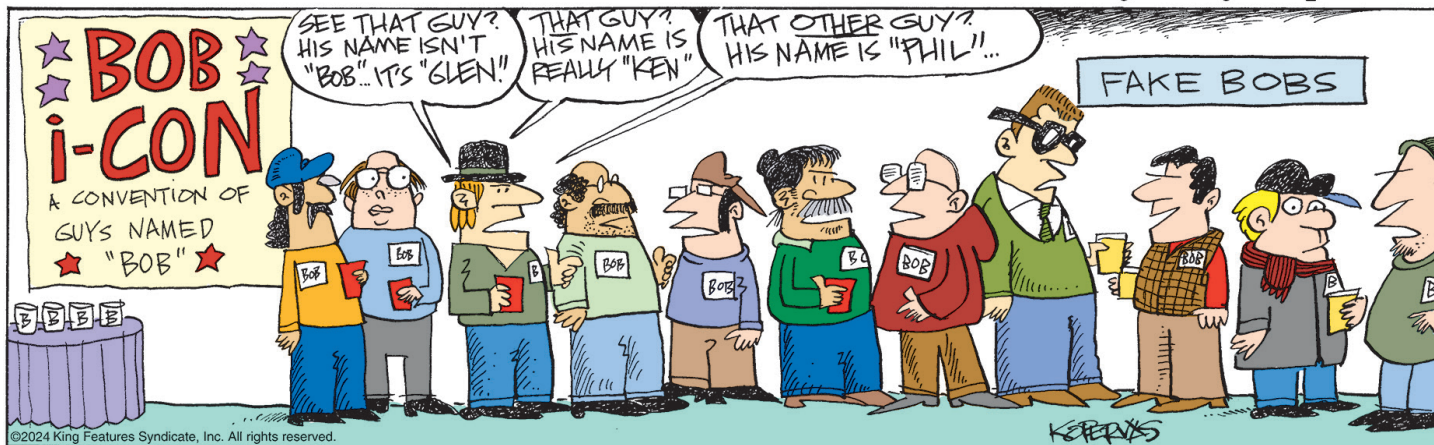
Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas




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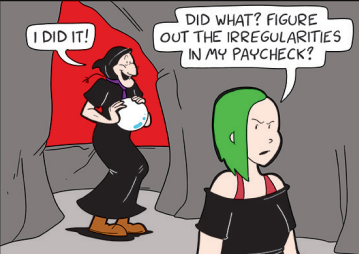
THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS  
**POPEYE**  
BY RANDY MILHOLLAND



I'M NOT SURE IF THESE ARE NORMAL COOKIES OR SEA HAG'S CURSED COOKIES THAT TURN PEOPLE INTO COOKIES THEMSELVES.




I GUESS THAT'S WHAT THE BREAK ROOM'S FREE SNACK TABLE IS FOR.



I DID IT!

DID WHAT? FIGURE OUT THE IRREGULARITIES IN MY PAYCHECK?



OH, UH... WOW... STILL LOOKIN' INTO THAT.

BUT NO! I CAPTURED POPEYE!



I TRAPPED HIM IN AN EMPTY VOID, AND THE BEST PART IS I CAN WATCH AS HE SLOWLY GOES MAD!



OMIGOWRSH... IT'S SO... QUIET.



THERE'S NO CHRISTMAS MUSIC HERE! I KIN FINALLY HEAR MESELF THINK!


MARIAH CAREY KIN'T REACH ME!



YOU SHOULD SEND HIM SOME COMFY PILLOWS AND A NICE BOOK TO READ. REALLY TOP OFF THE TORTURE.

SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP SHUT UP!

BARNEY GOOGLE AND  
**\$NUFFY SMITH**



A lightbulb idea.



AW, DANG !! IT'S BEEN DONE !!




YA SEE IT ALL TH' TIME, LUKEY--SOMEONE COMES UP WIF SOME SIMPLE LI'L IDEA AN' **BOOM !!** THEY MAKE **MILLIONS !!**

YEP !! SET FER LIFE !!



ALL A FELLER NEEDS T'DO IS THINK UP **ONE GOOD IDEA !!**

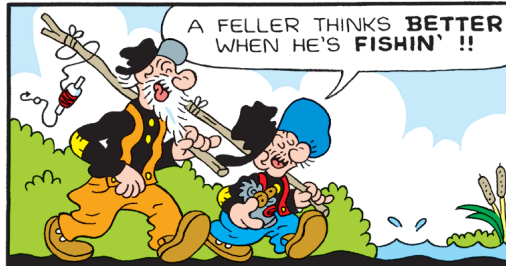


12-10



YA THINKIN' WHAT I'M THINKIN', LUKEY ?

PROB'LY !!

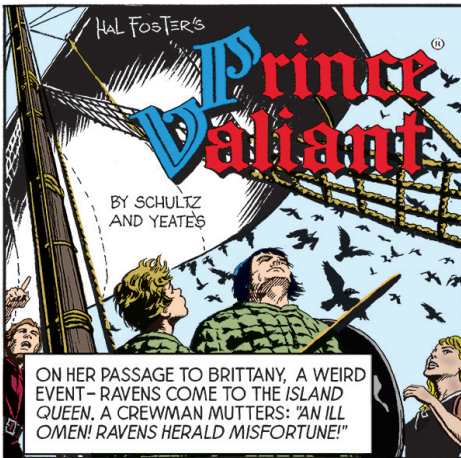


A FELLER THINKS **BETTER** WHEN HE'S **FISHIN' !!**

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Hal Foster's  
**Prince Valiant**  
BY SCHULTZ AND YEAT'S



ON HER PASSAGE TO BRITTANY, A WEIRD EVENT - RAVENS COME TO THE ISLAND QUEEN. A CREWMAN MUTTERS: "AN ILL OMEN! RAVENS HERALD MISFORTUNE!"

THEN A GREAT WHALE SOUNDS, ADDING TO THE UNEASE. "WE ARE CURSED! LEVIATHAN CURSES US FOR OUR SINS!"

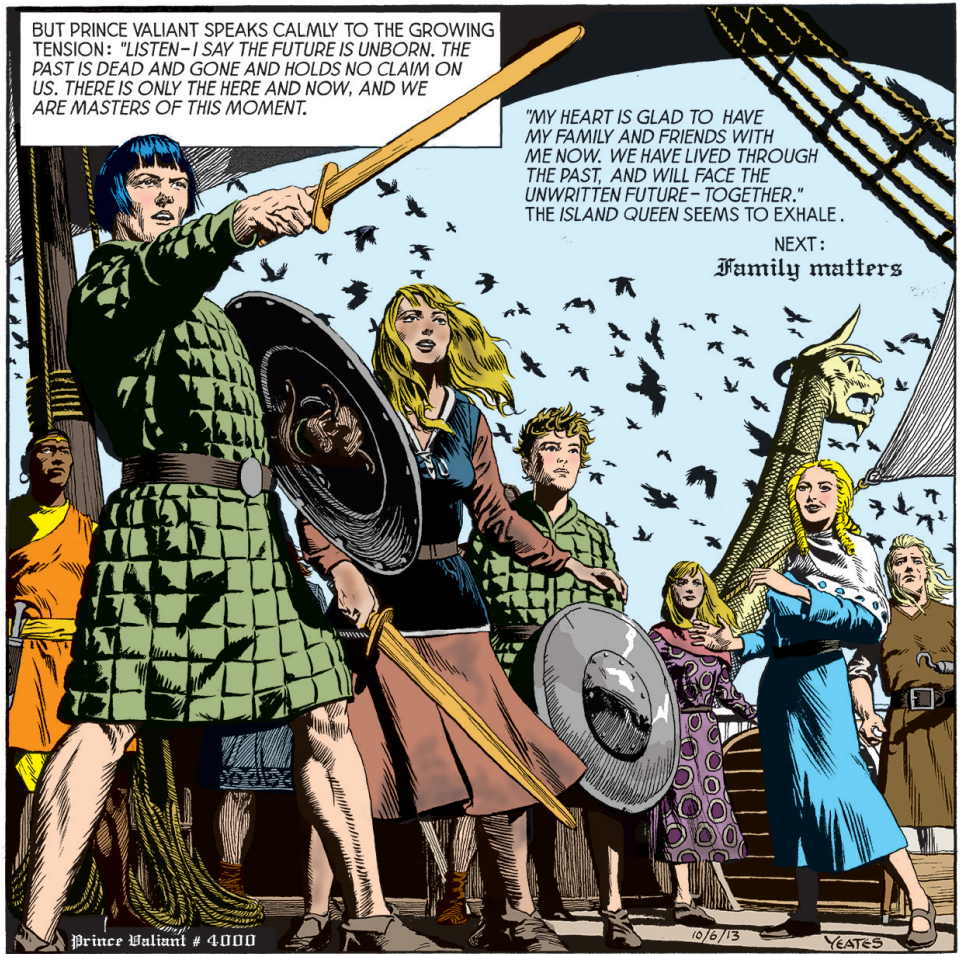


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BUT PRINCE VALIANT SPEAKS CALMLY TO THE GROWING TENSION: "LISTEN-I SAY THE FUTURE IS UNBORN. THE PAST IS DEAD AND GONE AND HOLDS NO CLAIM ON US. THERE IS ONLY THE HERE AND NOW, AND WE ARE MASTERS OF THIS MOMENT."

"MY HEART IS GLAD TO HAVE MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS WITH ME NOW. WE HAVE LIVED THROUGH THE PAST, AND WILL FACE THE UNWRITTEN FUTURE - TOGETHER." THE ISLAND QUEEN SEEMS TO EXHALE.

NEXT:  
*Family matters*

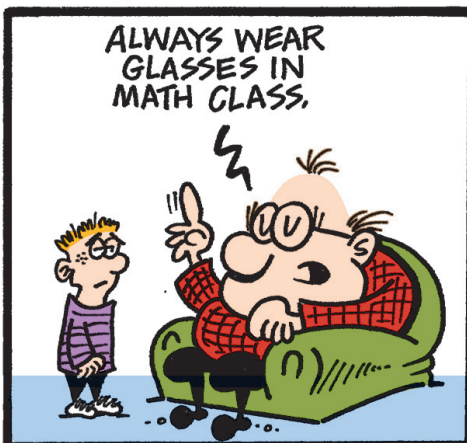


Prince Valiant # 4000  
10/6/13 YEAT'S

## The Spats

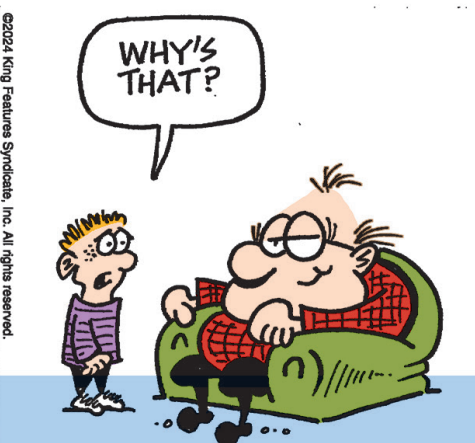
by Jeff Pickering

ALWAYS WEAR GLASSES IN MATH CLASS.



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WHY'S THAT?



IT HELPS WITH DA-VISION.



PICKERING



## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### How To Plan for Emergencies

The government has a comprehensive website full of information on how to prepare for emergencies, power outages, hurricanes, floods -- nearly everything you can imagine. Should a disaster occur, we'll be better off if we plan in advance.

On [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov), the section on supplies to keep on hand is a good place to start.

Click on "Build A Kit" for a list of suggested emergency items to keep on hand. The list of items they suggest you keep is extensive, so pick and chose the ones that pertain to you.

Here is a list of things I've put in my emergency stash, since I live in an area with all-too-frequent power outages.

Cash -- Even if I can get to an ATM, if there's a power outage that goes on for several days, the ATM won't work.

Phone charger/backup battery -- The one I have from a big-box store cost approximately \$25 and will fully charge my cellphone three or four times. It has 10,000 mAh capacity, with 20W delivery, and can charge two devices at the same time.

Food -- I mark the top of cans and boxes with the expiration date and rotate supplies so nothing expires.

Pet supplies -- Include food and any medication your pet might be on.

Jugs of water -- You need 1 gallon per person per day.

Manual can opener

Paper plates and plastic utensils

Flashlight and extra batteries -- Consider getting a few small camp lights from a big-box store. Don't use candles.

Prescription meds -- Stay ahead with necessary medicines, if you can. Chances are you can't get a refill on your 90-day prescription, for example, until 10 days or so before you're due to run out. Still, go ahead and head to the pharmacy as soon as you can to make sure you have it.

Be sure to check the weather news every day so you can see what's coming.

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Downtown Groton

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Call/Text Tina: 605-397-7285

Open 24/7

**GDI**

**Living Heart Fitness Center**

Senior Citizens 65+  
Physical Therapy. **\$20 a month**

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1. Name the socially conscious international street soccer tournament that was first played in Graz, Austria, in 2003.

2. What nonprofit organization, dedicated to fostering an appreciation of American art and culture through the context of baseball history, inducts members into its Shrine of the Eternals?

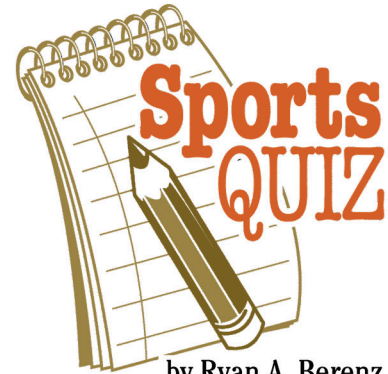
3. In 1991, the New York Rangers traded Bernie Nicholls, Steven Rice and Louie DeBrusk to the Edmonton Oilers for what NHL player?

4. Scotty Cameron is famous in the golf industry for designing and crafting high-end pieces of what equipment?

5. Offensive lineman Justin Strzelczyk, who died in 2004 after crashing his car in a high-speed police chase, played for what NFL team from 1990-98?

6. Name the Basketball Hall of Famer who ranks No. 2 on the NBA's career list for blocks with 3,289.

7. What women's softball league has the Coastal Bend Tidal Wave, the Hub City Adelitas, the Texas Monarchs and the Texas Smoke among its teams?



by Ryan A. Berenz

## Answers

1. The Homeless World Cup.
2. The Baseball Reliquary.
3. Mark Messier.
4. Putters.
5. The Pittsburgh Steelers.
6. Dikembe Mutombo.
7. Women's Professional Fastpitch (WPF).

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





## The Best Gift You Can Give Your Pet

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I read about a person who did not vaccinate their house cats, and after one of them got out, lost all of them to feline leukemia. I can relate to this person. I only have one cat, and I thought, for a while, that I could get away without vaccinating her. Fortunately, a friend convinced me otherwise.

It turns out that it doesn't take much to protect my baby when she depends on me to take care of her. I've never gone without just to pay for "Racquel's" vaccinations, and in turn, she is a healthy cat who brings so much companionship to my life. Please tell your readers not to skip this important annual appointment. -- Donna in Sioux Falls, South Dakota

DEAR DONNA: You told them, and I thank you. Vaccinating indoor pets can seem like a pricey extravagance, but it pales in comparison to the cost of treating the diseases that they can contract if they're not vaccinated.

To reduce the annual cost, check around for discounted shot clinics. These are usually held on specific dates and places -- pet supply stores, public buildings or participating veterinary clinics. However, these clinics often don't advertise extensively due to costs, so you may need to search a bit. Contact your city or county government to see if any clinics are being held nearby, or stop in to major pet supply retailers like Petco, which often sponsor shot clinics. If not, their workers often know about pet health clinics nearby.

These clinics offer required vaccinations and licenses, and sometimes have microchipping and a basic health exam available at a low fixed price per pet.

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

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## Strange BUT TRUE

\* In cities like Seattle and Des Moines, the number of parking spaces per acre is about five to 20 times that of residential units.

\* Spiked and studded dog collars derive from the days of the ancient Greeks, who would give their sheepdogs sharply spiked collars to protect their necks from wolves while they watched over a shepherd's flock at night.

\* A theory suggests that the entire internet, based on the mass of moving electrons, weighs about as much as a

strawberry.

\* The "Ding" bowl, purchased for \$3 at a New York garage sale, turned out to be a 1,000-year-old Chinese bowl from the Northern Song Dynasty. It later sold at auction for \$2.2 million.

\* Big League Chew bubblegum created its biggest-ever pouch for Shaquille O'Neal, at an impressive 24 inches by 18 inches, more than 15 times the size of a regular pouch.

\* The square dance is the official state dance (or folk dance) of 24 states.

\* Ancient Roman artisans created a glass chalice known as the Lycurgus Cup with nanoparticles of gold and silver so the type of liquid it contained would determine its appearance. On display, the cup appears jade-green when lit from the front, but blood-red when lit from behind.

\* Nepal's Kusunda language has no words for yes or no, or for directions such as left or right.

\* Modern Olympics founder Baron Coubertin tried to create an Olympic event combining a 14-km race with a written essay to demonstrate prowess in mind and body. It never made it to the starting block.

\* Contrary to popular belief, the bottom figures on a totem pole usually hold the most significance, as their placement keeps them closer to viewers.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "The key is in not spending time, but in investing it." -- Stephen R. Covey  
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**The Garden Bug**

Name	Color(s)	Zones
Beautyberry	Violet	6-11
Chokeberry	Black or red	4-9
Inkberry	Black	5-9
Blue Holly	Red	5-9
Winterberry	Red	3-8
Snowberry	White	2-8
Firethorn	Yellow to red	5-9
Nannyberry	Green, yellow, red, blue-black	2-8

**Winter berries**  
- Brenda Weaver

Source: gardenweb



by Freddy Groves

## Get Easier Access to Military Installations

The Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense have made some changes that will make it easier for veterans and their caregivers to get into various installations.

Whether it's for medical appointments, shopping or any other reason, the changes will allow both veteran and caregiver to be electronically verified.

Ideally you'll have a VA health card (the VHIC). If not, you can enroll for access by using a REAL ID driver's license or an identification card if you don't drive. Beginning November 2024, those without a VHIC (or an eligible caregiver) won't be required to present a service connected disability letter, Form H623A (the VA Health Eligibility Center form) or a caregiver patronage letter to enroll for access.

Whether you need access to the commissary, movie theater, post exchange or anywhere else, you'll need to set up your enrollment at the visitor center the first time you go to an installation.

Specifically the steps are as follows:

You'll present ID.

You'll have a criminal and terrorism check done.

Your purpose for going to the installation will be verified. For example, if you have a medical appointment, be prepared to show proof of that appointment.

Once you're enrolled, you'll only need to show your original identification at the gate, whether it was a REAL ID or VHIC. You'll be signed up for one to three years. If, however, your ID or VHIC expires and you get a new one, you'll need to start over and enroll again.

For non-medical use (exchange, commissary, theater, etc.), it gets sticky. Those places aren't set up to electronically verify eligibility for a caregiver without a VHIC. You'll need to continue to provide official documentation.

If you need more information, call the Veterans Benefits Administration National Call Center at 800-827-1000. Military OneSource (800-342-9647, [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil)) can also offer help on all types of veterans issues.

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## Wishing Well®

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

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. ANATOMY: Where is the glabella located in the human body?
2. LITERATURE: In children's books, what is the name of the Big Red Dog?
3. GEOGRAPHY: In which country would you find the 98-foot-tall Christ the Redeemer figure?
4. GAMES: What number is represented by the phrase "two little ducks" in bingo?
5. SCIENCE: What percentage of air is nitrogen gas?
6. MUSIC: When did Rock the Vote, an organization that encourages young people to vote, come into being?
7. TELEVISION: Which 1970s comedy show features the theme song "Come On Get Happy"?
8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which month of the year has the least number of letters?
9. U.S. STATES: Which state is first alphabetically?
10. MOVIES: Which 1983 movie features a character named Tony Montana?

### Answers

1. Between the eyebrows
2. Clifford
3. Brazil
4. 22
5. 78 percent
6. 1990
7. "The Partridge Family"
8. May
9. Alabama
10. "Scarface"

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South Dakota Governor

**Kristi Noem**



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

## Thankful

**By: First Gentleman Bryon Noem**

The holidays are a wonderful time to spend time together and celebrate traditions as a family. Every family celebrates in their own unique way and develops their own traditions. The Noem family has our own Thanksgiving traditions that we enjoy together.

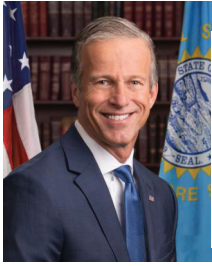
On Thanksgiving morning, Kristi cooks breakfast including pumpkin pancakes and quiche. We do a CrossFit workout together or do the Watertown Turkey Trot, then we put on the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Sometimes we play board games around the table (Yahtzee! is a favorite). We have football on for the rest of the day, and sometimes we play as a family (we are a pretty competitive bunch). And we go to bed grateful to God for all of our blessings.

We usually don't put up any Christmas decorations until after Thanksgiving is over. But Kristi broke that rule this year so that she could spend a special day decorating the house with our granddaughter Addie!

No matter what we're doing, we're spending time together. Thanksgiving hasn't become so commercialized like other holidays. The focus really is on spending time with family, as it should be.

There's a lot to be thankful for in the world. I am thankful for the opportunity to spend time with family. I am incredibly blessed with a great one. God has blessed us in so many ways. He blesses us with a community that we love. I am blessed to visit small towns across South Dakota as part of my First Gentleman's Initiative. Kristi and I are blessed with three wonderful children, three beautiful grandchildren, and a fourth on the way! We have a roof over our heads, food on the table, and we get to live in the best and freest nation in the world. I could go on, but you get the point – there's so much to be thankful for.

Most of all, our family is blessed to live in this wonderful state serving the incredible people who call South Dakota home. I hope that you all have the opportunity to spend time with your loved-ones this holiday season. Happy Thanksgiving!



**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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## Faith, Family, and Freedom

### **BIG Update**

Happy Thanksgiving, South Dakota! I love this season – a time to slow down, spend time with my family, and think about all the things I am thankful for, like faith, family, and our freedoms.

I'm looking forward to working with a Republican Senate and White House to protect these values. Faith, family, and freedom are pillars of our nation, and we need to keep them at the center to remain a strong country.

This Thanksgiving, I hope your home is filled with loved ones, a full table, and thankfulness..

### **BIG Idea**

The Indian Health Service (IHS) has failed numerous times to provide payment to healthcare providers for services under the purchased/referred care program within 30 days of completion. Due to the lack of payment by IHS, many Natives are left to pay a bill they don't owe, or risk damaging their credit. My bill, the Purchased and Referred Care Improvement Act recently passed the House Natural Resources Committee to remedy this issue and make it even more clear that the IHS is responsible for these payments.

Getting this bill passed Committee is a big step forward to righting wrongs for tribal citizens..

### **BIG News**

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently created a group to study transgender medicine, but the group is filled with bias, secrecy, and has rejected scientific evidence. This group is angling to make gender transition medicine widely available with little to no scientific evidence to support their agenda.

I joined 28 of my colleagues to call on the WHO to dissolve this group immediately. If it isn't ended, many people who suffer from gender dysphoria will be at risk of using improper drugs and medicinal techniques, and countries around the world will be subject to the WHO's transgender campaign. This group must end.

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Last week was another busy week out in DC! We took 48 votes on the Senate floor as Democrats attempted to confirm as many of President Biden's nominees as possible before they lose their majority in January. With leadership elections over, we also returned to more regular activity in terms of meetings, hearings and briefings. I had the opportunity to meet with South Dakota groups, including leaders from several tribes in South

Dakota. I also attended a few events to discuss advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) as well. All this and more in my Weekly Round[s] Up:

South Dakotans I met with: Leadership from the Oglala Sioux Tribe, including President Frank Star Comes Out; leadership from the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, including newly-elected President Kathleen Wooden Knife; leadership from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, including Chairwoman Janet Alkire; Dr. Julie Thorstenson, Executive Director of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society and member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe; Dr. José-Marie Griffiths, President of Dakota State University and Dr. Ashley Podhradsky, Vice President for Research & Economic Development at Dakota State University; and Chris Baumgartner and Ryan Norrell from Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Met with South Dakotans from: Eagle Butte, Lantry, Madison, Mission, Onida, Pine Ridge and Watertown.

Other meetings: Christopher Waller, member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve; Adriana Kugler, member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve; Sam Feist, CEO of C-SPAN; Dr. Jon Kosloski, Director of the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office (AARO); Henry Schuck, CEO of ZoomInfo; Ian Bremmer, President of Eurasia Group; Brian Anderson, President of the Coalition for Health AI; Thomas Tull; Gregory Allen, Director of the Wadhvani AI Center at the Center for Strategic and International Studies; and Ana Botin, Executive Chairman of Santander Group. I spoke at the American Fintech Council's Policy Summit and at FinRegLab's AI Symposium. I also hosted an AI Visionaries dinner where I had the opportunity to sit down with leaders from all across the field and discuss the future of AI in the United States.

I hosted our Senate Bible Study in my office, where our verse of the week was 2 Corinthians 5:20. I also attended a prayer breakfast with Mathilde Mukantabana, Rwanda's Ambassador to the United States.

Halifax International Security Forum: This weekend, I joined a group of my colleagues in attending the Halifax International Security Forum in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. This conference is always a good opportunity to connect with our allies from around the world to discuss our international security priorities. I spoke on a panel regarding the challenge we face in supporting Ukraine's defense of their homeland against Russia. You can watch the clip of that here.

Votes taken: 48 – almost all of these have been on nominations to judicial positions across the country.

Legislation Introduced: I introduced the "Returning Education to Our States Act" which would eliminate the U.S. Department of Education and redistribute all critical federal programs under other departments. Despite the Department spending \$16,000 per student per year, standardized test scores have been dropping over the past ten years, further displaying the federal Department's ineffectiveness on the quality of education for American students. Local school boards and state Departments of Education know best what their students need, not unelected bureaucrats in Washington, D.C. My legislation would redirect critical programs like Title I, special education and tribal programs to Departments of Interior, Treasury, Health and Human Services, Labor and State. Most importantly, there would be NO cuts to current funding levels. Read more here.

Floor Action: I delivered remarks on the Senate floor requesting passage of the Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act. This legislation would place 40 acres of land at the site of the Wounded Knee Massacre, purchased by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in 2022, into restricted fee status. Unfortunately, my attempt to pass this bill was blocked by Senator Thom Tillis (R-N.C.). I will keep working to get this legislation across the finish line.

Hearings: We had two closed hearings in the Select Committee on Intelligence.

Classified briefings: I attended two classified briefings this week: one on biotechnology as part of my work on the Select Committee on Intelligence and the other on Ukraine as part of my work on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

My staff in South Dakota visited: Aberdeen, Madison, Mitchell, Wall and Watertown.

Steps taken this past week: 51,269 steps or 25.73 miles.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

## Another Turkey On The Table

It was a Monday morning, and I was busy starting my week by organizing my schedule and organizing some of my projects.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came to my door, looked in, and said, "Are you ready for the week?"

I don't recall her ever asking me that question, but I looked at her and said, "Well, I'm trying to work through my to-do list for the week."

"You do know what week it is," she said with a friendly smirk.

I was a little confused because I didn't know what she was getting after. As far as I'm concerned, a week is a week.

Then she responded, "This week is Thanksgiving. Are you ready for our family Thanksgiving dinner?"

It caught me slightly surprised, and I just looked at her and said, "Oh, my. I completely forgot that this was Thanksgiving week."

She laughed and walked out of my office and back to the kitchen, where she prepared for the family's Thanksgiving dinner.

I sat back in my chair and thought about this briefly. I could not believe that it was Thanksgiving again. Didn't we celebrate it last year? I thought for a moment and remembered that we did, and we had a wonderful time as we gathered around the family table.

Now, another Thanksgiving. We have Abraham Lincoln to thank for this national holiday, and I'm grateful. I have no problem with having such a holiday in the kind of world that we live in today. It is very hard to find anybody who is thankful for anything.

As I was thinking about it, I realized that time goes quickly. We celebrated Thanksgiving only 52 weeks ago. I am trying to remember those days, and I would have to check my calendar to see what happened during those days. But time flies by.

It's not so much that time flies by as forgetting what's happening.

I can get up at the beginning of the week and start on Monday, and before I know it, it's Friday, and I've got to close shop. I guess I need to blame my age for that.

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I remember that, as a teenager, time was so slow. I couldn't get it to speed up and get on the way. I was in 10th grade and couldn't wait to get to 12th grade in order to graduate. I'm unsure, but somebody snuck in two 11th grades without me knowing it.

Sitting in my chair, I look back and realize how far I have come. Thinking along this line, I remembered how a friend used to say, "If you could go back in time, where would you go?"

I often think about that. Every once in a while, I'm reminded of something that happened 50 years ago. I don't know why it popped into my mind at that time.

Watching something on TV will remind me of something that happened when I was young.

If I could see forward as clearly as I see backward, it would truly change the way I live. But it doesn't work that way.

I am ready for another turkey on the table this year. I don't have to look back and think about the turkey on the table last year because I can't eat that one. The one I can eat is the one that's going to be on the table this coming Thursday.

Some of the best things about Thanksgiving for me are, of course, the turkey, but then there is the pumpkin pie. Whoever came up with that idea of a pumpkin pie, I would just like to shake their hand and thank them for all the good times I had on Thanksgiving with pumpkin pie.

One of the good things about Thanksgiving is that I can eat and get away with it. If I had one piece of pumpkin pie, I would say, "Could I have another piece of pumpkin pie?" And because it's a Thanksgiving dinner, nobody can say no, not even The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

When I asked that question, she looked at me with one of "her looks" and carefully shook her head in the negative position, but that's about all she could do. That's the one thing I love about Thanksgiving. I can get away with it.

I can't think of anything around the Thanksgiving table that I don't like. The food is magnificent. And the pies are just wonderful.

My goal around the table is to ensure that the pumpkin pie vanishes without The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage knowing it's happening.

While eating the first bite of my first pumpkin pie, I will lift my fork in the air and say, "I want to thank The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage for such a wonderful menu today." Everybody around the table will shout, "Yes." And that solves a lot of my difficulties on Thanksgiving. Pass on the pumpkin pie.

As I was thinking about Thanksgiving, I couldn't help but think of Colossians 3:17: "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

A thankful heart is a heart that pleases God. I want to please God every day no matter what it costs me. The best way to thank God is to be thankful for all my family and friends. Some of those may not be here next Thanksgiving.

## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: How is crowdsourcing of data gathering helping us keep track of environmental issues and stave off problems?

-- Doug Winchester, Boston, MA

Crowdsourcing is transforming how we monitor ecological challenges by harnessing the collective efforts of individuals, communities and organizations. This approach generates extensive and diverse datasets, and has greatly improved our detection, understanding and respond to pressing environmental issues.

One powerful example is the early detection of wildfires. Tools like FireLoc, developed at the University of Southern California, employ low-cost mobile devices equipped with cameras and sensors in fire-prone areas. These devices gather visual and environmental data, which is processed by artificial intelligence to detect fires in real time, enabling firefighters to act quickly, reducing the risk of catastrophic damage.

Crowdsourcing has also enhanced earthquake monitoring. The European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre combines seismic data with reports from users through apps and social media. This allows the identification and location of earthquakes faster, ensuring timely public alerts and emergency responses.

Coastal flooding, a growing threat due to climate change, is another area where crowdsourcing plays a critical role. Apps like CRIS-HAZARD enable residents to report flooding as it happens, providing emergency planners with real-time data. This improves resource allocation and strengthens disaster preparedness, ultimately helping communities respond more effectively to storms and hurricanes.

Deforestation is also being tackled with the help of crowdsourcing that lets participants analyze satellite imagery, which reveals patterns and drivers of forest loss, which in turn feeds into deforestation maps used by policymakers to design focused conservation strategies, protecting irreplaceable ecosystems.

Biodiversity monitoring has also benefited from crowdsourcing. Platforms like iSpot encourage individuals to share observations of plants and animals, creating a rich database of species information that supports conservation, raises public awareness and fosters a deeper connection to nature.

Water quality monitoring, crucial for both environmental and human health, has been improved through a combination of crowdsourced data and AI tools. Satellite data and user-submitted reports help identify pollution events and track climate-induced changes in aquatic systems. This enables timely interventions to safeguard ecosystems and public well-being.

By fostering public engagement and providing richer datasets than traditional methods, crowdsourcing has become an invaluable tool, offering innovative solutions to pressing issues. As participation grows and technology evolves, its potential to address global environmental challenges will only increase.

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



**FireLoc employs low-cost mobile devices equipped with cameras and sensors in fire-prone areas that gather visual and environmental data that's in turn processed by AI to detect fires in real time.** Credit: Pexels.com.

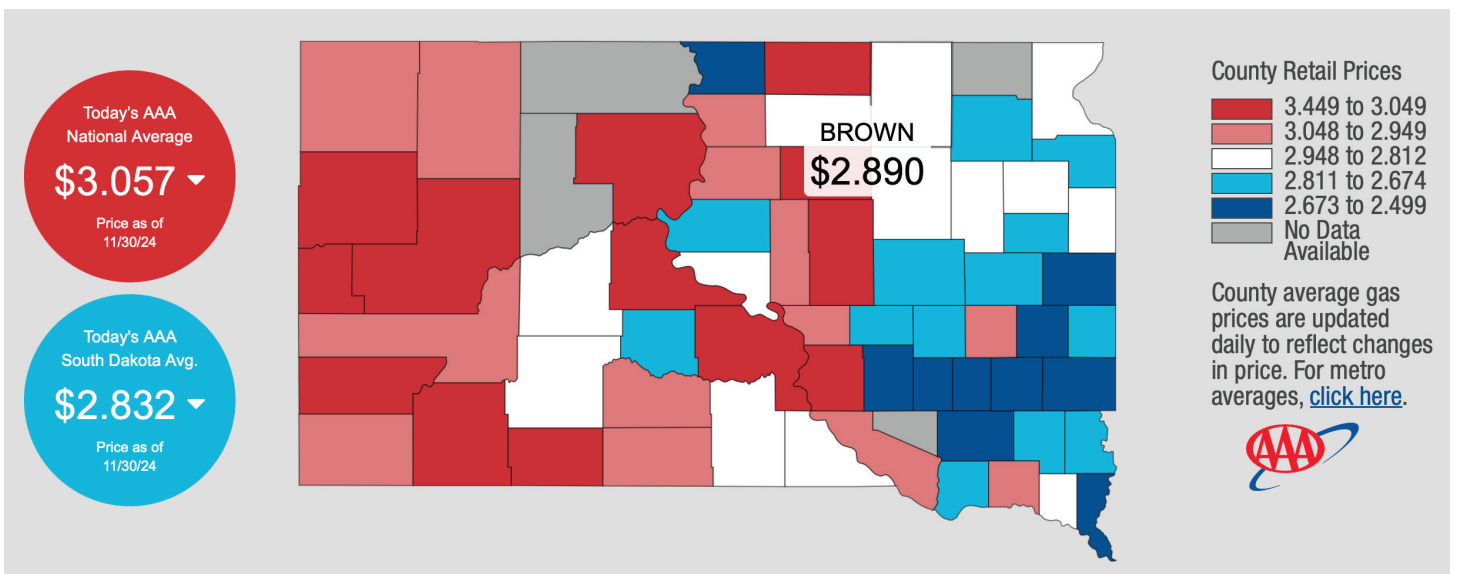
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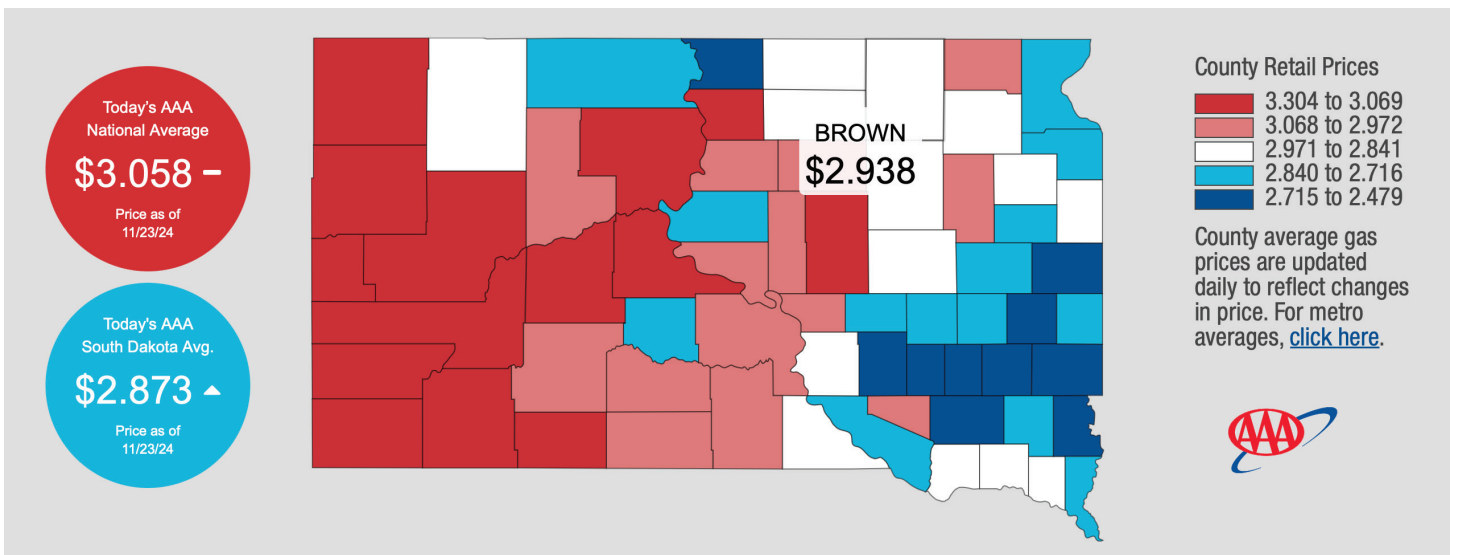
## South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$2.832	\$3.070	\$3.518	\$3.270
Yesterday Avg.	\$2.852	\$3.074	\$3.509	\$3.272
Week Ago Avg.	\$2.873	\$3.077	\$3.482	\$3.248
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.027	\$3.228	\$3.668	\$3.277
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.149	\$3.322	\$3.801	\$4.039

### This Week



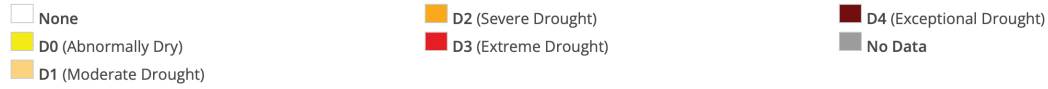
### Last Week



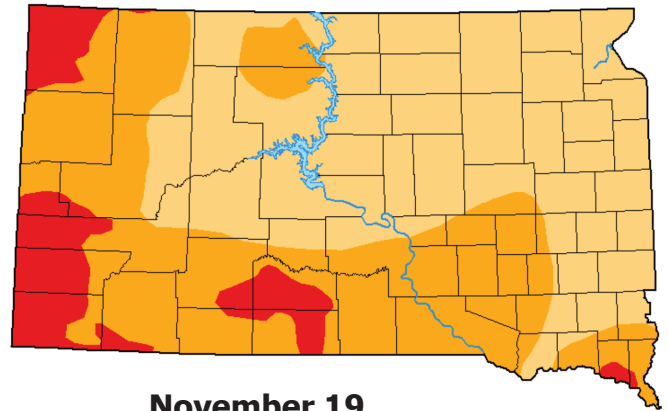
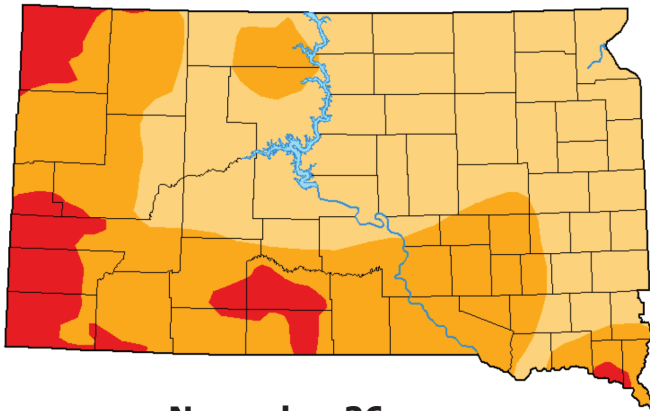
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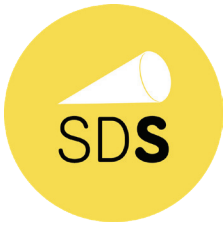
## Drought Classification



## Drought Monitor



On this week's map, only minor changes were made in the region including in eastern Nebraska and western North Dakota. For the week, precipitation across the region was generally light and primarily restricted to eastern portions of the Dakotas and Nebraska as well as western and northern portions of Kansas. However, some isolated moderate-to-heavy snowfall accumulations were observed in the Dakotas last week, including 14 inches reported at Lake Metigoshe State Park in northern North Dakota. In terms of average temperatures, cooler-than-normal temperatures (3 to 9 deg F below normal) were observed across the Dakotas, while the southern portion of the region experienced temperatures 1 to 5 deg F above normal in eastern Nebraska and Kansas.



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### COMMENTARY

## Noem rides back to D.C., possibly eyeing a bigger prize

by Kevin Woster

Some obvious questions come to mind in considering Gov. Kristi Noem's selection to lead the Department of Homeland Security in Donald Trump's next administration.

Will the ghost of Cricket — the 14-month old German wirehaired pointer Noem shot and killed in an apparent fit of anger over the dog's behavior — haunt her confirmation process? And will the hapless goat she blasted on the same day she executed Cricket bleat its way into the discussion?

Will Noem's nomination be troubled by her questionable leadership during flooding last spring at McCook Lake in southeast South Dakota? The Federal Emergency Management Agency is part of Homeland Security, after all. And during the emergency at McCook Lake, Noem managed things by hustling back and forth between South Dakota and national political events in other states.

When faced with challenges in the nomination process, will Noem show the resiliency and stubbornness and message discipline that have marked her political career and left her with a perfect record of campaign wins?

How much will she benefit from the uproar over some of Trump's more outrageous nominees? She won't have the benefit of any Matt Gaetz nomination theater. The right-wing flame-thrower with the tabloid-worthy personal life withdrew from attorney general consideration when it became obvious he'd never get Senate approval.

But Noem will still get cover from other controversial Trump nominees, including Fox News host Pete Hegseth to lead the Defense Department and former Democratic congresswoman turned Trump Republican Tulsi Gabbard, who sometimes seems a bit too fond of America's enemies, as director of national intelligence. Then for Health and Human Services there will be the nomination gift likely to keep on giving: Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., the man who made the brain worm famous.

Kristi Noem is free of brain parasites, as far as we know. And while she has admitted to shooting a dog and a goat, there is no indication she has dumped any road-kill carcasses in city parks or chain-sawed any large marine animals.

And speaking of large animals, presuming she is confirmed, how long will it be before we see video of Noem on horseback riding along the southern border with border patrol agents? And will she be packing a gun?



**South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem visits National Guard troops in May 2024 on the Texas border with Mexico.** (Courtesy of the Governor's Office)



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As someone wrote on social media when word spread of Noem's coming nomination: "She's got a horse and a gun. What more does she need?"

A lot more, of course. But she does have a horse and a gun. Or several guns. She also has what seems to be the enduring affection of Donald Trump, which she has carried unremittingly in recent years. And Trump's affection can take you far in politics and government these days.

How far could it take Noem? Well, probably to confirmation as Homeland Security secretary, which her home-state colleague and soon-to-be Senate Majority Leader John Thune is likely to deliver. And my guess is Noem still has thoughts about a run for the White House herself.

Self delusion? Could be. But many of us thought Donald Trump was delusional in 2015 when he rode down the golden escalator in Trump Tower to announce his run for president.

Many of us were ourselves delusional in believing he couldn't win in 2016. And we were even more delusional when we thought denying the results of the 2020 election, conspiring to overturn it and inspiring an attack on the U.S. Capitol might disqualify Trump from ever serving again.

Compared to all of that, Kristi Noem for Homeland Security doesn't seem so far-fetched. Her out-of-state distractions, love affair with conservative media and focus on grander political desires haven't necessarily served South Dakota well the last few years. But she's not without qualifications.

A former two-term state legislator and four-term member of the U.S. House, Noem seemed to be on a reasonably conservative road to some House leadership spot when she decided to run for governor. After making history as South Dakota's first female governor, she is halfway through her second term and seems to be on her way to a cabinet-level position that she claims was the one she really wanted.

Who knows? Maybe that's true. In the last couple of years she has seemed obsessed with what she relentlessly called the "war zone" at the southern border, and she expressed it in Trump-like rhetoric that the supreme leader of her party surely loved and encouraged.

She went to the border. She flew above it in a helicopter. She rode on it in an air boat. She sent Army National Guard soldiers multiple times there to assist in security and border-wall work. And wearing jeans, boots, a work shirt with rolled-up sleeves and a hard hat, she helped Guard members erect some barrier sections herself.

Could she have done all of that with the Homeland Security job in mind? Could she have been that crafty and strategic, possibly with guidance from advisers like Corey Lewandowski? Could she have even made her designs on the Homeland Security job clear to Trump months ago, and reached some quiet understanding?

Or was it just a happy coincidence for Noem that all of that posturing and hyperbolic rhetoric about the border put her in the perfect position for what now seems to be her dream job — as opposed, it seems, to the one South Dakota voters gave her.

When it comes to politics, I never sell Noem short. As for running a 260,000-employee, multi-agency department with a mind-numbing assortment of challenges and life-and-death security duties? Well, I'm not sure about that.

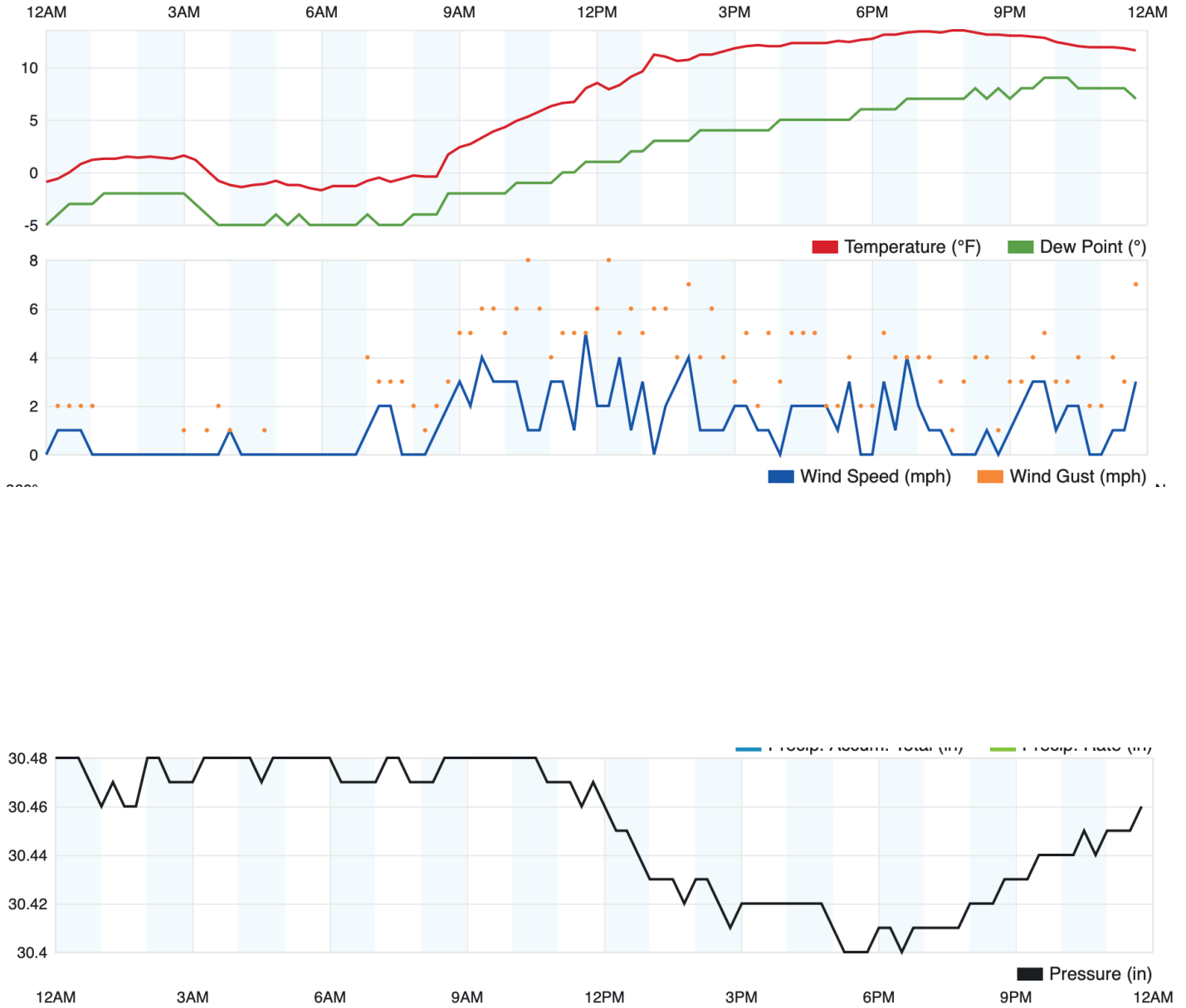
But I am pretty sure that if she gets confirmed, we'll see her in a video clip on horseback along the southern border by summer.

*Kevin Woster grew up on a farm near Reliance and worked for decades as a journalist, including stops at the Brookings Register, Sioux Falls Argus Leader, Rapid City Journal, KELO-TV and South Dakota Public Broadcasting, plus freelance assignments for outdoors and agricultural magazines. He lives in Rapid City.*

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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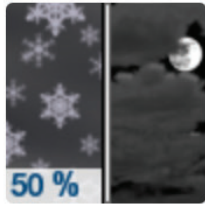
Today



High: 13 °F

Snow Likely

Tonight



Low: 1 °F

Chance Snow  
then Mostly  
Cloudy

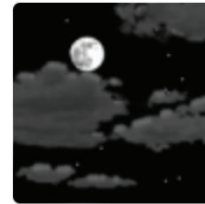
Monday



High: 14 °F

Partly Sunny

Monday Night



Low: 2 °F

Partly Cloudy

Tuesday



High: 30 °F

Mostly Sunny



## Snowfall Ranges

December 1, 2024  
3:33 AM

Generally light accumulations from a dusting to 2 inches

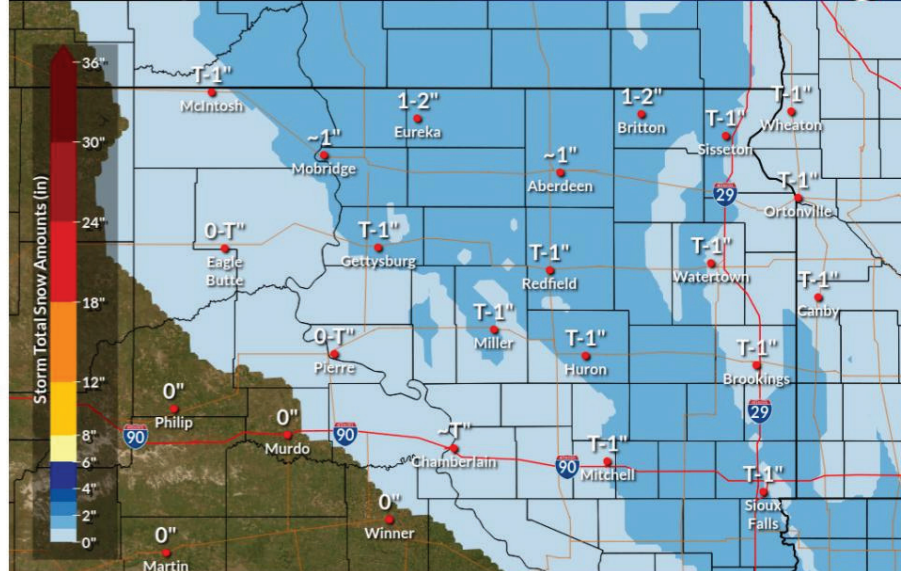
### Key Messages

- Shown are the ranges for selected cities
- Winds 20 mph or less (except western SD which will be a little breezy)
- Don't see your location... use the closest town that has a similar ranges
- Roads may become slick, making travel more difficult, including during the Monday morning commute

### Expected Snowfall - Official NWS Forecast

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

Weather Forecast Office  
Aberdeen, SD  
Issued Dec 01, 2024 2:41 AM CST



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

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

A weak system will wring some moisture out of this very cold airmass, resulting in light snow accumulations from a dusting to about 2 inches through the course of the day

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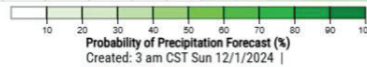
## Snowfall Timing

December 1, 2024  
3:23 AM

### Key Messages

- Snow developing in central North Dakota and headed southeast
- North Central South Dakota early this morning
- Followed by Central South Dakota and the James valley mid-late morning
- Mid-day for Northeast South Dakota, which is about when Central/North Central South Dakota will be done

	Sun														Mon								
	5am	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm	11pm	12am	1am	2am	3am
<b>Aberdeen</b>	0	5	20	25	25	35	45	60	55	55	65	55	45	45	35	40	10	5	5	0	5	0	0
<b>Britton</b>	5	5	5	5	5	10	15	20	20	20	35	35	40	50	45	35	20	35	20	15	15	10	10
<b>Brookings</b>	5	0	5	5	5	15	20	25	25	35	45	60	70	80	75	65	50	35	25	10	10	5	5
<b>Chamberlain</b>	10	15	20	25	30	35	30	20	15	10	5	5	10	10	5	20	10	10	10	10	5	5	5
<b>Clark</b>	5	10	5	10	15	35	50	55	50	60	70	80	65	70	60	55	25	15	5	0	5	0	0
<b>Eagle Butte</b>	10	45	45	45	45	45	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Ellendale</b>	0	0	10	20	25	30	30	45	30	45	60	35	35	15	10	5	10	5	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Eureka</b>	5	35	65	80	60	55	55	45	40	35	35	10	0	20	10	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Gettysburg</b>	10	40	50	65	60	60	45	25	25	30	30	20	20	30	15	15	10	10	5	0	0	0	0
<b>Huron</b>	10	15	20	30	40	65	70	80	80	80	80	80	85	75	60	30	20	15	10	5	5	5	5
<b>Kennebec</b>	5	15	15	20	25	25	20	10	10	10	5	5	10	10	5	10	5	5	5	5	0	5	0
<b>McIntosh</b>	20	45	55	35	25	20	5	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Milbank</b>	0	5	0	5	5	10	10	15	15	15	30	35	35	60	70	65	50	35	25	15	5	0	0
<b>Miller</b>	10	30	40	50	55	65	65	55	45	50	60	50	45	20	15	15	10	5	5	5	5	0	0
<b>Mobridge</b>	15	45	60	70	45	40	30	20	25	10	15	5	0	15	5	5	0	5	5	0	0	0	5
<b>Murdo</b>	5	15	15	15	20	20	20	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	0	0	0	5	5	5	5	0	0
<b>Pierre</b>	10	20	20	30	35	30	25	10	10	5	5	5	10	25	10	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
<b>Redfield</b>	5	20	30	40	45	65	75	75	65	65	75	75	70	65	35	30	15	5	5	0	5	0	0
<b>Sisseton</b>	0	5	5	5	5	5	10	10	10	15	25	35	40	65	50	45	40	25	15	10	5	5	0
<b>Watertown</b>	5	5	5	5	5	15	20	25	25	35	45	50	60	80	70	60	45	25	10	5	5	0	0
<b>Webster</b>	5	5	5	5	5	15	20	25	25	30	45	55	55	80	60	50	30	20	10	5	5	0	0
<b>Wheaton</b>	0	5	0	0	0	5	5	5	5	5	15	20	25	35	30	35	40	30	20	20	10	0	0



Snowfall will begin across North Dakota early this morning and spread south and east while increasing in intensity. Not a lot of moisture to the atmosphere, however with light winds we should see some fluffy flakes today

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 14 °F at 7:46 PM

Low Temp: -2 °F at 6:02 AM

Wind: 8 mph at 10:26 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 9 hours, 1 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 65 in 2021

Record Low: -24 in 1893

Average High: 35

Average Low: 13

Average Precip in Dec.: 0.02

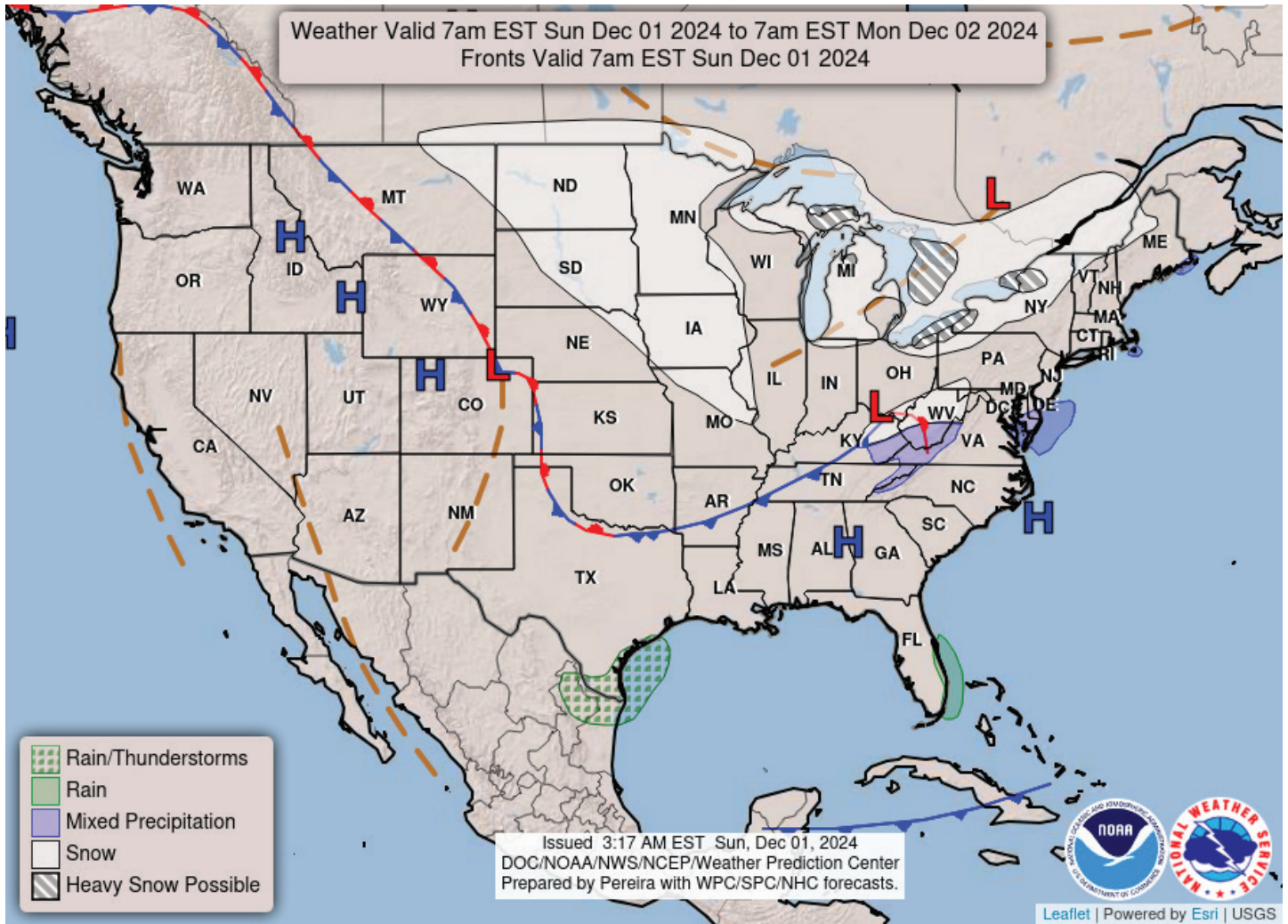
Precip to date in Dec.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 21.23

Precip Year to Date: 21.71

Sunset Tonight: 4:52:23 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:52:07 am



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## Today in Weather History

December 1, 1985: A storm system with heavy snow, strong winds, and blizzard conditions visited the region on December 1st through 2nd. Most of the snow fell in Minnesota. Snowfall across Minnesota increased from the south during the early morning of December 1st and had spread across most of the state by late morning. Winds in the west-central and southwest parts of the state increased to 40 to 50 mph, causing blizzard conditions. By late morning, drifts had reached 3 feet, and snowplows were pulled off roads from the southwest into central Minnesota due to restricted visibilities. The winds continued through the evening, gradually diminished during the morning of December 2nd. High winds and cold temperatures broke power lines and caused power outages over portions of southern and west-central Minnesota during the afternoon of December 1st and December 2nd. Many highways were impassable, and numerous businesses and schools were closed on the morning of December 2nd until residents could dig out. There were a few travelers that became stranded for up to 6 hours in their vehicles. Traffic accidents also accounted for some injuries and a few deaths. Further west, in South Dakota, strong winds gusted to around 40 mph and produced ground blizzard conditions over most of the state. The low visibilities, road conditions, and strong winds stranded a family for 25 hours south of Colome in Tripp County and another family for eight hours near Lee's Corner in Brule County. Many roads were blocked in the state's central and western parts, and no travel was advised in the east. The blowing and drifting snow reduced visibilities to near zero, and many accidents were reported. The strong winds, along with the previous day's snowfall, caused some damage, including the collapse of the roof of a large barn south of Bemis in Deuel County. Many church services were canceled on December 1, as were many schools on December 2. Temperatures became frigid during the morning of December 2 in the northwest part of the state. Camp Crook in Harding County reported a low of -36 F. Pierre had 2 inches of snow, Aberdeen, Castlewood, Clark, and Redfield had 3 inches, Bryant had 4 inches, Clear Lake, Milbank, and Wilmot had 8 inches. Timber Lake fell to -24F on the 2nd while McLaughlin fell to -30F.

December 1, 1992: A storm system caused numerous traffic accidents and stranded several hundred travelers on December 1st across northeast South Dakota and west-central Minnesota as Interstate 29 was closed between Watertown and Sisseton. Slush on roadways became ice as high wind gusts were up to 60 mph, and snowfall of one to four inches brought blizzard conditions to some areas. Several semi-trucks jackknifed, and many cars ran into ditches, causing minor injuries. Simultaneously, strong northwest winds further west in central and north-central South Dakota gusted up to 67 mph on the 1st. The high winds shattered windows and blew down trees and signs. The wind rolled a van into a car, causing damage to both vehicles. A wind-blown dumpster damaged another vehicle. The wind also blew toppers off several pickup trucks, causing some damage.

December 1, 2007: A strong low-pressure area moving across the central plains brought widespread snowfall of 6 to 12 inches across northeast South Dakota. The snow began between 4 and 8 am and ended between 7 and 9 p.m. on December 1st. The heavy snow mainly affected travel and Saturday activities. Snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Clark, Conde, Faulkton, Redfield, and Watertown, 7 inches at Groton, Roscoe, and Sisseton, 8 inches at Britton, Summit, Bryant, 9 inches at Aberdeen and Kidder, and 12 inches at Big Stone City.

1962: The 50th Grey Cup was played in Toronto, Ontario, between the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and the Winnipeg Blue Bombers. Severe lakefront fog halts the game with 9:22 left to play on December 1st. Winnipeg wins the Fog Bowl the following day by a score of 28-27.

2006: A winter storm produced more than 6 inches of snow along a 1,000-mile-long path from central Oklahoma to northern Michigan from November 30-December 1st. The storm also produced significant freezing rain, which impacted the St. Louis area. An estimated 500 or more homes and businesses were without power in the St. Louis area after this storm.

2017: Several waterspouts formed off the coast of San Remo in northwest Italy. One waterspout moved ashore and caused damage in town.



## WHEN DO WE START GETTING SMALLER?

When he was a child Little Tommy was fascinated as he stood in the back yard and watched airplanes get smaller as they disappeared over the horizon. He would stand motionless, sometimes even holding his breath, as he watched this amazing sight time after time.

Day after day he would beg his grandmother to "take me flying on one of those airplanes." Finally, the day came when his grandmother took him on his first flight. After he was buckled in his seat and the aircraft sped down the runway and began to ascend into the clouds, a puzzled look came across his face. Anxiously, he turned to his grandmother and asked quietly, "Grandmother, when do we start getting smaller?"

This is an important question for all Christians!

John the Baptist played a most significant role in the ministry of Jesus. He realized that God gave Him an important work to do to introduce Jesus to the world. This was his main purpose in life. And he did it well. God, because of his faithfulness, made him an important person in the history of our faith.

But when Jesus appeared, John realized that his role in doing God's work changed. Not only does his willingness to decrease in importance describe an example of what humility is, but it prescribes clearly the role of every Christian today: We are to witness God's grace to others without drawing attention to ourselves.

Prayer: Lord, may we willingly step aside, as John did, as we present Your Son to the world. May we do what we do for You and You alone and only exalt Christ. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them. John 3:30-36

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

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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:  
11.29.24

3 29 34 37 38 17

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$541,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
11.30.24

4 5 10 15 44 5

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$16,230,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
11.30.24

21 22 32 36 48 5

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 55 Mins  
49 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
11.30.24

9 19 28 31 35

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$129,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
11.30.24

9 21 37 43 61 23

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

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
11.30.24

4 24 29 39 63 25

Power Play: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$224,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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## Upcoming Groton Events

07/04/2024 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course  
07/09/2024 FREE SNAP Application Assistance 1-6pm at the Community Center  
07/14/2024 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm  
07/17/2024 Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar at the Groton Legion 11am-1pm  
07/17/2024 Pro Am Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course  
07/25/2024 Dairy Queen Miracle Treat Day  
07/25/2024 Summer Downtown Sip & Shop 5-8pm  
07/25/2024 Treasures Amidst The Trials 6pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
07/26/2024 Ferney Open Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Start  
07/27/2024 1st Annual Celebration in the Park 1-9:30pm  
08/05/2024 School Supply Drive 4-7pm at the Community Center  
**Cancelled:** Wine on 9 at Olive Grove Golf Course 6pm  
08/08/2024 Family Fun Fest 5:30-7:30pm  
08/9-11/2024 Jr. Legion State Baseball Tournament  
08/12/2024 Vitalant Blood Drive at the Community Center 1:15-7pm  
09/07/2024 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm  
09/07-08/2024 Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport  
09/08/2024 Sunflower Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10am  
10/05/2024 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm  
10/11/2024 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am  
10/31/2024 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm  
10/31/2024 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm  
11/16/2024 Groton American Legion "Turkey Raffle" 6:30-11:30pm  
11/28/2024 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm  
12/01/2024 Groton Snow Queen Contest, 4:30 p.m.  
12/07/2024 Olive Grove 8th Annual Holiday Party with Live & Silent Auctions 6pm-close  
12/14/2024 Santa Day at Professional Management Services, downtown Groton  
04/12/2025 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt at the City Park 10am Sharp  
05/03/2025 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm  
05/26/2025 Memorial Day Services Groton Union Cemetery with lunch at Legion Post #39, 12pm  
07/04/2025 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course  
07/09/2025 Legion Auxiliary Salad Luncheon  
07/13/2025 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm  
09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm  
09/20/2025 NSU Gypsy Day  
10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm  
11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm

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

### Trump's picks for key positions in his second administration

By THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

President-elect Donald Trump has filled the key posts for his second term in office, prioritizing loyalty to him after he felt bruised and hampered by internal squabbling during his first term.

Some of his choices could face difficult confirmation fights in the Senate, even with Republicans in control, and one candidate has already withdrawn from consideration.

Former Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz was Trump's initial pick for attorney general, but he ultimately withdrew following scrutiny over a federal sex trafficking investigation he was embroiled in.

Here's a look at Trump's choices:

**CABINET:Secretary of state: Marco Rubio**

Trump would turn a former critic into an ally as the nation's top diplomat.

Rubio, 53, is a noted hawk on China, Cuba and Iran, and was a finalist to be Trump's running mate before the slot went to JD Vance. Rubio is vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee and a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

His selection punctuates the hard pivot Rubio has made with Trump, whom the senator once called a "con man" during his own unsuccessful campaign for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination. Their relationship improved dramatically while Trump was in the White House.

**Defense secretary: Pete Hegseth**

Hegseth, 44, was a co-host of Fox News Channel's "Fox and Friends Weekend" and had been a contributor with the network since 2014. He developed a friendship with Trump, who made regular appearances on the show.

Hegseth served in the Army National Guard from 2002 to 2021, deploying to Iraq in 2005 and Afghanistan in 2011 and earning two Bronze Stars. He lacks senior military and national security experience and would oversee global crises ranging from Europe to the Middle East.

A woman told police that she was sexually assaulted in 2017 by Hegseth after he took her phone, blocked the door to a California hotel room and refused to let her leave, according to a detailed investigative report recently made public. Hegseth told police at the time that the encounter had been consensual and has denied any wrongdoing.

**Treasury secretary: Scott Bessent**

Bessent, 62, is a former money manager for George Soros, a big Democratic donor, and an advocate for deficit reduction. He founded the hedge fund Key Square Capital Management after having worked on and off for Soros Fund Management since 1991. If confirmed by the Senate, Bessent would be the nation's first openly gay treasury secretary.

He told Bloomberg in August that he decided to join Trump's campaign in part to attack the mounting U.S. national debt. That would include slashing government programs and other spending.

**Director of national intelligence: Tulsi Gabbard**

Gabbard, 43, is a former Democratic House member from Hawaii who has been accused of echoing Russian propaganda. She unsuccessfully sought the party's 2020 presidential nomination and left the party in 2022. Gabbard endorsed Trump in August and campaigned often with him.

Gabbard has served in the Army National Guard for more than two decades and deployed to Iraq and Kuwait. If confirmed she would come to the role as an outsider compared to her predecessor. The current director, Avril Haines, spent several years in top national security and intelligence positions.

**Attorney general: Pam Bondi**

Bondi, 59, was Florida's first female attorney general, serving between 2011 and 2019. She was on Trump's legal team during his first impeachment trial in 2020.

Considered a loyalist, Bondi also has served with the America First Policy Institute, a Trump-allied group

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that has helped lay the groundwork for his future administration.

Bondi was among a group of Republicans who showed up to support Trump at his hush-money criminal trial in New York that ended in May with a conviction on 34 felony counts. A fierce defender of Trump, she also frequently appeared on Fox News and has been critical of the criminal cases against him.

Labor secretary: Lori Chavez-DeRemer

The Republican U.S. House member narrowly lost her reelection bid on Nov. 5 but had received strong backing from union members in her district.

As a potential labor secretary, Chavez-DeRemer would oversee the department's workforce and budget and put forth priorities that affect workers' wages, health and safety, ability to unionize, and employer's rights to fire employers, among other responsibilities.

Chavez-DeRemer is one of a few House Republicans to endorse the "Protecting the Right to Organize" or PRO Act that would allow more workers to conduct organizing campaigns and penalize companies that violate workers' rights. The act would also weaken "right-to-work" laws in more than half the states.

Commerce secretary: Howard Lutnick

Lutnick heads the brokerage and investment bank Cantor Fitzgerald and is a cryptocurrency enthusiast. He is co-chair of Trump's transition operation, charged along with Linda McMahon, a former wrestling executive who previously led Trump's Small Business Administration, with helping the president-elect fill key jobs in his second administration.

As secretary, Lutnick would play a key role in carrying out Trump's plans to raise and enforce tariffs. He would oversee a sprawling Cabinet department whose oversight ranges from funding new computer chip factories and imposing trade restrictions to releasing economic data and monitoring the weather.

Homeland security secretary: Kristi Noem

Noem is a well-known conservative who used her two terms as South Dakota's governor to vault to a prominent position in Republican politics.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Noem did not order restrictions like other states, instead declaring South Dakota "open for business." More recently, Noem faced sharp criticism for writing in her memoir about shooting and killing her dog.

She is set to lead a department crucial to the president-elect's hardline immigration agenda as well as other missions. Homeland Security oversees natural disaster response, the U.S. Secret Service and Transportation Security Administration agents who work at airports.

CIA director: John Ratcliffe

Ratcliffe, a former U.S. House member from Texas, was director of national intelligence during the final year and a half of Trump's first term. He led U.S. government's spy agencies during the coronavirus pandemic. If confirmed, Ratcliffe will have held the highest intelligence positions in the U.S.

Health and human services secretary: Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Kennedy, 70, ran for president as a Democrat, then as an independent before he dropped out and then endorsed Trump. He's the son of Democratic icon Robert F. Kennedy, who was assassinated in 1968 during his own presidential campaign.

Kennedy's nomination alarmed people who are concerned about his record of spreading unfounded fears about vaccines. For example, he has long advanced the debunked idea that vaccines cause autism.

Agriculture secretary: Brooke Rollins

Rollins, 52, is president and CEO of the America First Policy Institute, a group helping to lay the groundwork for Trump's second administration.

She is a Texas attorney who was Trump's domestic policy adviser and director of his office of American innovation during his first term. Rollins previously was an aide to former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who also served in Trump's first term. Rollins also ran the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

Transportation secretary: Sean Duffy

Duffy is a former House member from Wisconsin who was one of Trump's most visible defenders on cable news. Duffy served in the House for nearly nine years, sitting on the Financial Services Committee and chairing the subcommittee on insurance and housing. He left Congress in 2019 for a TV career and

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has been the host of "The Bottom Line" on Fox Business.

Before entering politics, Duffy was a reality TV star on MTV, where he met his wife, "Fox and Friends Weekend" co-host Rachel Campos-Duffy. They have nine children.

Veterans affairs secretary: Doug Collins

Collins is a former Republican congressman from Georgia who gained recognition for defending Trump during his first impeachment trial. Trump was impeached for urging Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden in 2019 during the Democratic presidential campaign, but was acquitted by the Senate.

Collins also served in the armed forces himself. He is a chaplain in the United States Air Force Reserve Command.

Interior secretary: Doug Burgum

The North Dakota governor, 68, is a former Republican presidential primary contender who endorsed Trump after he dropped out of the running. Burgum then became a serious contender to be Trump's vice presidential choice in part because of his executive experience and business savvy. He also has close ties to deep-pocketed energy industry CEOs.

Trump said Burgum would chair a new National Energy Council and have a seat on the National Security Council, which would be a first for the Interior secretary.

Energy secretary: Chris Wright

A campaign donor and CEO of Denver-based Liberty Energy, Wright is a vocal advocate of oil and gas development, including fracking — a key pillar of Trump's quest to achieve U.S. "energy dominance" in the global market.

He also has been one of the industry's loudest voices against efforts to fight climate change. Wright said the climate movement around the world is "collapsing under its own weight." The Energy Department is responsible for advancing energy, environmental and nuclear security of the United States.

Education secretary: Linda McMahon

McMahon, a billionaire professional wrestling mogul, would make a return appearance in a second Trump administration. She led the Small Business Administration from 2017 to 2019 in Trump's first term and twice ran unsuccessfully in Connecticut as a Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate. She served on the Connecticut Board of Education for a year starting in 2009 and has spent years on the board of trustees for Sacred Heart University. She has expressed support for charter schools and school choice.

Environmental Protection Agency administrator: Lee Zeldin

Zeldin does not appear to have any experience in environmental issues, but is a longtime supporter of the former president. The 44-year-old former U.S. House member from New York wrote on X, "We will restore US energy dominance, revitalize our auto industry to bring back American jobs, and make the US the global leader of AI" and "we will do so while protecting access to clean air and water."

Trump often attacked the Biden administration's promotion of electric vehicles, and incorrectly referred to a tax credit for EV purchases as a government mandate. Trump also often said his administration would "drill, baby, drill," referring to his support for expanded petroleum exploration.

Housing and Urban Development: Scott Turner

Turner is a former NFL player and White House aide. He ran the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council during Trump's first term in office. Trump, in a statement, credited Turner, the highest-ranking Black person he's yet selected for his administration, with "helping to lead an Unprecedented Effort that Transformed our Country's most distressed communities."

U.S. Trade Representative: Jamieson Greer

Greer is a partner at King & Spalding, a Washington law firm. If confirmed by the Senate, he would be responsible for negotiating directly with foreign governments on trade deals and disputes, as well as memberships in international trade bodies such as the World Trade Organization. He previously was chief of staff to Robert Lighthizer, who was the trade representative in Trump's first term.

WHITE HOUSE STAFF: Chief of staff: Susie Wiles

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Wiles, 67, was a senior adviser to Trump's 2024 presidential campaign and its de facto manager. She has a background in Florida politics, helping Ron DeSantis win his first race for Florida governor. Six years later, she was key to Trump's defeat of him in the 2024 Republican primary.

Wiles' hire was Trump's first major decision as president-elect and one that could be a defining test of his incoming administration considering her close relationship with him. Wiles is said to have earned Trump's trust in part by guiding what was the most disciplined of Trump's three presidential campaigns.

National security adviser: Mike Waltz

Waltz is a three-term Republican congressman from east-central Florida. A former Army Green Beret, he served multiple tours in Afghanistan and worked in the Pentagon as a policy adviser when Donald Rumsfeld and Robert Gates were defense chiefs.

He is considered hawkish on China, and called for a U.S. boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing due to its involvement in the origin of COVID-19 and its mistreatment of the minority Muslim Uighur population.

National Economic Council: Kevin Hassett

Hassett, 62, is a major advocate of tax cuts who was chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers in the first Trump term. In the new role as chairman of the National Economic Council, Trump said Hassett will play an important role in helping American families recover from inflation as well as in renewing and improving tax cuts Trump enacted in 2017, many of which are set to expire after 2025.

Border czar: Tom Homan

Homan, 62, has been tasked with Trump's top priority of carrying out the largest deportation operation in the nation's history.

He led the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Trump's first administration. Democrats have criticized Homan for defending Trump's "zero tolerance" policy on border crossings in the first term, which led to the separation of thousands of parents and children seeking asylum at the border.

Office of Management and Budget: Russell Vought

Vought, 48, held the position during Trump's first presidency. He founded the Center for Renewing America, a think tank that describes its mission as "renew a consensus of America as a nation under God." Vought also was closely involved with Project 2025, a conservative blueprint for Trump's second term that Trump tried to distance himself from during the campaign.

Deputy chief of staff for policy: Stephen Miller

Miller, an immigration hardliner, was a vocal spokesperson during the presidential campaign for Trump's priority of mass deportations. The 39-year-old was a senior adviser during Trump's first term.

Miller has been a central figure in some of Trump's policy decisions, notably his move to separate thousands of immigrant families. Trump argued throughout the campaign that the nation's economic, national security and social priorities could be met by deporting people living illegally in the U.S.

Deputy chief of staff: Dan Scavino

Scavino was an adviser in all three of the president-elect's campaigns and was described by the transition team as one of "Trump's longest serving and most trusted aides." He will be deputy chief of staff and assistant to the president. Scavino previously ran Trump's social media profile in the White House.

Deputy chief of staff: James Blair

Blair was political director for Trump's 2024 campaign and for the Republican National Committee. He will be deputy chief of staff for legislative, political and public affairs and an assistant to the president. Blair was key to Trump's economic messaging during his winning White House comeback campaign.

Deputy chief of staff: Taylor Budowich

Budowich is a veteran Trump campaign aide who launched and directed Make America Great Again, Inc., a super PAC that supported Trump's 2024 campaign. He will be deputy chief of staff for communications and personnel and assistant to the president.

White House press secretary: Karoline Leavitt

Leavitt, 27, was Trump's campaign press secretary and currently a spokesperson for his transition. She

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would be the youngest White House press secretary in history. Leavitt worked in the White House press office during Trump's first term. In 2022, she ran for Congress in New Hampshire, winning a 10-way Republican primary before losing to Democratic Rep. Chris Pappas.

White House Counsel: William McGinley

McGinley was Cabinet secretary during Trump's first administration and was outside legal counsel for the Republican National Committee's election integrity effort during the 2024 campaign.

**AMBASSADORS, ENVOYS AND OTHER KEY POSTS:**FBI director: Kash Patel

Patel spent several years as a Justice Department prosecutor before catching the Trump administration's attention as a staffer on Capitol Hill who helped investigate the Russia probe.

Patel has called for dramatically reducing the agency's footprint, a perspective that sets him apart from earlier directors who have sought additional resources for the bureau. And though the Justice Department in 2021 halted the practice of secretly seizing reporters' phone records during leak investigations, Patel has said he intends to aggressively hunt down government officials who leak information to reporters.

Special envoy to the Middle East: Steven Witkoff

The 67-year-old Witkoff is the president-elect's golf partner and they were golfing at Trump's club in West Palm Beach, Florida, on Sept. 15, when the former president was the target of a second attempted assassination. Trump also named Witkoff co-chair, with former Georgia Sen. Kelly Loeffler, of his inaugural committee.

Special envoy for Ukraine and Russia: Keith Kellogg

Kellogg, 80, is a highly decorated retired three-star general and one of the architects of a staunchly conservative policy book that lays out an "America First" national security agenda for Trump's second term. He has long been Trump's top adviser on defense issues and served as national security adviser to Vice President Mike Pence. Kellogg also was chief of staff of the National Security Council under Trump and stepped in as an acting national security adviser for Trump after Michael Flynn resigned the post.

Ambassador to Israel: Mike Huckabee

Huckabee is a staunch defender of Israel and his intended nomination comes as Trump has promised to align U.S. foreign policy more closely with Israel's interests.

Huckabee, who ran unsuccessfully for the Republican presidential nomination in 2008 and 2016, has been a popular figure among evangelical Christian conservatives, many of whom support Israel due to Old Testament writings that Jews are God's chosen people and that Israel is their rightful homeland.

Huckabee has rejected a Palestinian homeland in territory occupied by Israel. His daughter, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, served as White House press secretary in Trump's first term.

Ambassador to the United Nations: Elise Stefanik

Stefanik, 40, is a U.S. representative from New York and one of Trump's staunchest defenders dating to his first impeachment trial. She was elected chair of the House Republican Conference in 2021, the third-highest position in House leadership, after then-Rep. Liz Cheney was removed from the post after she publicly criticized Trump for falsely claiming he won the 2020 election.

Stefanik's questioning of university presidents over antisemitism on their campuses helped lead to two of those presidents resigning, further raising her national profile.

Ambassador to NATO: Matthew Whitaker

A former acting attorney general during Trump's first administration and tight end on the University of Iowa football team, Whitaker, 55, has a background in law enforcement but not in foreign policy.

A fierce Trump localist, Whitaker, is also a former U.S. attorney in Iowa and served as acting attorney general between November 2018 and February 2019 without Senate confirmation, until William Barr was confirmed for the role. That was when special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian election interference was drawing to a close.

Whitaker also faced questions about his past business dealings, including his ties to an invention-promotion company that was accused of misleading consumers.

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Ambassador to Canada: Pete Hoekstra

A Republican congressman from Michigan who served from 1993 to 2011, Hoekstra was ambassador to the Netherlands during Trump's first term.

Drug Enforcement Agency: Chad Chronister

Chronister is the top law enforcement officer in Hillsborough County, Florida. He has worked for the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office since 1992.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: Dr. Mehmet Oz

Oz, 64, is a former heart surgeon who hosted "The Dr. Oz Show," a long-running daytime TV talk show. He ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate as the Republican nominee in 2022 and is an outspoken supporter of Trump, who endorsed Oz's bid for elected office.

Food and Drug Administration: Dr. Marty Makary

Makary is a Johns Hopkins surgeon and author who argued against pandemic lockdowns. He routinely appeared on Fox News during the COVID-19 pandemic and wrote opinion articles questioning masks for children. He cast doubt on vaccine mandates but supported vaccines generally. Makary also cast doubt on whether booster shots worked, which was against federal recommendations on the vaccine.

Surgeon General: Dr. Janette Nesheiwat

Nesheiwat is a general practitioner who serves as medical director for CityMD, a network of urgent care centers in New York and New Jersey. She has been a contributor on Fox News.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Dr. Dave Weldon

Weldon is a former Florida congressman who recently ran for a Florida state legislative seat and lost; Trump backed Weldon's opponent.

In Congress, Weldon weighed in on one of the nation's most heated debates of the 1990s over quality of life and a right-to-die and whether Terri Schiavo, who was in a persistent vegetative after cardiac arrest, state should have been allowed to have her feeding tube removed. He sided with the parents who did not want it removed.

National Institutes of Health: Dr. Jay Bhattacharya

Bhattacharya, 56, is a critic of pandemic lockdowns and vaccine mandates. As head of the NIH, the leading medical research agency in the United States, Trump said Bhattacharya would work with Kennedy Jr. to direct U.S. medical research and make important discoveries that will improve health and save lives. Bhattacharya is professor at Stanford University School of Medicine and was one of three authors of the Great Barrington Declaration, an October 2020 open letter maintaining that lockdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic were causing irreparable harm.

WITHDRAWNMatt Gaetz for Attorney General:

Gaetz, 42, withdrew from consideration to become the top law enforcement officer of the United States amid fallout over a federal sex trafficking investigation that cast doubt on his ability to be confirmed by the Senate. In choosing Gaetz, Trump had passed over more established lawyers whose names had been floated as possible contenders for the job.

Gaetz resigned from Congress after Trump announced him on Nov. 13. The House Ethics Committee has been investigating an allegation that he paid for sex with a 17-year-old. Gaetz has denied wrongdoing.

## **UN says it is halting aid deliveries through main Gaza crossing because the route is too dangerous**

By WAFAA SHURAF, SAMY MAGDY and TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees said Sunday it is halting aid deliveries through the main cargo crossing into Gaza because of the threat of armed gangs who have looted recent convoys.

The decision could worsen the humanitarian crisis in Gaza as the cold, rainy winter sets in, with hundreds of thousands of people living in squalid tent camps and reliant on international food aid. Experts were already warning of famine in the territory's north, which Israeli forces have almost completely isolated



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since early October.

Philippe Lazzarini, the head of UNRWA, the main aid provider in Gaza, said the route leading to the Kerem Shalom crossing from Israel is too dangerous on the Gaza side. Armed men looted nearly 100 trucks traveling on the route in mid-November, and he said gangs stole a smaller shipment on Saturday.

Israeli strikes kill at least six people, including children

Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip killed at least six people overnight, including two young children who died in the tent where their family was sheltering, medical officials said Sunday.

The strike in the Muwasi area, a sprawling tent camp housing hundreds of thousands of displaced people, also wounded the children's mother and their sibling, according to the nearby Nasser Hospital. An Associated Press reporter at the hospital saw the bodies.

A separate strike in the southern city of Rafah, on the border with Egypt, killed four men, according to hospital records.

The Israeli military said it was not aware of strikes in either location. Israel says it only targets militants and tries to avoid harming civilians, but its daily strikes across Gaza often kill women and children.

In a separate development, a projectile fired by Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen set off air raid sirens in central Israel. The Israeli military said it intercepted the projectile before it entered Israeli territory.

Former defense minister accuses Israel of war crimes

A former top Israeli general and defense minister has accused the government of ethnic cleansing in northern Gaza, where Israeli forces have been waging the latest in a series of offensives against Hamas since early October.

The army has sealed off the northern towns of Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya, and the Jabaliya refugee camp, and allowed almost no humanitarian aid to enter. Tens of thousands of people have fled, while the United Nations estimates up to 75,000 remain and experts have warned of famine.

Moshe Yaalon, who served as defense minister under Benjamin Netanyahu before quitting in 2016 and emerging as a fierce critic of the prime minister, said the current far-right government is determined to "occupy, to annex, to ethnically cleanse."

Pressed by an interviewer with a local news outlet on Saturday, he said: "There is no Beit Lahiya. No Beit Hanoun. (They are) operating now in Jabaliya, and (they) are actually cleaning the territory of Arabs."

Yaalon doubled down on the remarks Sunday in an interview with Israeli radio, saying "war crimes are being committed here."

Netanyahu's Likud party criticized his earlier remarks, accusing him of making "false statements" that are "a prize for the International Criminal Court and the camp of Israel haters."

The ICC has issued arrest warrants against Netanyahu, another former defense minister, Yoav Gallant, and a Hamas commander, accusing them of crimes against humanity. The International Court of Justice is investigating allegations of genocide against Israel.

Israel rejects the allegations and says both courts are biased against it.

No end in sight to Gaza war despite ceasefire with Hezbollah

The war in Gaza began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 250 people hostage. Some 100 captives are still being held inside Gaza, around two-thirds of whom are believed to be alive.

Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed over 44,000 Palestinians, more than half of them women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were combatants. Israel says it has killed over 17,000 militants, without providing evidence.

The war has destroyed vast areas of the coastal enclave and displaced 90% of the population of 2.3 million, often multiple times. Hundreds of thousands have crammed into squalid tent camps, where conditions have worsened as the cold, wet winter sets in.

Israel reached a ceasefire with Lebanon's Hezbollah militants last week that has largely held, but that agreement, brokered by the United States and France, did not address the ongoing war in Gaza. Iran — which supports Hezbollah, Hamas, the Houthis and armed groups in Syria and Iraq — has exchanged fire

with Israel twice this year.

The United States, Qatar and Egypt have spent much of the past year trying to broker a ceasefire in Gaza and the release of the remaining hostages, but those efforts stalled as Israel rejected Hamas' demand for a complete withdrawal from the territory. The Biden administration has said it will make another push for a deal in its final weeks in office.

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to end the wars in the Middle East, without saying how. He was a staunch defender of Israel and its policies toward the Palestinians during his previous term.

## **Lou Carnesecca, Hall of Fame coach who led St. John's for 24 seasons, dies at 99**

By MIKE FITZPATRICK AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In the long and storied history of New York City basketball, nobody wore it quite like Lou Carnesecca.

The excitable St. John's coach whose outlandish sweaters became an emblem of his team's rousing Final Four run in 1985, died at 99 on Saturday, just a few weeks shy of his 100th birthday.

The university said it was notified by a family member that Carnesecca died in a hospital, surrounded by loved ones. St. John's said the Hall of Fame coach "endeared himself to generations of New Yorkers with his wit and warmth."

Carnesecca was a treasured city sports figure in his day, affection for "Little Looie" never wavering in a bustling town with scant patience for its players, coaches, executives and owners.

He coached St. John's for 24 seasons over two stints — making a postseason tournament each year — and became the face of a university whose campus arena in Queens would eventually carry his name. A statue of him was unveiled before the 2021-22 season. When asked once in a question-and-answer session with the school to describe St. John's, Carnesecca said: "home."

It was home where he coached St. John's to 18 seasons of at least 20 wins, and 18 NCAA Tournament appearances. It was home where he finished with a 526-200 record and had 30-win seasons in 1985 and 1986. And it was home where St. John's became a charter member of the Big East Conference and a pillar of its success.

He was the coach of the year three times in a league that began play in 1979 and quickly asserted itself as one of the nation's best. Among his star players during those early Big East years were Chris Mullin, Mark Jackson and Walter Berry.

Carnesecca coached St. John's to its fifth NIT title in 1989, although by then the tournament had long been a poor cousin to the NCAAs. He entered the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1992, the year he retired.

"I never scored a basket," he said at his induction, forgoing a sweater for a crisp suit. "The players did everything. Without players, you can't have a game."

He was an old-school coach, grounded in fundamentals. And through it all, Carnesecca was a swirling, kinetic presence on the sidelines, arms flailing, legs kicking, shirt tails flying, all 5-foot-6 of him curled in exasperation over a missed shot or agonizing call. But his antics never crossed the line into chair-throwing fury.

Carnesecca was simply consumed by his players, a love for a game in his marrow, a lifetime spent in schoolyards, beat-up gyms and big-time arenas. He loved the "smell of the sweat" and the "feel of rubber burning" when sneakers met a varnished floor.

He remained the consummate gentleman in a sport populated by outsized egos, fierce recruiting wars and a relentless pursuit of the next contract. Mike Tranchese, a former Big East commissioner, once called him "our soul and our conscience" and "one of the giants of the game."

Carnesecca guided St. John's to Big East Tournament titles in 1983 and 1986. His teams reached the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament in 1979 and 1991, and spent more than 70 weeks ranked in the top 10 of the AP Top 25. A banner denoting his 526 wins at St. John's hangs from the rafters at Madison Square Garden.

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He coached more than 40 NBA draft picks, with Mullin, Jackson and Malik Sealy among 11 who were selected in the first round.

Despite all that, Carnesecca never took himself too famously. He always believed a rough loss should never get in the way of a glass of Chianti and fettuccini with a Bolognese sauce. He held clinics all over the world, making friends, offering toasts wherever he went. He was there with a kind word as well as a wisecrack in his breathy, raspy voice. His family tree may have gone back to Tuscany, but he could hold his own with the best of Borscht Belt comics.

"I don't know if there's anybody else in coaching like him," longtime UConn coach Jim Calhoun once told the Hartford Courant. "Even if people hate the Big East nobody hates Looie. If you like basketball, you like Looie. If you like kids, you like Looie."

Luigi P. Carnesecca was born on Jan. 5, 1925, the son of Italian immigrants. He grew up in Manhattan, in East Harlem, living above the grocery store and deli owned by his father. He took his heritage seriously, rooting for such New York Yankees as Tony Lazzeri and Joe DiMaggio.

After a stretch in the Coast Guard during World War II, he became the coach at his high school — now the longtime basketball power Archbishop Molloy. In 1958, he took an assistant's job at St. John's, his alma mater, where he had played baseball on a team that reached the 1949 College World Series, but not varsity basketball.

He worked for eight seasons under Joe Lapchick, the lessons about humility and hard work from the Hall of Fame coach lasting a lifetime. Carnesecca would later pass along to Mullin some advice he got from Lapchick: "A peacock today, a feather duster tomorrow."

"I learned more when Coach Lapchick cleared his throat than I could have at any clinic," Carnesecca said.

He succeeded Lapchick in 1965, the 20-win seasons piling up quickly. But after five years, Carnesecca was not immune to the siren song of the pros. He coached the New York Nets of the American Basketball Association for three years, Rick Barry among his players.

Years later, during a 1982-83 season in which his St. John's team would finish 28-5, Carnesecca reflected on the pressure of college coaching and his time in the ABA.

"I lost 50 games coaching professionally — that was pressure," he said. "I didn't feel like getting out of bed. My mother could coach this team."

His stay in the pros didn't last long. Carnesecca knew that was not his natural habitat. He said he could give the same halftime speech only so many times. He returned to St. John's in 1973.

Winning seasons followed in quick succession even though his city was no longer the recruiting magnet of generations past. Top high school players migrated south and west to campuses with gleaming arenas and didn't need the commercial pull of New York to burnish their brand.

When asked why he didn't expand his base in his search of players and venture beyond his city's five boroughs, Carnesecca knew he had plenty of talent in his neighborhood. He took a subway token — now a relic from bygone generations — out of his pocket.

"That's my recruiting budget," he said.

By the 1984-85 season, Carnesecca and St. John's captivated New York, a throwback to a time when schools like City College and NYU mattered not only in the Big Apple but across college basketball. The Redmen — their nickname years later changed to the Red Storm — played tough, pulsating games at a packed Madison Square Garden against Syracuse teams coached by Jim Boeheim, Villanova teams coached by Rollie Massimino and Georgetown teams coached by John Thompson and led by Patrick Ewing.

It was then the saga of The Sweater took hold. Over the years, Carnesecca would recount his baffling entry into the world of fashion time and again like an embellished family tale.

Essentially, St. John's was getting ready for a road trip to Pittsburgh in January and Carnesecca was under the weather. The building would be drafty, and his wife thought it would be good if he wore a sweater. He found one that had been given to him by an Italian basketball coach. It was a brown pullover with broad turquoise stripes. It never made it into the pages of GQ.

"It is ugly, isn't it?" Carnesecca said.

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No matter. Mullin hit a winning shot at the buzzer, and the coach had his lucky charm. He stuck with the sweater. Along the way, St. John's ended Georgetown's 29-game winning streak and soared to a No. 1 ranking.

But there were also two lopsided losses to Georgetown during the 16-2 run with the sweater — one when a grinning Thompson upstaged his popular rival by wearing a duplicate onto the court at a buzzing Madison Square Garden in what became known as "The Sweater Game," which drew a massive television audience in February 1985.

His luck exhausted, Carnesecca eventually put the pullover away. He then went with a tan, snowflake number for the NCAA Tournament. St. John's defeated Southern, Arkansas and Kentucky before a victory over North Carolina State in the West Regional final sent Carnesecca to the Final Four.

"When I'm going to my grave," he said, "this I'll remember."

St. John's headed to Lexington, Kentucky, along with two Big East compatriots — Georgetown and Villanova — and Memphis. St. John's stuck with Georgetown in the semifinals, down 32-28 at halftime. But the Hoyas pulled away to win 77-59, holding Mullin to eight points.

"I think we tried everything," Carnesecca said of Georgetown, which then got upset by Villanova in one of the sport's great championship games.

After he retired, Carnesecca was succeeded by a parade of coaches at St. John's, Mullin among them. Even into his 90s, some three decades out of coaching, Carnesecca would make his way to The Garden when the Red Storm were there. His gait may have been tentative but his mind and wit nimble, the crowd roaring when the jumbo screen panned in on him. The coach was at home.

"It's going to be very difficult to put the ball down, but the time has come," he said at his retirement when he was 67. "There are two reasons, really. I still have half of my marbles and I still have a wonderful taste in my mouth about basketball."

The school said Carnesecca leaves behind his wife of 73 years, Mary, as well as daughter Enes and son-in-law Gerard, a granddaughter, and a niece and nephew in addition to extended family.

## Senegal demands answers as the West African country commemorates a French colonial massacre

By MARK BANCHEREAU Associated Press

THIAROYE-SUR-MER, Senegal (AP) — Biram Senghor regularly goes to pay his respects at a military cemetery in Thiaroye, a fishing village near Senegal's capital Dakar, bowing in front of a different grave each time.

The 86-year-old has no way of knowing which grave belongs to his father, M'Bap Senghor, one of likely hundreds of West African riflemen who fought for France during World War II but were killed on Dec. 1, 1944 by the French army after demanding unpaid wages.

In this cemetery where they are supposedly buried, all the graves are anonymous and the exact location of the remains is unknown, as is the number of victims. The true scale and circumstances of the killings remain unclear as Senegal commemorates the 80th anniversary of the massacre on Sunday, threatening to reignite smoldering tensions between France and the former colony.

"I have been fighting to get answers for over 80 years," says Biram Senghor. "(French President Emmanuel) Macron cannot do what the other French presidents before him did; France has to repent."

The West Africans were members of the unit called "Tirailleurs Sénégalais," a corps of colonial infantry in the French Army that fought in both World Wars. According to historians, there were disputes over unpaid wages in the days before the massacre and on Dec. 1, French troops turned on the unarmed African soldiers and shot them dead.

For decades, French authorities tried to minimize what had happened in Thiaroye. Reports by the French military shortly after the massacre determined that 35 West African soldiers were killed in response to a "mutiny." Other reports by the French army mention 70 deaths.

But today, many French and Senegalese historians agree the true death toll is likely in the hundreds,

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with some speaking of almost 400 soldiers killed, based on estimates of the number of riflemen present at the camp on the day of the massacre.

On Thursday, Macron officially recognized the events of Thiaroye as a massacre for the first time in a letter to Senegal's President Diomaye Faye, which was seen by The Associated Press.

"France must recognize that on that day, the confrontation between soldiers and riflemen who demanded their full legitimate wages be paid, triggered a chain of events that resulted in a massacre," read Macron's letter.

But many historians dispute the idea of a confrontation between the French soldiers and the riflemen.

"What happened on December 1st was the execution of unarmed soldiers," says Martin Mourre, a French historian and author of *Thiaroye 1944, History and Memory of a Colonial Massacre*.

He points to the fact that no weapons were mentioned during the trial of the African riflemen accused of mutiny and the absence of any injuries among the French soldiers as evidence that no confrontation took place.

In his letter to the Senegalese president, Macron did not mention the number of soldiers killed.

The controversies and unknowns about the massacre are in part due to a lack of transparency by French authorities regarding the military reports and testimonies.

In 2014, French President Francois Hollande handed over the European nation's archives on Thiaroye to Macky Sall, then-president of Senegal.

But historians say that key documents, including ones indicating the site of the mass graves and the number of West African soldiers present at the camp on the day of the massacre, are still missing. It is unclear if France holds such archives or if they even exist.

Macron's office and the French foreign ministry did not respond to requests for comment.

Additionally, very little was done by the Senegalese authorities under former president Sall to allow historians to delve into the historical documents.

"The archives remained inaccessible until this year, for obscure reasons," says Mourre.

Mamadou Diouf, a Senegalese historian who heads the commemoration committee for the Thiaroye massacre this year, says Sall did not show much interest in the subject in order to avoid diplomatic tensions with France.

But Senegal's President Bassirou Diomaye Faye, who was elected in March in part on a promise of redefining Senegal's relationship with the former colonizer, has vowed to regain control of the historical narrative on Thiaroye.

His administration has organized major commemorations of the massacre from Dec. 1 to April 2025 across the country.

"The authorities' goal behind the major commemorations is to make Thiaroye part of Senegal's national story," says Babacar Ndiaye, political analyst at the Wathi think tank, which focuses on political and economic issues in West Africa.

"It will be talked about a lot on television, in the press and most importantly on social media," he adds. "This will reach a younger audience who might know little about the events of Thiaroye."

The 80th anniversary of the massacre comes as France's influence is declining in the region, with Paris losing its sway in its former West African colonies.

French troops have been ousted in recent years from Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso after years of fighting Islamic extremists alongside regional troops. Earlier this week, Chad, one of the last countries in the region in which France had maintained a large military presence, ended a military cooperation agreement with Paris.

France still has around 350 troops in Senegal, mainly in a supportive role. Asked about their continued presence, Faye suggested it is not something the Senegalese would want.

"Historically, France enslaved, colonized and stayed here," he said. "Obviously, I think that when you reverse the roles a little, you will have a hard time conceiving that another army — of China, Russia, Senegal, or any other country — could have a military base in France."

## After entering Aleppo, Syrian insurgents advance to a nearby province. Assad says he'll defeat them

By SARAH EL DEEB Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Thousands of Syrian insurgents took over most of Aleppo on Saturday, establishing positions in the country's largest city and controlling its airport before expanding their shock offensive to a nearby province. They faced little to no resistance from government troops, according to fighters and activists.

A war monitor, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said the insurgents led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham seized control of Aleppo International airport, the first international airport to be controlled by insurgents. The fighters claimed they seized the airport and posted pictures from there.

Thousands of fighters also moved on, facing almost no opposition from government forces, to seize towns and villages in northern Hama, a province where they had a presence before being expelled by government troops in 2016. They claimed Saturday evening to have entered the city of Hama.

A huge embarrassment for Assad

The swift and surprise offensive is a huge embarrassment for Syria's President Bashar Assad and raises questions about his armed forces' preparedness. The insurgent offensive launched from their stronghold in the country's northwest appeared to have been planned for years. It also comes at a time when Assad's allies were preoccupied with their own conflicts.

In his first public comments since the start of the offensive, released by the state news agency Saturday evening, Assad said Syria will continue to "defend its stability and territorial integrity against terrorists and their supporters." He added that Syria is able to defeat them no matter how much their attacks intensify.

Turkey, a main backer of Syrian opposition groups, said its diplomatic efforts had failed to stop government attacks on opposition-held areas in recent weeks, which were in violation of a de-escalation agreement sponsored by Russia, Iran and Ankara. Turkish security officials said a limited offensive by the rebels was planned to stop government attacks and allow civilians to return, but the offensive expanded as Syrian government forces began to retreat from their positions.

The insurgents, led by the Salafi jihadi group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and including Turkey-backed fighters, launched their shock offensive on Wednesday. They first staged a two-pronged attack in Aleppo and the Idlib countryside, entering Aleppo two days later and securing a strategic town that lies on the highway that links Syria's largest city to the capital and the coast.

By Saturday evening, they seized at least four towns in the central Hama province and claimed to have entered the provincial capital. The insurgents staged an attempt to reclaim areas they controlled in Hama in 2017 but failed.

Preparing a counterattack

Syria's armed forces said in a statement Saturday that to absorb the large attack on Aleppo and save lives, it redeployed troops and equipment and was preparing a counterattack. The statement acknowledged that insurgents entered large parts of the city but said they have not established bases or checkpoints. Later on Saturday, the armed forces sought to dispel what it said were lies in reference to reports about its forces retreating or defecting, saying the general command was carrying out its duties in "combatting terrorist organizations."

The return of the insurgents to Aleppo was their first since 2016, following a grueling military campaign in which Assad's forces were backed by Russia, Iran and its allied groups.

The 2016 battle for Aleppo was a turning point in the war between Syrian government forces and rebel fighters after 2011 protests against Assad's rule turned into an all-out war. After appearing to be losing control of the country to the rebels, the Aleppo battle secured Assad's hold on strategic areas of Syria, with opposition factions and their foreign backers controlling areas on the periphery.

The lightning offensive threatened to reignite the country's civil war, which had been largely in a stalemate for years.

Late on Friday, witnesses said two airstrikes hit the edge of Aleppo city, targeting insurgent reinforce-

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ments and falling near residential areas. The Observatory said 20 fighters were killed.

Insurgents were filmed outside police headquarters, in the city center, and outside the Aleppo citadel, the medieval palace in the old city center, and one of the largest in the world. They tore down posters of Assad, stepping on some and burning others.

The push into Aleppo followed weeks of simmering low-level violence, including government attacks on opposition-held areas.

The offensive came as Iran-linked groups, primarily Lebanon's Hezbollah, which has backed Syrian government forces since 2015, have been preoccupied with their own battles at home. A ceasefire in Hezbollah's two-month war with Israel took effect Wednesday, the same day that Syrian opposition factions announced their offensive. Israel has also escalated its attacks against Hezbollah and Iran-linked targets in Syria during the last 70 days.

Insurgents raise flags over the Aleppo citadel

Speaking from the heart of the city in Saadallah Aljabri square, opposition fighter Mohammad Al Abdo said it was his first time back in Aleppo in 13 years, when his older brother was killed at the start of the war. "God willing, the rest of Aleppo province will be liberated" from government forces, he said.

There was light traffic in the city center on Saturday. Opposition fighters fired in the air in celebration but there was no sign of clashes or government troops present.

Journalists in the city filmed soldiers captured by the insurgents and the bodies of others killed in battle. Abdulkafi Alhamdo, a teacher who fled Aleppo in 2016 and returned Friday night after hearing the insurgents were inside, described "mixed feelings of pain, sadness and old memories."

"As I entered Aleppo, I kept telling myself this is impossible. How did this happen?"

Alhamdo said he strolled through the city at night visiting the Aleppo citadel, where the insurgents raised their flags, a major square and the university of Aleppo, as well as the last spot he was in before he was forced to leave for the countryside.

"I walked in (the empty) streets of Aleppo, shouting, 'People, people of Aleppo. We are your sons,'" he told The Associated Press in a series of messages.

City's hospitals are full

Aleppo residents reported hearing clashes and gunfire but most stayed indoors. Some fled the fighting. Schools and government offices were closed Saturday as most people stayed indoors, according to Sham FM radio, a pro-government station. Bakeries were open. Witnesses said the insurgents deployed security forces around the city to prevent any acts of violence or looting.

The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said Friday Aleppo's two key public hospitals were reportedly full of patients while many private facilities closed.

In social media posts, the insurgents were pictured outside of the citadel, the medieval palace in the old city center, and one of the largest in the world. In cellphone videos, they recorded themselves having conversations with residents they visited at home, seeking to reassure them they will cause no harm.

The Syrian Kurdish-led administration in the country's east said nearly 3,000 people, most of them students, had arrived in their region after fleeing the fighting in Aleppo, which has a sizeable Kurdish population.

State media reported that a number of "terrorists," including sleeper cells, infiltrated parts of the city. Government troops chased them and arrested a number who posed for pictures near city landmarks, they said.

On a state TV morning show Saturday, commentators said army reinforcements and Russia's assistance would repel the "terrorist groups," blaming Turkey for supporting the insurgents' push into Aleppo and Idlib provinces.

Russia's state news agency Tass quoted Oleg Ignasyuk, a Russian Defense Ministry official coordinating in Syria, as saying that Russian warplanes targeted and killed 200 militants who had launched the offensive in the northwest on Friday. It provided no further details.

## Southwest Airlines to end cabin service earlier on flights to reduce chance of injury

Associated Press undefined

Southwest Airlines says it is ending cabin service earlier on flights, requiring passengers to do the usual pre-landing procedures such as ensuring their seatbelts are fastened and returning their seats to an upright position earlier than before.

Beginning on Dec. 4, a company spokesperson said, flight attendants will start preparing the cabin for landing at an altitude of 18,000 feet (5,486 meters) instead of 10,000 feet (3,048 meters). The change in procedure is designed to "reduce the risk of in-flight turbulence injuries" for crew members and passengers, the company said.

While turbulence-related fatalities are quite rare, injuries have piled up over the years. More than one-third of all airline incidents in the United States from 2009 through 2018 were related to turbulence, and most of them resulted in one or more serious injuries but no damage to the plane, the National Transportation Safety Board reported.

In May, a 73-year old man died on board a Singapore Airlines flight when the plane hit severe turbulence over the Indian Ocean.

The airline had also previously announced other changes.

Starting next year, Southwest will toss out a half-century tradition of "open seating"

A twice-yearly shot could help end AIDS. But will it get to everyone who needs it?

By MARIA CHENG and MARIA VERZA Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — It's been called the closest the world has ever come to a vaccine against the AIDS virus.

The twice-yearly shot was 100% effective in preventing HIV infections in a study of women, and results published Wednesday show it worked nearly as well in men.

Drugmaker Gilead said it will allow cheap, generic versions to be sold in 120 poor countries with high HIV rates — mostly in Africa, Southeast Asia and the Caribbean. But it has excluded nearly all of Latin America, where rates are far lower but increasing, sparking concern the world is missing a critical opportunity to stop the disease.

"This is so far superior to any other prevention method we have, that it's unprecedented," said Winnie Byanyima, executive director of UNAIDS. She credited Gilead for developing the drug, but said the world's ability to stop AIDS hinges on its use in at-risk countries.

In a report issued to mark World AIDS Day on Sunday, UNAIDS said that the number of AIDS death last year — an estimated 630,000 — was at its lowest since peaking in 2004, suggesting the world is now at "a historic crossroads" and has a chance to end the epidemic.

The drug called lenacapavir is already sold under the brand name Sunlenca to treat HIV infections in the U.S., Canada, Europe and elsewhere. The company plans to seek authorization soon for Sunlenca to be used for HIV prevention.

While there are other ways to guard against infection, like condoms, daily pills, vaginal rings and bi-monthly shots, experts say the Gilead twice-yearly shots would be particularly useful for marginalized people often fearful of seeking care, including gay men, sex workers and young women.

"It would be a miracle for these groups because it means they just have to show up twice a year at a clinic and then they're protected," said UNAIDS' Byanyima.

Such was the case for Luis Ruvalcaba, a 32-year-old man in Guadalajara, Mexico, who participated in the latest published study. He said he was afraid to ask for the daily prevention pills provided by the government, fearing he would be discriminated against as a gay man. Because he took part in the study, he'll continue to receive the shots for at least another year.

"In Latin American countries, there is still a lot of stigma, patients are ashamed to ask for the pills," said Dr. Alma Minerva Pérez, who recruited and enrolled a dozen study volunteers at a private research



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center in Guadalajara.

How widely available the shots will be in Mexico through the country's health care system isn't yet known. Health officials declined to comment on any plans to buy Sunlenca for its citizens; daily pills to prevent HIV were made freely available via the country's public health system in 2021.

"If the possibility of using generics has opened, I have faith that Mexico can join," said Pérez.

Byanyima said other countries besides Mexico that took part in the research were also excluded from the generics deal, including Brazil, Peru and Argentina. "To now deny them that drug is unconscionable," she said.

In a statement, Gilead said it has "an ongoing commitment to helping enable access to HIV prevention and treatment options where the need is the greatest." Among the 120 countries eligible for generic version are 18 mostly African countries that comprise 70% of the world's HIV burden.

The drugmaker said it is also working on establishing "fast, efficient pathways to reach all people who need or want lenacapavir for HIV prevention."

On Thursday, 15 advocacy groups in Peru, Argentina, Ecuador, Chile, Guatemala and Colombia wrote to Gilead, asking for generic Sunlenca to be made available in Latin America, citing the "alarming" inequity in access to new HIV prevention tools while infection rates were rising.

While countries including Norway, France, Spain and the U.S. have paid more than \$40,000 per year for Sunlenca, experts have calculated it could be produced for as little as \$40 per treatment once generic production expands to cover 10 million people.

Dr. Chris Beyrer, director of the Global Health Institute at Duke University, said it will be enormously useful to have Sunlenca available in the hardest-hit countries in Africa and Asia. But he said the rising HIV rates among groups including gay men and transgender populations constituted "a public health emergency" in Latin America.

Hannya Danielle Torres, a 30-year-old trans woman and artist who was in the Sunlenca study in Mexico, said she hoped the government would find a way to provide the shots. "Mexico may have some of the richest people in the world but it also has some of the most vulnerable people living in extreme poverty and violence," Torres said.

Another drugmaker, Viiv Healthcare, also left out most of Latin America when it allowed generics of its HIV prevention shot in about 90 countries. Sold as Apretude, the bi-monthly shots are about 80% to 90% effective in preventing HIV. They cost about \$1,500 a year in middle-income countries, beyond what most can afford to pay.

Asia Russell, executive director of the advocacy group Health Gap, said that with more than 1 million new HIV infections globally every year, established prevention methods are not enough. She urged countries like Brazil and Mexico to issue "compulsory licenses," a mechanism where countries suspend patents in a health crisis.

It's a strategy some countries embraced for previous HIV treatments, including in the late 1990s and 2000s when AIDS drugs were first discovered. More recently, Colombia issued its first-ever compulsory license for the key HIV treatment Tivicay in April, without permission from its drugmaker, Viiv.

Dr. Salim Abdool Karim, an AIDS expert at South Africa's University of KwaZulu-Natal, said he had never seen a drug that appeared to be as effective as Sunlenca in preventing HIV.

"The missing piece in the puzzle now is how we get it to everyone who needs it," he said.

## Storm blankets parts of the US during busy holiday travel weekend with more snow and cold forecast

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE, RICK CALLAHAN and CAROLYN THOMPSON Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — The first big snowfall of the season blanketed parts of New York, Pennsylvania and Michigan during the hectic U.S. holiday travel and shopping weekend, with numbing cold and heavy snow forecast to persist through the early part of the week and cause hazards in the Great Lakes, Plains and Midwest regions.

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The snow storm led to an emergency declaration in parts of New York and a disaster declaration in Pennsylvania, with officials warning of dangerous conditions for Thanksgiving travelers returning home.

A blast of Arctic air brought bitter temperatures of 10 to 20 degrees Fahrenheit below average to the Northern Plains, the weather service said, prompting cold advisories for parts of North Dakota. Frigid air was expected to move over the eastern third of the U.S. by Monday, with temperatures about 10 degrees below average.

Nearly 2 feet (61 centimeters) of snow fell in parts of New York, Ohio and Michigan and 29 inches (73 centimeters) was recorded in Pennsylvania's northwestern tip.

"Travel will be extremely difficult and hazardous this weekend, especially in areas where multiple feet of snow may accumulate very quickly," the National Weather Service said.

In an update Saturday afternoon, the weather service said the heaviest snow totals were expected "downwind of lakes Erie and Ontario, affecting areas from northeast Ohio, far northwest Pennsylvania, western New York State and portions of northwest New York state."

In a phone interview Saturday with WWNY-TV, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said the state prepared for the storm for days by deploying snowplows and thousands of workers and consulting with utility providers. She also dispatched personnel from other parts of the state to assist.

"I know it's something they're all accustomed to and they can handle, but I want to let them know we are there with reinforcements and to make sure everyone can travel safely, especially over this really busy holiday weekend," she said.

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro signed a disaster emergency proclamation and said parts of Erie County in the northwest received nearly 2 feet (1 meter) of snow with more expected through Monday night.

Pennsylvania State Police responded to nearly 200 incidents during the 24-hour period from 6 a.m. Friday to 6 a.m. Saturday, officials said. Authorities closed part of I-90 in Pennsylvania and westbound lanes of the New York Thruway heading toward Pennsylvania.

The city of Erie, Pennsylvania, said travel was limited to emergency responders and essential employees and cases of medical emergency until further notice due. The snow and slippery conditions resulted in stuck vehicles blocking intersections and streets. Residents were urged to shelter in place and allow crews to clear neighborhoods.

With parts of some roads impassable in northwestern Pennsylvania, scores of travelers took refuge in the lobby and hallways of a Holiday Inn near I-90. Hotel staffer Jeremiah Weatherley said workers opened the conference room and gave them blankets.

"They just showed up, and we don't want to turn people away," he said.

In Buffalo, officials with the NFL's Bills sought stadium snow shovelers for the season, including ahead of Sunday night's game against the San Francisco 49ers. The team said it would pay \$20 per hour and provide food and hot drinks.

Parts of Michigan were battered by lake-effect snow, which happens when warm, moist air rising from a body of water mixes with cold dry air overhead. Bands of snow rolling off Lake Superior buried parts of the Upper Peninsula under 2 feet (61 centimeters) or more, said Lily Chapman, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Marquette, Michigan.

There were 27 inches (69 centimeters) of snow just northeast of Ironwood, in the Upper Peninsula's western reaches, and another 2 feet (61 centimeters) in Munising, in the eastern area, she said.

Lake-effect snow could add more than a foot (30.5 centimeters) over the eastern Upper Peninsula through Monday morning, with 6 to 10 inches (15 to 25 centimeters) or higher to the west, Chapman said.

Gaylord, Michigan, received 24.8 inches (63 centimeters) of snow Friday, setting a new single-day record for the city in a region dotted by ski resorts, said Keith Berger of the weather service's Gaylord office. The previous record of 17 inches (43 centimeters) was set March 9, 1942.

The snowfall was good news for Treetops Resort, which features 80 acres (32 hectares) of ski hill terrain among its 2,000 acres (809 hectares). It boosted the base that snowmaking machines will increase before the resort's season opening next weekend, Recreation Director Doug Hoeh said.

"Obviously when you get that much snowfall, it's great for the snow hills, but it's bad for the parking lots, so we're kind of digging out," Hoeh said.

## Trump says he'll nominate Kash Patel as FBI director to remake the agency. Here's what happens next

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

President-elect Donald Trump's stunning announcement on Saturday night that he will nominate Kash Patel as FBI director sets the stage for a fresh round of turbulence at a law enforcement agency tasked with protecting the homeland and investigating federal crimes.

Patel, a steadfast Trump ally with plans to shake up the institution he's been tapped to lead, is a study in contrasts from the current tight-lipped director who preaches a "keep calm and tackle hard" mantra.

In selecting Patel over more conventional contenders, Trump is again testing his ability to get the Senate to bend to his will by confirming some of his more provocative nominees.

What happens to the current FBI director?

Christopher Wray was appointed director by Trump in 2017 and technically has three years left on his 10-year tenure.

That length of time is meant to ensure that directors of the nation's most prominent federal law enforcement agency can operate free from political influence or pressure. Presidents have typically but not always retained the director who was in place at the time they took office, as President Joe Biden has done with Wray.

But it's also the case that all FBI directors serve at the pleasure of the president; indeed, Wray was nominated after Trump fired the FBI chief he'd inherited when he took office, James Comey.

The announcement means that Wray can either resign from the job, consistent with Trump's apparent wishes, or wait to be fired once Trump takes office in January. Either way, the selection of a successor is a clear indication that Wray's days are numbered. Should Wray leave before Patel can be confirmed, the position of acting director would presumably be filled in the interim by the FBI's current deputy director.

Can Patel be confirmed by the Senate?

Republicans may have won control of the Senate, but his confirmation is not assured.

There are no doubt lawmakers who support Trump's desire for a radically overhauled FBI, particularly following federal investigations that resulted in two separate indictments against the president-elect, and who share his sentiment that federal law enforcement has been "weaponized" against conservatives.

But Patel is likely to face deep skepticism during his confirmation hearings over his stated plans to rid the government of "conspirators" against Trump, and his claims that he would shut down the FBI's Pennsylvania Avenue headquarters in the nation's capital and send the thousands of employees who work there to "chase down criminals" across the country.

And while Trump may have wanted a loyalist willing to pursue retribution against his perceived adversaries, that perspective is likely to give pause to senators who believe that the FBI and Justice Department should operate free of political influence and not be tasked with carrying out a president's personal agenda.

Foreshadowing the potentially bruising confirmation fight ahead, Sen. Chris Coons, a Delaware Democrat, wrote on social media late Saturday: "Kash Patel will be another test of the Senate's power of advice and consent. Patel needs to prove to the Senate Judiciary Committee that he has the right qualifications and, despite his past statements, will put our nation's public safety over a political agenda focused on retribution."

Trump has also raised the prospect of using recess appointments to push his nominees through the Senate.

If Patel is confirmed, can he actually do what he's said he'll do?

Patel has made a series of brash claims about his plans for the federal government, but most of those proposals would require backing and buy-in from other officials and would almost certainly encounter significant resistance. His claim that he would reduce the FBI's footprint and authority stands in contrast to the tack traditionally taken by leaders of the bureau, who invariably say they want more resources — not less.

He's talked about trying to rid the government of "conspirators" against Trump and of going "after the people in the media who lied about American citizens who helped Joe Biden rig presidential elections," whether criminally or civilly.

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Under the FBI's own guidelines, criminal investigations can't be rooted in arbitrary or groundless speculation but instead must have an authorized purpose to detect or interrupt criminal activity. And while the FBI conducts investigations, the responsibility of filing federal charges, or bringing a lawsuit on behalf of the federal government, falls to the Justice Department. Trump last week said he intended to nominate former Florida attorney general Pam Bondi to serve as attorney general.

Patel's proposed crackdown on leaks of information by government officials to the media is an indication that he wants the Justice Department to undo its current policy prohibiting the secret seizure of reporters' phone records in leak investigations. That policy was implemented by Attorney General Merrick Garland following an uproar over the revelation that federal prosecutors had obtained subpoenas for journalists' phone records.

Patel has talked about disentangling the FBI's intelligence-gathering operations — now a core function of the bureau's mandate — from the rest of its operations. It's unclear whether he intends to carry through on that pledge or how it would be greeted at a time when the U.S. is facing what officials say is a heightened threat of terrorism.

He also says he wants to close down the FBI's storied Pennsylvania Avenue headquarters and send the employees who work there across the country. It's not clear if that's a hyperbolic claim simply reflecting disdain for the "deep state" or something he'd actually try to implement, but how that would look in practice remains a big question mark.

## **A landmark climate change case will open at the top UN court as island nations fear rising seas**

By MOLLY QUELL Associated Press

THE HAGUE (AP) — The top United Nations court will take up the largest case in its history on Monday, when it opens two weeks of hearings into what countries worldwide are legally required to do to combat climate change and help vulnerable nations fight its devastating impact.

After years of lobbying by island nations who fear they could simply disappear under rising sea waters, the U.N. General Assembly asked the International Court of Justice last year for an opinion on "the obligations of States in respect of climate change."

"We want the court to confirm that the conduct that has wrecked the climate is unlawful," Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh, who is leading the legal team for the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu, told The Associated Press.

In the decade up to 2023, sea levels have risen by a global average of around 4.3 centimeters (1.7 inches), with parts of the Pacific rising higher still. The world has also warmed 1.3 degrees Celsius (2.3 Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times because of the burning of fossil fuels.

Vanuatu is one of a group of small states pushing for international legal intervention in the climate crisis.

"We live on the front lines of climate change impact. We are witnesses to the destruction of our lands, our livelihoods, our culture and our human rights," Vanuatu's climate change envoy Ralph Regenvanu told reporters ahead of the hearing.

Any decision by the court would be non-binding advice and unable to directly force wealthy nations into action to help struggling countries. Yet it would be more than just a powerful symbol since it could serve as the basis for other legal actions, including domestic lawsuits.

On Sunday, ahead of the hearing, advocacy groups will bring together environmental organizations from around the world. Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change — who first developed the idea of requesting an advisory opinion — together with World Youth for Climate Justice plan an afternoon of speeches, music and discussions.

From Monday, the Hague-based court will hear from 99 countries and more than a dozen intergovernmental organizations over two weeks. It's the largest lineup in the institution's nearly 80-year history.

Last month at the United Nations' annual climate meeting, countries cobbled together an agreement on how rich countries can support poor countries in the face of climate disasters. Wealthy countries have

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agreed to pool together at least \$300 billion a year by 2035 but the total is short of the \$1.3 trillion that experts, and threatened nations, said is needed.

"For our generation and for the Pacific Islands, the climate crisis is an existential threat. It is a matter of survival, and the world's biggest economies are not taking this crisis seriously. We need the ICJ to protect the rights of people at the front lines," Vishal Prasad, of Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change, told reporters in a briefing.

Fifteen judges from around the world will seek to answer two questions: What are countries obliged to do under international law to protect the climate and environment from human-caused greenhouse gas emissions? And what are the legal consequences for governments where their acts, or lack of action, have significantly harmed the climate and environment?

The second question makes particular reference to "small island developing States" likely to be hardest hit by climate change and to "members of "the present and future generations affected by the adverse effects of climate change."

The judges were even briefed on the science behind rising global temperatures by the U.N.'s climate change body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, ahead of the hearings.

The case at the ICJ follows a number of rulings around the world ordering governments to do more to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In May, a U.N. tribunal on maritime law said that carbon emissions qualify as marine pollution and countries must take steps to adapt to and mitigate their adverse effects.

That ruling came a month after Europe's highest human rights court said that countries must better protect their people from the consequences of climate change, in a landmark judgment that could have implications across the continent.

The ICJ's host country of The Netherlands made history when a court ruled in 2015 that protection from the potentially devastating effects of climate change is a human right and that the government has a duty to protect its citizens. The judgment was upheld in 2019 by the Dutch Supreme Court.

## **Trump taps Kash Patel for FBI director, an ally who would aid in his effort to upend law enforcement**

By ERIC TUCKER and ALAN SUDERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump says he will nominate Kash Patel to serve as FBI director, turning to a fierce ally to upend America's premier law enforcement agency and rid the government of perceived "conspirators." It's the latest bombshell Trump has thrown at the Washington establishment and a test for how far Senate Republicans will go in confirming his nominees.

The selection is in keeping with Trump's view that the government's law enforcement and intelligence agencies require a radical transformation and his stated desire for retribution against supposed adversaries. It shows how Trump, still fuming over years of federal investigations that shadowed his first administration and later led to his indictment, is moving to place atop the FBI and Justice Department close allies he believes will protect rather than scrutinize him.

Patel "played a pivotal role in uncovering the Russia, Russia, Russia Hoax, standing as an advocate for truth, accountability, and the Constitution," Trump wrote Saturday night in a social media post.

The announcement means current FBI director Christopher Wray must either resign or be fired after Trump takes office on Jan. 20. Wray had previously been named by Trump and began the 10-year term — a length meant to insulate the agency from the political influence of changing administrations — in 2017, after Trump fired his predecessor, James Comey.

The decision sets up what's likely to be an explosive confirmation battle in the Senate not long after Trump's first pick to lead the Justice Department, Matt Gaetz, withdrew his nomination amid intense scrutiny over sex trafficking allegations. Patel is a lesser-known figure, but his nomination was still expected to cause shockwaves. He's embraced Trump's rhetoric about a "deep state," called for a "comprehensive housecleaning" of government workers who are disloyal to Trump and has referred to journalists as trai-

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tors, promising to try to prosecute some reporters.

Trump's nominees will have allies in what will be a Republican-controlled Senate next year, but his picks are not certain of confirmation. With a slim majority, Republicans can only lose a few defectors in the face of expected unified Democratic opposition — though as vice president, JD Vance would be able to break any tie votes.

But the president-elect had also raised the prospect of pushing his selections through without Senate approval using a congressional loophole that allows him to make appointments when the Senate is not in session.

Wray fell out of favor with the president and his allies. His removal isn't unexpected given Trump's long-running public criticism of him and the FBI, particularly in the aftermath of federal investigations — and an FBI search of his Mar-a-Lago estate for classified documents two years ago — that resulted in indictments that have evaporated.

In his final months in office, Trump unsuccessfully pushed the idea of installing Patel as the deputy director at either the FBI or CIA in an effort to strengthen the president's control of the intelligence community. William Barr, Trump's attorney general, wrote in his memoir that he told then-chief of staff Mark Meadows that an appointment to Patel as deputy FBI director would happen "over my dead body."

"Patel had virtually no experience that would qualify him to serve at the highest level of the world's preeminent law enforcement agency," Barr wrote.

Patel's past proposals, if carried out, would lead to convulsive change for an agency tasked not only with investigating violations of federal law but also protecting the country from terrorist attacks, foreign espionage and other threats.

He's called for dramatically reducing the agency's footprint, a perspective that sets him apart from earlier directors who have sought additional resources for the bureau, and has suggested closing down the bureau's headquarters in Washington and "reopen it the next day as a museum of the deep state" — Trump's pejorative catch-all for the federal bureaucracy.

And though the Justice Department in 2021 halted the practice of secretly seizing reporters' phone records during leak investigations, Patel has said he intends to aggressively hunt down government officials who leak information to reporters and change the law to make it easier to sue journalists.

During an interview with Steve Bannon last December, Patel said he and others "will go out and find the conspirators not just in government but in the media."

"We're going to come after the people in the media who lied about American citizens who helped Joe Biden rig presidential elections," Patel said, referring to the 2020 presidential election in which Biden, the Democratic challenger, defeated Trump. "We're going to come after you, whether it's criminally or civilly. We'll figure that out. But yeah, we're putting you all on notice."

Trump also announced Saturday that he would nominate Sheriff Chad Chronister, the top law enforcement officer in Hillsborough County, Florida, to serve as the administrator of the Drug Enforcement Agency. He has worked closely with Trump's choice for attorney general, Pam Bondi.

Patel, the child of Indian immigrants and a former public defender, spent several years as a Justice Department prosecutor before catching the Trump administration's attention as a staffer for the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

The panel's then-chairman, Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., was a strong Trump ally who tasked Patel with running the committee's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 campaign. Patel ultimately helped author what became known as the "Nunes Memo," a four-page report that detailed how it said the Justice Department had erred in obtaining a warrant to surveil a former Trump campaign volunteer. The memo's release faced vehement opposition from Wray and the Justice Department, who warned that it would be reckless to disclose sensitive information.

A subsequent inspector general report identified significant problems with FBI surveillance during the Russia investigation, but also found no evidence that the FBI had acted with partisan motives in conducting the probe and said there had been a legitimate basis to open the inquiry.

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The Russia investigation fueled Patel's suspicions of the FBI, the intelligence community and also the media, which he has called "the most powerful enemy the United States has ever seen." Seizing on compliance errors in the FBI's use of a spy program that officials say is vital for national security, Patel has accused the FBI of having "weaponized" its surveillance powers against innocent Americans.

Patel parlayed that work into influential administration roles on the National Security Council and later as chief of staff to acting Defense Secretary Christopher Miller.

He continued as a loyal Trump lieutenant even after he left office, accompanying the president-elect into court during his criminal trial in New York and asserting to reporters that Trump was the victim of a "constitutional circus."

And he found himself entangled in Trump's legal woes, appearing two years ago before a federal grand jury that investigated Trump's hoarding of classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida.

Typically though not always, presidents retain the director they've inherited: Biden, for instance, kept Wray in place even though the director was named by Trump, and former President Barack Obama asked Robert Mueller to stay on an extra two years even though Mueller was tapped by Obama's predecessor, George W. Bush.

Trump had openly flirted with firing Wray during his first term, taking issue with Wray's emphasis on the election interference threat from Russia at a time when Trump was focusing on China. Wray also described antifa, an umbrella term for leftist militants, as an ideology rather than an organization, contradicting Trump, who wants to designate it as a terror group.

The low-key FBI director had been determined to bring stability to an institution riven by turbulence following the May 2017 firing of Comey by Trump amid an FBI investigation into potential ties between Russia and Trump's 2016 campaign.

Wray sought to turn the page on some of the controversies of Comey's tenure. The FBI, for instance, fired a lead agent from the Russia investigation who sent derogatory text messages about Trump during the course of the inquiry and sidelined a deputy director under Comey who was a key figure in the probe. Wray also announced dozens of corrective actions meant to prevent some of the surveillance abuses that tainted the Russia investigation.

The FBI has aggressively investigated multiple assassination attempts against Trump this year and disrupted an Iranian murder-for-hire plot targeting the president-elect that resulted in recently unsealed criminal charges.

But none of that was enough to spare Wray from Trump's ire.

## **Protesters gather for third night of demonstrations after Georgia announces suspension of EU talks**

By SOPHIKO MEGRELIDZE Associated Press

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — Protesters gathered across Georgia on Saturday night in a third straight night of demonstrations against the government's decision to suspend negotiations to join the European Union.

More than 100 demonstrators were arrested as crowds clashed with police Friday night, the country's Interior Ministry said. The Associated Press saw protesters in Tbilisi being chased and beaten by police as demonstrators rallied in front of the country's parliament building.

On the same night, police also used heavy force against members of the media and deployed water cannons to push protesters back along the capital's central boulevard, Rustaveli Avenue.

The ruling Georgian Dream party's disputed victory in the country's Oct. 26 parliamentary election, which was widely seen as a referendum on Georgia's aspirations to join the European Union, has sparked major demonstrations and led to an opposition boycott of the parliament.

The opposition has said that the vote was rigged with the help of Russia, Georgia's former imperial master, with Moscow hoping to keep Tbilisi in its orbit.

Speaking to the AP on Saturday, Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili said that Georgia was becoming a "quasi-Russian" state and that Georgian Dream controlled the country's major institutions.

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"We have seen happening in the country — which is a country where we do not have any longer independent institutions, not the courts, not the Central Bank, and not, of course, the parliament," she said. "We have been moving more and more rapidly into a quasi-Russian model."

Zourabichvili also rejected statements made by Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze, who characterized the protests as "violent demonstrations." In a statement on Saturday, he said Tbilisi remained committed to European integration. However, he said that unspecified "foreign entities" wished to see the "Ukrainization" of Georgia with a "Maidan-style scenario" — a reference to Ukraine's 2014 Maidan revolution.

"We are not demanding a revolution. We are asking for new elections, but in conditions that will ensure that the will of the people will not be misrepresented or stolen again," Zourabichvili said. "Georgia has been always resisting Russian influence and will not accept having its vote stolen and its destiny stolen."

The government's announcement that it was suspending negotiations to join the EU came hours after the European Parliament adopted a resolution that condemned last month's vote as neither free nor fair. It said the election represented another manifestation of Georgia's continued democratic backsliding "for which the ruling Georgian Dream party is fully responsible."

European election observers said October's vote took place in a divisive atmosphere marked by instances of bribery, double voting and physical violence.

The EU granted Georgia candidate status in December 2023 on condition that it meet the bloc's recommendations, but put its accession on hold and cut financial support earlier this year after the passage of a "foreign influence" law widely seen as a blow to democratic freedoms.

EU lawmakers urged a rerun of the parliamentary vote within a year under thorough international supervision and by an independent election administration. They also called on the EU to impose sanctions and limit formal contacts with the Georgian government.

The Georgian prime minister fired back, denouncing what he described as a "cascade of insults" from the EU politicians and declaring that "the ill-wishers of our country have turned the European Parliament into a blunt weapon of blackmail against Georgia, which is a great disgrace for the European Union."

Kobakhidze also said Georgia would reject any budgetary grants from the EU until the end of 2028.

Critics have accused Georgian Dream — established by Bidzina Ivanishvili, a shadowy billionaire who made his fortune in Russia — of becoming increasingly authoritarian and tilted toward Moscow. The party recently pushed through laws similar to those used by the Kremlin to crack down on freedom of speech and LGBTQ+ rights.

## Heavy snow blankets parts of the US during busy holiday travel weekend

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE, RICK CALLAHAN and CAROLYN THOMPSON Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — The first big snowfall of the season blanketed towns along Lake Erie on Saturday in the middle of the hectic holiday travel and shopping weekend, and numbing cold and heavy snow were forecast to persist into next week and cause hazards in the Great Lakes, Plains and Midwest regions.

The heavy snow led to a state of emergency declaration in parts of New York and a disaster declaration in Pennsylvania, with officials warning of dangerous conditions for Thanksgiving travelers trying to return home.

"Travel will be extremely difficult and hazardous this weekend, especially in areas where multiple feet of snow may accumulate very quickly," the National Weather Service said.

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With roads in some parts impassable in northwestern Pennsylvania, scores of people took refuge overnight in the lobby and hallways of a fully booked Holiday Inn near I-90. Hotel staffer Jeremiah Weatherley said dozens of people rolled in as the snow piled up, and workers opened the conference room and gave them blankets to sleep on the floor.

"It was hard to manage, but we had no choice," he said. "They just showed up, and we don't want to turn people away."

Weatherley was handing out bagels, juice and cereal Saturday morning as people helped one another dig out their cars from the snow.

"Everyone helped each other," he said. "It was pretty cool."

In Buffalo, officials with the NFL's Bills asked people to sign up to shovel at the stadium this season, including the expected heavy snowfall ahead of Sunday night's game against the San Francisco 49ers. The team said it would pay \$20 per hour and provide food and hot drinks.

This week's blast of Arctic air also brought bitter temperatures of 10 to 20 degrees Fahrenheit below average to the Northern Plains, the weather service said, prompting cold advisories for parts of North Dakota.

Frigid air was expected to move over the eastern third of the U.S. by Monday, with temperatures about 10 degrees below average.

Parts of Michigan were battered by lake-effect snow, which happens when warm, moist air rising from a body of water mixes with cold dry air overhead. Bands of snow that have been rolling off Lake Superior for the past three days buried parts of the Upper Peninsula under 2 feet (61 centimeters) or more, said Lily Chapman, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service's office in Marquette, Michigan.

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Chapman said continued lake-effect snow could add more than a foot (30.5 centimeters) over the eastern Upper Peninsula through Monday morning, with 6 to 10 inches (15 to 25 centimeters) or higher to the west.

Meanwhile steady winds that trained snow bands Friday on Gaylord, Michigan, dumped 24.8 inches (63 centimeters), setting a new single-day record for the city, which sits in a region dotted by ski resorts, said Keith Berger, a meteorologist with the weather service's Gaylord office. The previous record of 17.0 inches (43 centimeters) was from March 9, 1942.

The snowfall was good news for Treetops Resort, which features 80 acres (32 hectares) of ski hill terrain among its 2,000 acres (809 hectares), said Doug Hoeh, the resort's director of recreation. It boosted the base that snowmaking machines will be adding to in the coming days before the resort opens for the season next weekend.

"Obviously when you get that much snowfall, it's great for the snow hills, but it's bad for the parking lots, so we're kind of digging out," Hoeh said. "But we're close to being ready to pull the trigger on skiing, and the natural snowfall definitely helps."

In Pennsylvania, Gov. Josh Shapiro signed a proclamation of disaster emergency and said parts of Erie County in the state's northwest had already received nearly 2 feet (1 meter) of snow with more expected through Monday night.

State Police responded to nearly 200 incidents during the 24-hour period from 6 a.m. Friday to 6 a.m. Saturday, officials said.

## **An Israeli strike in Gaza kills World Central Kitchen workers. Israel says 1 was an Oct. 7 attacker**

By WAFAA SHURAF, TIA GOLDENBERG and BASSEM MROUE Associated Press  
DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — An Israeli airstrike on a car in the Gaza Strip on Saturday killed five people, including employees of World Central Kitchen. The charity said it was "urgently seeking more details" after Israel's military said it targeted a WCK worker who was part of the Hamas attack that sparked

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the war.

WCK said it was "heartbroken" and it had no knowledge anyone in the car had alleged ties to the Oct. 7, 2023 attack, adding it was "working with incomplete information." It said it was pausing operations in Gaza. It had suspended work earlier this year after an Israeli strike killed seven of its workers.

The Israeli military in a statement said the alleged Oct. 7 attacker took part in the assault on the kibbutz of Nir Oz, and it asked "senior officials from the international community" and the WCK to clarify how he had come to work for the charity.

The family of the man named by Israel, Ahed Azmi Qdeih, rejected the allegations as "false accusations," and confirmed in a statement he had worked with the charity. Israel named him as Hazmi Kadih.

The strike highlighted the dangerous work of delivering aid in Gaza, where the war has displaced much of the 2.3 million population and caused widespread hunger.

At Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis, a woman held up an employee badge bearing the WCK logo and the word "contractor." Belongings — burned phones, a watch and stickers with the WCK logo — lay on the floor.

Nazmi Ahmed said his nephew worked for WCK for the past year. He said he was driving to the charity's kitchens and warehouses.

"Today, he went out as usual to work ... and was targeted without prior warning and without any reason," Ahmed said.

In April, a strike on a WCK aid convoy killed seven workers — three British citizens, Polish and Australian nationals, a Canadian-American dual national and a Palestinian. The Israeli military called it a mistake. That strike prompted an international outcry. Another Palestinian WCK worker was killed in August by shrapnel from an Israeli airstrike, the group said.

Another Israeli airstrike Saturday hit a car near a food distribution point in Khan Younis, killing 13 people, including children. Nasser hospital in Khan Younis received the bodies.

"They were distributing aid, vegetables, and we saw the missile landing," witness Rami Al-Sori said. A woman sat on the ground and wept.

Save the Children said a local employee was killed in one of the Khan Younis airstrikes while returning from a mosque.

And the director of Kamal Adwan hospital reported a strike in Tal al Zaatar in Beit Lahiya in the north where Israeli forces are operating, and estimated based on witness accounts that well over 100 dead were under the rubble. He said the area remained inaccessible.

### Hamas releases new hostage video

On Saturday, Hamas released a video of Israeli-American hostage Edan Alexander. Speaking under duress, Alexander referred to being held for 420 days and mentioned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's recent \$5 million offer for the hostages' return.

"The prime minister is supposed to protect his soldiers and citizens, and you abandoned us," Alexander said.

Netanyahu's office said that he spoke with Alexander's family after the release of the "brutal psychological warfare video" that held "an important and exciting sign of life."

"(Netanyahu) reassured me and promised that now, after reaching an arrangement in Lebanon, conditions are right to free you all and bring you home," Alexander's mother, Yael, told demonstrators in Tel Aviv on Saturday evening.

A statement from U.S. National Security Council spokesperson Sean Savett called the hostage video "a cruel reminder of Hamas's terror against citizens of multiple countries, including our own."

"The war in Gaza would stop tomorrow and the suffering of Gazans would end immediately — and would have ended months ago — if Hamas agreed to release the hostages," it said.

Israel's retaliatory offensive in Gaza has killed more than 44,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, who don't distinguish between civilians and combatants in their count but say over half the dead were women and children.

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Ceasefire appears to hold

Efforts for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas have faltered. But the U.S.- and France-brokered deal for Lebanon appears to be holding since Wednesday.

On Saturday, Israel's military said that it struck sites used to smuggle weapons from Syria to Lebanon after the ceasefire took effect. There was no immediate comment from Syrian authorities or Hezbollah. Israeli aircraft have struck Hezbollah targets in Lebanon several times, citing truce violations.

Israel's strike in Syria came as insurgents breached its largest city, Aleppo, bringing fresh uncertainty to the region.

The truce between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah calls for an initial two-month ceasefire in which the militants should withdraw north of Lebanon's Litani River and Israeli forces should return to their side of the border.

Many Lebanese, some of the 1.2 million displaced, streamed home despite warnings by the Israeli and Lebanese militaries to avoid certain areas.

"Day by day, we will return to our normal lives," said Mustafa Badawi, a cafe owner in Tyre.

The toll of conflicts

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said an Israeli drone strike on Rub Thalatheen village killed two people and wounded two others, and another hit a car in Majdal Zoun village. Lebanon's Health Ministry said three were wounded, including a 7-year-old child.

Israel's military said it had been operating to distance "suspects" in the region, without elaborating. Israel says it reserves the right to strike against any perceived violations.

Israel seeks to ensure that tens of thousands of displaced Israelis return home. But they have been apprehensive.

"No, it will not be like before," said one Israeli evacuee, Lavie Eini.

Hezbollah began attacking Israel on Oct. 8, 2023, in solidarity with the Palestinian militant group Hamas. Israel and Hezbollah kept up cross-border fire until Israel escalated with an attack that detonated hundreds of pagers and walkie-talkies used by Hezbollah. It then launched an intense aerial bombardment that killed Hezbollah leaders including Hassan Nasrallah, and a ground invasion in October.

More than 3,760 people have been killed by Israeli fire in Lebanon, many of them civilians, according to Lebanese health officials. The fighting killed more than 70 people in Israel, over half of them civilians, as well as dozens of Israeli soldiers fighting in southern Lebanon.

Hamas' October 2023 attack killed 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took around 250 hostage.

## **Trump threatens 100% tariff on the BRIC bloc of nations if they act to undermine US dollar**

By FATIMA HUSSEIN Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — President-elect Donald Trump on Saturday threatened 100% tariffs against a bloc of nine nations if they act to undermine the U.S. dollar.

His threat was directed at countries in the so-called BRIC alliance, which consists of Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

Turkey, Azerbaijan and Malaysia have applied to become members and several other countries have expressed interest in joining.

While the U.S. dollar is by far the most-used currency in global business and has survived past challenges to its preeminence, members of the alliance and other developing nations say they are fed up with America's dominance of the global financial system.

The dollar represents roughly 58% of the world's foreign exchange reserves, according to the IMF and major commodities like oil are still primarily bought and sold using dollars. The dollar's dominance is threatened, however, with BRICS' growing share of GDP and the alliance's intent to trade in non-dollar currencies — a process known as de-dollarization.

Trump, in a Truth Social post, said: "We require a commitment from these Countries that they will neither

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create a new BRICS Currency, nor back any other Currency to replace the mighty U.S. Dollar or, they will face 100% Tariffs, and should expect to say goodbye to selling into the wonderful U.S. Economy."

At a summit of BRIC nations in October, Russian President Vladimir Putin accused the U.S. of "weaponizing" the dollar and described it as a "big mistake."

"It's not us who refuse to use the dollar," Putin said at the time. "But if they don't let us work, what can we do? We are forced to search for alternatives."

Russia has specifically pushed for the creation of a new payment system that would offer an alternative to the global bank messaging network, SWIFT, and allow Moscow to dodge Western sanctions and trade with partners.

Trump said there is "no chance" BRIC will replace the U.S. dollar in global trade and any country that tries to make that happen "should wave goodbye to America."

Research shows that the U.S. dollar's role as the primary global reserve currency is not threatened in the near future.

An Atlantic Council model that assesses the dollar's place as the primary global reserve currency states the dollar is "secure in the near and medium term" and continues to dominate other currencies.

Trump's latest tariff threat comes after he threatened to slap 25% tariffs on everything imported from Mexico and Canada, and an additional 10% tax on goods from China, as a way to force the countries to do more to halt the flow of illegal immigration and drugs into the U.S.

He has since held a call with Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum, who said Thursday she is confident that a tariff war with the United States can be averted. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau returned home Saturday after meeting Trump, without assurances the president-elect will back away from threatened tariffs on Canada.

## Lebanese fishermen hope ceasefire with Israel means normal life returning

By BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

TYRE, Lebanon (AP) — The ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah brought hope for normality back to many in southern Lebanon on Friday, including fishermen who long launched their wooden-hulled single-engine boats into the Mediterranean at dawn.

During the last two months of its year fighting Hezbollah, Israel imposed a siege on southern Lebanon that kept hundreds of fishermen at this ancient Phoenician port, upending their lives and the industry.

While far less important than destruction and displacement, the port siege cut many off from the key ingredients for traditional Lebanese dishes like sayadiyeh — fish and rice boiled in fish sauce — or fish that is fried, grilled and eaten with hummus dip and tabbouleh or fattoush salads.

The loss of red mullet and sea bream damaged a link to the past for many Lebanese heartbroken over the destruction of their homeland. Now, in a tiny way, the possibility of renewed fishing on Lebanon's southern coast is fueling hope for a brighter future.

On Friday, a few boats went out close to shore as fishermen in the port worked on the nets of small boats painted white, blue or red.

Hussein Sukmani, 55, said that he was considering going out to sea but waiting to see things unfold.

He hasn't dared set sail since the Israel-Hezbollah war intensified on Sept. 23, when Israeli strikes killed more than 490 people in the deadliest barrage since the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war.

"They were days of fear and horror," he said. "The most difficult days of our lives."

A week ago, a drone killed two young fishermen in the city as they prepared their nets on the coast. The Lebanese army told fishermen that they would head out at their own risk, some fishermen said Friday.

Among those who went to ply the coastal waters was Walid Darwish, who returned to the port with two mullet-filled plastic boxes.

"Today is the first time that we sail," Darwish said, adding that fishermen had missed the prime season in October and November.

"We lost it," he said.

The largely Christian neighborhood around the port has been mostly spared the airstrikes that leveled other parts of Tyre but the Israeli army barred any boats from an area 50 kilometers (31 miles) from the border in October. It has not said whether the warning is still in effect.

Sukmani said that most of the 700 fishermen who work on the 270 boats at the port have not sailed since the Israeli warning.

In peaceful times, the port is a major tourist attraction, beloved by Lebanese and foreigners who come for the views, the restaurants and the beaches.

Mohammed Hammoud walked along the white-sand coast of Tyre carrying his fishing rod and said, "It is enough that someone is able to stand in this beautiful area."

"Fishing is everything for me," said Hammoud, who went to catch fish several times in the area north of the city of Sidon that was not part of the siege.

In Tyre's old market, Gilbert Spiridon watched from inside his shop as people came to buy fresh fish. Before the war, he sold out within hours to people from around Lebanon.

"All I wish is that the war has ended and we are back on track to the old good days," he said.

## Young men swung to the right for Trump after a campaign dominated by masculine appeals

By MATT BROWN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For years, Pat Verhaeghe didn't think highly of Donald Trump as a leader.

Then Verhaeghe began seeing more of Trump's campaign speeches online and his appearances at sporting events.

There was even the former president's pairing with Bryson DeChambeau as part of the pro golfer's YouTube channel series to shoot an under-50 round of golf while engaging in chitchat with his partner.

"I regret saying this, but a while ago I thought he was an idiot and that he wouldn't be a good president," said the 18-year-old first-time voter. "I think he's a great guy now."

Verhaeghe isn't alone among his friends in suburban Detroit or young men across America. Although much of the electorate shifted right to varying degrees in 2024, young men were one of the groups that swung sharply toward Trump.

More than half of men under 30 supported Trump, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 120,000 voters, while Democrat Joe Biden had won a similar share of this group four years earlier. White men under 30 were solidly in Trump's camp this year — about 6 in 10 voted for Trump — while young Latino men were split between the two candidates. Most Black men under 30 supported Democrat Kamala Harris, but about one-third were behind Trump.

Young Latino men's views of the Democratic Party were much more negative than in 2020, while young Black men's views of the party didn't really move. About 6 in 10 Latino men under 30 had a somewhat or very favorable view of the Democrats in 2020, which fell to about 4 in 10 this year. On the other hand, about two-thirds of young Black men had a favorable view of the Democrats this year, which was almost identical to how they saw the party four years ago.

"Young Hispanic men, and really young men in general, they want to feel valued," said Rafael Struve, deputy communications director for Bienvenido, a conservative group that focused on reaching young Hispanic voters for Republicans this year. "They're looking for someone who fights for them, who sees their potential and not just their struggles."

Struve cited the attempted assassination of Trump during a July rally in Pennsylvania as one of the catalyzing moments for Trump's image among many young men. Trump, Struve said, was also able to reach young men more effectively by focusing on nontraditional platforms like podcasts and digital media outlets.

"Getting to hear from Trump directly, I think, really made all the difference," Struve said of the former president's appearances on digital media platforms and media catering to Latino communities, like town halls and business roundtables Trump attended in Las Vegas and Miami.

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Not only did Trump spend three hours on Joe Rogan's chart-topping podcast, but he took up DeChambeau's "Break 50" challenge for the golfer's more than 1.6 million YouTube subscribers.

Trump already had an edge among young white men four years ago, although he widened the gap this year. About half of white men under 30 supported Trump in 2020, and slightly less than half supported Biden. Trump's gains among young Latino and Black men were bigger. His support among both groups increased by about 20 percentage points, according to AP VoteCast — and their feelings toward Trump got warmer, too.

It wasn't just Trump. The share of young men who identified as Republicans in 2024 rose as well, mostly aligning with support for Trump across all three groups.

"What is most alarming to me is that the election is clear that America has shifted right by a lot," said William He, founder of Dream For America, a liberal group that works to turn out young voters and supported Harris' presidential bid.

With his bombastic demeanor and a policy agenda centered on a more macho understanding of culture, Trump framed much of his campaign as a pitch to men who felt scorned by the country's economy, culture and political system. Young women also slightly swung toward the former president, though not to the degree of their male counterparts.

It's unclear how many men simply did not vote this year. But there's no doubt the last four years brought changes in youth culture and how political campaigns set out to reach younger voters.

Democrat Kamala Harris' campaign rolled out policy agendas tailored to Black and Latino men, and the campaign enlisted a range of leaders in Black and Hispanic communities to make the case for the vice president. Her campaign began with a flurry of enthusiasm from many young voters, epitomized in memes and the campaign's embrace of pop culture trends like the pop star Charli XCX's "brat" aesthetic. Democrats hoped to channel that energy into their youth voter mobilization efforts.

"I think most young voters just didn't hear the message," said Santiago Mayer, executive director of Voters of Tomorrow, a liberal group that engages younger voters. Mayer said the Harris campaign's pitch to the country was "largely convoluted" and centered on economic messaging that he said wasn't easily conveyed to younger voters who were not already coming to political media.

"And I think that the policies themselves were also very narrow and targeted when what we really needed was a simple, bold economic vision," said Mayer.

Trump also embraced pop culture by appearing at UFC fights, football games and appearing alongside comedians, music stars and social media influencers. His strategists believed that the former president's ability to grab attention and make his remarks go viral did more for the campaign than paid advertisements or traditional media appearances.

Trump's campaign also heavily cultivated networks of online conservative platforms and personalities supportive of him while also engaging a broader universe of podcasts, streaming sites, digital media channels and meme pages open to hearing him.

"The right has been wildly successful in infiltrating youth political culture online and on campus in the last couple of years, thus radicalizing young people towards extremism," said He, who cited conservative activist groups like Turning Point USA as having an outsize impact in online discourse. "And Democrats have been running campaigns in a very old fashioned way. The battleground these days is cultural and increasingly on the internet."

Republicans may lose their broad support if they don't deliver on improving Americans' lives, Struve cautioned. Young men, especially, may drift from the party in a post-Trump era if the party loses the president-elect's authenticity and bravado.

Bienvenido, for one group, will double down in the coming years to solidify and accelerate the voting pattern shifts seen this year, Struve said.

"We don't want this to be a one and done thing," he said.

## Emboldened 'manosphere' accelerates threats and demeaning language toward women after US election

By CHRISTINE FERNANDO Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — In the days after the presidential election, Sadie Perez began carrying pepper spray with her around campus. Her mom also ordered her and her sister a self-defense kit that included keychain spikes, a hidden knife key and a personal alarm.

It's a response to an emboldened fringe of right-wing "manosphere" influencers who have seized on Republican Donald Trump's presidential win to justify and amplify misogynistic derision and threats online. Many have appropriated a 1960s abortion rights rallying cry, declaring "Your body, my choice" at women online and on college campuses.

For many women, the words represent a worrying harbinger of what might lie ahead as some men perceive the election results as a rebuke of reproductive rights and women's rights.

"The fact that I feel like I have to carry around pepper spray like this is sad," said Perez, a 19-year-old political science student in Wisconsin. "Women want and deserve to feel safe."

Isabelle Frances-Wright, director of technology and society at the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, a think tank focusing on polarization and extremism, said she had seen a "very large uptick in a number of types of misogynistic rhetoric immediately after the election," including some "extremely violent misogyny."

"I think many progressive women have been shocked by how quickly and aggressively this rhetoric has gained traction," she said.

The phrase "Your body, my choice" has been largely attributed to a post on the social platform X from Nick Fuentes, a Holocaust-denying white nationalist and far-right internet personality who dined at Trump's Mar-a-Lago club in Florida two years ago. In statements responding to criticism of that event, Trump said he had "never met and knew nothing about" Fuentes before he arrived.

Mary Ruth Ziegler, a law professor at the University of California, Davis School of Law, said the phrase transforms the iconic abortion rights slogan into an attack on women's right to autonomy and a personal threat.

"The implication is that men should have control over or access to sex with women," said Ziegler, a reproductive rights expert.

Fuentes' post had 35 million views on X within 24 hours, according to a report by Frances-Wright's think tank, and the phrase spread rapidly to other social media platforms.

Women on TikTok have reported seeing it inundate their comment sections. The slogan also has made its way offline with boys chanting it in middle schools or men directing it at women on college campuses, according to the Institute for Strategic Dialogue report and social media reports. One mother said her daughter heard the phrase on her college campus three times, the report said.

School districts in Wisconsin and Minnesota have sent notices about the language to parents. T-shirts emblazoned with the phrase were pulled off Amazon.

Perez said she has seen men respond to shared Snapchat stories for their college class with "Your body, my choice."

"It makes me feel disgusted and infringed upon," she said. "... It feels like going backwards."

Misogynistic attacks have been part of the social media landscape for years. But Frances-Wright and others who track online extremism and disinformation said language glorifying violence against women or celebrating the possibility of their rights being stripped away has spiked since the election.

Online declarations for women to "Get back in the kitchen" or to "Repeal the 19th," a reference to the constitutional amendment that gave women the right to vote, have spread rapidly. In the days surrounding the election, the extremism think tank found that the top 10 posts on X calling for repeal of the 19th Amendment received more than 4 million views collectively.

A man holding a sign with the words "Women Are Property" sparked an outcry at Texas State University. The man was not a student, faculty or staff, and was escorted off campus, according to the university's president. The university is "exploring potential legal responses," he said.

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Anonymous rape threats have been left on the TikTok videos of women denouncing the election results. And on the far-flung reaches of the web, 4chan forums have called for "rape squads" and the adoption of policies in "The Handmaid's Tale," a dystopian book and TV series depicting the dehumanization and brutalization of women.

"What was scary here was how quickly this also manifested in offline threats," Frances-Wright said, emphasizing that online discourse can have real-world impacts.

Previous violent rhetoric on 4chan has been connected to racially motivated and antisemitic attacks, including a 2022 shooting by a white supremacist in Buffalo that killed 10 people. Anti-Asian hate incidents also rose as politicians, including Trump, used words such as "Chinese virus" to describe the COVID-19 pandemic. And Trump's language targeting Muslims and immigrants in his first campaign correlated with spikes in hate speech and attacks on these groups, Frances-Wright said.

The Global Project Against Hate and Extremism reported similar rhetoric, with "numerous violent misogynistic trends" gaining traction on right-wing platforms such as 4chan and spreading to more mainstream ones such as X since the election.

Throughout the presidential race, Trump's campaign leaned on conservative podcasts and tailored messaging toward disaffected young men. As Trump took the stage at the Republican National Convention over the summer, the song "It's A Man's Man's Man's World" by James Brown blared from the speakers.

One of several factors to his success this election was modestly boosting his support among men, a shift concentrated among younger voters, according to AP VoteCast, survey of more than 120,000 voters nationwide. But Trump also won support from 44% of women age 18 to 44, according to AP VoteCast.

To some men, Trump's return to the White House is seen as a vindication, gender and politics experts said. For many young women, the election felt like a referendum on women's rights and Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris' loss felt like a rejection of their own rights and autonomy.

"For some of these men, Trump's victory represents a chance to reclaim a place in society that they think they are losing around these traditional gender roles," Frances-Wright said.

None of the current online rhetoric is being amplified by Trump or anyone in his immediate orbit. But Trump has a long history of insulting women, and the spike in such language comes after he ran a campaign that was centered on masculinity and repeatedly attacked Harris over her race and gender. His allies and surrogates also used misogynistic language about Harris throughout the campaign.

"With Trump's victory, many of these men felt like they were heard, they were victorious. They feel that they have potentially a supporter in the White House," said Dana Brown, executive director of the Pennsylvania Center for Women and Politics.

Brown said some young men feel they're victims of discrimination and have expressed mounting resentment for successes of the women's rights movement, including #MeToo. The tension also has been influenced by socioeconomic struggles.

As women become the majority on college campuses and many professional industries see increasing gender diversity, it has "led to young men scapegoating women and girls, falsely claiming it's their fault they're not getting into college anymore as opposed to looking inward," Brown said.

Perez, the political science student, said she and her sister have been leaning on each other, their mother and other women in their lives to feel safer amid the online vitriol. They text each other to make sure they got home safely. They have girls' nights to celebrate wins, including a female majority in student government at their campus in the University of Wisconsin system.

"I want to encourage my friends and the women in my life to use their voices to call out this rhetoric and to not let fear take over," she said.



## Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau flies to Florida to meet with Trump after tariffs threat

By ROB GILLIES and FATIMA HUSSEIN Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau flew to Florida on Friday to have dinner with President-elect Donald Trump at his Mar-a-Lago club after Trump threatened to impose sweeping tariffs on Canadian products.

Trump threatened to impose tariffs on products from Canada and Mexico if they don't stop what he called the flow of drugs and migrants across their borders. He said he would impose a 25% tax on all products entering the U.S. from Canada and Mexico as one of his first executive orders.

A person familiar with the details called it a "positive wide-ranging dinner that lasted three hours." The official, who was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, said topics included trade, border security, fentanyl, defense, Ukraine, NATO, China and pipelines, as well as the the Group of Seven meeting in Canada next year.

Although Trump once called Trudeau "weak" and "dishonest" during his first term, ties between the two countries have remained among the closest in the world. Trudeau is the first leader from the G7 countries to visit Trump since the Nov. 5 election.

Joining Trump and Trudeau at dinner were Howard Lutnick, Trump's nominee for commerce secretary, North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, Trump's pick to lead the Interior Department, Mike Waltz, Trump's choice to be his national security adviser, and the three men's wives.

Also at the dinner were David McCormick, just elected U.S. senator from Pennsylvania, and his wife, Dina Powell, a former deputy national security adviser under Trump, as well as Canadian Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc, whose responsibilities include border security, and Katie Telford, Trudeau's chief of staff.

McCormick posted a photo on X of the group seated at a round table on the patio of Mar-a-Lago. At the table behind the president-elect a boy can be seen mugging for the camera.

Trump's transition did not respond to questions about what they had discussed or whether the conversation alleviated Trump's concerns about the border.

A smiling Trudeau declined comment upon returning to his West Palm Beach hotel late Friday.

Trudeau said earlier Friday that he would resolve the tariffs issue by talking to Trump. Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said Thursday after speaking with Trump that she is confident a tariff war with the United States will be averted.

"We're going to work together to meet some of the concerns," Trudeau told reporters in Prince Edward Island in Atlantic Canada. "But ultimately it is through lots of real constructive conversations with President Trump that I am going to have, that will keep us moving forward on the right track for all Canadians."

Trudeau said Trump got elected because he promised to bring down the cost of groceries but now he's talking about adding 25% to the cost of all kinds of products including potatoes from Prince Edward Island.

"It is important to understand that Donald Trump, when he makes statements like that, he plans on carrying them out. There's no question about it," Trudeau said.

"Our responsibility is to point out that he would not just be harming Canadians, who work so well with the United States, but he would actually be raising prices for Americans citizens as well and hurting American industry and business," he added.

Those tariffs could essentially blow up the North American trade pact that Trump's team negotiated during his initial term. Trudeau noted they were able to successfully re-negotiate the deal, which he calls a "win win" for both countries.

"We can work together as we did previously," Trudeau said.

Trump made the tariff threat Monday while railing against an influx of illegal migrants, even though the numbers at the Canadian border pale in comparison to the southern border.

The U.S. Border Patrol made 56,530 arrests at the Mexican border in October alone — and 23,721 arrests at the Canadian one between October 2023 and September 2024.

Trump also railed about fentanyl from Mexico and Canada, even though seizures from the Canadian

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border are few in comparison to the Mexican border. U.S. customs agents seized 43 pounds of fentanyl at the Canadian border last fiscal year, compared with 21,100 pounds at the Mexican border.

Canadian officials say lumping Canada in with Mexico is unfair but say they are ready to make new investments in border security.

Trudeau called Trump after he made his social media posts on the border.

When Trump imposed higher tariffs during his first term in office, other countries responded with retaliatory tariffs of their own. Canada, for instance, announced billions of new duties in 2018 against the U.S. in a tit-for-tat response to new taxes on Canadian steel and aluminum.

Canada is already examining possible retaliatory tariffs on certain items from the U.S. should Trump follow through on his threat to impose sweeping tariffs on Canadian products, a senior official told The Associated Press this week.

A government official said Canada is preparing for every eventuality and has started thinking about what items to target with tariffs in retaliation. The official stressed no decision has been made. The person spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak publicly.

Canada is the top export destination for 36 U.S. states. Nearly \$3.6 billion Canadian (US\$2.7 billion) worth of goods and services cross the border each day.

About 60% of U.S. crude oil imports are from Canada, and 85% of U.S. electricity imports are from Canada.

Canada is also the largest foreign supplier of steel, aluminum and uranium to the U.S. and has 34 critical minerals and metals that the Pentagon is eager for and investing in for national security.

Canada is one of the most trade-dependent countries in the world, and 77% of Canada's exports go to the U.S.

"Canada has reason to fear because Trump is impulsive, often influenced by the last thing he sees on Fox News," said Nelson Wiseman, professor emeritus at the University of Toronto. "He can leverage that by catering to what he thinks will sound and look good to the public rather than to what happens or will happen."

## **Today in History: December 1 Rosa Parks refuses to give up bus seat**

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Dec. 1, the 336th day of 2024. There are 30 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Dec. 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, a Black seamstress, was arrested after refusing to give up her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus; the incident sparked a yearlong boycott of the buses and helped fuel the U.S. civil rights movement.

Also on this date:

In 1824, the presidential election was turned over to the U.S. House of Representatives after none of the candidates (John Quincy Adams, Andrew Jackson, William H. Crawford and Henry Clay) won more than 50% of the electoral vote. Despite Jackson winning the most electoral votes, Adams would ultimately win the presidency.

In 1965, the first "Freedom Flight" from Cuba to the United States landed in Miami. Over the ensuing eight years, the twice-daily flights allowed more than 250,000 Cuban refugees to migrate to the United States through a joint U.S.-Cuban agreement.

In 1969, the U.S. government held its first draft lottery for military service since World War II.

In 1991, Ukrainians voted overwhelmingly for independence from the Soviet Union.

In 2009, President Barack Obama ordered 30,000 more U.S. troops into the war in Afghanistan but promised during a speech to cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point to begin withdrawals in 18 months.

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In 2017, retired general Michael Flynn, who served as President Donald Trump's first national security adviser, pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about reaching out to the Russians on Trump's behalf. (Trump would later pardon Flynn.)

Today's Birthdays: World Golf Hall of Famer Lee Trevino is 85. Rock musician John Densmore (The Doors) is 80. Actor-singer Bette Midler is 79. Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., is 72. Sen. Gary Peters, D-Mich., is 66. Model-actor Carol Alt is 64. Actor Jeremy Northam is 63. Baseball Hall of Famer Larry Walker is 58. Actor Néstor Carbonell is 57. Actor-comedian Sarah Silverman is 54. Actor Riz Ahmed is 42. Singer-actor Janelle Monáe is 39. Actor Sarah Snook is 37. Actor Zoe Kravitz is 36.