

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Sunday, Jan. 19

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

**Cancelled:** United Methodist: Conde worship, 8:15 a.m.; Groton worship, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Coffee Time, 10:30 a.m.; Britton worship, 11:15 a.m.

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

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

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

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

## Monday, Jan. 20

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.

School Lunch: Chicken legs, mashed potatoes.

Boys JV/JH Wrestling at Redfield, 5:30 p.m.

## Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460

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

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

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

## Tuesday, Jan. 21

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, mixed vegetables, fruit, biscuits.

School Breakfast: Waffles.

School Lunch: Hot dots, tater tots.

Boys JH Basketball hosts Northwestern, 7th at 4 p.m., 8th at 5 p.m.

Girls Basketball hosts Northwestern (JV at 6 p.m., varsity to follow)

Boys Wrestling Tri-angular at Clark with Clark/Willow Lake and Hamlin, 6 p.m.

Boys JH Invitational Wrestling at Simmons Middle School, 4 p.m.

Common Cents Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 209 N Main.

Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Groton Community Center

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Quilting, 9 a.m.

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## Dakota Valley's Late Surge Secures Victory Over Groton Area, 70-64

In a thrilling high school basketball showdown, Dakota Valley scored the final six points of the game to pull off a dramatic 70-64 win over Groton Area. The game featured hot shooting, big runs, and a fourth-quarter heroics that lifted the Panthers to their eighth win of the season.

The game opened with both teams trading early baskets, resulting in a 5-5 tie. However, Groton Area came out firing from beyond the arc, draining five three-pointers in the first quarter to take a commanding 19-12 lead. The Tigers shot an efficient 50% (7-of-14) in the period, while Dakota Valley struggled to find their rhythm, shooting 36% (5-of-14).

Dakota Valley fought back in the second quarter, tying the game at 21 before Groton Area regained control. Behind a balanced attack and four more three-pointers, the Tigers extended their lead to 34-26 and went into halftime ahead 37-32. Despite Groton's sharpshooting (46% in the quarter), Dakota Valley began to heat up, shooting 57% to stay within striking distance.

The third quarter saw momentum shift back and forth, with the game tied twice. Groton Area then unleashed an 11-point run, pushing their lead to 49-40. The Tigers ended the quarter shooting a red-hot 64% (7-of-11) and held a 56-49 advantage entering the final period.

The fourth quarter belonged to Dakota Valley and their star guard Luke Bruns. Bruns took over, scoring 15 of his game-high 33 points in the final frame. His scoring burst helped the Panthers erase the deficit and take a 60-59 lead. Groton Area managed to tie the game at 64 with just over a minute left, but the Tigers went cold, failing to score in the final moments. Dakota Valley capitalized, hitting clutch free throws and finishing the game on a 6-0 run.

Free throws played a critical role in the outcome. Dakota Valley went a perfect 12-of-12 from the charity stripe, while Groton Area converted 7-of-9 attempts. The Panthers' aggressive play also helped them dominate the boards, as the Tigers managed only 16 rebounds all game.

Ryder Johnson led the Tigers with 22 points, while Keegen Tracy added 21 and Becker Bosma chipped in 10. Despite shooting an impressive 55% (11-of-20) from three-point range, Groton struggled with turnovers and foul trouble, committing 17 team fouls and giving up 11 turnovers. Dakota Valley had 13 fouls and 11 turnovers, eight of which were steals by the Tigers.

The win improves Dakota Valley's record to 8-2 on the season, while Groton Area falls to 6-4. Both teams showcased their strengths in a hard-fought contest, but it was Dakota Valley's resilience and Bruns' late-game heroics that sealed the victory.

- Story compiled by ChatGPT

Ryder Johnson: 22 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals, 3 fouls.

Keegen Tracy: 21 points, 1 rebound, 3 assists, 2 steals, 3 fouls.

Becker Bosma: 10 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal, 1 foul, 1 block.

Gage Sippel: 6 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal, 1 foul, 1 block.

Jayden Schwan: 3 points, 2 fouls.

Karson Zak: 2 points, 2 rebounds, 6 assists, 3 steals, 4 fouls, 1 block.

Turner Thompson: 1 rebound.

Totals: 2-pointers: 12-18 67%, 3-pointers: 11-20 55%, Free Throws: 7-9 78%, 16 rebounds, 9 turnovers, 17 assists, 8 steals, 17 fouls, 3 blocks.

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Dakota Valley: Luke Bruns 33, Logan Collette 11, Drew Lukken 11, Tatum Sorensen 9, Grady Ramos 4, Dylan Lukken 2. Field Goals: 26-49 53%, Free Throws: 12-12 100%, 13 fouls, 11 turnovers.

Dakota Valley won the junior varsity game, 59-25. Jayden Schwan 9, Jace Johnson 8, Asher Johnson 4, Anthony Tracy 2, Ryder Schelle 1, Jordan Schwan 1. The junior varsity game lasted 58 minutes as the mercy rule kicked in with one minute left in the game. Seven minute quarters were played.

Eighth grader Aaron Bruns led Dakota Valley with 22 points while Carver Fritchman had 7, Luke Anema 6, Tye DeGeorgia 6, Zachary Schlotman 4, Seth Reinhardt 4, Payton Sorensen 3, Sean Meiske 3, Cash Slater 2, William Schnabel 2, Grady Ramos 2, Jack Wiese 1.

Groton Area won the C game, 52-46, leading at the quarter stops at 12-6, 23-12 and 37-26. Dakota Valley closed to within three, 49-46, with 44 seconds left, but Groton Area made the last three points on free throws to pull out the win. Asher Johnson had 23 points followed by Anthony Tracy with 17, Jace Johnson seven, Ryder Schelle three and Jordan Schwan two. Tye DeGeorgia led Dakota Valley with 131 points followed by Tate Bernard with 12, Atticus Slater eight, Vaughn Hoffman seven and Tanner Boonstra six. The C game went an hour and a half with seven minute quarter played. Groton Area had 19 turnovers while Dakota Valley had 16. Groton Area had more team fouls, 19-17.

All three games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, from Dakota Valley. The C game was sponsored by Larry and Val Fliehs, the junior varsity game was sponsored by Ed and Connie Stauch, and the varsity game was sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara Groton, Bierman Farm Service, BK Custom T's & More, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Groton Ag Partners, Groton Chamber, Groton Ford, Groton Subway, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, Locke Electric, Krueger Brothers, R&M Farms/Rix Farms, Subway of Groton and The Meathouse in Andover

## Groton Area vs. Dakota Valley: A Battle at the Hanson Classic

The Corinth Palace in Mitchell was electric on Saturday as Groton Area and Dakota Valley faced off in a thrilling girls' basketball matchup at the Hanson Classic. Fans packed the stands, eager to witness two determined teams give their all on the hardwood.

Dakota Valley struck first, using a tenacious defense and quick transitions to build a 10-4 lead after the first quarter. Groton Area, however, refused to back down. Fueled by sharp passing and relentless energy, the Tigers took command in the second quarter. They outscored Dakota Valley 17-8, with clutch plays from their senior leader, Rylee Dunker, and steady scoring from Kennedy Hanson. By halftime, Groton Area held a slim 21-18 lead.

Momentum stayed with Groton early in the third quarter as they opened up their largest lead of the game, a five-point advantage. However, disaster struck when standout point guard Jerica Locke took a hard hit to the face. Unable to return for the rest of the game, Groton Area struggled to maintain their rhythm without their floor general.

Dakota Valley capitalized on the shift. Cameron Semerbold dominated inside, grabbing rebound after rebound and tallying a double-double with 12 points and 13 boards. Meanwhile, Katie Bensworth showcased her scoring prowess, pouring in a game-high 15 points. By the end of the third quarter, the Panthers had regained control, leading 37-33.

In the final quarter, Dakota Valley extended their lead with efficient shooting and disciplined play. Groton Area battled valiantly, with Dunker finishing with 11 points and Hanson adding 10, but the Tigers couldn't overcome the absence of Locke. Dakota Valley's advantage at the free-throw line proved decisive, as they sank 17 of 23 attempts compared to Groton's 7 of 12.

Despite shooting just 25% from the field in the first half, Dakota Valley improved to 43% in the second half, while Groton Area managed 33%. The Panthers' ability to turn Groton's 20 team fouls into points at the line helped secure their 50-40 victory.

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Date: 1/18/2025  
Time: 4:00 pm

Arena: World's Only Corn Palace  
City, State: Mitchell, SD

**VISITOR: Groton Area ( )**

NO	PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
			FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
5	Hansen, Kennedy	*	3	13	2	7	2	2	1	4	5	3	10	1	5	0	3	26:12
10	Traphagen, Faith	*	2	6	0	1	0	0	2	3	5	4	4	1	2	0	3	27:37
11	Locke, Jerica	*	1	3	0	1	0	0	1	2	3	0	2	3	5	0	2	18:27
15	Penning, Jaedyn	*	1	6	1	2	2	4	2	3	5	3	5	1	4	0	1	24:43
25	Dunker, Rylee	*	4	9	0	2	3	6	2	5	7	2	11	3	4	0	3	29:03
13	Roberts, Laila		0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	4	2	0	0	3	0	0	6:05
21	Traphagen, Taryn		2	5	1	3	0	0	0	3	3	4	5	2	1	0	1	21:08
23	Hansen, Brooklyn		1	4	1	3	0	0	1	3	4	2	3	0	0	0	0	6:45
<b>TEAM REBOUNDS</b>									0	0	0				1			
<b>Team Totals</b>			14	46	5	19	7	12	12	24	36	20	40	11	25	0	13	160

Total FG% - 1st: 7/25 0.280 2nd: 7/21 0.333 Game: 0.304 Deadball  
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 4/11 0.364 2nd: 1/8 0.125 Game: 0.263 Rebounds  
 Total FT% - 1st: 3/6 0.500 2nd: 4/6 0.667 Game: 0.583 (2,0)

**HOME: Dakota Valley ( )**

NO	PLAYER	P	TOT-FG		3-PT		FT	FTA	REBOUNDS			PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	MIN
			FG	FGA	FG	FGA			OFF	DEF	TOT							
1	Stokes, Bella	*	0	5	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	2	0	0	15:38
4	Mead, Emersen	*	2	4	0	0	1	2	1	6	7	3	5	1	1	1	1	18:32
11	Sommervold, Cameryn	*	3	9	0	1	6	6	3	10	13	5	12	0	4	1	1	26:23
22	Worden, Aubree	*	2	7	1	2	4	6	0	2	2	1	9	2	5	0	3	32:00
23	Otten, Ella	*	4	10	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	8	1	4	0	4	32:00
5	Betsworth, Katie		4	9	2	3	5	6	3	3	6	2	15	1	2	1	2	18:22
10	Meyer, Sophie		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	5:03
15	Verdoorn, Alexa		0	1	0	0	1	2	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	12:02
<b>TEAM REBOUNDS</b>									0	0	0				0			
<b>Team Totals</b>			15	45	3	11	17	23	9	23	32	17	50	6	19	3	11	160

Total FG% - 1st: 6/24 0.250 2nd: 9/21 0.429 Game: 0.333 Deadball  
 3-PT FG% - 1st: 0/4 0.000 2nd: 3/7 0.429 Game: 0.273 Rebounds  
 Total FT% - 1st: 6/9 0.667 2nd: 11/14 0.786 Game: 0.739 (3,0)

Technical Fouls: Grotn (0)  
: DkVal (0)

OFFICIALS :  
ATTENDANCE : 0

SCORE BY PERIODS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	TOTAL
Groton Area	4	17	12	7	40
Dakota Valley	10	8	19	13	50

Last FG: Groton Area 4th- 0:31, Dakota Valley 4th- 5:16  
 Largest lead: Groton Area by 5 3rd- 7:01, Dakota Valley by 13 4th- 1:27  
 Score tied: 3 times, Lead changed: 4 times

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## NSU Women's Basketball

### **Wolves Take Down Cougars in Saturday Night Showdown**

Sioux Falls, S.D. – The Northern State University women's basketball team had an explosive fourth quarter to take down Sioux Falls, 81-70. Alayna Benike and Madelyn Bragg both recorded double-doubles, each scoring 24 points. Benike also set a new career-high with 25 points.

#### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 81, USF 70

Records: NSU 11-7 (NSIC 8-4), USF 10-9 (NSIC 6-6)

Attendance: 519

#### HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern State scored 17 points in the first, 17 in the second, 17 in the third, and exploded for 30 points in the fourth quarter

The Wolves dominated inside, posting 34 points in the paint, 20 points off free throws for a season high, 13 second chance points, 12 fast break points, and nine points off of turnovers

The team shot efficiently, finishing with a 44.4% shooting percentage from the floor and 38.5% from beyond the three-point arc

Alayna Benike and Madelyn Bragg led the team with 24 points and 10 rebounds each

Benike set a new career-high with 25 points and shot 37.5% from three-point range

Rianna Fillipi contributed 15 points, 6 assists, and 2 rebounds, shooting 50% from the field

#### NORTHERN STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Madelyn Bragg: 24 points (career-high), 10 rebounds, 61.5 FG %

Alayna Benike: 24 points, 10 rebounds, 2 steals, 37.5 3PT %

Rianna Fillipi: 15 points, 6 assists, 2 rebounds

#### UP NEXT

Northern State will return home for the I Hate Winter Weekend, hosting #10 Minnesota State and Winona State. Tip-off is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Friday, January 24 against the Mavericks, and 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 25 against the Warriors.

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## NSU Men's Basketball

### **Northern State Comes up Short in NSIC Match-up with Sioux Falls**

Sioux Falls, S.D. – A first half run by the University of Sioux Falls on Saturday led to Northern State to a loss on the road. Each team scored 40-points in the second half, however a 14-0 run by the Cougars midway through the first led to the Wolves demise.

#### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 71, USF 81

Records: NSU 1-17 (0-12 NSIC), USF 11-7 (7-5 NSIC)

Attendance: 447

#### HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern tailed 31 points in the first and 40 in the second, trailing 31-41 at the half

The game saw four tie scores and eight lead changes

The Wolves led the contest with 21 points off the bench and 16 points off 12 forced turnovers

They added 26 points in the paint and 17 second chance points off 15 offensive boards

NSU recorded 39 rebounds, ten assists, eight made 3-pointers, eight steals, a game low six turnovers, and four blocks

They shot 37.8% from the floor, 34.6% from the 3-point line, and 58.3% from the foul line, while the Cougars shot 44.6% from the field, 34.6% from beyond the arc, and 77.8% from the foul line

Marcus Burks led four Wolves in double figures with 17 points, eight rebounds, and a career high six steals

Kwat Abdelkarim followed with 16 points, hitting 6-of-10 from the floor, while Ethan Russell led the team off the bench with 14 points and five rebounds

James Glenn rounded out the double digit scorers with ten points, four rebounds, and four assists

#### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Marcus Burks: 17 points, 8 rebounds, 6 steals, 1 assist

Kwat Abdelkarim: 16 points, 600 field goal%, 1 assist, 1 block

Ethan Russell: 14 points, 54.5 field goal%, 5 rebounds, 2 assists

James Glenn: 10 points, 4 rebounds, 4 assists, 1 block

#### UP NEXT

Northern returns to Wachs Arena next Friday and Saturday for the annual I Hate Winter weekend. The Wolves will host Minnesota State at 5:30 p.m. on Friday and Winona State at 4 p.m. on Saturday. I Hate Winter features courtside hot tubs, giveaways each day, and more to be announced throughout the week. For full promotional details on home games this season [CLICK HERE](#).

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## Boys place fourth at Battler Invitational

Groton Area's wrestling team took fourth place at the Battler Invitational Tournament held Saturday in Gettysburg. Korbin Kucker and Gavin Englund both placed second, Keegan Kucker and Karter Moody placed third, Charlie Frost placed fourth, Wyatt Hagen and Donavon Block took fifth and Kyson Kucker and Ben Hoeft placed sixth.

**Team Scores:** 1. Chamberlain 169.5, 2. Clark Willow Lake 165.0, 3. South Border 163.5, 4. Groton 129.5, 5. Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey Wessington 127.0, 6. Stanley County 126.5, 7. Deuel 103.5, 8. Faulkton Area 81.0, 9. Pierre T.F. Riggs 78.0, 10. Harding County 71.0, 11. Webster 61.0, 12. Potter County 58.5, 13. Mobridge/Polllock 51.0, 14. Sully Buttes 44.0, 15. Newell 35.0, 16. Warner 29.5, 17. Lemmon 21.5, 17. Sunshine Bible Academy 21.5, 19. Faith 19.5, 20. CEB/Dupree 12.0, 21. McLaughlin 9.5, 22. Timber Lake 7.0, 23. Ipswich/Bowdle 0.0, 23. McIntosh 0.0

### **175: Korbin Kucker (18-3) placed 2nd and scored 22.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Korbin Kucker (Groton) 18-3 won by fall over Canyon Ford (Mobridge/Polllock) 4-13 (Fall 0:54)

Quarterfinal - Korbin Kucker (Groton) 18-3 won by fall over Nathan Hubsch (Webster) 6-11 (Fall 2:50)

Semifinal - Korbin Kucker (Groton) 18-3 won by decision over IVAN STUWE (Potter County) 11-6 (Dec 12-5)

1st Place Match - Hayden Roggow (Stanley County) 21-5 won by decision over Korbin Kucker (Groton) 18-3 (Dec 7-6)

### **285: Gavin Englund (16-4) placed 2nd and scored 22.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Gavin Englund (Groton) 16-4 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Gavin Englund (Groton) 16-4 won by fall over Brayden Satter (Warner) 4-5 (Fall 2:46)

Semifinal - Gavin Englund (Groton) 16-4 won by fall over Jaspur Gran (Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey Wessington) 6-12 (Fall 0:33)

1st Place Match - Preston Cavalier (Warner) 17-2 won by decision over Gavin Englund (Groton) 16-4 (Dec 7-6)

### **113: Keegan Kucker (17-8) placed 3rd and scored 17.5 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Keegan Kucker (Groton) 17-8 won by tech fall over Xavier Sanchez-Gonzalez (CEB/Dupree) 7-10 (TF-1.5 2:20 (16-0))

Quarterfinal - Keegan Kucker (Groton) 17-8 won by fall over Colton Bairey (Chamberlain) 2-7 (Fall 3:54)

Semifinal - Jared Schilling (South Border) 14-6 won by fall over Keegan Kucker (Groton) 17-8 (Fall 0:43)

Cons. Semi - Keegan Kucker (Groton) 17-8 won by decision over Jaxson Turbiville (Harding County) 12-13 (Dec 7-4)

3rd Place Match - Keegan Kucker (Groton) 17-8 won by decision over Jyles Auble (Pierre T.F. Riggs) 11-9 (Dec 12-6)

### **285: Karter Moody (10-5) placed 3rd.**

Champ. Round 1 - Karter Moody (Groton) 10-5 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Karter Moody (Groton) 10-5 won by forfeit over Forfeit Forfeit (Pierre T.F. Riggs) 2-6 (For.)

Semifinal - Preston Cavalier (Warner) 17-2 won by fall over Karter Moody (Groton) 10-5 (Fall 3:49)

Cons. Semi - Karter Moody (Groton) 10-5 won by fall over Brayden Satter (Warner) 4-5 (Fall 0:43)

3rd Place Match - Karter Moody (Groton) 10-5 won by fall over Cooper Gerard (Chamberlain) 10-16 (Fall 0:48)

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## **215: Charlie Frost (12-11) placed 4th and scored 14.5 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Charlie Frost (Groton) 12-11 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Tristen Baloun (Faulkton Area) 6-1 won by fall over Charlie Frost (Groton) 12-11 (Fall 0:39)

Cons. Round 2 - Charlie Frost (Groton) 12-11 won by tech fall over Cruz Williams (Pierre T.F. Riggs) 0-5 (TF-1.5 3:00 (20-3))

Cons. Round 3 - Charlie Frost (Groton) 12-11 won by fall over Brenton Padden (Harding County) 14-11 (Fall 3:34)

Cons. Semi - Charlie Frost (Groton) 12-11 won by major decision over Wyatt Zeigler (Mobridge/Polllock) 15-9 (MD 16-6)

3rd Place Match - Jimmy Burma (Sunshine Bible Academy) 16-6 won by fall over Charlie Frost (Groton) 12-11 (Fall 2:06)

## **106: Wyatt Hagen (13-7) placed 5th and scored 14.5 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Wyatt Hagen (Groton) 13-7 won by fall over Daeson Moncur (Harding County) 7-15 (Fall 0:51)

Quarterfinal - Gavin Mattson (Deuel) 16-13 won by major decision over Wyatt Hagen (Groton) 13-7 (MD 12-3)

Cons. Round 2 - Wyatt Hagen (Groton) 13-7 won by fall over Mason Stoeser (Stanley County) 8-9 (Fall 0:20)

Cons. Round 3 - Wyatt Hagen (Groton) 13-7 won by tech fall over Andrei Schmiedt (Chamberlain) 4-6 (TF-1.5 3:18 (17-1))

Cons. Semi - Blake Goebel (South Border) 16-6 won by decision over Wyatt Hagen (Groton) 13-7 (Dec 10-5)

5th Place Match - Wyatt Hagen (Groton) 13-7 won by decision over Daniel Mason (Pierre T.F. Riggs) 12-9 (Dec 8-1)

## **132: Donavon Block (15-8) placed 5th and scored 15.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Donavon Block (Groton) 15-8 won by fall over Carter Glaesman (South Border) 0-2 (Fall 4:48)

Quarterfinal - Brylee Brennan (Chamberlain) 15-10 won by fall over Donavon Block (Groton) 15-8 (Fall 3:59)

Cons. Round 2 - Donavon Block (Groton) 15-8 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Donavon Block (Groton) 15-8 won by fall over Tyson Hagberg (Deuel) 13-17 (Fall 2:25)

Cons. Semi - Isaac Johnson (Clark Willow Lake) 21-11 won by tech fall over Donavon Block (Groton) 15-8 (TF-1.5 4:35 (21-6))

5th Place Match - Donavon Block (Groton) 15-8 won by fall over Luke Olson (Mobridge/Polllock) 13-12 (Fall 4:38)

## **120: Kyson Kucker (16-7) placed 6th and scored 11.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Kyson Kucker (Groton) 16-7 won by fall over Lucas Nelson (Sunshine Bible Academy) 3-5 (Fall 4:17)

Quarterfinal - Dyson Eixenberger (Newell) 21-8 won by tech fall over Kyson Kucker (Groton) 16-7 (TF-1.5 1:47 (18-1))

Cons. Round 2 - Kyson Kucker (Groton) 16-7 won by fall over Taggen Paxton (Timber Lake) 4-14 (Fall 2:04)

Cons. Round 3 - Kyson Kucker (Groton) 16-7 won by decision over Hadley Steinke (Pierre T.F. Riggs) 7-5 (Dec 9-6)

Cons. Semi - Brody Neilan (Chamberlain) 15-10 won by fall over Kyson Kucker (Groton) 16-7 (Fall 0:38)

5th Place Match - Truett Havranek (Pierre T.F. Riggs) 13-9 won by decision over Kyson Kucker (Groton) 16-7 (Dec 17-12)



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## **165: Ben Hoeft (13-14) placed 6th and scored 6.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Ben Hoeft (Groton) 13-14 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - TRACE GENZLER (Potter County) 17-14 won by fall over Ben Hoeft (Groton) 13-14 (Fall 1:27)

Cons. Round 2 - Ben Hoeft (Groton) 13-14 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 3 - Ben Hoeft (Groton) 13-14 won by major decision over AJ Olivier (Sully Buttes) 8-13 (MD 12-3)

Cons. Semi - Gage Baumgarn (Webster) 17-10 won by tech fall over Ben Hoeft (Groton) 13-14 (TF-1.5 4:15 (20-2))

5th Place Match - Damen Horsley (Pierre T.F. Riggs) 7-8 won by decision over Ben Hoeft (Groton) 13-14 (Dec 10-4)

## **126: Noah Scepaniak (9-10) scored 4.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Mason Severson (Clark Willow Lake) 16-15 won by major decision over Noah Scepaniak (Groton) 9-10 (MD 8-0)

Cons. Round 1 - Noah Scepaniak (Groton) 9-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Noah Scepaniak (Groton) 9-10 won by fall over Avery Williams (Sully Buttes) 2-8 (Fall 4:31)

Cons. Round 3 - Chase Dunsmore (Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey Wessington) 9-10 won by tech fall over Noah Scepaniak (Groton) 9-10 (TF-1.5 1:34 (16-0))

## **126: Lincoln Krause (9-10).**

Champ. Round 1 - Lincoln Krause (Groton) 9-10 received a bye () (Bye)

Quarterfinal - Colton Diischer (Faith) 9-12 won by fall over Lincoln Krause (Groton) 9-10 (Fall 1:17)

Cons. Round 2 - Chase Dunsmore (Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey Wessington) 9-10 won by fall over Lincoln Krause (Groton) 9-10 (Fall 2:07)

## **138: Kason Oswald (6-11).**

Champ. Round 1 - Kruse Brennan (Chamberlain) 17-12 won by fall over Kason Oswald (Groton) 6-11 (Fall 0:53)

Cons. Round 1 - Carmine Crow Ghost (McLaughlin) 7-7 won by tech fall over Kason Oswald (Groton) 6-11 (TF-1.5 4:50 (21-6))

## **144: Chris Schwab (9-13).**

Champ. Round 1 - Dominic Kluckman (Deuel) 16-18 won by fall over Chris Schwab (Groton) 9-13 (Fall 3:46)

Cons. Round 1 - Chris Schwab (Groton) 9-13 received a bye () (Bye)

Cons. Round 2 - Jace Vroman (Harding County) 11-11 won by fall over Chris Schwab (Groton) 9-13 (Fall 3:47)

## **190: Layne Johnson (4-14) scored 3.0 team points.**

Champ. Round 1 - Cole Nitschke (South Border) 14-5 won by fall over Layne Johnson (Groton) 4-14 (Fall 0:23)

Cons. Round 1 - Layne Johnson (Groton) 4-14 won by fall over KAMERON HUNNEL (Potter County) 2-16 (Fall 1:51)

Cons. Round 2 - Sam Leen (Deuel) 9-16 won by fall over Layne Johnson (Groton) 4-14 (Fall 0:31)

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Potter County JV Results for Groton

### **JV 78-85: Bentley Ehresmann's place is 1st and has scored 17.5 team points.**

Round 1 - Bentley Ehresmann (Groton) won by tech fall over Baylor Engelbrecht (Deuel) (TF 21-4)

Round 2 - Bentley Ehresmann (Groton) won by decision over Rowdy Schrempp (CEB/Dupree) (Dec 10-8)

Round 3 - Bentley Ehresmann (Groton) won by fall over Si Bunker (Chamberlain) (Fall 1:15)

### **JV 83-90: Preston Hinkelman's place is 1st and has scored 19.5 team points.**

Round 1 - Preston Hinkelman (Groton) won by fall over Parker Couch (Wessington Springs/Woonsocket/Wolsey Wessington) (Fall 1:01)

Round 2 - Preston Hinkelman (Groton) won by tech fall over Dean Longbreak (CEB/Dupree) (TF 20-5)

Round 3 - Preston Hinkelman (Groton) won by fall over Traedyn Stirling (Harding County) (Fall 1:54)

### **JV 130-140: Grayson Flores's place is 2nd and has scored 12.5 team points.**

Round 1 - Grayson Flores (Groton) won by tech fall over Dace Tenold (Harding County) (TF 16-0)

Round 2 - Ty Rose (Chamberlain) won by decision over Grayson Flores (Groton) (Dec 12-5)

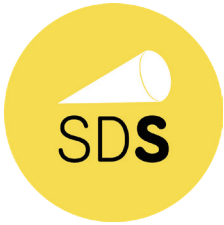
Round 3 - Grayson Flores (Groton) won by major decision over Shaden Muller (Sully Buttes) (Maj 10-0)

### **JV 163-185: Isiah Scepaniak's place is 1st and has scored 20.0 team points.**

Round 1 - Isiah Scepaniak (Groton) won by fall over James Maher (McIntosh) (Fall 4:14)

Round 2 - Isiah Scepaniak (Groton) won by fall over Hunter Frederick (Chamberlain) (Fall 3:37)

Round 3 - Isiah Scepaniak (Groton) won by fall over Seth Konechne (Sunshine Bible Academy) (Fall 2:36)



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### **COMMENTARY**

#### **Some unsolicited advice for South Dakota's next governor by Dana Hess**

Sometime this month Gov. Kristi Noem will get her seal of approval from the U.S. Senate to become the nation's next secretary of Homeland Security. That paves the way for Lt. Gov. Larry Rhoden to be the next governor of South Dakota.

With Rhoden's experience as a legislator and his six years as president of the Senate, he has a firm grip on how things work in the state Capitol. During her tenure, it often seemed like Noem was more concerned about where her next job was coming from than she was in learning how to do the job that she had.

All of Rhoden's legislative and political know-how will be needed as he takes on the role of governor during a legislative session that includes an influx of lawmakers who are most kindly described as non-traditional Republicans. Given his experience, Rhoden may be the best choice to step into an ongoing legislative session and navigate what are sure to be some choppy political waters.

Anyone going into a new job, even a seasoned veteran of the Legislature like Rhoden, could use some guidance. Here's some unsolicited advice for the man who will be South Dakota's 34th governor.

#### **Make peace with the state's Indian tribes.**

It's best to let the tribes know early and often that there's a new governor in town who doesn't think that they're collaborating with drug cartels and who would like to be welcome on the reservations. If you do believe they're allied with the cartels, make sure you have some proof before you start making allegations. Even though the tribes are sovereign nations, they should be treated with the respect and courtesy due any other South Dakotans.

#### **Don't try to solve national problems with state dollars.**

With the state budget you've inherited, there likely won't be enough money for any more grand gestures. Even so, please resist the temptation to use taxpayer dollars on National Guard deployments to the Texas border. There's plenty for you to spend those dollars on here at home.

#### **Embrace the traditional forms of communication.**

Sure, you can copy the social media apparatus created by your predecessor. But keep in mind there's a significant portion of the population that still gets its information from legacy media. To communicate with those people, that means having regular news conferences during the legislative session. That means having a communications staff that answers media questions readily and fully. That means not wasting your time, and the media's, by howling "fake news" when you don't like what's written about you and then calling regular press conferences to update the public during a disaster.

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If you want to show that you've got a better grip than your predecessor on the importance of transparency, throw your support to Senate Bill 9. That bill calls for making public the calendars and appointment logs of statewide elected officials and department heads. Currently those documents can be, and the governor's currently is, closed to public scrutiny. Backing SB 9 would show that you're all for letting the public know how their elected officials are spending their time.

## **It's possible to be a Republican without going full-MAGA.**

You can have deep feelings about border security without investing South Dakota's tax dollars in another state. You can hold on to your GOP bonafides without embracing popular conservative causes like Noem's call for crippling budget cuts for public broadcasting or her plan to spend \$4 million in taxpayer dollars on tuition for private school students.

## **Time is short, but don't be afraid to take on a big project.**

The next election for governor takes place in 2026 and while no announcements have been made, the field of candidates for the Republican primary already looks crowded. You'll be the incumbent, likely pitted against U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, Attorney General Marty Jackley and a player to be named later from the less-than-traditional wing of the Republican Party. There's still time to offer a big idea about how to handle property tax reform or how to get teacher pay out of the basement of national rankings. Even with two years as governor to bolster your name recognition, you're going to need to accomplish something big that sets you apart from the crowd.

## **It's probably best if you don't follow Noem's example.**

Noem was always shooting for higher office — when she wasn't shooting pets or farm animals. Those national ambitions have paid off for her. Now it's time for South Dakota to have a leader intent on leading the state rather than using the time in office to buff up a resume.

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

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## URGENT - WEATHER MESSAGE

National Weather Service Aberdeen SD

307 AM CST Sun Jan 19 2025

Traverse-Big Stone-Brown-Marshall-Roberts-Day-Potter-Faulk-Including the cities of Gettysburg, Sisseton, Britton, Webster, Aberdeen, Ortonville, Wheaton, and Faulkton

**...COLD WEATHER ADVISORY REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL NOON CST TODAY...**

**...EXTREME COLD WARNING IN EFFECT FROM MIDNIGHT TONIGHT TO NOON TUESDAY...**

\* WHAT...For the Cold Weather Advisory, very cold wind chills as low as 42 below. For the Extreme Cold Warning, dangerously cold wind chills as low as 43 below expected.

\* WHERE...In Minnesota, Big Stone and Traverse Counties. In South Dakota, Faulk, Potter, Brown, Day, Marshall, and Roberts Counties.

\* WHEN...For the Cold Weather Advisory, until noon CST today. For the Extreme Cold Warning, from midnight tonight to noon CST Tuesday.

\* IMPACTS...The dangerously cold wind chills as low as 45 below zero could cause frostbite on exposed skin in as little as 10 minutes. Frostbite and hypothermia will occur if unprotected skin is exposed to these temperatures.

### PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

Dress in layers including a hat, face mask, and gloves if you must go outside.

Keep pets indoors as much as possible.

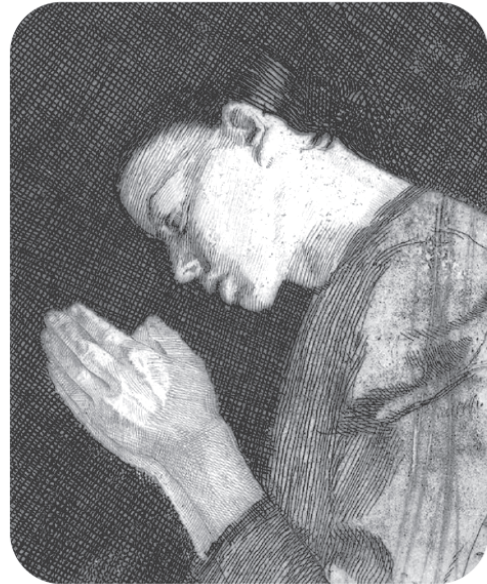
Use caution while traveling outside. Wear appropriate clothing, a hat, and gloves.



## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

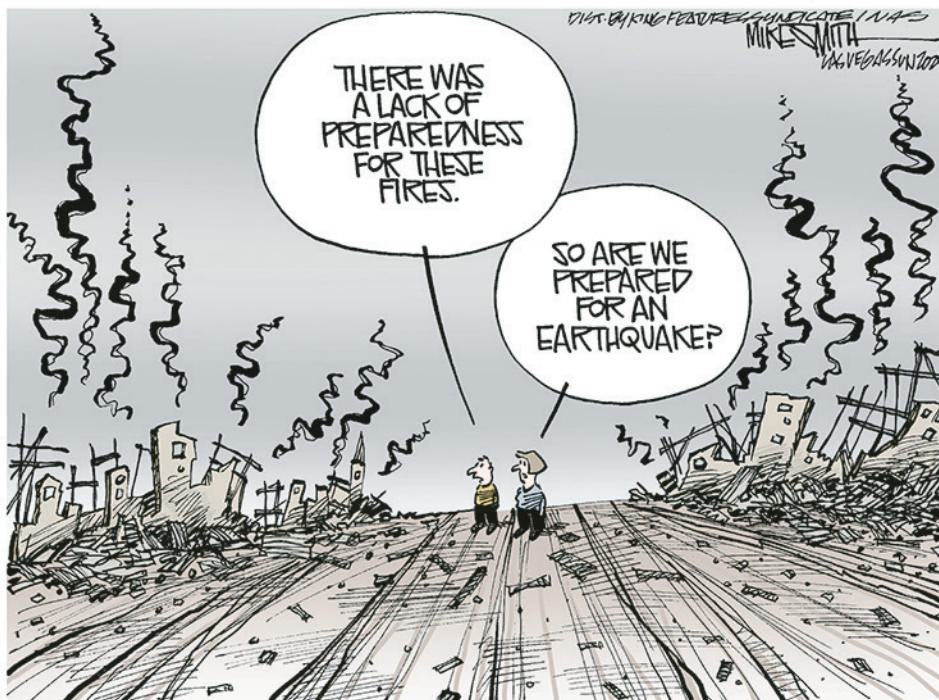
*...Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*

❧ 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 57,58 ❧



Detail of "Praying Girl"  
by Kathe Kollwitz (1892)

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## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Proverbs 29, “But whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be ...”? *Made whole, Blessed, Safe, Wise*

3. What does God want us to keep as the apple of our eye? *His law, Brotherly love, Faithfulness, Righteousness*

4. Upon which mountain did Balaam build seven altars? *Olives, Sinai, Pisgah, Carmel*

5. What did David do to Goliath once he slew him? *Stole his armor, Robbed him, Cut off his head, Buried him*

6. Which is known as the “First Book of the Kings”? *Judges, 1 Kings, 1 Samuel, 1 Chronicles*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Safe, 3) His law, 4) Pisgah, 5) Cut off his head, 6) 1 Samuel

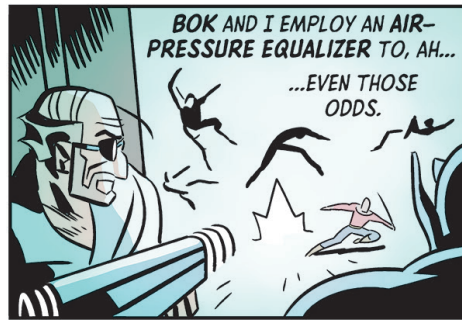
*Sharpen your understanding of scripture with Wilson Casey’s latest book, “Test Your Bible Knowledge,” available in bookstores and online.*

# Groton Daily Independent

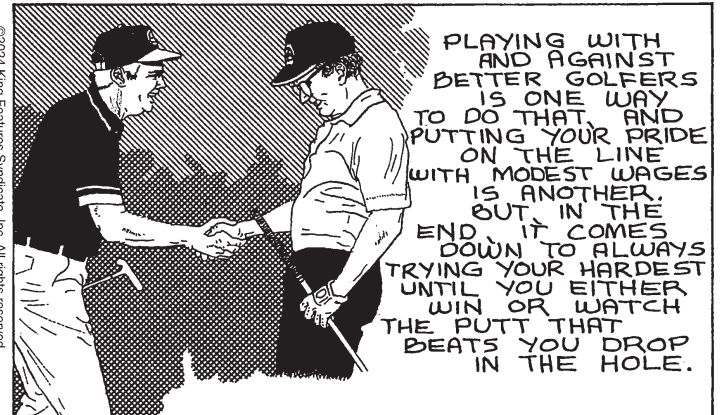
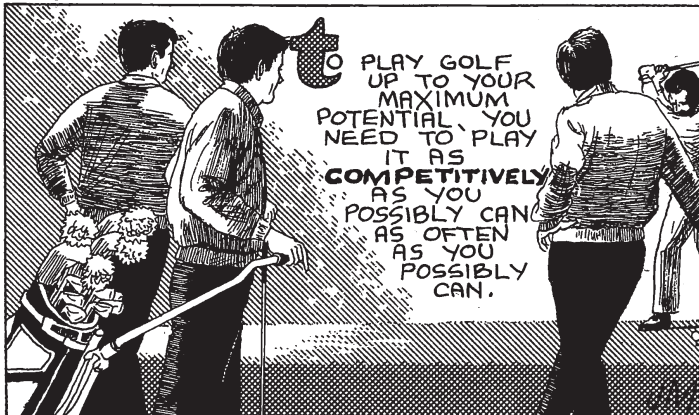
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WE FIND FLASH AND THUN IN BATTLE WITH THE SHARK MEN -- TWO AGAINST TWENTY.



## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS







## Probiotics May Help Restore Good Bacteria in the Gut

DEAR DR. ROACH: You recently wrote that you do not recommend probiotics in healthy people. I am a 78-year-old male who, three years ago, underwent an esophagectomy to remove my esophagus and part of my stomach because of cancer. I was put on 30 mg of pantoprazole, which was later increased to 40 mg. I've read that prolonged use of this medicine isn't recommended.

My understanding is that this medicine is used to reduce the chance of acid reflux. I have read that it also kills bacteria (both bad and good) in the stomach. I asked my primary care physician about this and whether she was OK with me starting probiotics to help restore the good bacteria. -- E.M.

ANSWER: Proton-pump inhibitors like pantoprazole are often used in people after surgical treatment for esophageal cancer. They reduce acid reflux and consequently prevent a stricture where the remainder of the esophagus meets the remainder of your stomach.

While it is true that proton-pump inhibitors do have the potential for side effects with long-term use, there are times when the benefits outweigh the risks. Many esophageal cancer experts feel that the benefits outweigh the risks in esophageal survivors like you.

Long-term acid suppression does lead to changes in the gut bacteria, called the microbiome. Using probiotics to improve the quality of the microbiome has been studied, and preliminary studies showed that taking probiotics daily can get more healthy bacteria in the gut. What isn't clear is whether this translates to better outcomes for the patient or whether any of the long-term adverse effects of proton-pump-inhibitor therapy will be reduced. It makes sense that it might help, but it is unproven as yet.

There is the potential for harm in probiotic treatment, but it's not common. A very few cases of infection have been shown to be transmitted by probiotics. The main harm is mostly financial, since some probiotics are expensive.

\*\*\*

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am 81 years old and in pretty good health. I often have a hard time getting to sleep and staying asleep. A couple of months ago, I was dealing with a sore lower back from overdoing yard work, so I took two ibuprofen tablets before going to bed for several nights in a row. What I noticed is that I was able to get to sleep quicker.

I have continued to take ibuprofen as a sleep aid, and it continues to help me get to sleep. But I am wondering if there might be any medical issue that could arise from the continued daily use of ibuprofen. -- J.T.N.

ANSWER: Most people don't find that ibuprofen helps or hurts their sleep, so I don't recommend it as a sleep aid in general. In fact, some people find that ibuprofen can be disruptive to their sleep. Others, however, find that it makes them sleepy.

In any case, the risk of two ibuprofen tablets at night, or even every day, is small. A person with a history of ulcer disease or abnormal bleeding shouldn't take ibuprofen daily without discussing it with their doctor.

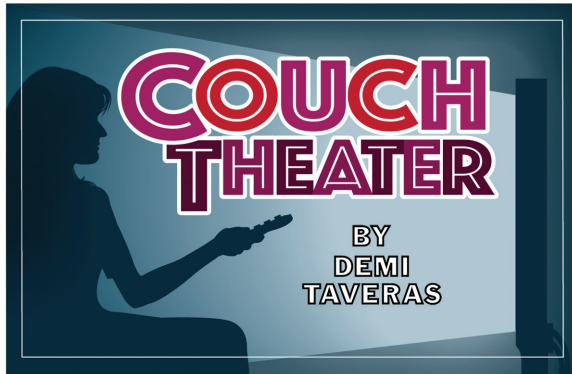
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).

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**Quintessa Swindell, left, and Leo Woodall star in "Prime Target."** Courtesy of Apple TV+

"Queer" (R) -- Former James Bond portrayer Daniel Craig took up quite an interesting role in this period romantic drama from director Luca Guadagnino ("Challengers"). Based on the novella by William S. Burroughs, the film takes place in 1950s Mexico City and follows American expatri-

ate William Lee (Craig). While bar hopping one day, Lee comes across a young man named Eugene (Drew Starkey) and instantly becomes infatuated with him. The quiet Eugene attempts to reciprocate Lee's actions but only gives up so much of himself at a time when homophobia runs rampant throughout society. Out now to rent, "Queer" makes viewers feel like they happened upon a few diary entries about a man's greatest love affair. (VUDU)

"Kinds of Kindness" (R) -- Emma Stone ("Poor Things") and Jesse Plemons ("Civil War") lead this movie with three separate winding tales that will leave you at a bit of a loss, to be frank, not necessarily in a good or bad way. The first story centers around an employee named Robert Fletcher who lives his life exactly how his boss tells him to, including his meals, his house, and his relationship. It explores what happens to Robert when his boss suddenly refuses to dictate his life anymore. The second story's plot seems straight out of a "Black Mirror" episode, with a police officer convinced that his wife has been replaced by a clone. The third and final story tells a tale about sex cult members who are looking for a woman with the ability to reawaken the dead. All of these stories are loosely connected, but it'll take some sleuthing to figure out exactly how. Out now. (Hulu)

"Small Things Like These" (PG-13) -- Oscar winner Cillian Murphy ("Oppenheimer") stars in this historical drama taking place in Ireland during Christmas 1985. He plays coal merchant Bill Furlong, who spends his days laboring and his nights at home with his wife and five daughters. Tortured by memories of his childhood, Bill often keeps to himself and rarely falls out of line with his routine. But one day, as he sets off for work early, he encounters a pregnant teenage girl who is locked in the coal shed of the local convent. His discovery of her subsequently leads to his planning to free her from the abusive nuns, and in turn, he is able to confront the ghosts of his past. This short 98-minute film is out now to rent. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Prime Target" (TV-MA) -- Leo Woodall ("One Day") has clinched his second main role after getting his big break in the second season of "The White Lotus" as Jack. In this thriller miniseries, he stars as Edward, a brilliant mathematics student whose work will eventually enable him to access every computer in the world. Obviously, an invention such as this would be disastrous in the wrong hands, and the wrong hands are hard at work to make sure that Edward's work doesn't come to fruition. Luckily, NSA agent Taylah Sanders (Quintessa Swindell) has been tasked with watching over Edward, and if they put their two minds together, they'll be able to figure out who's sabotaging the project. The show premieres Jan. 22. (Apple TV+)

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1. Which artist released a cover of Don Gibson's "I Can't Stop Loving You" in 1962?
2. Who had hits with "Return to Sender" and "Good Luck Charm"?
3. What do "Little Green Bag" (by George Baker Selection), "Coconut" (by Harry Nilsson) and "Hooked on a Feeling" (by Blue Swede) all have in common?
4. Which group released "Along Comes Mary"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "People say that love's a game, A game you just can't win, If there's a way, I'll find it someday, And then this fool with rush in."

## Answers

1. Ray Charles. His version was a chart-topper and won him a Grammy Award for Best Rhythm & Blues Recording. The song even climbed the charts in Australia, Sweden and Finland.
  2. Elvis Presley, in 1962. The songs reached No. 2 and No. 1 on the charts. "Return to Sender" was featured in the soundtrack for the Elvis film "Girls! Girls! Girls!"
  3. They appeared on the soundtrack for the 1992 film "Reservoir Dogs."
  4. The Association, in 1966. The song was their first hit.
  5. "Put Your Head on My Shoulder," by Paul Anka, in 1959. Singer-songwriter Anka saw his popular song recorded in different languages around the world but only reaching No. 2 on the charts.
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## Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



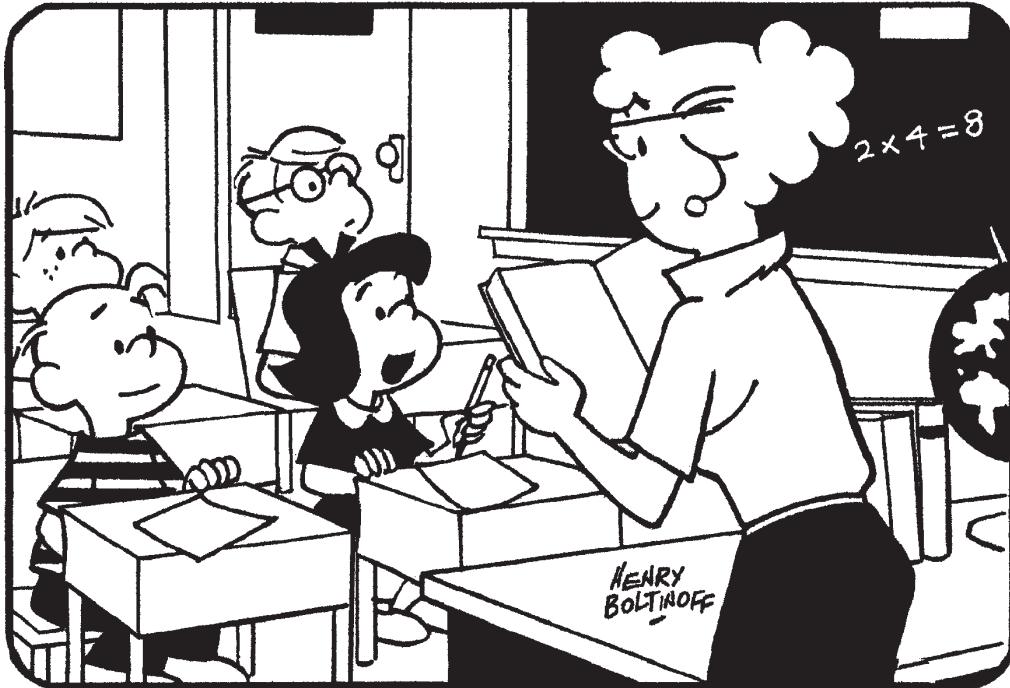
## GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner



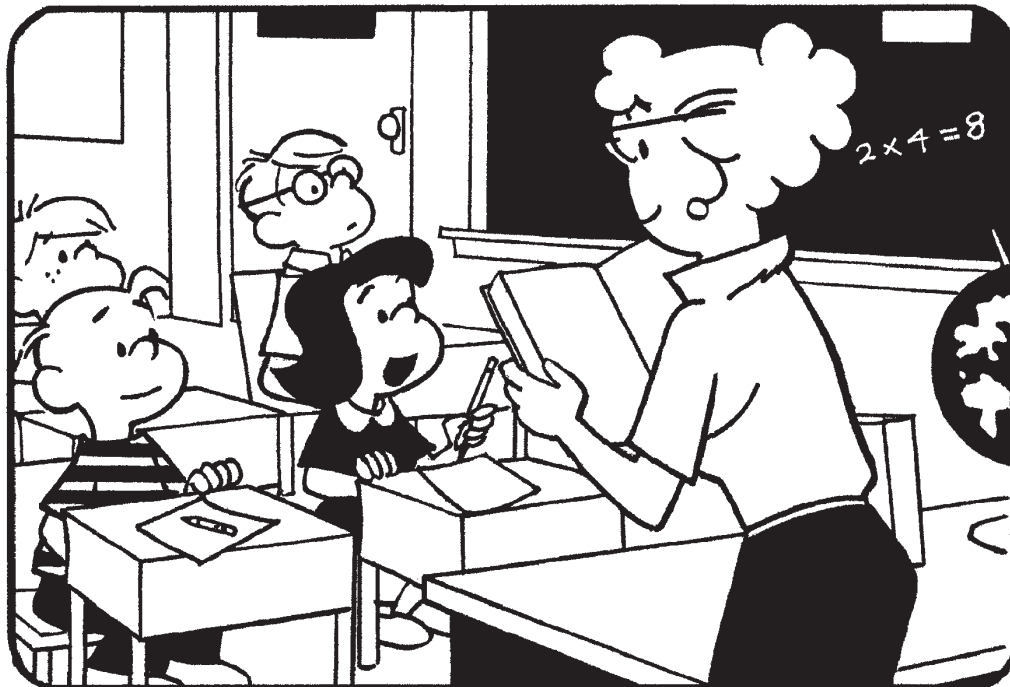
"I have no idea what you're talking about, but I do have an opinion on it."

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Desk leg is missing. 2. Book is missing. 3. Doorknob is higher. 4. Blackboard is wider. 5. Bow is missing. 6. Pencil is added on desk.

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\* Lunchbox tip: Assemble your sandwich the night before (without veggies). Wrap in waxed paper and freeze. Add veggies and a condiment packet in a separate bag. Your sandwich will thaw by lunchtime and will stay cold!

\* "Plant banana skins in your garden, just below the surface. They rot quickly and provide nutrients for growing plants." -- A.R. in Ohio

\* "My girls get a little crazy with clothes shopping -- they want everything! Before we go, we pull out all the clothes they have and assess their needs. We keep a count of shirts, skirts, shorts and pants, so we don't overbuy and have too many. They also make outfits out of what they have, so we can see if anything needs to be bought for that purpose. And undergarments and

socks are replenished first, so they get included in the budget!" -- S.S. in South Carolina

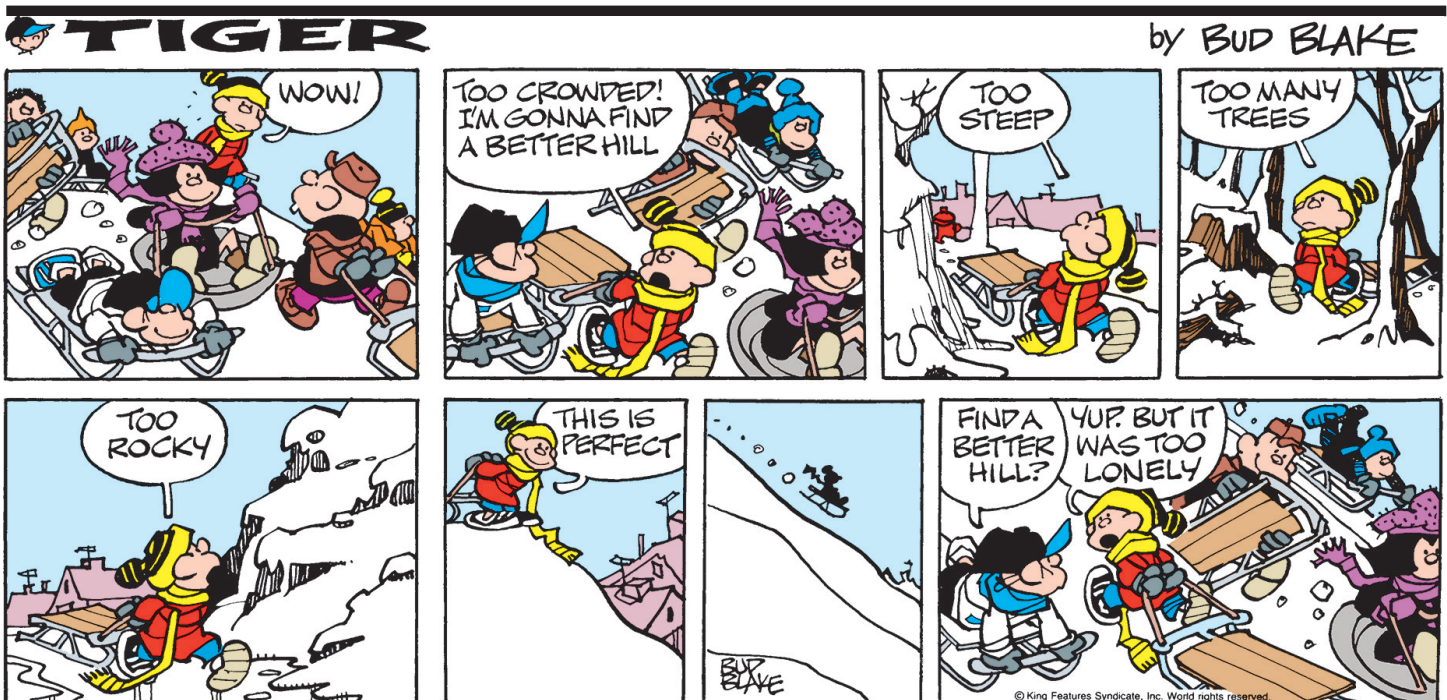
\* "Always keep two needles threaded, one with black and one with white. When you have a rip, a button comes off or a hem comes out of your clothes, and you are in a hurry, you can use one of these for a quick repair." -- J.R. in Virginia

\* When you get near the end of a roll of paper towels, save it to put in your car. Put together a kit to keep in the car with the following items: a small bottle of Windex or other cleaner, a squeeze bottle of water, some wet wipes and the short roll of paper towels. You will always be ready for a quick on-the-road cleanup.

\* To kick the itch from bug bites, make a mixture of half lime juice and half water. Apply to bug bite on a soaked cotton ball.

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

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Pickle holders
- 5 Klutz
- 8 Pre-weekend yell
- 12 Layered cookie
- 13 School org.
- 14 Nozzle site
- 15 Complaint
- 16 Mahal pre-ceder
- 17 Memory method
- 18 Jungle trek
- 20 Apple product
- 22 "Lunch break is over!"
- 26 Sports bar fixture
- 29 "Mangia!"
- 30 Avril follower
- 31 Marsh plant
- 32 "Blue Bloods" airer
- 33 Nov. honorees
- 34 401(k) alternative
- 35 Notable time
- 36 Trig terms
- 37 Consecutive
- 40 Puerto —
- 41 Small apes
- 45 Help a hood
- 47 Fanatic
- 49 Aswan's river
- 50 Roster

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			
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45	46				47	48			49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

- 51 Compass dir.
  - 52 Radiate
  - 53 — -bitty
  - 54 Carried out
  - 55 Lushes
- ### DOWN
- 1 Want-ad listings
  - 2 Region
  - 3 Coral formation
  - 4 Sleeper
  - 5 Eye-related
  - 6 One-time link
  - 7 Tex-Mex wraps
  - 8 Toss
  - 9 Favorable sign
  - 10 Follower (Suff.)
  - 11 Service charge
  - 19 Squealer
  - 21 Soup cooker
  - 23 Skewered entree
  - 24 Assess
  - 25 Smooch
  - 26 Chicago paper, briefly
  - 27 Actress Farmiga
  - 28 "American Idol" host Ryan
  - 32 Sang softly
  - 33 Minnesota footballers
  - 35 Catchall abbr.
  - 36 Learning ctr.
  - 38 Poker pot
  - 39 Played a part
  - 42 Actor O'Shea
  - 43 Conspiracy
  - 44 Stitches
  - 45 Boxing legend
  - 46 Morsel
  - 48 Numerical prefix

## — King Crossword —

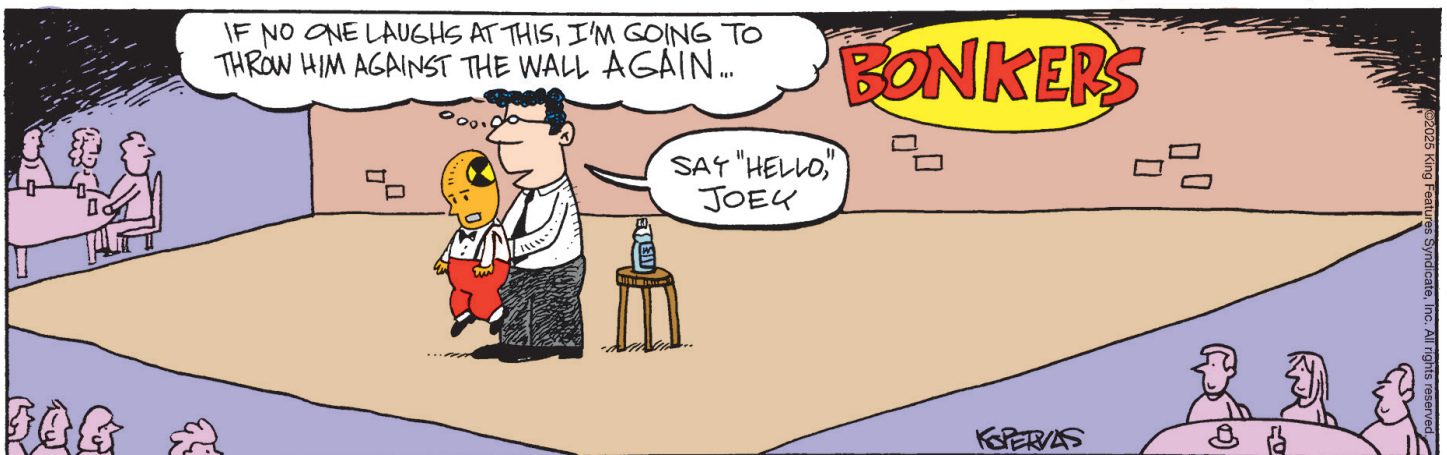
Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

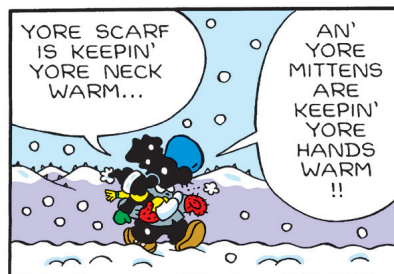
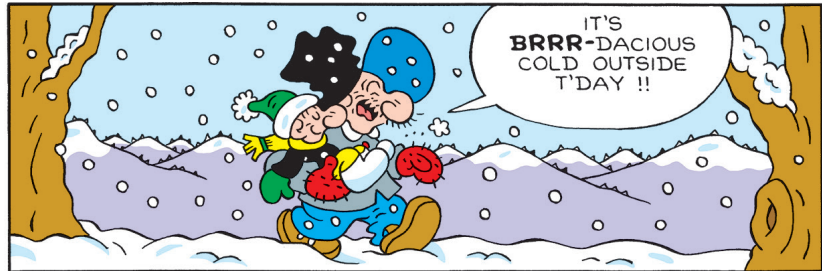
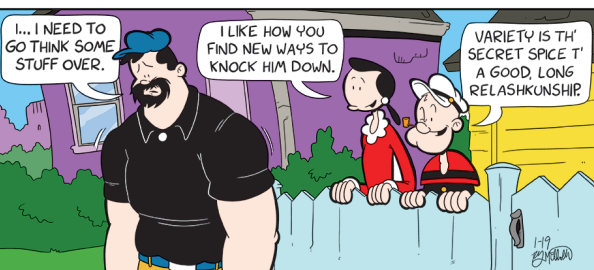
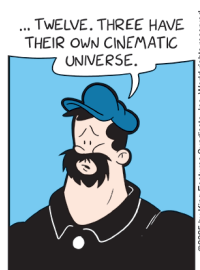
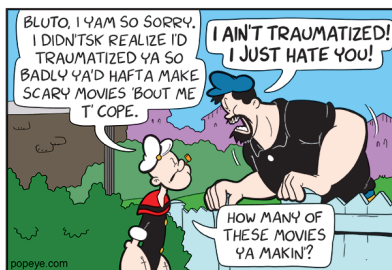
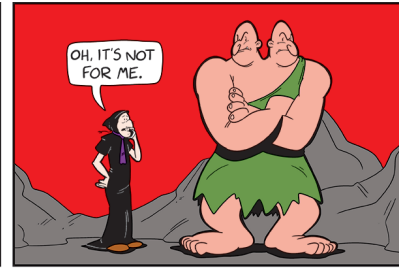
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



# Groton Daily Independent

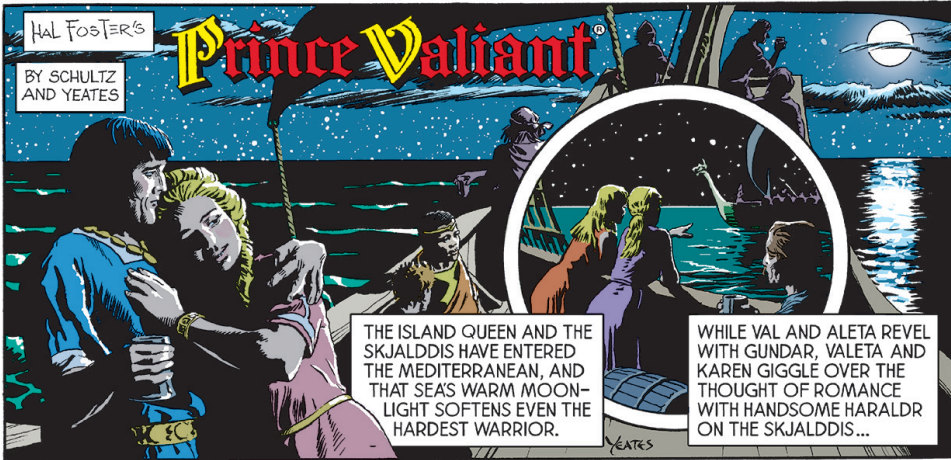
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Hal Foster's  
BY SCHULTZ  
AND YEATES

## Prince Valiant®

THE ISLAND QUEEN AND THE SKJALDDIS HAVE ENTERED THE MEDITERRANEAN, AND THAT SEA'S WARM MOONLIGHT SOFTENS EVEN THE HARDEST WARRIOR.

WHILE VAL AND ALETA REVEL WITH GUNDAR, VALETA AND KAREN GIGGLE OVER THE THOUGHT OF ROMANCE WITH HANDSOME HARALDR ON THE SKJALDDIS...

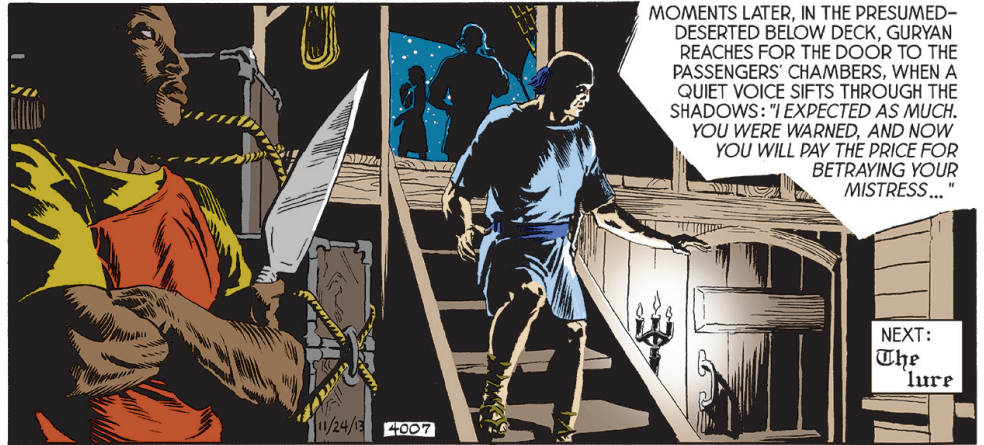


... AND NATHAN SITS WITH BUKOTA, CAREFULLY OBSERVING HIS COMPANION. THE ABSABAN HAS BEEN PLAYING A GAME OF CAT AND MOUSE THIS ENTIRE VOYAGE, PATIENTLY WAITING TO CONFIRM HIS SUSPICIONS ABOUT KAREN'S GUARDS.

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TONIGHT, IT SEEMS, THE GAME IS ENDING. WITH ALL SEEMINGLY DISTRACTED, BOGRAM AND GURYAN DO SOMETHING UNIQUE: THEY SEPARATE FOR THE FIRST TIME. NATHAN TURNS TO BUKOTA - BUT THE AFRICAN IS ALREADY GONE.

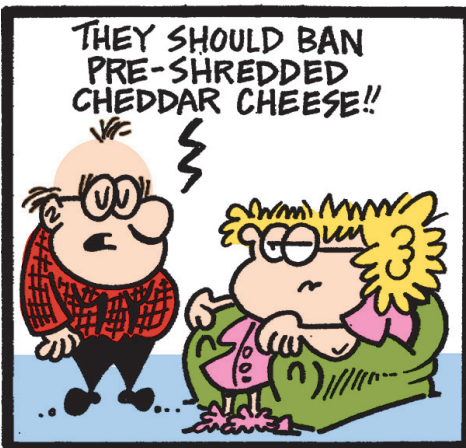


MOMENTS LATER, IN THE PRESUMED-DESERTED BELOW DECK, GURYAN REACHES FOR THE DOOR TO THE PASSENGERS' CHAMBERS, WHEN A QUIET VOICE SIFTS THROUGH THE SHADOWS: "I EXPECTED AS MUCH. YOU WERE WARNED, AND NOW YOU WILL PAY THE PRICE FOR BETRAYING YOUR MISTRESS..."

NEXT:  
The  
Lure

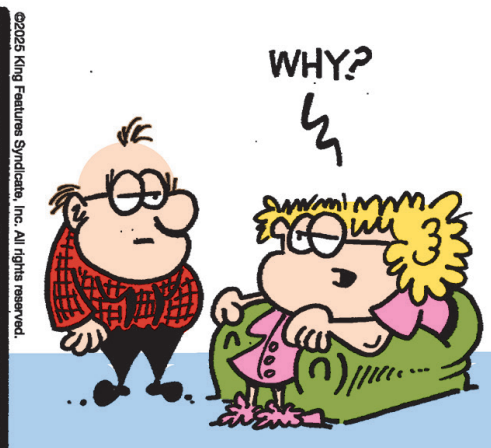
## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

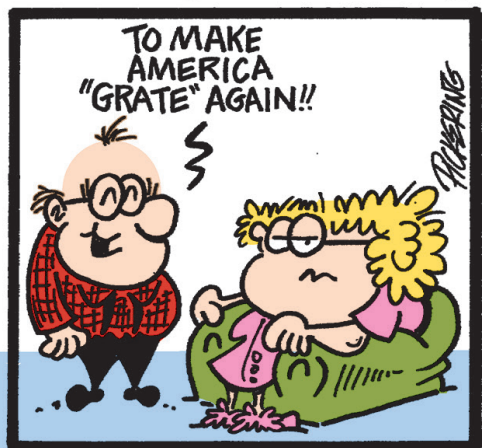


THEY SHOULD BAN PRE-SHREDDED CHEDDAR CHEESE!!

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WHY?



TO MAKE AMERICA "GRATE" AGAIN!!

PICKERING

# Groton Daily Independent

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## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Food safety during power outages

There's a lot going on in the world right now, and not all of it is good. We need to be aware of what's going on around us, especially with the important things like our food.

FoodSafety.gov has become my go-to for all types of food safety information. At this writing, the headlines on their opening page include an investigation into an outbreak of salmonella in cucumbers, lead in imported cookware, listeria in ready-to-eat (RTE) beef and poultry, and three ways to keep your food safe when you lose power.

The section "Food Safety During Power Outages" of FoodSafety.gov has become increasingly helpful (the more storms we get, the more often the power goes out.) This sentence caught my attention because I had not know it: "Discard refrigerated perishable food such as meat, poultry, fish, eggs and leftovers after four hours without power."

I'd always used temperature as a gauge. Not accurate and not safe, it turns out. Their chart lists foods with a "Keep" or "Discard" notation if that food has been in a refrigerator or freezer without power for four hours. You can even click the download button to print out the information. (Not a bad idea -- if you have no power, you can't use your computer to access the FoodSafety.gov website to check the details.)

To keep your food safe during all of our winter storms and outages, I invite you to go online to FoodSafety.gov and look around. There is a Recalls button that leads to a page of recalls and outbreaks. From the linked page there are additional links to the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA). For even more information, go to CDC.gov and search for "food safety" to learn how to prevent foodborne illness.

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Call/Text Tina: 605-397-7285



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**Living Heart Fitness Center**

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

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1. In 1995, what Cleveland Indians slugger was cited for reckless driving after chasing teenagers who threw eggs at his house on Halloween?

2. What team spoiled the Miami Dolphins' quest for a third-straight Super Bowl title in the 1974 AFC divisional playoff game remembered for its game-winning "Sea of Hands" touchdown pass?

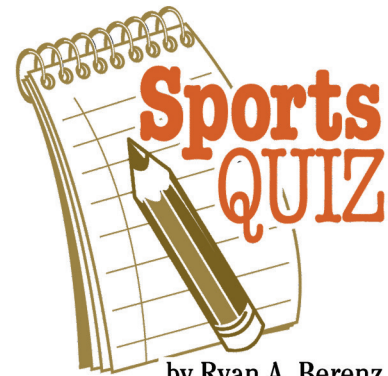
3. Name the two players who made up the Houston Rockets' "Twin Towers" from 1984-87.

4. Molineux Stadium has been the home ground of what English Premier League football club since 1889?

5. What now-ubiquitous device did driver Ray Harroun use on his Marmon Wasp racecar instead of a "riding mechanic" when he won the inaugural Indianapolis 500 in 1911?

6. Kelsey Plum, who held the NCAA Division I women's basketball all-time scoring record from 2017-24, played college basketball for what team?

7. What Hockey Hall of Famer became the first goaltender to regularly wear a mask in NHL games when he did so during the 1959-60 Montreal Canadiens season?



by Ryan A. Berenz

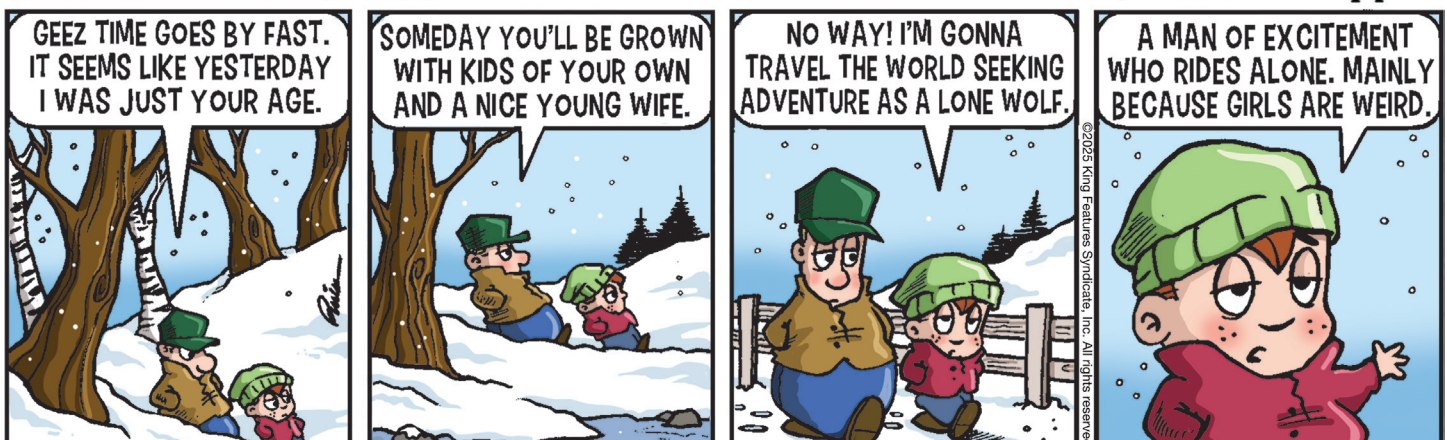
## Answers

1. Albert Belle.
2. The Oakland Raiders.
3. Ralph Sampson and Hakeem Olajuwon.
4. Wolverhampton Wanderers F.C.
5. A rear-view mirror.
6. The Washington Huskies.
7. Jacques Plante.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



## Puppy's anxiety is a real poo



DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I adopted a puppy about two months ago. "Spencer" seemed to houstrain just fine, but for the last couple of weeks, he has been pooping on the bathroom rug. It's not diarrhea, just regular healthy poos. He does it between walks -- even though he poops as normal during walks! What is going on? -- John D. in Burlington, Vermont

DEAR JOHN: Even though Spencer seems healthy, take him to the vet to rule out any underlying health issues. In the days prior to the vet appointment, get out a notepad and write down his behaviors, what time he poops each day, if he's doing a lot of barking -- anything. Bring that to the appointment; it might give the vet additional insight.

Puppies go through phases during their growth, and it's not too unusual to see some regression in houstraining periodically. For example, when they're teething, or as they enter their "teen" phase at around 8 months or so, you may see a change in behavior patterns or "forgetting" commands you know they've learned.

If there is no health issue to worry about, focus on training. Go back to basics and teach him how to alert you when he needs to go outside. Work on his basic commands. Observe him closely when you're at home to see whether his behavior is changing.

You may need to adjust your schedule as well. If he's an especially young puppy, his body is changing rapidly and he may need more potty breaks than the training guide says. Be prepared to make those adjustments as you patiently retrain him. And don't worry, he will fully houstrain, as long as you remain diligent.

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

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## Strange BUT TRUE

\* Cheerleading was once an exclusively male sport, and the first cheers, copied from military chants, began at Princeton University around the Civil War era.

\* Porsche's first car, in 1898, was electric.

\* Motorola has developed an FDA-approved "edible pass-word pill" which, once digested, is activated by the acid in your stomach and emits an 18-bit signal that is strong enough to communicate with and unlock all your devices.

\* On Mars, no resource can be wasted -- not even our bodily

waste. Urine will be recycled into drinking water and feces into fertilizer.

\* Scientists can deduce information about a person's lifestyle, including their grooming products, food and medications, from the chemicals found on the surface of their mobile phone.

\* The 1,400-page novel "War and Peace" was copied around seven times by Leo Tolstoy's wife, Sophia, by hand. Now, that's love!

\* U.S. Marine John Kelly was the last person to be awarded two Medals of Honor. He ran 100 yards in advance of the front line and attacked an enemy machine gun nest, killed the gunner with a grenade, shot another man with his pistol, and returned with eight prisoners. He was 19.

\* The only difference between a fog and a mist comes down to visibility: If you can't see farther than 100 meters, you're in a fog.

\* As the planet heats up, flowers are emitting less scent.

\* George Washington had one remaining tooth in his mouth when he was sworn in as the first American president in 1789.

\* The sound of a Star Wars lightsaber was created by pairing the sound of an idle film projector and the buzz from an old TV set.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little." -- Edmund Burke

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**The Garden Bug**

**Some online gardening guides**  
to browse through the winter



- [finegardening.com](http://finegardening.com)
- [penick.net/digging](http://penick.net/digging)
- [plantcaretoday.com](http://plantcaretoday.com)
- [themiddlesizedgarden.co.uk](http://themiddlesizedgarden.co.uk)
- [gardentherapy.ca/category/gardening](http://gardentherapy.ca/category/gardening)
- [epicgardening.com](http://epicgardening.com)
- [gardenerspath.com](http://gardenerspath.com)
- [chelseagreen.com/blog](http://chelseagreen.com/blog)
- [gardenista.com](http://gardenista.com)
- [almanac.com/gardening](http://almanac.com/gardening)
- [washingtongardener.blogspot.com](http://washingtongardener.blogspot.com)
- [gardenbetty.com](http://gardenbetty.com)
- [getbusygardening.com](http://getbusygardening.com) - Brenda Weaver

Source: <https://gardening.feedspot.com/gardening-blogs/>



by Freddy Groves

## Sports clinic 2025: Sign up now

Registration for the 2025 National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic is now open. Scheduled to take place in San Diego this summer August 23-30, veterans who want to go should get started now on the application process. Those who are eligible could get a free round-trip plane ticket, so it's worth the time to get started on your application. Registration cuts off on March 1.

Go online to [va.gov](http://va.gov) and search for "National Veterans Summer

Sports Clinic 2025."

You'll need the 2025 NVSSC Veteran Registration Packet, and your primary care doctor needs to sign off on the physical exam form (VA Form 0928c). If you're over 40, you'll need a recent EKG strip. Make your VA medical appointment now to make sure there are no delays.

Click the "Forms Submission" link to upload your medical docs.

Then wait. It might take 45 days after the March 1 deadline for you to get your notification (via email) about whether you are approved to attend.

Who qualifies for the clinics? Veterans who have traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injuries, amputations, PTSD, visual impairments and more. See the sports clinic webpage for the details. If you're actively engaged with the VA for care, you'll likely qualify.

Fine print includes items such as weight limit of 250 pounds if you're dependent or 300 pounds if you move independently. If you bring a caregiver, they pay their own way. If you need help with ADL, your caregiver needs to come along. You'll be expected to stay for the whole week and participate in everything, and you'll need to pay for your own lodging (but they get a group discount).

Priority goes to veterans who've never attended, followed by veterans who've attended one or two clinics. For a third year, you'll need a recommendation. (It still can't hurt to apply. Each application is reviewed individually.)

While the application steps might be a bit daunting, for the rehab, fitness experience and everything you'll learn, the VA sports clinic can't be beat.

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## Wishing Well®

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

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

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1. TELEVISION: Who created the retro TV series "Stranger Things"?
2. U.S. STATES: Which state is the home of Yellowstone National Park?
3. ASTRONOMY: Which is the only planet in our solar system to rotate on its side?
4. MOVIES: What is the given name of the large bird in the animated movie "Up"?
5. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which three zodiac signs are considered earth signs?
6. LITERATURE: What is the name of Hagrid's half-brother in the "Harry Potter" book series?
7. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital city of Australia?
8. FOOD & DRINK: What type of nut is used in the chocolate spread Nutella?
9. SPORTS: What kind of sports match is divided into 7-minute periods called chukkas?
10. ADVERTISEMENTS: What type of horses often are used in Budweiser beer ads?

### Answers

1. The Duffer Brothers.
2. Wyoming.
3. Uranus.
4. Kevin.
5. Taurus, Virgo and Capricorn.
6. Grawp.
7. Canberra.
8. Hazelnut.
9. Polo.
10. Clydesdale.

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South Dakota Governor

## Kristi Noem



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

### My Great Honor

You probably know that President-elect Trump has called on me to serve, if confirmed, as the next Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. It's a tremendous honor and a great responsibility. The mission is to keep the American people safe from threats to the Homeland.

That leaves me in a position where I may say "farewell" to all of you in the very near future. But South Dakota will be in good hands.

Almost seven years ago, people recommended I pick a Sioux Falls businessman to be my running mate. But I didn't. I asked a West River rancher to join me on the ride of a lifetime. Larry Rhoden stepped up to the plate. He has been more than just a partner in this role – he has been an adviser, a source of wisdom, and (this is sometimes more important) a source of laughter.

I chose Larry to run with me because I knew that a day like today might come. I knew that it was always possible that I might not be your governor anymore – whether that circumstance be the result of tragedy or opportunity. So I wanted a partner who would lead this state just as I would. I wanted someone who realized that our rights come from God, not from government – that it is our duty to protect the rights and Freedoms of our people. I wanted a friend – and Larry has been a friend since I was first elected to the state legislature almost 20 years ago.

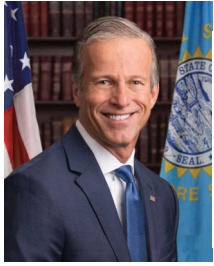
I trust Larry and our leaders in the legislature to knock it out of the park – because that is the trust that the people have bestowed in them.

"Under God, the People Rule." Our people are worth serving. They are the very best in America. They have been such a blessing and a source of joy to me and my family.

So although I am saying "farewell," please know that I'm not going far. South Dakota has always been my home – and it is still my home. I will continue to focus on making our people safer, stronger, and freer.

To the people of South Dakota: thank you for the incredible honor of serving you as state representative, as congresswoman, and now as governor. Thank you for trusting me and for working with me to accomplish incredible things.





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

## Addressing Illegal Immigration Crisis Is Republicans' Top Priority

During the Biden administration, more than 10 million illegal immigrants entered the United States. That's more people than the population of most states. This crisis has affected both border communities and places far from the border, including places like South Dakota. And we've all heard the tragic stories of Americans killed by illegal immigrants who should have never been in our country in the first place.

One of those tragedies happened last year in Athens, Georgia. Last February, nursing student Laken Riley was murdered while she was out for a morning run on the Athens campus of the University of Georgia. The man who killed her was an illegal immigrant. Like many illegal immigrants encountered at the border during the Biden administration, Laken's killer was released into the interior of the United States on parole.

He made his way to New York City, where he was arrested for a crime. But he was released before a detainer could be issued for him to be turned over to immigration authorities. Then, he made his way to Athens, Georgia, where he was cited for shoplifting and, once again, released.

This individual should not have been in our country in the first place, and he definitely should not have been on the streets after previously being involved in two crimes. But he was. So he was free on the University of Georgia campus on that February morning when Laken Riley went running.

Shortly after this tragedy, my colleagues Sens. Katie Britt (R-Ala.) and Ted Budd (R-N.C.) introduced the Laken Riley Act. It's a simple bill that would require an illegal immigrant who has been charged with a theft-related crime to be detained by immigration authorities. It's a commonsense and straightforward measure aimed at preventing a similar tragedy from befalling another family.

Laken Riley's murder was preventable. The man who killed her should not have been on the streets, he should have been detained long before he had the chance to kill Laken Riley. If this had been the law when her killer was arrested in 2023, she might be alive today. This is not a comprehensive bill, there is a lot more work to do to fix the border crisis, but this is an important step to keeping criminal illegal immigrants off the streets.

The Laken Riley Act was the first bill that the Republican majorities in the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate brought up this year. Resolving the Biden border crisis and the chaos it has brought to communities across the country is a top priority for this Congress. We and President Trump have a lot of work to do to restore order from the chaos of the last four years, and this is just the start.

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## Emergency Preparedness

### **BIG Update**

Over the weekend, I joined President Trump for dinner to discuss legislative plans for the next year. In just a few days, I'll be attending his inauguration to watch him take the oath of office. I'm ready to have a president in the White House who will secure the border, project strength abroad, and unleash American energy.

### **BIG Idea**

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is off to a great start. We held a hearing this week to discuss the state of America's transportation system.

During and after natural disasters, it's critical to continue transporting and delivering goods in a timely manner. Unfortunately, federal restrictions can slow down delivery to affected areas. My bill, the MOVE Act, would make the weight restrictions on interstates more flexible during times of emergency to ensure disaster victims get the goods and services they need.

We also discussed permitting regulations that need to be reformed. The permitting process for a project in Europe takes two years, while the same project in America takes seven years. I look forward to working with this committee to reform our permitting system to let America build.

### **BIG News**

The Los Angeles wildfires are truly tragic. Unfortunately, California's policies make it difficult to keep their forests healthy and decrease the risk of wildfires. We need proper forest management across America to prevent wildfires from becoming as intense as the ones in LA.

Not only that, but California's policies have made it take exponentially longer to complete water storage projects than in other states. Communities need access to water, especially in an event like this. Emergency and disaster preparedness is of the utmost importance in high-risk areas like LA. Our local and national leaders must do better.

House Republicans are leading the charge by voting next week on the Fix our Forests Act, that I cosponsor, to cut through red tape.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

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1-352-216-3025

## I'm Not Old Just Young Challenged

Most people are fascinated by their age as if it makes any difference in their lives. Some people are very intimidated by getting older and struggle against it.

When I was young, I couldn't wait to get older. I couldn't wait until I was old enough to get a driver's license. Why does it take so long to get old when you're young, and when you're old, it flies by like a bullet?

Sometimes, I get a call from a scammer who asks me how old I am. I respond, "I'm not sure how old I am because every year my age changes." Then I hear the infamous "click."

I have several relatives who will never accept how old they are. They are frozen at 20 and try living as though they were 20 years old. It never works out, but I won't be the one to tell them. Why try to act like you're younger than you are when you could just be yourself?

People are intimidated by getting older. I keep telling them that the only cure for old age is to die.

If I tried to live my life as though I were 20, I'd get into a lot of trouble, especially with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She is one of those reality people. I don't disagree with her, but I often conflict with her by not acting my age.

I might be doing something rather silly, and she'll catch me. Then, with both hands on her hips, she will say, "Why don't you just act your age?"

I wanted to respond a few times and ask her if she was acting her age, but my love of life keeps me from doing stupid things like that.

At this stage, the big question in my life is: How do I act my age? And what really is my age?

If I'm at a certain age, I'm not acting that age; I'm just living that age. So when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage wants me to act my age, she wants me to pretend I'm older than I really am. I don't know what that means!

I tried to tell her that I'm really not old; just young challenged.

I was wondering the other day if I acted like I was 30 if The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would recognize me. When I was 30, I was completely different than what I am today, whatever my age. I believe I should be able to get up in the morning, pick an age, and then act that age.

It sounded like a good idea until I tried it.

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One morning, I got up and said to myself, "Today, I am 20, and so I'm going to act like a 20-year-old."

Before lunch, I had worn myself out so badly that I didn't know if I would continue the day. I forgot how active I was at 20. I forgot that when I walked, I was half-running. I forgot that when I ate, I ate like a starving chimpanzee. Oh, I don't want to be young again.

I began to realize what it really means to be young and challenged. I would have to practice for a month to act like I was 20 for one day. I don't have that much time left to do that.

So I'm young challenged. So what?

When I was young, I acted my age and got into trouble that I won't discuss with anyone today. But those days are over, and now I'm going to try to act like I'm an old geezer. I have found that I am a superb actor in this category. If there was an Emmy for acting like an old geezer, I would win hands down.

My wife and I were discussing this, and she said, "I remember what you were like when you were 20, and it would be good for you to act like you were 20 again."

With a little smirk on my face, I looked at her and said, "I will act 20 if you also act 20. Because a 20-year-old doesn't date an old geezer."

I'm not sure she got it, but she didn't like how I said it.

But if I'm going to act like a 20-year-old, then my whole surroundings have to be in that category. What good is it to act like your 20 when you don't have the energy of a 20-year-old?

It's been a long time since I heard The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage ask me if I was going to act my age. I'm glad because I'm not a very good actor.

I also have a hard time acting my age. How do you practice to act a certain age so that by the time you're done practicing, you're older?

It doesn't matter how old you are or that you have to act a certain age; it's really living today with today's understanding.

I was reminded what Solomon said. "The glory of young men is their strength: and the beauty of old men is the grey head" (Proverbs 20:29).

I never understood this until one day I looked in my mirror and saw I had grey hair. I never thought my hair would get grey, but there it was and my mirror doesn't lie, so says The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

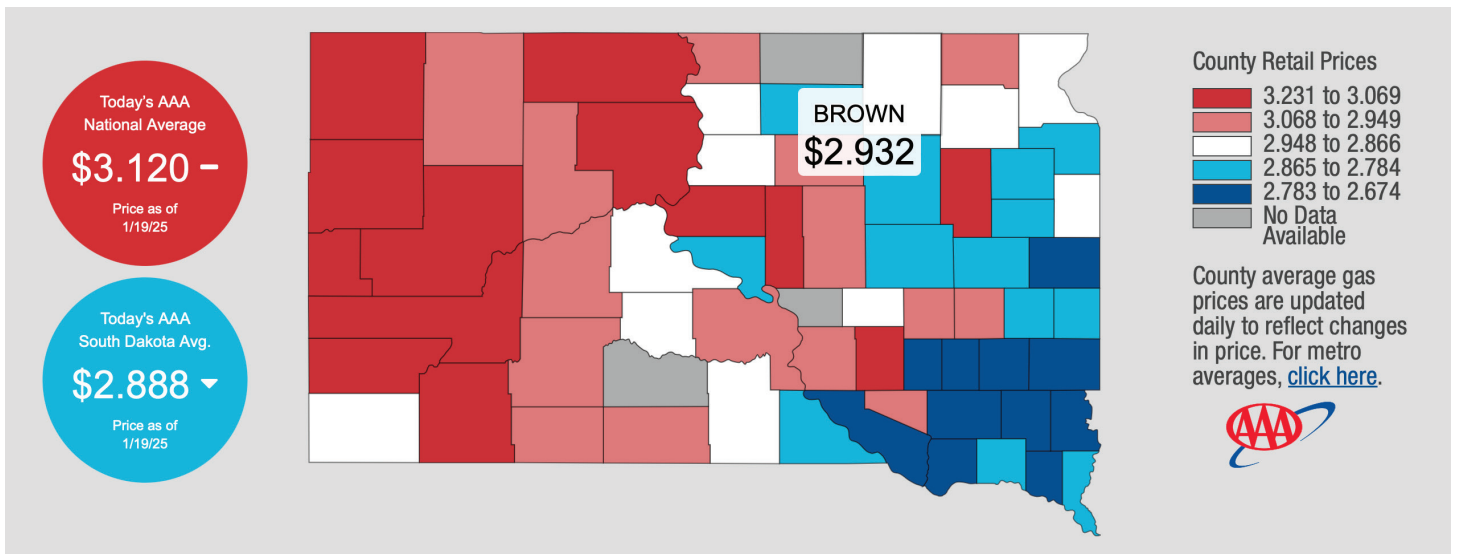
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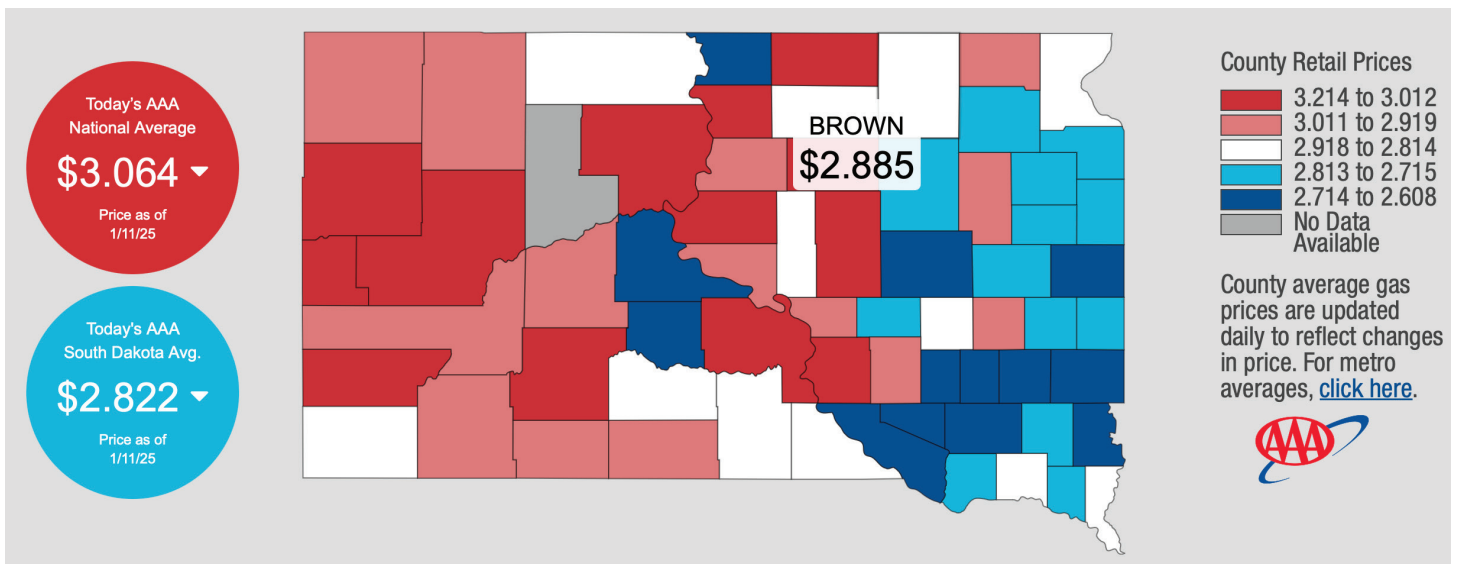
## South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$2.888	\$3.076	\$3.533	\$3.370
Yesterday Avg.	\$2.889	\$3.079	\$3.517	\$3.363
Week Ago Avg.	\$2.806	\$3.044	\$3.450	\$3.271
Month Ago Avg.	\$2.826	\$3.016	\$3.450	\$3.240
Year Ago Avg.	\$2.869	\$3.007	\$3.506	\$3.714

### This Week



### Last Week



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## Drought Classification

None

D0 (Abnormally Dry)

D1 (Moderate Drought)

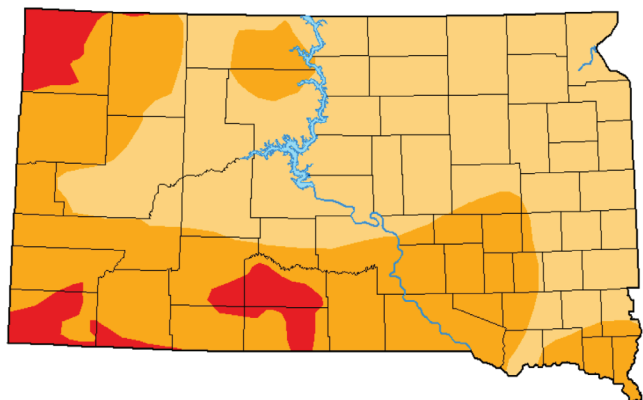
D2 (Severe Drought)

D3 (Extreme Drought)

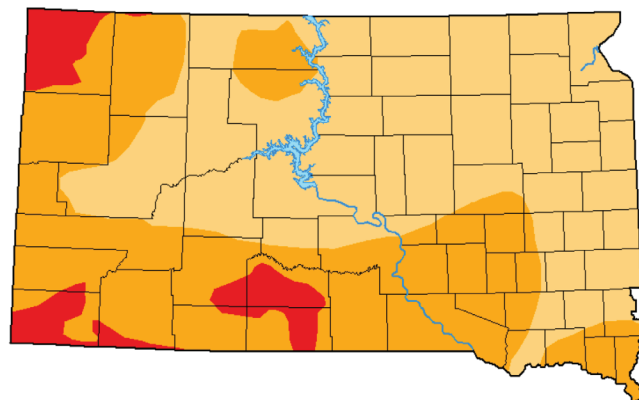
D4 (Exceptional Drought)

No Data

## Drought Monitor



January 7



December 31

The Central High Plains continued to have worsening drought conditions and moderate drought (D1) was expanded across portions of southwestern Nebraska using 60-day SPI, soil moisture below the 10th percentile, and the NDMC short-term blend. Although light precipitation (less than 0.5 inch, liquid equivalent) fell across parts of south-central to southeastern Kansas, this precipitation was too low to justify any improvements. Elsewhere, across the Central to Northern Great Plains, no changes were made as early to mid-January is a dry time of year. D1 was expanded across southwestern Colorado due to low snow water equivalent and 60-day SPI.

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## EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: What exactly is congestion pricing as just implemented in New York City and how will it help the environment? Should other cities also adopt this policy? – H.M., San Diego, CA

New York City recently became the first U.S. city to implement congestion pricing, a strategy aimed to reduce traffic in extreme congested areas by charging drivers a fee during peak hours. This approach not only helps alleviate traffic but also provides notable environmental benefits.

Congestion pricing seeks to manage demand for road space in busy areas. Drivers pay a fee to enter these zones with electronic tolling systems that track vehicles and collect payments. The revenue generated is usually invested into improving public transportation and infrastructure. For example, New York plans to issue these funds toward improving its subway system, which millions of residents depend on daily.

Reducing the number of vehicles on the road improves air quality. Fewer cars mean lower greenhouse gas emissions and less air pollution, major contributors to climate change and public health problems. Cleaner air also means fewer respiratory issues for residents mainly in the areas near major traffic hubs.

Beyond environmental gains, congestion pricing makes cities more tolerable. If traffic congestion decreases, it leads to faster commute times and less stress for drivers. Streets become quieter and more friendly for pedestrians. Walking and biking are encouraged more if streets are convivial. Cities like London have seen a 30 percent reduction in traffic volumes after executing congestion pricing; there have also been crucial improvements in public transit reliability.

Critics of congestion pricing usually point to worries about fairness. This is generally notable for low-income drivers who may struggle to afford the fees. Small businesses that rely on vehicle deliveries also worry about added costs. However, advocates of congestion pricing argue that the advantages outweigh these challenges. Investments in public transit can make commuting more attainable and affordable for everybody; programs offering discounts or exemptions can help mitigate the impact on vulnerable groups.

Individuals can play a key role in helping congestion pricing succeed. Reduce your own driving by using public transit, biking or walking when possible. Participate in community discussions or campaigns that support congestion pricing. Volunteer or donate to groups advocating for sustainable urban planning. Moreover, you can educate others about the benefits of congestion pricing and how it improves urban life. Support local policies that fund clean energy solutions or improve bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Together, we can create cleaner and less congested urban environments for everyone.

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).

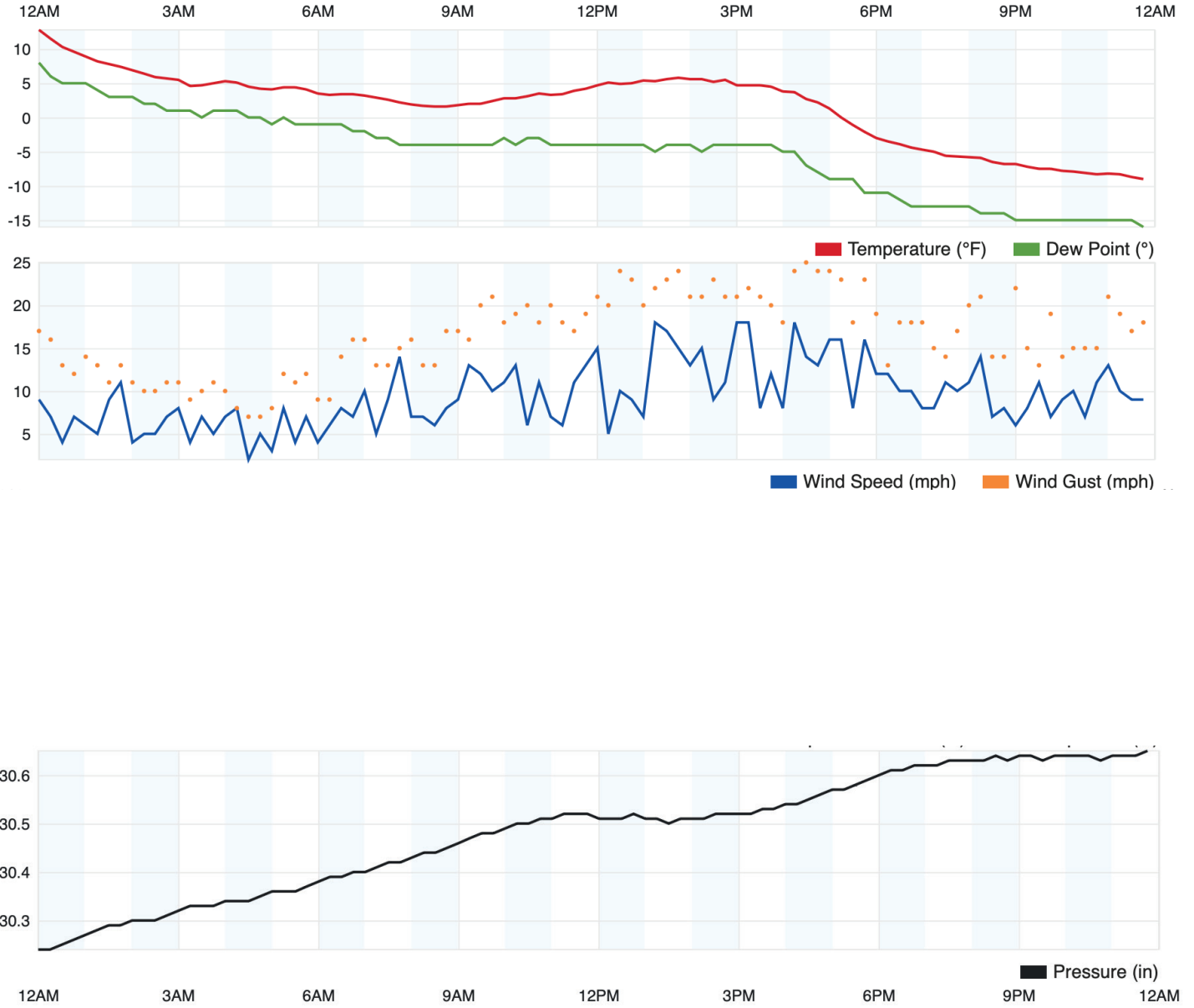


**NYC recently implemented congestion pricing, and other U.S. cities will be watching how it goes to determine if they should also go that route.** Credit: Alper Çuğun, FlickrCC.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs





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Today	Tonight	M.L.King Day	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
<b>High: 3 °F</b>	<b>Low: -16 °F</b>	<b>High: -6 °F</b>	<b>Low: -18 °F</b>	<b>High: 17 °F</b>
Cold	Partly Cloudy	Cold	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny



## Arctic Air Creating Cold Weather Hazards

January 19, 2025  
5:22 AM



### Key Messages

- Very cold, Arctic air in place through early next week. Dangerous Wind Chills expected
- **Cold Weather Advisories** for central to northeastern SD & west central MN Sunday evening through Monday morning
- **There are additional Cold Weather headlines for Sunday night through Tuesday morning**

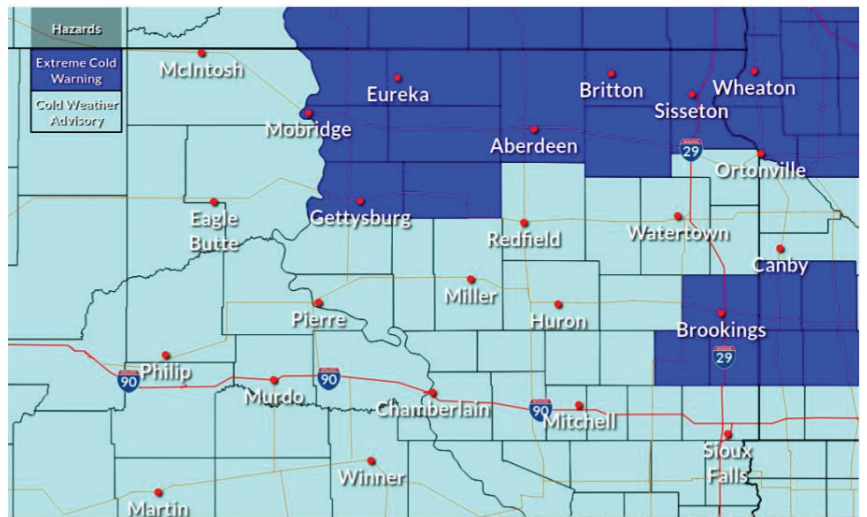
### NEW What Has Changed

- Additional Cold Weather headlines have been posted for Sunday night through Tuesday morning

### Next Scheduled Update

- Sunday Afternoon

### Cold Weather Advisories Sunday evening into Monday Morning



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Dangerously cold temperatures and wind chills are expected through Tuesday. Cold Weather Advisories are in effect through Tuesday morning with Extreme Cold Warnings over northeastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota Sunday evening into Monday morning.

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## Sunday Night into Monday Morning

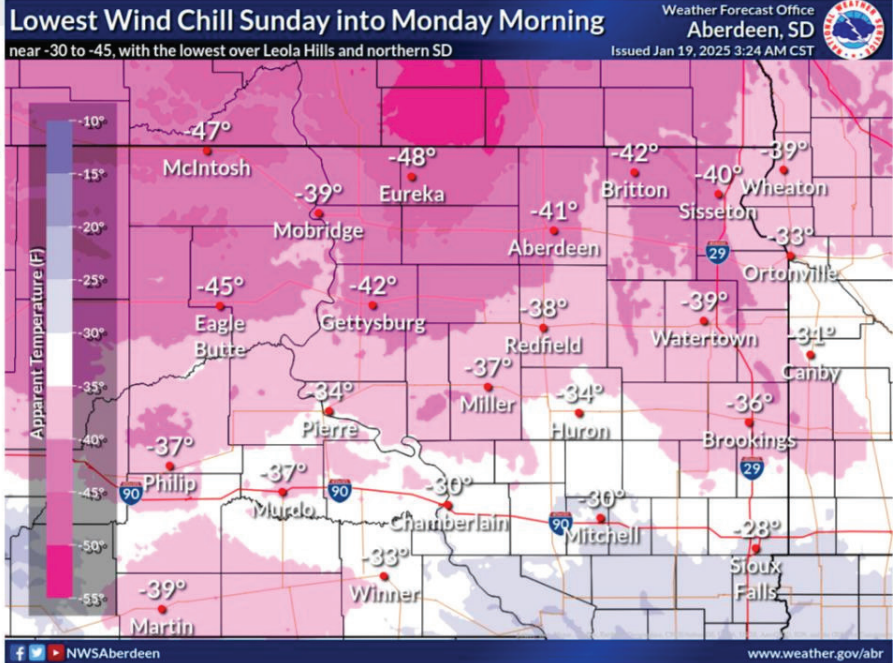
January 19, 2025  
5:24 AM

- **Extreme Cold Warnings** for northeastern SD and west central MN and **Cold Weather Advisories** for central SD for Sunday night through Monday Morning

- Low Temperatures -10 to -20°
- Winds 5 to 20 mph
- **Lowest Wind Chills**  
**-30 to over -45°**



- Frostbite may occur in fewer than 10-30 minutes to exposed skin



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Dangerously cold wind chills expected Sunday evening into Monday morning with wind chill readings of -30 to -45°. Frostbite may occur in fewer than 10-30 minutes on exposed skin.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 13 °F at 12:03 AM

Low Temp: -9 °F at 11:27 PM

Wind: 28 mph at 5:03 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 9 hours, 19 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 60 in 1921

Record Low: -36 in 1943

Average High: 23

Average Low: 1

Average Precip in Jan.: 0.36

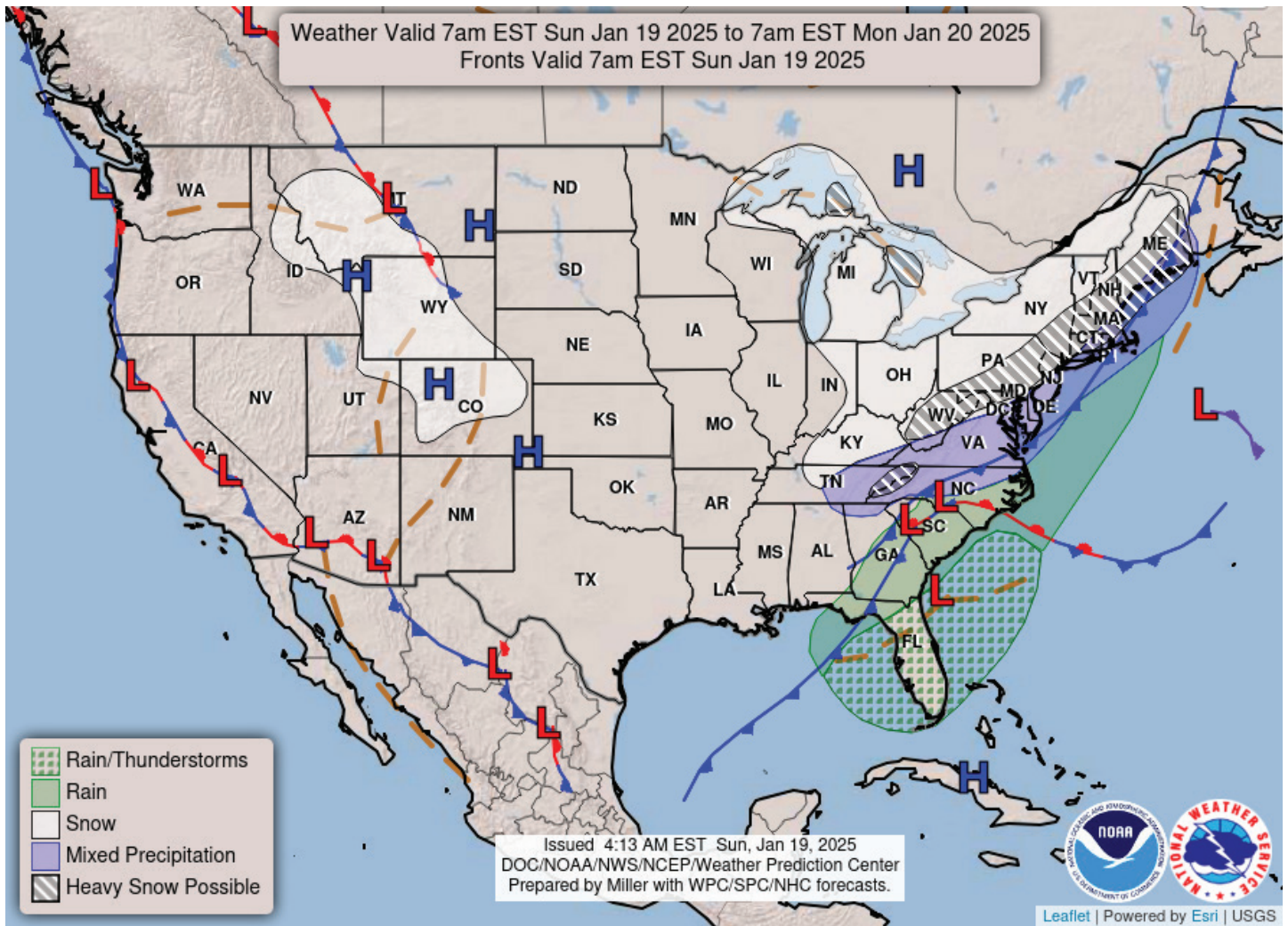
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.36

Precip Year to Date: 21.71

Sunset Tonight: 5:22:52 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:02:53 am



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## Today in Weather History

January 19, 1970: An extremely cold air mass was over settle over South Dakota and western Minnesota. After a frigid night, daytime high temperatures struggled to reach the single digits below zero. Overnight low temperatures across the area were from 25 below to 34 below zero, with daytime highs from 3 above at Sisseton to 12 degrees below zero at Pierre. Record low temperatures were set at Wheaton, Watertown, Pierre, and Kennebec. The temperature fell to 32 degrees below zero at Pierre, 33 degrees below zero at Watertown and Wheaton, and 34 degrees zero at Kennebec. Aberdeen fell to 35 degrees below zero, Sisseton dropped to 26 degrees below zero, Mobridge fell to 25 degrees below zero, Sisseton fell to 26 degrees below zero, and Timber Lake fell to 27 degrees below zero.

1810 - The famous "cold day" in New England. Gale force winds wrecked homes, and accompanied a sudden overnight drop in temperature of 50 degrees. Tragedy struck Sanbornton NH where three children froze to death. (David Ludlum)

1883: The steamers of Cimbria and Sultan collided in the North Sea due to dense fog. This collision resulted in the death of over 350 people. 1

1933 - Giant Forest CA received 60 inches of snow in just 24 hours, a state record, and the second highest 24 hour total of record for the U.S. (David Ludlum)

1961: Eight inches of snow fell and caused crippling traffic jams around the Washington D.C. area on the eve of John Kennedy's inauguration. The president-elect had to cancel dinner plans and, in a struggle to keep other commitments, reportedly had only 4 hours of sleep. Former President Herbert Hoover was unable to fly into Washington National Airport due to the weather, and he had to miss the swearing-in ceremony.

1977: Snow fell in South Florida for the first time in recorded history.

1987 - A storm tracking toward the northeastern U.S. produced up to 14 inches of snow in northern Indiana. Peru IN reported a foot of snow. Six cities in Florida reported new record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 88 degrees at Miami equalled their record for the month of January. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A powerful storm hit the central U.S. producing blizzard conditions in the Central High Plains, and severe thunderstorms in the Lower Mississippi Valley. Snowfall totals ranged up to 36 inches at Wolf Creek Pass CO, with 31 inches at Elsmere NE. Tornadoes claimed five lives in Tennessee, and a tornado at Cullman AL injured 35 persons. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - The high temperature for the day at Fairbanks, AK, was a frigid 41 degrees below zero, and the morning low of 24 degrees below zero at Anchorage AK was their coldest reading in fourteen years. (National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in eastern Texas and Louisiana. Tornadoes at Garland TX and Apple Springs TX each injured one person. Heavy snow spread from the Southern and Central Rockies into the Great Plains. Storm totals in New Mexico reached 36 inches at Gascon. Totals in the Central Plains ranged up to 15 inches near McCook NE and Garden City KS. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1993: An unusual series of Pacific storm systems tracked across Arizona from January 6th through the 19th, producing heavy and prolonged precipitation across the state. These heavy rains caused the most widespread and severe flooding in Arizona since the turn of the century. The protracted rainfall over the 2 weeks caused multiple flood peaks on most streams and rivers. A large garbage landfill and portions of the new Mill Avenue Bridge under construction were washed away by the raging Salt River. The Gillespie Dam west of Phoenix was damaged as high water spread throughout low-lying areas. One man drowned while trying to cross the Agua Fria River. The image below is from Storm Data.

1996: January 1996 is known as one of the worst snowmelt floods on record for the Mid-Atlantic. The region saw blizzard conditions on January 6 and 7th, which produced 15 to 24 inches east of I-95, and 2 to 3 feet of snow west of I-95. With a tremendous amount of snow on the ground, on January 19, temperatures soared into the 50s and 60s ahead of an approaching cold front. At 7 am in Washington, D.C., was reporting a temperature of 60 degrees with a dewpoint of 60 degrees, both unusually high for a January morning. The warm temperatures combined with rain to melt much of the snowpack, released into the waterways.



## LIVING IN THE SHADOW

There is nothing more certain than death and nothing more uncertain than life or the time of one's death. Although we cannot prepare for the events that will come into our lives, we can prepare for the day that our life will end. So, it's wise to be prepared for that unknown day when we will meet God face to face.

In Psalm 23 David wrote, "Even though I will walk through the dark valley of death, I will not be afraid for You are close beside me." David was prepared for "the valley."

David said with confidence that "I will walk through." Death was not a dead-end street for David nor is it a dead-end street for the Christian. It is a throughway to heaven.

For many the "shadow of death" is a very frightening thought. Its dampening effect reminds us that we are entirely helpless as we face its uncertain hour. There are many enemies in life that we can face and fight – pain and sorrow, suffering and grief, hunger, rejection and abandonment. But death? Fighting against it is useless. It is beyond our control.

But even though we may be helpless as we face the certainty of death, Christians are not hopeless as we face eternity. There is a Person who will meet us at the "appointed time" and walk us safely through the "valley of the shadow."

Prayer: We rejoice, Father, in Your promise that for the Christian "to die is gain!" We thank You for Your presence in our lives and the peace that we have in You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today : Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me. Psalm 23:4

*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: 01.17.25

8 10 37 54 69 22

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$20,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 01.18.25

16 28 41 47 52 3

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$22,070,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 01.18.25

4 12 13 32 43 17

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 30 Mins 5 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 01.18.25

8 11 19 20 34

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$20,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 01.18.25

7 34 40 48 57 17

TOP PRIZE:

**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 01.18.25

14 31 35 64 69 23

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

**\$20,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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## Upcoming Groton Events

- 01/05/2025 Pancake Sunday, Historical Society Fundraiser, 10am-1pm, Community Center
- 01/26/2025 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed at the Community Center 10am-1pm
- 01/26/2025 87th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 02/02/2025 Pancake Sunday, Historical Society Fundraiser, 10am-1pm, Community Center
- 02/05/2025 FB Live Electronic Hwy 12 Sign Drawing City Hall 12pm
- 03/02/2025 Pancake Sunday, Historical Society Fundraiser, 10am-1pm, Community Center
- 03/22/2025 Spring Vendor Fair at the GHS Gym 10am-2pm
- 04/05/2025 Dueling Duo Baseball/Softball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39, 6-11:30pm
- 04/06/2025 Pancake Sunday, Historical Society Fundraiser, 10am-1pm, Community Center
- 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
- 06/07/2025 Day of Play
- 07/04/2025 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/13/2025 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
- 07/09/2025 Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar at the Groton Legion 11am-1pm
- 08/09/2025 2nd Annual Celebration in the Park/Rib Cook-Off 1-9:30pm
- 09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
- 11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1:30pm



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

### Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

#### **GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL**

Aberdeen Central 56, Tea 41  
Bennett County 80, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 22  
Beresford 63, Lac qui Parle Valley, Minn. 42  
Bon Homme 48, Chamberlain 28  
Bowman County, N.D. 43, Belle Fourche 31  
Brandon Valley 70, Douglas 21  
Canton 55, Castlewood 31  
Centerville 55, Ethan 47  
Colman-Egan 71, Luverne, Minn. 39  
Dakota Valley 50, Groton 40  
DeSmet 62, Dawson-Boyd, Minn. 37  
Deubrook 67, Lakota Tech 41  
Edgemont 29, New Underwood 26  
Faith 43, Upton, Wyo. 30  
Flandreau 41, Clark-Willow Lake 40  
Garretson 56, Howard 34  
Gayville-Volin High School 55, Burke 40  
Hamlin 59, Crofton, Neb. 56  
Lemmon High School 53, Dupree 23  
Lennox 48, St Thomas More 38  
Leola-Frederick High School 37, Ellendale, N.D. 27  
Lower Brule 55, Flandreau Indian 35  
Mahpiya Luta Red Cloud 56, Vermillion 34  
McLaughlin 72, Crow Creek Tribal School 42  
Milbank 64, Dell Rapids 45  
Mobridge-Pollock 64, Shiloh, N.D. 48  
Newell 50, Hot Springs 44  
Parkston 51, Lyman 44  
Rock Valley, Iowa 66, Dell Rapids St Mary 39  
Scotland/Menno 38, Alcester-Hudson 37  
Sioux Falls Christian 65, Rapid City Christian 34  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 80, Yankton 23  
Sisseton 72, Winnebago, Neb. 43  
Spearfish 46, Harrisburg 27  
St. Francis Indian 53, Todd County 47  
Sturgis Brown High School 60, Rapid City Stevens 33  
Sundance High School, Wyo. 49, Hill City 41  
Tri-Valley 42, Kadoka 33  
Viborg-Hurley 64, Corsica/Stickney 47  
Wall 65, Lead-Deadwood 19  
Hanson Classic=  
Arlington 55, Hanson 50  
Elk Point-Jefferson 47, Aberdeen Roncalli 42

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Harding County 47, Hitchcock-Tulare 40

## BOYS PREP BASKETBALL

Aberdeen Christian 76, Timber Lake 63  
Alcester-Hudson 54, Scotland/Menno 43  
Belle Fourche 56, Bowman County, N.D. 43  
Bennett County 48, Jones County 44  
Beresford 68, Lac qui Parle Valley, Minn. 64  
Brandon Valley 61, Douglas 43  
Bridgewater-Emery 54, Canistota 39  
Canton 64, Mitchell Christian 47  
Castlewood 49, West Central 45  
Chamberlain 67, Bon Homme 35  
Clark-Willow Lake 55, Flandreau 43  
Crazy Horse 52, Lyman 51  
Crow Creek Tribal School 90, McLaughlin 35  
Dakota Valley 70, Groton 64  
Dell Rapids 78, Dawson-Boyd, Minn. 72  
Faith 54, Edgemont 36  
Faulkton 68, Redfield 44  
Gayville-Volin High School 71, Burke 35  
Harrisburg 50, Spearfish 44  
Hill City 61, Sundance High School, Wyo. 47  
Hills-Beaver Creek, Minn. 48, Colman-Egan 46  
Hot Springs 65, Moorcroft, Wyo. 31  
Leola-Frederick High School 54, Ellendale, N.D. 25  
Lower Brule 52, Sisseton 36  
Luverne, Minn. 67, DeSmet 50  
Milbank 56, Dell Rapids 44  
Northwestern 73, Little Wound 68  
Philip 61, White River 56  
Pine Ridge 64, Sioux Valley 34  
Rapid City Stevens 59, Sturgis Brown High School 58  
Sioux Falls Christian 71, Rapid City Christian 62  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 66, Yankton 43  
St. Francis Indian 87, Todd County 62  
Stanley County 60, Kadoka 52  
Tea 65, Aberdeen Central 40  
Wall 91, Lead-Deadwood 54

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

## South Dakota State earns 84-70 win over Oral Roberts

By The Associated Press undefined

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Oscar Cluff's 21 points helped South Dakota State defeat Oral Roberts 84-70 on Saturday night.

Cluff added 20 rebounds for the Jackrabbits (12-8, 3-2 Summit League). Joe Sayler scored 17 points while going 6 of 15 from the floor, including 3 for 8 from 3-point range, and 2 for 3 from the free-throw line. Matthew Mors had 11 points and shot 5 for 9, including 1 for 4 from beyond the arc.

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Issac McBride led the way for the Golden Eagles (5-13, 1-4) with 26 points and two steals. Oral Roberts also got 15 points and seven rebounds from JoJo Moore. Jalen Miller had 15 points.

## White scores 32, N.D. State knocks off South Dakota 103-77

By The Associated Press undefined

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Jacari White's 32 points led North Dakota State over South Dakota 103-77 on Saturday.

White shot 10 for 13 (5 for 7 from 3-point range) and 7 of 7 from the free-throw line for the Bison (15-6, 4-2 Summit League). Jacksen Moni added 17 points while shooting 7 for 12, including 2 for 4 from beyond the arc and had five assists. Noah Feddersen shot 5 of 9 from the field, including 0 for 4 from 3-point range, and went 6 for 7 from the line to finish with 16 points.

Isaac Bruns finished with 17 points for the Coyotes (11-9, 2-3). South Dakota also got 15 points, six rebounds and two steals from Chase Forte. Mayuom Buom finished with 13 points.

It was the first loss at home for the Coyotes, ending a 10-game winning streak.

## Extreme cold forecast for much of US in coming days

By JACK DURA and JULIE WALKER Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Another blast of winter weather is expected in parts of the U.S. in the coming days, including bone-chilling wind in the Northern Plains and unusual snow and ice in the Gulf Coast area.

Cold weather forecasted for Monday for Washington, D.C., prompted President-elect Donald Trump's inaugural ceremony to be moved inside the U.S. Capitol Rotunda.

Much of the U.S. from the Rockies into the Northern Plains will see colder than normal temperatures starting Sunday into the coming week, including forecasted wind chills down to minus 40 degrees F (minus 40 degrees C) or colder in the Dakotas and northern Minnesota, National Weather Service Meteorologist Marc Chenard said.

In such cold conditions, frostbite can develop on exposed skin in 10 minutes or less, so people should don coats, hats and gloves and minimize time outdoors, said Connor Smith, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Bismarck.

As happened earlier this month, this latest cold snap comes from a disruption in the polar vortex, the ring of cold air usually trapped about the North Pole.

The cold air will moderate as it moves southward and eastward, but the central and eastern U.S. will still be cold with highs in the teens and 20s on Monday into Tuesday, Chenard said. The Mid-Atlantic and Northeast also will have highs in the teens and 20s, lows in the single digits and below zero degrees F (minus 18 C) and wind chills below zero.

"Cold weather will impact a lot of the country, especially the Rockies and points east," Chenard said.

The South

Unusual wintry weather of snow, sleet and freezing rain threaten Texas into northern Florida and the Carolinas, he said. Impacts are expected to start in Texas on Monday night and spread across the Gulf Coast and Southeast on Tuesday into Wednesday.

"Will be another relatively fast-moving storm but likely to produce some impactful winter weather in areas that don't see it as often," Chenard said.

Impacts along the coast might include sleet, freezing rain and ice accumulation on roadways, and primarily snow and maybe sleet away from the coast, he said. The potential for several inches of snow could likely cause travel disruptions for areas not used to snow, he said.

Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry on Saturday issued a state of emergency in advance of the wintry weather. He encouraged Louisianans to be prepared and to monitor the weather forecast.

The Mid-Atlantic and Northeast

Meanwhile, snow will move across parts of the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast, starting in the Mid-Atlantic on Sunday and spreading toward New York City and into New England later that day, said Chenard. The

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short burst of heavier snow could bring 2 inches (5 centimeters) to 8 inches (20 centimeters), Chenard said.

The wintry weather is typical for the area and will bring accumulating, plowable snowfall, Chenard said. Motorists could encounter treacherous conditions out East, and some airports could see issues, he said.

The forecast for snow and frigid temperatures prompted Baltimore officials to cancel the city's annual Martin Luther King Jr. parade scheduled for Monday.

Mayor Brandon Scott said on the social platform X that it was a "difficult decision" made out of "an abundance of caution for the safety of our participants and spectators."

The cancellation marks the second year in a row that the parade was halted due to concerns about winter weather.

In Connecticut, Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont has directed the state's severe cold weather protocol to go into effect, beginning 6 p.m. on Sunday, and remaining in place through noon on Friday. That's when temperatures are expected to remain freezing throughout the daytime hours, while overnight temperatures are anticipated to dip into the single digits and possibly below zero.

When activated, the state's severe cold weather protocol allows state agencies and municipalities to coordinate with homeless shelters and a 24-hour hotline for community services to ensure anyone in need can receive shelter from the outdoors, including transportation to shelters.

## Middle East latest: A long-awaited Gaza ceasefire starts after a delay

By The Associated Press undefined

A ceasefire in the Gaza Strip took effect on Sunday following an almost three-hour delay after Hamas was late to name the three hostages it plans to release.

The announcement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said the ceasefire began at 11:15 a.m. local time (0915 GMT). Israel said earlier it would keep fighting until the names were handed over in accordance with the agreement.

Hamas blamed the delay in handing over the names on "technical field reasons." It said in a statement that it is committed to the ceasefire deal announced last week.

The ceasefire is set to pause the fighting after 15 months of war and see the release of dozens of hostages held by the militants in the Gaza Strip and hundreds of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. Israel's Cabinet approved the deal early on Saturday.

Brokered by mediators the United States, Qatar and Egypt in months of indirect talks between the warring sides, the ceasefire is the second truce achieved in the devastating conflict.

The Hamas-led Oct. 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel killed some 1,200 people and left some 250 others captive. Nearly 100 hostages remain in Gaza.

Israel responded with an offensive that has killed more than 46,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, who do not distinguish between civilians and militants but say women and children make up more than half the dead.

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Here's the latest:

Israel names all 3 hostages set to release on Sunday

TEL AVIV, Israel — An Israeli official confirmed that Romi Gonen, 24, Emily Damari, 28, and Doron Steinbrecher, 31, were set to be released later on Sunday.

Gonen was abducted from the Nova music festival, while the other two were kidnapped from Kibbutz Kfar Aza. Damari is an Israeli-British dual citizen.

The official said the families had approved the publication of the names. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

— By Tia Goldenberg

Israeli media identify 1 of 3 hostages set to be released Sunday

TEL AVIV, Israel — Israeli media have identified one of the three hostages set to be released Sunday as part of a ceasefire agreement with Hamas.

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Romi Gonen, 24, who was abducted from a music festival at the start of the Israel-Hamas war on Oct. 7, 2023, and appeared on the Hamas list, is set to be released, media reported, citing her brother's social media.

Israel has not confirmed any of the three names provided by Hamas, and the other two families have not yet commented.

Israelis anxiously await the return of hostages

SDEROT, Israel — In the hours before the ceasefire between Hamas and Israel took effect Sunday, some Israelis gathered on a hill overlooking the war-ravaged Gaza Strip, where Israeli strikes continued for several hours after a delay in the truce.

Warplanes roared, helicopters thudded and drones buzzed overhead as smoke plumes rose from the rubble of northern Gaza, as seen from across the border with Israel.

Asher Pizem said he grew up next to the sounds of war in the southern Israeli city of Sderot. He welcomed the expected return of the hostages held in Gaza, calling them his "brothers and sisters."

But the 35-year-old criticized the ceasefire-for-hostages deal that he saw as kicking the problem down the road. He said he believed that by allowing humanitarian aid into Gaza, the Israeli government is fueling the regrouping and rearming of Hamas.

"They will take the time and attack again," he said.

An Israeli airstrike kills 8 in Gaza, medics say

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip — An Israeli airstrike killed at least eight people in the Gaza Strip after the ceasefire was delayed, Palestinian medical officials said.

Nasser Hospital in the southern Gaza city of Khan Yunis confirmed the casualties from Sunday's strike, which it said had occurred around two hours after the truce was supposed to take effect.

Israel said Hamas delayed the start of the truce by not naming the hostages it was supposed to release later on Sunday. Hamas publicized the names around two hours after the ceasefire had been due to begin.

Hamas names the 3 hostages it plans to release Sunday as part of ceasefire deal

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — The Hamas militant group has named the three hostages it plans to release on Sunday, potentially clearing the way for the start of a Gaza ceasefire after a delay.

Israel had earlier said it would continue fighting in Gaza until the names were handed over in accordance with the agreement. The start of the ceasefire has been delayed by more than two hours.

There was no immediate comment from Israel after Hamas' armed wing published the names on social media.

Hard-liner Ben-Gvir and his party's other Cabinet members submit their resignations

JERUSALEM — The party of Israel's hard-line National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir says its Cabinet ministers submitted their resignations from the government on Sunday in opposition to the Gaza ceasefire deal.

The departure of the Jewish Power party from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government does not bring down the coalition or affect the ceasefire. But Ben-Gvir's departure destabilizes the coalition.

Israeli official says ceasefire will happen despite delay

JERUSALEM — An Israeli official said Sunday that the Gaza ceasefire deal is expected to go forward despite a delay over a list of hostages meant to be handed over by Hamas to Israel.

The official said the timing of the deal's progress remained in question. But the official said mediators had provided assurances that Hamas would deliver the list.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing efforts to resolve the matter.

Israel announced Sunday the ceasefire would not come into effect as planned until Hamas hands over the list of hostages set to be freed later in the day as part of its commitments under the deal.

The delay on the first day of the ceasefire underscored the fragility of the internationally mediated deal.

— By Josef Federman

Israel says it recovered the body of a soldier killed in 2014 hours before Gaza ceasefire

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Israeli authorities said Sunday that forces had recovered and returned

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the body of a soldier killed in the 2014 Israel-Hamas war, whose remains were held by the Palestinian militant group in Gaza.

Israeli military spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said a complicated operation involving elite commando forces returned the body of Oron Shaul overnight Saturday.

Shaul, 21 at the time of his death, was killed in battle in the war a decade ago. His body was snatched by Hamas and held since.

Hamas still holds the body of another soldier killed during that war, Hadar Goldin.

Both of the soldiers' families had staged a public campaign to have the bodies returned.

The bodies were expected to be returned as part of a fragile ceasefire deal with Hamas in exchange for the hostages and bodies it holds.

UN's humanitarian affairs agency ramps up preparations to provide aid to Gaza

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N.'s humanitarian affairs agency says it has ratcheted up its preparations for providing aid to Gaza after the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas takes effect.

Muhannad Hadi, the agency's humanitarian coordinator for the territory, said Saturday the United Nations and its partners are ready to leverage the opportunity for large-scale relief.

Hadi referenced in a statement the agreements reached on implementing humanitarian components in the first phase of the ceasefire, including the provision of supplies "including water, food, health and shelter to people across Gaza and the long-awaited release of hostages."

The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas is set to go into effect at 8:30 a.m. local time (0630 GMT) on Sunday, mediator Qatar said. It will pause the fighting after 15 months of war and see the release of dozens of hostages held by the militants in the Gaza Strip and hundreds of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel.

Dozens of Israelis protest ceasefire deal in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM — Dozens of Israelis protested the ceasefire deal in Jerusalem on Saturday night, briefly blocking a main road as they shouted for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to resign and the war to continue.

Many carried faux coffins draped in the Israeli flag as well as banners calling the ceasefire a "betrayal" of Israeli soldiers killed in the war.

Yehoshua Shin, whose son was killed fighting Hamas militants on Oct. 7, criticized the deal for releasing Palestinians from prison and called on American president-elect Donald Trump to scrap the deal until there is "total victory" over the Hamas militant group.

Netanyahu says Israel treating ceasefire with Hamas as temporary

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Saturday that Israel is treating the ceasefire with Hamas as temporary and retains the right to continue fighting if necessary.

Speaking to the nation just 12 hours before the ceasefire is to start, he claimed that he had the support of President-elect Donald Trump, who he said he spoke with on Wednesday.

Netanyahu also touted Israel's military successes in Lebanon and Syria as the reason Hamas agreed to a ceasefire. "We have changed the face of the Middle East," Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu stressed that he was able to negotiate the best deal possible even as Israel's far-right Public Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said Saturday he and most of his party would resign from the government in opposition.

## **Gaza ceasefire begins after nearly 3-hour delay as Hamas names hostages to be released Sunday**

By WAFAA SHURAF, SAMY MAGDY and TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — A long-awaited ceasefire in Gaza began after a three-hour delay as Hamas named the three female hostages it plans to free later on Sunday. Israel had vowed to keep fighting until it received the names, as the long and uncertain process aimed at ending the war got off to a bumpy start.

Celebrations erupted across the war-ravaged territory and some Palestinians began returning to their

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homes despite the delay, which underscored the fragility of the agreement. The truce, which started at 11:15 a.m. local time, is a first step toward ultimately ending the conflict and returning nearly 100 hostages abducted in the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack that triggered it.

An Israeli official confirmed that Romi Gonen, 24, Emily Damari, 28, and Doron Steinbrecher, 31, were set to be released later on Sunday. Gonen was abducted from the Nova music festival, while the other two were kidnapped from Kibbutz Kfar Aza. Damari is an Israeli-British dual citizen.

The official said the families had approved the publication of the names. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said earlier Hamas had not lived up to its commitment to provide the names of the three hostages it was set to release in exchange for scores of Palestinian prisoners before the original time for the ceasefire to start. The military said it would continue to attack targets in Gaza until the names were provided.

An Israeli airstrike killed at least eight people in the southern city of Khan Younis after the ceasefire was delayed. Nasser Hospital confirmed the casualties from Sunday's strike, which it said had occurred around two hours after the truce was supposed to take effect. Gaza's Health Ministry reported another three deaths from strikes on Sunday in Gaza City.

Hamas had earlier blamed the delay in handing over the names on "technical field reasons." It said in a statement that it is committed to the ceasefire deal announced last week.

The party of Israel's hard-line National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir meanwhile said its Cabinet ministers submitted their resignations from the government on Sunday in opposition to the ceasefire. The departure of the Jewish Power party weakens Netanyahu's coalition but will not affect the ceasefire.

In a separate development, Israel announced that it had recovered the body of Oron Shaul, a soldier who was killed in the 2014 Israel-Hamas war, in a special operation. The bodies of Shaul and another soldier, Hadar Goldin, remained in Gaza after the 2014 war and had not been returned despite a public campaign by their families.

Delay underscores fragility of the agreement

The planned ceasefire, agreed after a year of intensive mediation by the United States, Qatar and Egypt, is the first step in a long and fragile process aimed at winding down the 15-month war.

Netanyahu said he had instructed the military that the ceasefire "will not begin until Israel has in its possession the list of hostages to be freed, which Hamas committed to provide." He had issued a similar warning the night before.

The 42-day first phase of the ceasefire should see a total of 33 hostages returned from Gaza and hundreds of Palestinian prisoners and detainees released. Israeli forces should pull back into a buffer zone inside Gaza, and many displaced Palestinians should be able to return home. The devastated territory should also see a surge in humanitarian aid.

This is just the second ceasefire in the war, longer and more consequential than the weeklong pause over a year ago, with the potential to end the fighting for good.

Negotiations on the far more difficult second phase of this ceasefire should begin in just over two weeks. Major questions remain, including whether the war will resume after the six-week first phase and how the rest of the nearly 100 hostages in Gaza will be freed.

Palestinians celebrate despite delay

Across the Gaza Strip, celebrations erupted early Sunday as people hoped for respite after 15 months of war that killed tens of thousands and destroyed large areas of the territory. Masked militants appeared at some of the celebrations, where the crowds chanted slogans in support of them, according to Associated Press reporters in Gaza.

Gaza's Civil Defense, first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government, held a parade in Gaza City, where the rescuers waved a Palestinian flag alongside other revelers, according to AP footage, which also showed a small group of people carrying the flags of Islamic Jihad, the second largest militant group after Hamas, which took part in the Oct. 7 attack.

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The Hamas-run police began deploying in public after mostly lying low due to Israeli airstrikes. Gaza City residents said they had seen them operating in parts of the city, and the AP reporter in Khan Younis saw a small number out on the streets.

Palestinian residents began returning to their homes in parts of Gaza City early Sunday, even as tank shelling continued to the east, closer to the Israeli border, overnight. Families could be seen making their way back on foot, with their belongings loaded on donkey carts, residents said.

"The sound of shelling and explosions didn't stop," said Ahmed Matter, a Gaza City resident. He said he saw many families leaving their shelters and returning to their homes. "People are impatient. They want this madness to end," he said.

Reactions in Israel were more muted, as people hoped for the safe return of the hostages but remained divided over the agreement.

Asher Pizem, 35, from the Israeli city of Sderot near Gaza, said he eagerly awaited the return of the captives. But he said the deal had merely postponed the next confrontation with Hamas and criticized Israel for allowing aid into Gaza, saying it would contribute to the revival of the militant group.

"They will take the time and attack again," he said while overlooking smoldering ruins in Gaza from a hillock in southern Israel with others who had gathered there.

Israel's Cabinet approved the ceasefire early Saturday in a rare session during the Jewish Sabbath, more than two days after mediators announced the deal. The warring sides were under pressure from both the outgoing Biden administration and President-elect Donald Trump to achieve a deal before the U.S. presidential inauguration on Monday.

The toll of the war has been immense, and new details on its scope will now emerge.

Over 46,000 Palestinians have been killed, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led attack on southern Israel that sparked the war killed over 1,200. Hundreds of Israeli soldiers have died.

Some 90% of Gaza's population has been displaced. The United Nations says the health system, road network and other vital infrastructure have been badly damaged. Rebuilding – if the ceasefire reaches its final phase – will take several years at least. Major questions about Gaza's future, political and otherwise, remain unresolved.

## TikTok goes dark as US ban takes effect

By HALELUYA HADERO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Millions of TikTok users in the United States are no longer able to watch videos on the social media platform as a federal ban on the immensely popular app takes effect.

The company's app was removed Saturday evening from prominent app stores, including the ones operated by Apple and Google, while its website told users that the short-form video platform was no longer available. The blackout began just hours before the law took effect.

Users opening the TikTok app on Saturday encountered a pop-up message preventing them from scrolling videos that read, "Sorry, TikTok isn't available right now."

"A law banning TikTok has been enacted in the U.S.," the message said. "Unfortunately that means you can't use TikTok for now."

"We are fortunate that President Trump has indicated that he will work with us on a solution to reinstate TikTok once he takes office," the notice continued, in a reference to President-elect Donald Trump's pledge to "save" the platform. The company told its users to stay tuned.

The only option the message gives to U.S. users is to close the app or click another option leading them to the platform's website. There, users are shown the same message and given the option to download their data, an action TikTok previously said may take days to process.

Before the announcement went out, TikTok said in another message to users that its service would be "temporarily unavailable" and the company was working to restore its U.S. service "as soon as possible." But how long the platform will remain dark is unclear.

Apple said in a statement on its website that TikTok and ByteDance apps were no longer available in



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the U.S., while visitors to the country could have limited access. "Apple is obligated to follow the laws in the jurisdictions where it operates," the company said.

"If you already have these apps installed on your device, they will remain on your device. But they can't be re-downloaded if deleted or restored if you move to a new device. In-app purchases and new subscriptions are no longer possible," the statement said, adding that the change could impact performance, security and compatibility with future versions of iOS and iPadOS.

TikTok CEO Shou Chew posted a video thanking Trump for his commitment to work with the company to keep the app available in the U.S. and a "strong stand for the first amendment and against arbitrary censorship."

"We are grateful and pleased to have the support of a president who truly understands our platform. One who has used talk to express his own thoughts and perspectives, connecting with the world and generating more than 60 billion views of his content in the process," Chew said.

In an interview with NBC News on Saturday, President-elect Donald Trump said he was thinking about giving TikTok a 90-day extension that would allow them to continue operating. If such an extension happens, Trump — who once favored a TikTok ban — said it would "probably" be announced Monday, the day that he is sworn in as president. TikTok CEO Shou Chew is expected to attend Trump's inauguration with a prime seating location.

In Washington, lawmakers and administration officials have long raised concerns about the app, which they see as a national security threat due to its Chinese ownership. TikTok is owned by ByteDance, a technology company based in Beijing that operates the well-known video editing app CapCut and Lemon8, both of which were also unavailable for service Saturday evening.

The federal law required ByteDance to cut ties with TikTok by Sunday or face a nationwide ban. The statute was passed by Congress in April after it was included as part of a high-priority \$95 billion package that provided foreign aid to Ukraine and Israel. President Joe Biden quickly signed it, and then TikTok and ByteDance quickly sued on First Amendment grounds.

While defending the law in court, the Biden administration argued it was concerned about TikTok collecting vast swaths of U.S. user data that could fall into the hands of the Chinese government through coercion.

Officials have also warned the algorithm that fuels what users see on the app is vulnerable to manipulation by Chinese authorities, who can use it to shape content on the platform in a way that's difficult to detect. But to date, the U.S. has not publicly provided evidence of TikTok handing user data to Chinese authorities or tinkering with its algorithm to benefit Chinese interests.

The Supreme Court unanimously decided on Friday the risk to national security posed by TikTok's ties to China overcomes concerns about limiting speech by the app or its 170 million users in the United States.

After TikTok's service started going dark, some in China slammed the U.S. and accused it of suppressing the popular app. In a post on the Chinese social media platform Weibo, Hu Xijin, a former editor-in-chief for the Chinese Communist Party-run newspaper Global Times, said "TikTok's announcement to halt services in America marks the darkest moment in the development of internet."

"A country that claims to have the most freedom of speech has carried out the most brutal suppression of an internet application," said Hu, who is now a political commentator. TikTok does not operate in China, where ByteDance instead offers Douyin, the Chinese sibling of TikTok that follows Beijing's strict censorship rules.

After the court ruling, both White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre and Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco said the Biden administration would leave the law's implementation to President-elect Donald Trump given that his inauguration falls the day after the ban takes effect.

But TikTok said on Friday evening it "will be forced to go dark" if the administration didn't provide a "definitive statement" to the companies, such as Apple, Google and Oracle, that deliver its service in the U.S.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre called TikTok's demand a "stunt" and said there was no reason for TikTok or other companies "to take actions in the next few days before the Trump administration takes office." But despite those statements from the administration, confusion lingered about what

would happen until TikTok began blocking its service.

Under the law, mobile app stores are barred from offering TikTok and internet hosting services are prohibited from delivering the service to American users. Violators could incur fines of up to \$5,000 for each user who continues to access TikTok, meaning penalties the companies could face if they continue offering TikTok could total to a large sum.

As its written, experts said the law does not require TikTok to take down its platform, so its unclear if the company voluntarily shut it down or was unable to continue the service alive after losing access support from its tech providers. The company did not respond to questions sent this week about its plans.

The statue allows the sitting president to extend the deadline by 90 days if a sale is in progress. But no clear buyers have emerged, and ByteDance has previously said it won't sell TikTok.

On Saturday, artificial intelligence startup Perplexity AI submitted a proposal to ByteDance to create a new entity that merges Perplexity with TikTok U.S. business, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Perplexity is not asking to purchase the ByteDance algorithm that feeds TikTok user's videos based on their interests and has made the platform such a phenomenon.

Other investors have also been eyeing TikTok. "Shark Tank" star Kevin O'Leary recently said a consortium of investors that he and billionaire Frank McCourt put together offered ByteDance \$20 billion in cash. Trump's Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin also said last year that he was putting together an investor group to buy TikTok.

## **Families of wildfire victims mired in grief, questioning what more could have been done**

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH and MARK THIESSEN Associated Press

The house was burning with her brother-in-law and nephew inside when Jackie McDaniels flagged down a firetruck and begged for help.

"Whoever is in there is no longer alive," she recalled one of the firemen telling her before urging her to flee her Altadena neighborhood. "I pray to God that they were. But it was horrible to have to leave them there."

Now McDaniels, like so many, is facing the gripping realities of grief and questions about what more could have been done. Experts say these survivors are victims themselves; the fires that swept through the Los Angeles area this month were fast-moving and fierce.

"It's really just a different beast of a fire when it's this propagating entity of just total mayhem," said Benjamin Hatchett, a fire meteorologist with the Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere at Colorado State University.

But that doesn't ease the pain or the questions for the families of the more than two dozen killed, some unable to escape, others unaware of what was coming, having survived other blazes unscathed.

Among the dead is Dalyce Curry, who rubbed shoulders with some of the elites of old Hollywood in her youth. To family, she went by a different name.

"Momma Dee, that's the fire," her granddaughter and namesake, Dalyce Kelley, recalls saying as she drove the 95-year-old to her Altadena home on Jan. 7 after a day of medical tests.

But the flames they saw seemed so far away and power was still on. Now Kelley wishes she would have asked more questions, wishes she would have returned earlier.

"I will live with that regret for the rest of my life," she said.

That saddens Jennifer Marlon, a wildfire and climate research scientist at Yale's School of the Environment. She said larger factors were at play, the summer the warmest on record in California, drying out the vegetation that fueled the flames.

"These are, by and large, not situations that people could have really anticipated," she said. "It's incredibly tragic that people are blaming themselves and wracked with guilt."

Yet it is a common response, said Tory Fiedler, a Red Cross disaster mental health manager who is helping to coordinate the response to the wildfires.

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"Most of us get our sense of self and value from what we do in service to others," she said.

"When I'm not able to do that, I feel bad about that," she added. "I feel guilty that I didn't get to help. I didn't do enough. I survived and other people didn't, and I can't help them. And it's not just I survived and other people didn't, but I don't know what to do about that."

Compounding the pain is the fact that many families are still awaiting formal notification from the medical examiner, a process that could take weeks.

During that painful wait, Carol Smith has been praying. Her son, Randy Miod, a 55-year-old surfer, known to friends as Craw Daddy, had lived in his Malibu home for three decades, first as a renter and then the owner. Known as the "Crab Shack," it was a popular hang-out spot for surfers, with loaner boards always available.

She said he never evacuated for wildfires, including during the Franklin Fire in December that knocked out power to his home for three days.

"I'm scared," she recalled him telling her the last time they spoke. She begged of him, "Please, go somewhere safe, so I don't worry."

But he wasn't budging, telling her: "I've got the hose. And he said, 'Pray for the Palisades and pray for Malibu. And I love you.'"

After human remains were found in the home, a detective told her that the fire was moving five football fields a minute, beyond the scope of what her son anticipated.

In Altadena, cinders were flying as McDaniels packed her car in the pre-dawn hours of Jan. 8. Before she left, her late sister's husband, Anthony Mitchell, a 68-year-old amputee who lived nearby, assured her that an ambulance was coming to evacuate him and his 35-year-old son Justin Mitchell, who had cerebral palsy and was bed-bound.

But as she neared the freeway, he called back, telling her, "Stay with me until they get here."

She pulled over and could hear her nephew, who loved his collection of children's books and watched an eclectic mix of TV shows that included "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" and "The Golden Girls," fretting in the background.

Her brother-in-law was reassuring him: "Daddy's here. I'm coming. Daddy's coming. Daddy's here."

But then the fire was upon them. The last word she heard her brother-in-law mutter was "help" before she sped to his home, black smoke greeting her when she flung open the door.

"You're helpless," she recalled, saying she nearly got into a wreck herself as she fled, sobbing in the thick smoke, her own home destroyed, too.

She is not quite sure what they could have done. The family thought the ambulance Anthony Mitchell called hours earlier would have arrived in time. Perhaps, had they known it wouldn't, several relatives could have carried her nephew out with sheets, she said.

Her nephew's younger brother, 33-year-old Jordan Mitchell, lived at home so he could help care for his brother but was hospitalized with sepsis at the time, unable to do anything.

"I very much told myself, I said, 'I am my brother's keeper,' and I'm proud of that," he said, noting that his SUV, which he chose because it fit his father and brother's wheelchairs, survived the flames. "And I was very protective of him. I didn't think he'd be gone this soon. I figured I'd be taking care of him the rest of my life."

## Civil rights leaders and King family mark MLK Day as a special call to action as Trump takes office

By MATT BROWN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When President-elect Donald Trump is sworn in as president of the United States inside the Capitol's rotunda, he will do so facing a bust of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on the federal holiday commemorating King's legacy.

It's a disquieting contrast for some civil rights advocates who wish to fulfill the late reverend's dream of

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non-violent social revolution.

Events honoring King and advocating for his vision of a just society will occur across the nation as many in the U.S. observe the peaceful transfer of power in the capital. The concurrent events have been met with mixed feelings by civil rights leaders, who broadly reviled Trump's rhetoric and stances on race and civil rights during his third presidential campaign.

But many leaders, including King's own family, see the juxtaposition as a poignant contrast and a chance to refocus the work of advancing civil rights in a new political era.

"I'm glad it occurred on that day because it gives the United States of America and the world the contrast in pictures. Is this the way you want to go — or is this the way you want to go?" said the Rev. Bernice King, the late King's youngest daughter and CEO of the King Center.

"It's not a day that he can be the star, which he loves to be," King's daughter said of Trump. "He has to contend with that legacy on that day, regardless of how he manages it and handles it in his presentation. I hope those around him are advising him well to honor the day appropriately in his speech."

This is the third time in the nearly 40 years since the federal King holiday became law that it coincides with a presidential inauguration. Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama also were sworn in for their second terms on the holiday. Both praised King in their remarks; it is yet to be seen if and how Trump — who falsely claimed his first inauguration had larger crowds than King's March on Washington — will acknowledge the day.

"Will he sound a message of unity and a presidency for all, or will he continue to focus on his base and some of the divisive policies he's championed, like an anti-DEI stance, rounding up immigrants and cutting important parts of the social safety net through this DOGE (Department of Government Efficiency) process?" asked Marc Morial, president of the National Urban League civil rights group.

Morial added that Trump's inauguration landing on MLK Day represented "a contradiction of values."

Many civil rights leaders will spend the day commemorating King's legacy after a week of public and private organizing, giving speeches and strategizing how to respond to the incoming administration's agenda.

"It's the best of times and the worst of times," said Derrick Johnson, president of the NAACP, an organization whose members mentored, collaborated and clashed with King throughout the Civil Rights Movement.

"Our mission doesn't change. Our job is to make democracy work for all, to make sure that equal protection is ensured under the law," Johnson said. He added that the group "doesn't want to assume" the Trump administration can't be a partner on advancing civil rights or racial justice.

On Wednesday, Johnson and other civil rights leaders met with Congressional Black Caucus members on Capitol Hill to discuss how to work with and to oppose the Trump administration. That same day, the National Action Network, a civil rights group founded by the Rev. Al Sharpton, hosted a breakfast at which Vice President Kamala Harris urged attendees to stay motivated.

"Ours is a journey," she said. "Whatever the outcome of any particular moment, we can never be defeated. Our spirit can never be defeated, because when that happens, we won't win."

Martin Luther King III, the late King's eldest son, prayed with Harris on stage. King had campaigned for Harris in the fall and called her an advocate who "speaks to our better angels" and "embodies Dr. King's legacy."

Many racial justice advocates are set to organize demonstrations, vigils and community service events to mark the holiday and prepare for what they consider an adversarial administration.

Some groups are reflecting on parallels and differences with how King organized in the face of explicitly white supremacist state and local governments and geopolitical tumult.

"The hostility is similar, particularly in that there is a mobilized, active and aggressive extremist-right bent on unraveling rights and any sense of shared purpose, shared problems or shared solutions," said Maya Wiley, CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. What differs, Wiley said, is the understanding "there has to be opportunity for everyone."

King himself worried the legal protections he dedicated his life to realizing would not be followed by greater anti-discrimination efforts or social programs. He proposed it would take white Americans embracing a deeper kinship with Black Americans and engaging in economic and social solidarity to see change.

A year before his 1968 assassination, King wrote in his final book that giving a Black person their "due" often required "special treatment."

"I am aware of the fact that this has been a troublesome concept for many liberals, since it conflicts with their traditional ideal of equal opportunity and equal treatment of people according to their individual merits," King wrote in the 1967 book, "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community." "But this is a day which demands new thinking and the reevaluation of old concepts."

King's advocacy for "new concepts" found an heir in the enactment of affirmative action policies in workplaces and schools. Many advocates of diversity, equity and inclusion policies see such programs as realizing his vision, though that argument has come under withering scrutiny from conservative activists.

Trump's views on race have been criticized for decades. He was found liable for discriminating against Black tenants as a New York realtor in the 1980s. He was instrumental in promoting the "birther" conspiracy theory that Obama was not born in the U.S. And his campaign rhetoric about immigrants and urban communities since 2015 up to November's election has been derided as prejudiced.

As president, Trump enacted some criminal justice reform laws that civil rights advocates praised but then proposed harsh crackdowns on 2020 racial reckoning protests.

In April, Trump did not dispute the notion that "anti-white racism" now represents a greater problem in the U.S. than systemic racism against Black Americans.

"I think there is a definite anti-white feeling in this country and that can't be allowed either," Trump said during an interview with Time magazine.

At the end of his life, King reflected on the early backlash to civil rights, especially with integrated housing developments, interracial marriage and necessary economic and social programs. He expressed frustration with then-President Lyndon B. Johnson for prolonging the Vietnam War rather than making a greater investment in anti-poverty efforts.

"This is where the civil rights movement stands today. We will err and falter as we climb the unfamiliar slopes of steep mountains, but there is no alternative, well-trod, level path," King wrote. "There will be agonizing setbacks along with creative advances. Our consolation is that no one can know the true taste of victory if he has never swallowed defeat."

## **South Korea's impeached president is arrested over martial law declaration and his supporters riot**

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Hours after South Korea's impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol was formally arrested, triggering rioting by his supporters, his lawyers said Sunday that he remains defiant in his refusal to answer questions over the probe into his declaration of martial law last month.

Yoon was formally arrested early on Sunday, days after being apprehended at his presidential compound in Seoul. He faces possible imprisonment over his short-lived authoritarian push, which set off the country's most serious political crisis since its democratization in the late 1980s.

Yoon's arrest could mark the beginning of an extended period in custody, lasting months or more.

The decision to arrest Yoon ignited unrest at the Seoul Western District Court, where dozens of his supporters broke in and rioted, destroying the main door and windows. They used plastic chairs, metal beams and police shields that they managed to wrestle away from officers. Some were seen throwing objects and using fire extinguishers, destroying furniture and office machines, smashing glass doors and spraying water on computer servers. They shouted demands to see the judge who had issued the warrant, but she had already left.

Hundreds of police officers were deployed and nearly 90 protesters were arrested. Some injured police officers were seen being treated at ambulance vans. The court said it was trying to confirm whether any staff members were injured and assess the damage to its facilities.

In a statement issued through lawyers, Yoon lamented that the court did not recognize the "just purpose"

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of his martial law decree but also urged his supporters to express their frustrations peacefully. He called on the police to adopt a lenient stance toward the protesters.

Court describes Yoon as threat to destroy evidence

In granting law enforcement's request for an arrest warrant for Yoon, the court said he was a threat to destroy evidence. Yoon and his lawyers on Saturday appeared before the court and argued for his release.

The Corruption Investigation Office for High-Ranking Officials, which is leading a joint investigation with police and the military, can now extend Yoon's detention to 20 days, during which they will transfer the case to public prosecutors for indictment.

Investigators are examining whether Yoon's Dec. 3 martial law decree amounted to an attempted rebellion. While South Korean presidents have wide-ranging immunity from prosecution while in office, the protection does not extend to allegations of rebellion or treason.

Yoon's lawyers could also file a petition to challenge the court's arrest warrant. Yoon Kab-keun, one of the president's lawyers, said he will not attend a questioning by the anti-corruption agency set for Sunday afternoon and will remain at the detention center.

Yoon Suk Yeol's appearance in court caused chaotic scenes in nearby streets, where thousands of his fervent supporters rallied for hours calling for his release. Even before the court issued the warrant for Yoon's arrest, protesters repeatedly clashed with police. At least two vehicles carrying anti-corruption investigators were damaged as they left the court after arguing for Yoon's arrest.

Yoon's defense minister, police chief and several top military commanders have already been arrested and indicted for their roles in the enforcement of martial law.

Yoon's lawyer decries his arrest

The crisis began when Yoon, in an attempt to break through legislative gridlock, imposed military rule and sent troops to the National Assembly and election offices. The standoff lasted only hours after lawmakers who managed to get through a blockade voted to lift the measure. The opposition-dominated assembly voted to impeach him on Dec. 14.

His political fate now lies with the Constitutional Court, which is deliberating whether to formally remove him from office or reinstate him.

Seok Dong-hyeon, another lawyer representing Yoon, called the court order for his arrest "the epitome of anti-constitutionalism and anti-rule of law." He pointed to the riot and said Yoon's arrest would inspire more anger from his supporters.

Yoon's People Power Party regretted his arrest but also pleaded for his supporters to refrain from further violence.

The liberal opposition Democratic Party, which drove the legislative effort to impeach Yoon, said his arrest would be a "cornerstone for restoring the collapsed constitutional order." It also called for stern punishment of the rioters.

The country's acting leader, Deputy Prime Minister Choi Sang-mok, expressed "strong regret" about the riot, saying it "directly undermines democracy and the rule of law." He asked for heightened security at the sites related to Yoon's case, also including the Constitutional Court, and measures to ensure order during protests.

After its investigators were attacked by protesters later on Saturday, the anti-corruption agency asked media companies to obscure the faces of its members attending the hearing.

Yoon insists his martial law decree was legitimate

Yoon and his lawyers have claimed that the martial law declaration was intended as a temporary and "peaceful" warning to the liberal opposition, which he accuses of obstructing his agenda with its legislative majority. Yoon says the troops sent to the National Election Commission offices were to investigate election fraud allegations, which remain unsubstantiated in South Korea.

Yoon has stressed he had no intention of stopping the functioning of the legislature. He stated that the troops were sent there to maintain order, not prevent lawmakers from entering and voting to lift martial law. He denied allegations that he ordered the arrests of key politicians and election officials.

Military commanders, however, have described a deliberate attempt to seize the legislature that was thwarted by hundreds of civilians and legislative staff who helped lawmakers enter the assembly, and by the troops' reluctance or refusal to follow Yoon's orders.

If prosecutors indict Yoon on rebellion and abuse of power charges, which are the allegations now being examined by investigators, they could keep him in custody for up to six months before trial.

If the first court convicts him and issues a prison term, Yoon would serve that sentence as the case possibly moves up to the Seoul High Court and Supreme Court. Under South Korean law, orchestrating a rebellion is punishable by life imprisonment or the death penalty.

## **Jayden Daniels and the Commanders stun the top-seeded Lions 45-31 to reach NFC title game**

By LARRY LAGE AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Jayden Daniels and the nothing-to-lose Washington Commanders sent the top-seeded Detroit Lions to a stunningly swift playoff exit.

Daniels threw for two touchdowns and fellow rookie Mike Sainristil had two interceptions, dazzling performances that helped Washington beat Detroit 45-31 on Saturday night to reach the NFC championship game for the first time since winning the franchise's third Super Bowl 33 years ago.

"It's a surreal moment," Daniels said.

The sixth-seeded Commanders (14-5) were nearly double-digit underdogs against the Super Bowl-favorite Lions (15-3) and overcame doubts as they did all season with a new quarterback, coach and general manager.

"I always believed that we could achieve more than people give us credit for," Daniels said.

Detroit, the NFC's top team for the first time with a franchise-record 15 wins, doomed its chances of living up to expectations by turning the ball over five times.

"This isn't the time to talk about what a great year we had and all the wins," Lions coach Dan Campbell said. "We're here to get to the show and we fell short. That hurts."

Sainristil, who won a national title at Michigan last season, picked off his second pass on a trick play with receiver Jameson Williams throwing into coverage off a reverse in the fourth quarter.

"Mike is somebody that he's hard to fool," Commanders coach Dan Quinn said.

Quan Martin returned a pick 40 yards for a touchdown in the second quarter to put Washington ahead 24-14.

Jared Goff threw three picks and lost a fumble, turning it over three times in the ill-fated first half. He finished 23 of 40 for 313 yards with a touchdown pass to Sam LaPorta that gave the Lions their last lead midway through the second quarter.

Daniels finished with 299 yards passing and 51 yards rushing, and — just as important — didn't turn the ball over.

"He has a different poise," Quinn said. "He's a rare competitor."

Daniels became the second rookie quarterback to knock off a top-seeded team, joining Joe Flacco, who led Baltimore past Tennessee on Jan. 10, 2009.

"Nothing surprises me with him," said receiver Terry McLaurin, who turned a short pass from Daniels into a 58-yard touchdown.

Quinn led Washington to its first playoff win in 19 years last week. The Commanders rallied past Tampa Bay for their sixth comeback win and fifth straight on the final play from scrimmage in regulation or overtime.

The Commanders, who converted 3 of 4 fourth downs, didn't let Detroit keep it that close.

"Give them credit," Campbell said. "They earned that game and we didn't."

Washington outscored Detroit 28-14 in the second quarter — the highest-scoring quarter in NFL playoff history — to take a 31-21 lead at halftime.

Daniels had 242 yards passing in the first half, setting a rookie record one week after becoming the first rookie to lead his team in yards rushing and passing in a playoff win.

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The former LSU star, who was the No. 2 pick overall, was 22 of 31, including the long TD on the screen to McLaurin and a 5-yard throw for a score to Zach Ertz in the second quarter.

Brian Robinson ran for 77 yards and two touchdowns.

Detroit's Jahmyr Gibbs ran for 105 yards and two touchdowns while Amon-Ra St. Brown had eight receptions for 137 yards.

Goff fumbled in a collapsing pocket on third-and-1 from the Commanders 17 late in the first quarter and Washington took advantage.

Daniels converted a fourth-and-3 from the Detroit 9 to extend a drive capped by Robinson's 2-yard touchdown run.

Three snaps after Daniels' TD throw to McLaurin, Goff overthrew his intended target and Martin intercepted it and took it to the end zone, putting the Commanders ahead 24-14. Goff took a hit from linebacker Frankie Luvu on the interception return and was evaluated for a concussion.

Detroit's defense could not stop the Commanders all night, and Washington set a season high in points.

The Lions started the second half strong, forcing Washington to punt for the first time and going 76 yards on 11 plays on the ensuing drive, capped by Gibbs' 8-yard run for his second touchdown to make it 31-28.

Detroit, though, wasn't stingy for long on defense.

Washington had a 15-play, 70-yard touchdown drive — extended by Detroit having 12 men on the field when facing fourth-and-2 from its 5 — and Robinson's second short touchdown run restored the Commanders' 10-point lead.

Injuries

Commanders: OG Sam Cosmi was injured on Robinson's go-ahead touchdown early in the second quarter. His right leg bent awkwardly and he limped off the field.

Lions: CB Amik Robertson suffered a broken arm on Washington's second snap. ... OG Kevin Zeitler (hamstring) and reserve DL Pat O'Connor (calf) were inactive.

Up next

Washington will play the winner of Sunday's Los Angeles Rams-Philadelphia Eagles game next Sunday on the road for a spot in the Super Bowl.

## Trump-allied group's warnings may signal legal blueprint to attack 'sanctuary' jurisdictions

By TIM SULLIVAN Associated Press

The ominous letters went to hundreds of state and local officials across the U.S. two days before Christmas. It was a potential blueprint for how the Trump administration may attack "sanctuary" jurisdictions that resist mass deportations.

They threatened criminal prosecutions and lawsuits going after officials' personal finances. They invoked RICO, the federal statute often used to fight organized crime.

"You and your subordinates could potentially face up to 20 years in prison," America First Legal, a group led by current and former advisors to President-elect Donald Trump, said in the letter. Its president, Stephen Miller, will be deputy chief of policy in the new administration and is a longtime architect of Trump's immigration policies.

The letters' targets: city, county and state officials in America's sanctuary jurisdictions, a term rooted in medieval laws that today encompasses a range of protection for immigrants, particularly those living in the U.S. illegally. Sanctuary jurisdictions limit cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

Some targets were chosen for statements they made after Trump's election. Maura Healey, the Democratic governor of Massachusetts, is taken to task for vowing to use "every tool in the toolbox" to resist mass deportations in her state. But most made the list for refusing to assist U.S. Immigration and Customs and Enforcement by holding people who are wanted for being in the country illegally.

The warnings may signal part of a legal roadmap for Trump's crackdown on immigration and pledge of mass deportations. It accuses officials of violating several federal statutes, including one against im-



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migrant smuggling and another against interfering with the work of federal officers.

On Saturday, an official said a federal immigration operation concentrated in Chicago will begin after Trump takes office Monday, targeting more than 300 people with histories of violent crimes. Chicago has been a sanctuary city for decades, and officials there have said they retreat on those commitments.

Courts have repeatedly upheld the legality of most sanctuary laws.

"Sanctuary laws don't shield or harbor or conceal quote-unquote 'illegal aliens,'" said Mark Fleming, a lawyer with the Chicago-based National Immigration Justice Center, a pro-immigration group. "What the laws do is they say 'Your role (as federal officials) is to do immigration enforcement. Our role is not, and we're not going to participate.'"

Immigration lawyers scoffed at the letters' legal arguments. Police and officials in sanctuary jurisdictions are, they note, enforcing legally enacted laws.

But officials, lawyers and immigration advocates are taking the letters seriously. The involvement of Miller, a senior advisor in Trump's first term and a major figure in many policy decisions, particularly on immigration, means they have no choice.

Plus, many say, the legal arguments may not even be relevant.

"Letters like these are really more about sowing fear than they are about articulating anything that would hold up from a legal standpoint," said Sirine Shebaya, an attorney and executive director of the National Immigration Project.

It's a fear that can be used against officials and against immigrants themselves.

"We are hearing a lot of concern from our immigrant community members about whether the city will continue (as a sanctuary) or will they end it," said Peter Pedemonti, co-director of the New Sanctuary Movement of Philadelphia.

During the first Trump administration, the White House tried to use financial cudgels against sanctuary jurisdictions by denying them public safety grants that can be key for law enforcement budgets. Courts largely rejected those attempts, though some Trump loyalists say that could happen again in the incoming administration.

The letters may signal that the cudgels will be legal. They went to well over 200 officials, including Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul and county officials from Maine, Nebraska and California.

They are largely identical, though occasionally personalized with details of crimes allegedly committed by immigrants in a particular official's jurisdiction.

All are full of dire warnings.

"You each could face criminal prosecution and civil liability for your illegal acts," wrote James Rogers, senior counsel for America First Legal Foundation.

"Employees in your jurisdiction involved in implementing sanctuary policies that prevent federal immigration officers from carrying out their duties would potentially face six years in prison," he wrote.

If most lawyers roll their eyes at such threats, they also know that weak legal arguments don't necessarily stop prosecutions.

"I think these threats are actually a critical cog in the strategy," said Fleming. "Because the reality is that even if they lose, they can win by putting someone through this."

Fear of relentless court cases, particularly in smaller jurisdictions without teams of lawyers, could push officials to ease back on sanctuary laws, or even allow local law enforcement to work with federal immigration officers.

ICE, which has just 21,000 employees, many of them administrators or support personnel, would need immense local law enforcement help to follow through on Trump's promises of mass deportations

The sanctuary designations have already caused deep divisions in some jurisdictions, with sheriffs in California, Washington and elsewhere vowing to ignore sanctuary policies. In Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis has said he's prepared to suspend elected officials if they are "neglecting their duties" under Trump's promised immigration mandates.

But Democratic leaders including Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker and New York's Hochul vowed after Trump's election that they would stand firm on their sanctuary policies.

A few days after the election, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson insisted that the city's police force would not help ICE agents with deportations.

"We will not bend or break," Johnson told reporters.

The question is whether sanctuary officials will continue to stand firm in the face of personal legal threats and an incoming White House that has made clear immigration is a top focus.

"Stephen Miller is going to be the deputy chief adviser to the president," said R. Linus Chan, an attorney who works with immigrants detained by ICE, and a professor at the University of Minnesota Law School.

"So you can't really just ignore him."

## **South Korea's impeached president is arrested over a martial law declaration as his supporters riot**

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol was formally arrested early on Sunday, days after being apprehended at his presidential compound in Seoul. He faces possible imprisonment over his ill-fated declaration of martial law last month.

Yoon's arrest could mark the beginning of an extended period in custody, lasting months or more.

The decision to arrest Yoon triggered unrest at the Seoul Western District Court, where dozens of his supporters broke in and rioted, destroying the main door and windows. They used plastic chairs, metal beams and police shields that they managed to wrestle away from officers. Some were seen throwing objects and using fire extinguishers, destroying furniture and glass doors. They shouted demands to see the judge who had issued the warrant, but she had already left.

Hundreds of police officers were deployed and nearly 90 protesters were arrested. Some injured police officers were seen being treated at ambulance vans. The court said it was trying to confirm whether any staff members were injured and assess the damage to its facilities.

A court deliberated for 8 hours

Following eight hours of deliberation, the court granted law enforcement's request for an arrest warrant for Yoon, saying he was a threat to destroy evidence. Yoon and his lawyers on Saturday appeared before the court and argued for his release.

Yoon, who has been in detention since he was apprehended Wednesday in a massive law enforcement operation at his residential compound, faces potential rebellion charges linked to his declaration of martial law on Dec. 3, which set off the country's most serious political crisis since its democratization in the late 1980s.

While South Korean presidents have wide-ranging immunity from prosecution while in office, the protection does not extend to allegations of rebellion or treason.

The Corruption Investigation Office for High-Ranking Officials, which is leading a joint investigation with police and the military, can now extend Yoon's detention to 20 days, during which they will transfer the case to public prosecutors for indictment.

Yoon's lawyers could also file a petition to challenge the court's arrest warrant.

Yoon's appearance in court triggered chaotic scenes in nearby streets, where thousands of his fervent supporters rallied for hours calling for his release. Even before the court issued the warrant for Yoon's arrest, protesters repeatedly clashed with police who detained dozens of them, including about 20 who climbed over a fence in an attempt to approach the court. At least two vehicles carrying anti-corruption investigators were damaged as they left the court after arguing for Yoon's arrest.

Yoon's lawyers said he spoke for about 40 minutes to the judge during the nearly five-hour closed-door hearing Saturday. His legal team and anti-corruption agencies presented opposing arguments about whether he should be held in custody.

Yoon's defense minister, police chief and several top military commanders have already been arrested

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and indicted for their roles in the enforcement of martial law.

Yoon's lawyer decries his arrest

The crisis began when Yoon, in an attempt to break through legislative gridlock, imposed military rule and sent troops to the National Assembly and election offices. The standoff lasted only hours after lawmakers who managed to get through a blockade voted to lift the measure. The opposition-dominated assembly voted to impeach him on Dec. 14.

His political fate now lies with the Constitutional Court, which is deliberating whether to formally remove him from office or reinstate him.

Seok Dong-hyeon, one of Yoon's lawyers, called the court's decision to issue the warrant "the epitome of anti-constitutionalism and anti-rule of law," maintaining Yoon's claim that his martial law decree was a legitimate act of governance. He pointed to the chaos at the Seoul Western Court and said Yoon's arrest would inspire more anger from his supporters.

Yoon's People Power Party regretted his arrest but also pleaded for his supporters to refrain from further violence.

The liberal opposition Democratic Party, which drove the legislative effort to impeach Yoon on Dec. 14, said his arrest would be a "cornerstone for restoring the collapsed constitutional order." Kim Sung-hoi, a party lawmaker and spokesperson, called for stern punishment of Yoon's supporters who stormed the court.

"I urge police to firmly enforce the law so that forces supporting rebellion will never even think of causing turmoil again," he said.

The country's acting leader, Deputy Prime Minister Choi Sang-mok, expressed "strong regret" about the violence at the court, saying it "directly undermines democracy and the rule of law." He asked for heightened security at the sites related to Yoon's case and measures to ensure order during protests.

Yoon was transported to the court from a detention center in Uiwang, near Seoul, in a blue Justice Ministry van escorted by police and the presidential security service, to attend the hearing at the court ahead of its warrant decision.

The motorcade entered the court's basement parking space as thousands of Yoon's supporters gathered in nearby streets amid a heavy police presence. Following the hearing, Yoon was transported back to the detention center, where he awaited the decision. He did not speak to reporters.

After its investigators were attacked by protesters later on Saturday, the anti-corruption agency asked media companies to obscure the faces of its members attending the hearing.

Yoon insists his martial law decree was legitimate

Yoon and his lawyers have claimed that the martial law declaration was intended as a temporary and "peaceful" warning to the liberal opposition, which he accuses of obstructing his agenda with its legislative majority. Yoon says the troops sent to the National Election Commission offices were to investigate election fraud allegations, which remains unsubstantiated in South Korea.

Yoon has stressed he had no intention of stopping the functioning of the legislature. He stated that the troops were sent there to maintain order, not prevent lawmakers from entering and voting to lift martial law. He denied allegations that he ordered the arrests of key politicians and election officials.

Military commanders, however, have described a deliberate attempt to seize the legislature that was thwarted by hundreds of civilians and legislative staff who helped lawmakers enter the assembly, and by the troops' reluctance or refusal to follow Yoon's orders.

If prosecutors indict Yoon on rebellion and abuse of power charges, which are the allegations now being examined by investigators, they could keep him in custody for up to six months before trial.

If the first court convicts him and issues a prison term, Yoon would serve that sentence as the case possibly moves up to the Seoul High Court and Supreme Court. Under South Korean law, orchestrating a rebellion is punishable by life imprisonment or the death penalty.

## Trump returns to Washington for celebrations ahead of inauguration

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump returned to Washington Saturday evening to celebrate with family, supporters and political allies ahead of his second inauguration, a triumphant return for the Republican four years after he departed the city under the shadow of an attack by his supporters on the Capitol.

Trump marked his return to power with a celebration at his Trump National Golf Club in Sterling, Virginia, about 30 miles outside Washington.

He addressed the crowd, giving shoutouts to Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, and declaring his Mideast envoy Steve Witkoff a “great negotiator.” Witkoff this past week helped negotiate a ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas that’s scheduled to take effect on Sunday.

Soon after his remarks, Trump stepped out onto a clubhouse balcony while guests gathered on the patio below him for a fireworks display and performance by tenor Christopher Macchio.

Trump returned to Washington as organizers of Monday’s Inauguration Day ceremony were scrambling to move inside most of the outdoor events, including the swearing-in of president and vice president that traditionally takes place on the steps of the U.S. Capitol, due to forecasted frigid temperatures.

It will be the first time since President Ronald Reagan took the oath of office in 1985 for his second term that the ceremony will be moved inside the U.S. Capitol.

Trump made his way from West Palm Beach, Florida, with his wife Melania Trump and their son Barron aboard a U.S. military C-32 aircraft on a flight dubbed Special Air Mission 47 — a nod to Trump becoming the 47th president on Monday.

It’s a courtesy that’s traditionally been extended by the outgoing administration to the incoming one. Trump did not make a government plane available to President Joe Biden ahead of his inauguration in 2021, and instead the Democrat flew to Washington on a privately chartered aircraft.

As his motorcade neared his golf club for Saturday’s celebration, he was greeted by dozens of well-wishers who gathered along the roadside and chanted “Trump” and “USA, USA!”

With a blast of Arctic air expected to leave the nation’s capital facing frigid temperatures on Inauguration Day, Trump opted to move inside most of Monday’s outdoor events, including the swearing-in ceremony.

“I think we made the right decision. We’ll be very comfortable now,” Trump told NBC News in a phone interview Saturday.

On Pennsylvania Avenue leading to the White House, crews were breaking down metal bleachers that would have been used for outdoor inauguration viewing stands.

Even before Trump got to town, groups of protesters began taking to the street in the morning as a light sleet fell.

Melody Hamoud, a Washington resident, wore a pink hat that she had on at a 2017 march to protest Trump’s first inauguration.

“I just didn’t want to sit home and fret in front of the TV,” she said. “I wanted to feel like our movement still has energy and be around others who felt the same.”

Timothy Wallis, 58, flew in for the inauguration from Pocatello, Idaho, with friends. The group had tickets to watch the ceremony outside but haven’t been able to get tickets to any of the indoor events.

“We found out on the plane,” he said about the change of plans.

Wallis said he was disappointed about the switch and a little bemused since he’s used to cold at home. “We left snow to come here,” he said. “I brought my gloves!”

Meanwhile, Trump said Saturday he is preparing to roll out a series of executive orders and other actions in the first days of his new administration.

He confirmed he’ll “most likely” grant an extension that might allow TikTok to keep operating in the U.S. beyond Sunday, when a law that prohibits mobile app stores and internet hosting services from distributing TikTok to U.S. users takes effect.

And Trump in the NBC News interview confirmed that his administration would begin its effort “very

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early, very quickly" on following through on a campaign promise of mass deportations of migrants living in the U.S. without legal permission.

Federal immigration officers are expected to initially target more than 300 people in the Chicago area with histories of egregious, violent crimes after Trump takes office Monday, according to an official familiar with the planning who spoke on condition of anonymity because plans have not been made public.

"Well, it's got to happen, and if it doesn't happen, we're not going to have a country any longer," said Trump, who declined to say where the deportation operations would begin.

Trump, a Republican, left office in 2021 as a political pariah after his refusal to accept his loss to Democrat Joe Biden led a mob to overrun the Capitol. He then broke tradition by skipping Biden's inauguration.

Biden will adhere to one of the most potent symbols of the democratic handover, welcoming Trump to the White House and joining him on the ride to the Capitol before Trump takes the oath of office.

The first time Trump was sworn into office eight years ago, the former reality TV star billionaire came in as an outsider disrupting Washington's norms, delivering a dark inaugural address as his swearing-in drew large protests and some clashes in the street.

This time, Trump told NBC, the theme of his inauguration speech would be "unity and strength, and also the word 'fairness.'"

As he takes power, the protests were far less noticeable, eclipsed by the ceremonies and celebrations around Trump's taking power. As one more marker of Trump's remarkable comeback, the events surrounding his inauguration will be more celebrity-studded than the last time, along with a noticeable turnout by a cadre of tech-world billionaires.

While Trump held court at his Virginia golf club on Saturday evening, Vice President-elect JD Vance attended a reception for Cabinet members and hosted a dinner in Washington.

On Sunday, the eve of his inauguration, Trump is scheduled to participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery before heading to a rally at Capital One Arena in Washington. The rally will be followed by a private dinner.

On Inauguration Day, Trump will start with the traditional prayer service at St. John's Episcopal Church before heading to the White House for a customary tea with the outgoing president and first lady.

Trump then heads to the Capitol, where his ceremony has been moved indoors as temperatures are set to plummet and make it the coldest Inauguration Day in 40 years. It's not quite clear how the ceremony will be adapted to the Capitol Rotunda, which holds only 600 people. More than 250,000 guests were ticketed to view the inauguration from around the Capitol grounds.

The planned traditional parade down Pennsylvania Avenue has morphed into an indoor event because of the cold, with Trump again planning to speak to his gathered supporters before he heads to the White House for a signing ceremony in the Oval Office. A trio of glitzy balls will follow in the evening, punctuated by musical performances.

## **A look at the events that led up to the arrest of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol**

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's impeached president, Yoon Suk Yeol, was formally arrested on Sunday, days after being apprehended in a massive law enforcement operation at his presidential compound in Seoul.

Yoon's arrest could mark the beginning of a prolonged period in custody, lasting months or longer, as he faces the possibility of imprisonment on potential rebellion charges linked to his imposition of martial law on Dec. 3.

The National Assembly voided his short-lived declaration just hours after it was announced.

Yoon claimed he took the action because the liberal opposition, which has a legislative majority, was obstructing his agendas and even the approval of his budget. He described the opposition as North Korea sympathizers, "anti-state forces" responsible for "wreaking havoc" and the "main culprits of our nation's

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downfall.”

Here is a timeline of events:

Jan. 19

The Seoul Western District Court grants law enforcement’s request for a formal arrest warrant for Yoon, citing him as a threat that could destroy evidence. His arrest triggers a riot by his supporters, who break into the court, smashing windows and equipment. Nearly 90 of them are arrested.

Jan. 15

Anti-corruption investigators and police raid the presidential compound and detain Yoon, more than six weeks after his ill-fated power grab. Yoon, the first sitting president to be apprehended, had been holed up in the Hannam-dong residence in the capital, Seoul, for weeks while vowing to “fight to the end” the efforts to oust him.

Jan. 14

The Constitutional Court held its first formal hearing in the case. The session lasted less than five minutes because Yoon refused to attend. The next hearing is set for Jan. 16.

Jan. 7

The chief of the presidential security service, Park Jong-joon, resigns.

Jan. 3

Scuffles occur on Jan. 3 when dozens of investigators were stopped from entering Yoon’s compound by presidential security forces, military personnel and vehicle barricades.

Dec. 31

Seoul Western District Court issues a warrant to detain Yoon for questioning.

Dec. 27

The National Assembly votes to impeach South Korea’s acting President Han Duck-soo over his unwillingness to fill vacancies on the bench of the Constitutional Court, plunging the country into further political turmoil.

Dec. 14

The National Assembly passes the motion 204-85, impeaching Yoon. His presidential powers and duties are subsequently suspended and Prime Minister Han, the country’s No. 2 official, takes over presidential powers.

Dec. 12

Yoon defends his martial law decree as an act of governance and denies rebellion charges, vowing to “fight to the end” in the face of attempts to impeach him.

The National Assembly passes motions to impeach national police chief Cho Ji Ho and Justice Minister Park Sung Jae, suspending them from official duties, over their alleged roles in the enforcement of martial law.

Dec. 11

Kim Yong Hyun, the former defense minister, is formally arrested over his alleged collusion with Yoon and others in imposing martial law. The Justice Ministry says Kim was stopped from attempting suicide hours before a Seoul court issued his arrest warrant.

South Korean police send officers to search Yoon’s office to look for evidence related to the martial law introduction but they are blocked by Yoon’s security team from entering the compound.

Police detain the national police chief and the top officer for Seoul over their roles in enforcing Yoon’s martial law orders.

Dec. 10

Kwak Jong-keun, commander of the Army Special Warfare Command whose troops were sent to parliament after Yoon declared martial law, tells lawmakers that he received direct instructions from former defense minister, Kim, to obstruct them from entering the National Assembly’s main chamber. He says Kim’s instructions were to prevent the 300-member Assembly from gathering the 150 votes necessary to overturn Yoon’s martial law order.

Kwak says Yoon later called him directly and asked for the troops to “quickly destroy the door and drag

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out the lawmakers who are inside." Kwak says he did not carry out Yoon's orders.

Dec. 9

South Korea's Justice Ministry bans Yoon from traveling overseas as police, prosecutors and South Korea's anti-corruption agency expand competing investigations into allegations of rebellion and other charges in connection with his martial law decree.

Dec. 8

Prosecutors detain former defense minister, Kim, over his alleged role in planning and executing Yoon's martial law enforcement.

Dec. 7

Yoon apologizes and says he won't shirk legal or political responsibility for declaring martial law. He also says he would leave it to his party to chart a course through the country's political turmoil, "including matters related to my term in office."

Yoon survives an impeachment vote that most ruling party lawmakers boycotted, denying the motion that required a two-thirds majority.

Dec. 6

In a bombshell reversal, Han Dong-hun, reformist leader of Yoon's party, expresses support for suspending Yoon's constitutional powers, saying that the president poses a "significant risk of extreme actions, like reattempting to impose martial law, which could potentially put the Republic of Korea and its citizens in great danger."

Dec. 5

Yoon replaces his Defense Minister Kim, a close associate believed to be the person who recommended the president declare martial law. Han, the leader of Yoon's party, says he would work to defeat the opposition-led impeachment motion — even though he criticized Yoon's declaration as "unconstitutional." Han says there's a need to "prevent damage to citizens and supporters caused by unprepared chaos."

Dec. 4

Shortly after midnight, National Assembly Speaker Woo Won Shik says through his YouTube channel that the Assembly will respond to Yoon's martial law declaration with "constitutional procedure."

Woo reaches the Assembly's main chamber around 12:35 a.m. Some South Korean troops break windows to enter the Assembly but fail to reach the main chamber. Woo opens a meeting at 12:47 a.m. to hold a vote on whether to lift martial law.

At around 1 a.m., 190 lawmakers, including 18 from Yoon's own conservative People Power Party, voted unanimously to lift martial law. Troops and police begin to retreat from the Assembly shortly later.

At 4:30 a.m., martial law is formally lifted following a Cabinet meeting.

Dec. 3

In a surprise announcement at 10:29 p.m., President Yoon tells a national television audience he's declaring martial law, saying the opposition-controlled National Assembly has become a "den of criminals" paralyzing government affairs.

Yoon vows to "eradicate" his political rivals, describing them as North Korea-sympathizing, "anti-state forces" responsible for "wreaking havoc and are the main culprits of our nation's downfall." He doesn't back his claims with direct evidence.

In reaction, the main opposition Democratic Party calls for an emergency meeting.

As lawmakers begin rushing to the National Assembly, the military's martial law command issues a proclamation declaring sweeping government powers, including the suspension of political parties' activities and other political gatherings that could cause "social confusion" and control over media and publications. It says anyone who violates the decree could be arrested without a warrant.

Hundreds of heavily armed troops encircle the Assembly, apparently to prevent lawmakers from gathering to vote on the martial law declaration. Democratic Party leader Lee Jae-myung live-streams his journey from a car, pleading for people to converge on the parliament to help lawmakers get inside. The shaky footage shows him climbing over a fence to reach the grounds.

## Ceasefire between Israel and Hamas will go into effect Sunday morning, officials say

By SAMY MAGDY, MELANIE LIDMAN and SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The ceasefire between Hamas and Israel will go into effect Sunday at 8:30 a.m. local time (0630 GMT), mediator Qatar announced Saturday, as families of hostages held in Gaza braced for news of loved ones, Palestinians prepared to receive freed detainees and humanitarian groups rushed to set up a surge of aid.

But in a national address 12 hours before the ceasefire was to start, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the country was treating the ceasefire as temporary and retained the right to continue fighting if necessary. He claimed he had the support of President-elect Donald Trump, who told NBC News that he told the prime minister to “keep doing what you have to do.”

Netanyahu also asserted that he negotiated the best deal possible, even as Israel’s far-right Public Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said he and most of his party would resign from the government in opposition to it.

Netanyahu earlier warned that a ceasefire wouldn’t go forward unless Israel received the names of hostages to be released, as agreed. Israel had expected to receive the names from mediator Qatar. There was no immediate response from Qatar or Hamas.

The overnight approval of the ceasefire deal by Israel’s Cabinet, in a rare meeting during the Jewish Sabbath, set off a flurry of activity and a fresh wave of emotions as relatives wondered whether hostages would be returned alive or dead. Families and thousands of others rallied once more Saturday night in Tel Aviv.

“Please keep going and saving lives,” said Anat Angrest, whose son Matan Angrest is still held in Gaza.

The pause in 15 months of war is a step toward ending the deadliest, most destructive fighting ever between Israel and the Hamas militant group. The deal was achieved under joint pressure from Trump and the outgoing administration of President Joe Biden ahead of Monday’s inauguration.

The first phase of the ceasefire will last 42 days, and negotiations on the far more difficult second phase are meant to begin just over two weeks in. After those six weeks, Israel’s security Cabinet will decide how to proceed.

Israeli airstrikes continued Saturday, and Gaza’s Health Ministry said 23 bodies had been brought to hospitals over the past 24 hours.

“What is this truce that kills us hours before it begins?” asked Abdallah Al-Aqad, the brother of a woman killed by an airstrike in the southern city of Khan Younis.

And sirens sounded across central and southern Israel, with the military saying it intercepted projectiles launched from Yemen. Iran-backed Houthi rebels there have stepped up attacks in recent weeks, calling it solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza.

When the fighting stops

In the ceasefire’s first phase, Israeli troops are to pull back into a buffer zone about a kilometer (0.6 miles) wide inside Gaza along its borders with Israel. With most of Gaza’s population in massive, squalid tent camps, Palestinians are desperate to get back to their homes, even though many were destroyed or heavily damaged.

In a post on X, Qatar’s foreign minister advised Palestinians and others to exercise caution when the ceasefire goes into effect and wait for directions from officials.

Israel’s military later said Palestinians will not be able to cross the Netzarim corridor that runs across central Gaza for the first seven days of the ceasefire, and it warned Palestinians not to approach Israeli forces.

Still, anticipation was high.

“The first thing I will do is go and check my house,” said Mohamed Mahdi, a father of two who was displaced from Gaza City’s Zaytoun neighborhood. He also looked forward to seeing family in southern Gaza, but is “still concerned that one of us could be martyred before we are able to meet.”



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Majida Abu Jarad said she has moved seven times with her husband and their six daughters during the war, heeding Israeli evacuation orders and staying in tents, abandoned classrooms or on the street.

"We will remain in a tent, but the difference is that the bleeding will stop, the fear will stop, and we will sleep reassured," she said while packing.

Freed hostages and prisoners

In the ceasefire's first phase, 33 hostages in Gaza are set to be released over six weeks in exchange for 737 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. Israel's justice ministry has published a list of the prisoners, all younger or female. An organization that represents victims of Palestinian attacks vowed to petition Israel's Supreme Court to stop the release.

According to the ceasefire plan approved by Israel's Cabinet, the exchange will begin at 4 p.m. (1400 GMT) Sunday. The plan says three living female hostages will be returned on Day 1, four on Day 7 and the remaining 26 over the following five weeks.

Among those expected to be released is the youngest hostage, Kfir Bibas, whose family marked his second birthday Saturday. The child has become a symbol across Israel for the helplessness over the hostages' plight.

During each exchange, Palestinian prisoners will be released by Israel after hostages have arrived safely.

Also to be released are 1,167 Gaza residents who were not involved in the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas-led attack that sparked the war. All women and children under 19 from Gaza held by Israel will be freed during this phase.

All Palestinian prisoners who were convicted of deadly attacks will be exiled to Gaza or abroad — some for three years and others permanently — and barred from returning to Israel or the West Bank.

The remaining hostages in Gaza, including male soldiers, are to be released in a second phase to be negotiated during the first. Hamas has said it will not release the remaining captives without a lasting ceasefire and a full Israeli withdrawal.

Hundreds of aid trucks a day

Gaza should also see a surge in food, medical supplies and other humanitarian aid.

Egypt's foreign minister said the Rafah crossing, Gaza's main gateway to the outside world, will start operating soon. The crossing has been closed since Israel's military took over the area last May. The minister said 600 trucks of aid, including 50 fuel trucks, should be entering Gaza daily during the ceasefire.

The ceasefire plan approved by Israel's Cabinet says all trucks entering Gaza will be subject to Israeli inspections.

"It is clear that the situation in Gaza is still extremely complex and a lot of difficulties still remain for an effective distribution," U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Saturday.

The Hamas-led attack in 2023 killed some 1,200 people and left some 250 captive. Nearly 100 hostages remain in Gaza.

Israel responded with an offensive that has killed more than 46,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, who do not distinguish between civilians and militants but say women and children make up more than half the dead.

## **With a US ban on TikTok hours away, Trump says he 'most likely' will grant an extension**

By HALELUYA HADERO Associated Press

The clock is ticking toward a U.S. ban on TikTok, but users seeking clarity on what that will mean did not get much Saturday from the company that runs the popular video-sharing platform or the tech giants that offer the TikTok app in their digital marketplaces.

However, President-elect Donald Trump said in an interview with NBC News that he was considering granting an extension that might allow TikTok to keep going beyond Sunday, when a law that prohibits mobile app stores and internet hosting services from distributing TikTok to U.S. users takes effect.

The ban's timing has complicated matters, perhaps in TikTok's favor: the outgoing Biden administration

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reiterated Saturday that it considers the law's implementation and enforcement to be the responsibility of Trump, who takes office on Monday and has pledged to "save" the app.

Under the law, TikTok's China-based parent company, ByteDance, had nine months to sell the platform's U.S. operation to an approved buyer. The law allows the sitting president to extend the deadline by 90 days if a sale is in progress.

Are there any viable deals on the table?

Artificial intelligence startup Perplexity AI submitted a proposal to ByteDance on Saturday to create a new entity that merges Perplexity with TikTok U.S. business, according to a person familiar with the matter. If successful, the new structure would include other investors and allow ByteDance's existing shareholders to retain their stake in the company, the person said.

Perplexity is not asking to purchase the coveted ByteDance algorithm that feeds TikTok users videos based on their interests. The person said they thought a fair price for TikTok without the algorithm is north of \$50 billion.

If the proposed merger goes through, the algorithm would need to be rebuilt. They spoke on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly about the proposal.

In terms of potential buyers, "Shark Tank" star Kevin O'Leary recently said a consortium of investors that he and billionaire Frank McCourt put together offered ByteDance \$20 billion in cash for TikTok.

Trump told NBC News that he "most likely" would give TikTok the extension after his inauguration. ByteDance previously said it would not sell, but TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew is expected to attend Trump's inauguration with a prime seating location.

Why is TikTok's future in the US so unclear?

The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday unanimously upheld the federal law that banned TikTok unless ByteDance divested itself of its U.S. holdings. In issuing the decision, justices rejected Trump's request to wait until his administration could pursue a "political resolution" to the issue.

TikTok, ByteDance and some of the devoted users who rely on the platform argued the statute violated the First Amendment. The Biden administration sought to show ByteDance's ownership and control of TikTok posed an unacceptable national security threat.

TikTok asked the Biden administration late for a "definitive statement" that would assure Google, Apple and other companies they would not face fines if they continued making its service available nationwide. Otherwise, TikTok said it "will be forced to go dark" on Sunday.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre called TikTok's demand "a stunt."

"We see no reason for TikTok or other companies to take actions in the next few days before the Trump administration takes office," Jean-Pierre said Saturday. TikTok did not immediately respond to requests for comment sent on Saturday.

What will happen on Sunday?

It's not explicitly clear. Experts have said the way the law was written, current TikTok users would continue to have access to the app but wouldn't receive updates, eventually making it unworkable.

Though the company says its platform will go dark, it did not provide details, including whether it would voluntarily shut down its U.S. platform at midnight.

Trump has credited TikTok with helping him win the support of more young voters in last year's election, but he wasn't always a fan. During his first term, he issued executive orders banning TikTok and the Chinese messaging app WeChat. Courts subsequently blocked the moves.

Trump told "Meet the Press" moderator Kristen Welker in a phone interview Saturday that if he gives TikTok the 90-day extension, it will "probably" be announced on Monday.

"We have to look at it carefully. It's a very big situation," NBC News quoted him as saying.

How reliant are Americans on TikTok?

The majority of U.S. teenagers and a third of adults use TikTok, according to the Pew Research Center. Most people use it to watch entertaining, short-form videos. A subset of users — content creators and small business owners — rely on the platform for income.

Some past opinion polling showed a majority of Americans did not want the app to go away. A poll

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conducted by The Associated Press and NORC Center for Public Affairs Research in January 2024 found a three-way split among Americans when it came to banning the platform, with roughly a third favoring or opposing it or not having an opinion on the topic. Meanwhile, a Pew Research Center survey conducted in July and August said public support for a ban had declined to 32% from 50% in March 2023.

What will happen to TikTok if it gets banned?

If TikTok gets banned — and stays banned — in the U.S., it will take a big financial hit. Attorneys for the company said in court documents that even if a U.S. shutdown lasted one month, TikTok would lose 29% of its total “targeted global” advertising revenue for 2025 as well as talented current and prospective employees. However, the platform likely won’t fully go away since it remains popular abroad.

For now, the company has tried to assure its U.S. employees they can continue to come to work. Earlier this week, TikTok told its U.S. workers that its offices would remain open for work even if the “situation” were not resolved by Sunday.

In the memo, which was first reported by The New York Times and confirmed by the company, TikTok told employees that their “employment, pay and benefits” were secure, adding that the ban law was written in a way that impacts the U.S. user experience but not TikTok as an employer.

TikTok’s other troubles

The sell-or-ban law is not the only legal issue that TikTok and ByteDance encountered last year.

In October, more than a dozen states and the District of Columbia sued TikTok, alleging the app was designed to be addictive to children and harms their mental health. Virginia’s attorney general filed a lawsuit Friday making similar claims while also alleging TikTok had misled the public about the Chinese government’s ability to misuse information about American users.

Other nations also have taken action to restrict or penalize TikTok.

On Dec. 30, Venezuela’s Supreme Court fined TikTok \$10 million for “not implementing measures” to prevent viral video challenges that government officials alleged had led to the deaths of three Venezuelan children last year.

Albania’s prime minister announced earlier in December that his government would shut down TikTok for one year because the platform allegedly incited violence and bullying, especially among children.

Also last month, European Union regulators opened an investigation into whether TikTok breached the EU’s online safety and fairness rules by failing to prevent alleged Russian interference in Romania’s presidential election. TikTok said it had “protected the integrity” of its platform during over 150 elections around the world.

## Trump’s family circle has a different look as he returns to the White House

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Donald Trump returns to the White House on Monday, his family circle will look a little different than it did when he first arrived eight years ago.

His youngest son, Barron, was in fifth grade back then. He’s now a college freshman who towers over his 6-foot-plus (1.8-meter-plus) dad. Granddaughter Kai, who was 9 in 2017, is now an aspiring social media influencer and impressive golfer. Grandson Joseph, who posed in Trump’s lap with a Lego model of the White House last time, is 11 now.

The most prominent relatives in Trump’s political sphere, daughter Ivanka and her husband, Jared, are in Florida this time around after working in his first administration.

Family members can provide presidents with a ready source of moral and sounding-board support, companionship and even relief from the world’s problems. Not to mention creating headaches for the president at times, too.

“Family can do things that other people can’t, and they can be trusted in a way that other people also can’t,” said Tevi Troy, a former George W. Bush administration official and author of several books about the presidency. “Everyone needs someone they can talk to late at night when you let your hair down, so

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to speak.”

The president-elect has five children — three of whom are married — from his marriages to Ivana Trump, Marla Maples and current wife Melania Trump. He has 10 grandkids, with an 11th on the way.

A look at Trump’s family circle, then and now:

His wife: Melania Trump

THEN: She spent the opening months of Trump’s term at the family’s Manhattan penthouse so that 11-year-old Barron wouldn’t have to switch schools in the middle of the year. After moving to the White House, she traveled around the United States and to other countries, alone and with Trump, partly to promote her “Be Best” children’s initiative while fiercely guarding her privacy.

NOW: She avoided active campaigning during Trump’s 2024 run, limiting her public appearances to key moments, such as the campaign’s launch, the Republican National Convention and election night. She released a self-titled memoir late last year and will be the subject of a documentary distributed by Amazon Prime Video that is expected to be released later this year. While some doubt that Trump’s 54-year-old wife will spend much time at the White House, she said on Fox News’ “Fox & Friends” that she has already packed and picked out the furniture she wants to take to the executive mansion.

His children: Donald Trump Jr.

THEN: Trump’s eldest son, now 46, campaigned for his father in 2016 and 2020.

NOW: Trump Jr.’s influence has grown to the point that he lobbied his father to choose close friend JD Vance for vice president. He also pushed for former Democratic Rep. Tulsi Gabbard and Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the president-elect’s picks for director of national intelligence and health and human services, respectively. Trump Jr. helps run the family real estate business and is an honorary chairman of Trump’s transition. He has a podcast and has said his role is to prevent “bad actors” from getting into the administration. He recently flew on his father’s airplane to Greenland; the president-elect has expressed a desire to take control of the mineral-rich Danish territory.

Trump Jr. has five children — or “smurfs,” as he sometimes refers to them — with his former wife, Vanessa Trump. They are Kai Madison, 17; Donald John III, 15; Tristan Milos, 13; Spencer Frederick, 12; and Chloe Sophia Trump, 10.

Ivanka Trump

THEN: Ivanka, 43, campaigned for her father in 2016 and moved her family from New York City to Washington to work in his White House as a senior adviser. She was on the campaign trail in 2020, too, but she and her family moved to Florida and retreated from the spotlight after his loss.

NOW: As Trump geared up for the 2024 run, Ivanka announced that she loved and supported him but was getting out of politics to focus on her husband and their three kids. She did, however, join her father and other family members on election night and when he rang the bell at the New York Stock Exchange in early December after Time magazine named him Person of the Year. She told “The Skinny Confidential” podcast that this time around she just wanted to “show up for him as a daughter” and be there to watch a movie or a sports game.

Ivanka and her husband have three children: Arabella Rose, 13; Joseph Frederick, 11; and Theodore James Kushner, 8.

Eric Trump

THEN: The 40-year-old helped run the family business and participated in his father’s campaigns.

NOW: Eric is also an honorary chair of the transition and a close adviser to his father. But he continues to focus more on running the family business. In September, he and his brother started a crypto platform called World Liberty Financial, and their father helped launch it in an interview on the X social media platform.”

Eric and his wife, Lara, have two children: Eric Luke, 7, and Carolina Dorothy Trump, 5.

Tiffany Trump

THEN: Trump’s daughter with second wife Marla Maples was 23 and a recent University of Pennsylvania graduate who kept a low profile when Trump was first elected.

NOW: She was more present in the 2024 campaign but still largely avoids the spotlight. Tiffany, 31, and

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her husband, Michael Boulos, are expecting their first child this year. Boulos is a businessman who traveled with Trump in the final stretch of the campaign. His father is Massad Boulos, a Lebanese American businessman who helped Trump with the influential Arab American community in the swing state of Michigan. Trump has named Massad Boulos to be a senior adviser on Arab and Middle Eastern affairs.

Barron Trump

THEN: At the start of Trump's first term, Barron and his mother stayed at the family's Trump Tower penthouse in Manhattan so he could finish his school year. When they got to Washington, his soccer net appeared in what's known as the first lady's garden.

NOW: Barron, 18, is a freshman New York University business student. His parents and Trump campaign officials credit him for recommending podcasts popular with young men that the president-elect appeared on during the campaign. Barron will have a bedroom in the White House, Melania Trump said on "Fox & Friends."

Donald Trump said Barron had helped introduce him to people he had never heard of before.

"He was very good," the president-elect told NBC News in a telephone interview Saturday. "It's the new wave. And he was very helpful."

His mother had told "Fox & Friends" last year that "I'm very proud of him, about his knowledge, even about politics and giving an advice to his father. He brought in so many young people. He knows his generation."

Other family members in the spotlight:Lara Trump

THEN: Trump's daughter-in-law, 42, campaigned for him during all his runs. After Trump lost to Democrat Joe Biden in 2020, she considered running for a U.S. Senate seat from her home state of North Carolina but ultimately decided against it. She became a Fox News commentator.

NOW: As Trump revved up his 2024 campaign, he installed his daughter-in-law as co-chair of the Republican National Committee, where she was a TV-ready advocate overseeing fundraising, voter outreach and the party's "election integrity" initiative. She stepped down from the RNC after the election and removed her name from consideration as a possible successor to Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., Trump's choice for secretary of state.

Lara Trump is passionate about fitness and has her own line of activewear. She also has explored a side venture as a singer and has released some songs. Daughter Carolina is named after her home state.

Jared Kushner

THEN: Kushner, 44, was also a key figure in Trump's 2016 campaign. He joined his wife in the White House as a senior adviser, a role that included working on U.S. policy toward Israel and the broader Middle East.

NOW: Kushner has stepped out of the political spotlight — but his father could soon step in. Trump announced after the election that he intends to nominate Charles Kushner, a real estate developer, to be U.S. ambassador to France. The elder Kushner was pardoned by Trump in December 2020 after he pleaded guilty years earlier to tax evasion and making illegal campaign contributions.

Kai Trump

THEN: Kai was in elementary school when her grandfather became president.

NOW: Donald Trump Jr.'s 17-year-old granddaughter is an aspiring social media influencer. Her behind-the-scenes video from election night garnered 3.7 million views on YouTube. Other posts related to her grandfather have been watched millions more times on TikTok. Kai delivered her first public speech at the Republican convention and is an avid golfer who sometimes plays with her grandfather.

"If I'm not on his team, he'll try to get inside of my head, and he's always surprised that I don't let him get to me," she said at the convention. "But I have to remind him, I'm a Trump, too."

Arabella Kushner

THEN: Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner's daughter was 6 when her grandfather showed China's Xi Jinping a video of her, in a traditional Chinese dress, belting out Chinese-language songs.

"It's very good, right? She's very smart," Trump said. Xi responded that Arabella was her grandfather's "little angel" and a "messenger of China-U.S. relations."

NOW: Arabella is 13 and enjoys singing, playing the piano, horseback riding and Brazilian jiu-jitsu, according to a social media post from her mother.

## **TikTok says it will 'go dark' unless it gets clarity from Biden following Supreme Court ruling**

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — TikTok said it will have to “go dark” this weekend unless the outgoing Biden administration assures the company it won’t enforce a shutdown of the popular app after the Supreme Court on Friday unanimously upheld the federal law banning the app unless it’s sold by its China-based parent company.

The Supreme Court in its ruling held that the risk to national security posed by TikTok’s ties to China overcomes concerns about limiting speech by the app or its 170 million users in the United States.

The decision came against the backdrop of unusual political agitation by President-elect Donald Trump, who vowed that he could negotiate a solution, and the administration of President Joe Biden, which has signaled it won’t enforce the law — which was passed with overwhelming bipartisan support — beginning Sunday, his final full day in office.

“TikTok should remain available to Americans, but simply under American ownership or other ownership that addresses the national security concerns identified by Congress in developing this law,” White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement, noting that actions to implement the law will fall to the new administration.

TikTok released a statement late Friday saying “statements issued today by both the Biden White House and the Department of Justice have failed to provide the necessary clarity and assurance to the service providers that are integral to maintaining TikTok’s availability to over 170 million Americans.”

“Unless the Biden Administration immediately provides a definitive statement to satisfy the most critical service providers assuring non-enforcement, unfortunately TikTok will be forced to go dark on January 19,” the statement said.

A sale does not appear imminent and, although experts have said the app will not disappear from existing users’ phones once the law takes effect, new users won’t be able to download it and updates won’t be available. That will eventually render the app unworkable, the Justice Department has said in court filings.

Trump, mindful of TikTok’s popularity and his own 14.7 million followers on the app, finds himself on the opposite side of the argument from prominent Senate Republicans who fault TikTok’s Chinese owner for not finding a buyer before now. Trump said in a Truth Social post shortly before the decision was issued that TikTok was among the topics in his conversation Friday with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew, who is expected to attend Trump’s inauguration, used the app to thank the incoming president for “his commitment to work with us to keep TikTok available.”

It’s unclear what options are open to Trump, a Republican, once he is sworn in as president Monday. The law allowed for a 90-day pause in the restrictions on the app if there had been progress toward a sale before it took effect. Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar, who defended the law at the Supreme Court for the Democratic Biden administration, told the justices last week that it’s uncertain whether the prospect of a sale once the law is in effect could trigger a 90-day respite for TikTok.

The decision explores the intersection of the First Amendment and national security concerns in the fast-changing realm of social media, and the justices acknowledged in their opinion that the new terrain has been difficult to navigate given they know relatively little about it.

“Congress has determined that divestiture is necessary to address its well-supported national security concerns regarding TikTok’s data collection practices and relationship with a foreign adversary,” the court said in an unsigned opinion, adding that the law “does not violate petitioners’ First Amendment rights.”

Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Neil Gorsuch filed short separate opinions noting some reservations about the court’s decision but going along with the outcome.

“Without doubt, the remedy Congress and the President chose here is dramatic,” Gorsuch wrote. Still, he

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said he was persuaded by the argument that China could get access to "vast troves of personal information about tens of millions of Americans."

Some digital rights groups slammed the court's ruling shortly after it was released.

"Today's unprecedented decision upholding the TikTok ban harms the free expression of hundreds of millions of TikTok users in this country and around the world," said Kate Ruane, a director at the Washington-based Center for Democracy & Technology, which has supported TikTok's challenge to the federal law.

Content creators who opposed the law also worried about the effect on their business if TikTok shuts down. "I'm very, very concerned about what's going to happen over the next couple weeks," said Desiree Hill, owner of Crown's Corner mechanic shop in Conyers, Georgia. "And very scared about the decrease that I'm going to have in reaching customers and worried I'm going to potentially lose my business in the next six months."

At arguments, the justices were told by a lawyer for TikTok and ByteDance Ltd., the Chinese technology company that is its parent, how difficult it would be to consummate a deal, especially since Chinese law restricts the sale of the proprietary algorithm that has made the social media platform wildly successful.

The app allows users to watch hundreds of videos in about half an hour because some are only a few seconds long, according to a lawsuit filed last year by Kentucky complaining that TikTok is designed to be addictive and harms kids' mental health. Similar suits were filed by more than a dozen states. TikTok has called the claims inaccurate.

The dispute over TikTok's ties to China has come to embody the geopolitical competition between Washington and Beijing.

"ByteDance and its Chinese Communist masters had nine months to sell TikTok before the Sunday deadline," Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., wrote on X. "The very fact that Communist China refuses to permit its sale reveals exactly what TikTok is: a communist spy app. The Supreme Court correctly rejected TikTok's lies and propaganda masquerading as legal arguments."

The U.S. has said it's concerned about TikTok collecting vast swaths of user data, including sensitive information on viewing habits, that could fall into the hands of the Chinese government through coercion. Officials have also warned the algorithm that fuels what users see on the app is vulnerable to manipulation by Chinese authorities, who can use it to shape content on the platform in a way that's difficult to detect.

TikTok points out the U.S. has not presented evidence that China has attempted to manipulate content on its U.S. platform or gather American user data through TikTok.

Biden signed the legislation it into law in April. The law was the culmination of a yearslong saga in Washington over TikTok, which the government sees as a national security threat.

TikTok, which sued the government last year over the law, has long denied it could be used as a tool of Beijing. A three-judge panel made up of two Republican appointees and a Democratic appointee unanimously upheld the law in December, prompting TikTok's quick appeal to the Supreme Court.

Without a sale to an approved buyer, the law bars app stores operated by Apple, Google and others from offering TikTok beginning Sunday. Internet hosting services also will be prohibited from hosting TikTok.

ByteDance has said it won't sell. But some investors have been eyeing it, including Trump's former Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and billionaire businessman Frank McCourt. McCourt's Project Liberty initiative has said it and its unnamed partners have presented a proposal to ByteDance to acquire TikTok's U.S. assets. The consortium, which includes "Shark Tank" host Kevin O'Leary, did not disclose the financial terms of the offer.

McCourt, in a statement following the ruling, said his group was "ready to work with the company and President Trump to complete a deal."

Prelogar told the justices last week that having the law take effect "might be just the jolt" ByteDance needs to reconsider its position.

## 1985 was the last time an inauguration was indoors. Ronald and Nancy Reagan felt they had no choice

By THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

Ronald and Nancy Reagan were disappointed.

That's what White House press secretary Larry Speakes told reporters on Jan. 18, 1985, after the Republican president and first lady decided to hold his second inauguration indoors because of an unusually cold weather forecast.

"They really felt they had no choice," Speakes said two days before the ceremony, according to archived transcripts of press briefings housed at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in California.

President-elect Donald Trump's decision to take the oath of office in the Capitol Rotunda on Monday, when below-freezing temperatures are again expected, recalls the last time cold weather prompted a similar decision.

The transcripts from 1985 shed light on the Reagans' considerations.

"There was high-level medical and military consultation and it was just a very serious problem for health and safety," Speakes said, according to transcripts provided Friday by the Reagan library. "We would have had probably some very serious problems for some of the participants."

Like what, reporters asked.

For a day when the temperature reached 7 degrees Fahrenheit (-14 Celsius) in Washington, "the medical people told them that exposed areas would freeze in less than five minutes, with wind-chill factors like this," Speakes said.

Speakes waved off concerns for Reagan's own health as a man taking office a second time at nearly 74 years old. (Trump turned 78 in June and will become the oldest person to start a presidential term. President Joe Biden, who will be in the audience while Trump takes the oath of office, is 82.)

Reagan's box on the west steps of the Capitol would have been heated, so "no, I don't think that was ever voiced to the president," Speakes said.

It was the thousands of people participating in the parade, standing along the parade route and huddled on the National Mall who, Speakes said, concerned the president and first lady more.

"The Reagans looked at it ... knowing parade participants might be out there for four hours, if not longer," he said. "So, it was just obvious, knowing that — what the medical people told them — that they would have had severe frostbite, if not some conditions that could have been worse."

## A\$AP Rocky's shooting trial is set to begin. Here's what to know about the case

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A\$AP Rocky is at a crossroads. He could soar to new heights of celebrity in 2025, or be brought back to earth quickly by a trial starting Tuesday that could lead to his imprisonment for years.

The hip-hop star, and longtime partner to Rihanna, with whom he has two toddler sons, is set to touch the highest levels of high fashion as one of the celebrity chairs of the Met Gala in May along with Pharrell Williams, LeBron James and others.

And his modest acting career will get a major boost from starring alongside Denzel Washington in director Spike Lee's "Highest 2 Lowest," planned for a summer release.

But at the Los Angeles trial that's expected to last about three weeks, he is charged with two felony counts of assault with a semiautomatic firearm. He's accused of firing on a former friend on the streets near a Hollywood hotel in 2021. If convicted, he could get up to 24 years in prison.

The 36-year-old has pleaded not guilty, and his attorney says he committed no crime.

"We're ready to go. It's been a long time," defense lawyer Joe Tacopina said after a hearing Wednesday. "It's been something that's waiting over Rocky's head and Rihanna and their family's heads for a while."



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We're anxious to get this thing underway and get this behind him."

A\$AP Rocky and A\$AP Relli

The trial has its roots in high school in New York, when the Harlem-raised Rakim Mayers, now known as A\$AP Rocky, met Terell Ephron, also known as A\$AP Relli, who will be the trial's most important witness.

Ephron testified at a 2023 preliminary hearing that he brought Rocky into a crew of young creators who called themselves A\$AP — for "Always Strive and Prosper."

"We had dreams, pretty much," Ephron said.

He testified that the members remained close even as Rocky became rich and famous, but the relationships would eventually erode.

The feud came to a head in Hollywood on the night of Nov. 6, 2021, when according to Ephron, Rocky fired at him three or four times, the shots grazing his knuckles.

Ephron went to the police two days later, and brought shell casings he had picked up himself — both points the defense will seize on.

"You need nothing more than Mr. Ephron's testimony by itself," Deputy District Attorney Paul Przelomiec, the case's lead prosecutor, told a judge at the 2023 hearing,

Key players in the A\$AP Rocky trial

The trial is full of large personalities, along with two huge names that will loom over the proceedings despite having no direct role: President-elect Donald Trump and Rihanna.

The trial begins the day after the second inauguration of Trump, whom Tacopina represented in the defamation and sexual abuse lawsuit of writer E. Jean Carroll. And Rocky himself became an unlikely cause celebre for then-President Trump during his first term when Trump publicly declared he was trying to get the rapper freed and returned to the U.S. when he was jailed after a brawl in Sweden in 2019.

But Trump has no power over these proceedings, and could not pardon Rocky if he's convicted.

Those anticipating the trial have long been asking whether Rihanna may attend.

"The mother of his children is she going to be here?" Superior Court Judge Mark Arnold asked the defense at an October hearing. "She's welcome to be here whenever she wants I'd just like to know."

Tacopina has been unable to give a definitive answer, but has said that he does not expect it.

"He's very protective of Rihanna and doesn't want her anywhere near this proceeding," he said after Wednesday's hearing. "But that's a family decision they'll make."

Tacopina said he has no intention of bringing Rihanna's name up at trial, but Arnold suggested he may when screening jurors.

The judge, a former sheriff's deputy, has an affable but no-nonsense style and dispenses with many court formalities. He said he will keep the juror selection process simple, and a jury should be seated quickly.

In an uncommon move in LA County courts, he will allow cameras in court for nearly the entire trial.

"I believe that the public deserves to see what goes on in the courtroom," he said.

Tacopina has also represented other hip-hop figures, including Meek Mill and YG. The lawyer who normally practices in New York is gregarious, quick with a joke and always happy to talk to the media, but can be ruthless in cross-examination.

When discussing Ephron's minor injuries at the 2023 hearing, he said, "It's a miracle he survived that shooting" and was admonished for his tone.

Deputy District Attorney John Lewin, best known for his successful murder prosecution of real estate scion Robert Durst, was a late addition to the prosecution team. He's also known for his aggressive cross-examination, including a relentless, weeks-long questioning of Durst.

The evidence against A\$AP Rocky

The case against Rocky will largely depend on how credible the jurors find Ephron.

Police officers who searched the Hollywood sidewalk after a report of shots fired found no shell casings. Police recovered no fingerprints from the 9 mm casings Ephron brought them, and no 9 mm pistol was found when a search warrant was served on Rocky.

Surveillance video captured parts of the incident. Prosecutors at the 2023 hearing showed a video still

with a man in a hooded sweatshirt whose face is not visible holding what appears to be a gun, along with another image showing the face of the man in the sweatshirt, with no gun visible. A detective testified that investigators established it was Rocky.

Tacopina said he has not decided whether Rocky will testify, which he is legally allowed to avoid.

"He is eager to tell his story, he would love the opportunity to do so," the lawyer said Wednesday. "He is very articulate and very intelligent, he's a good human being, that would come out if he testifies, but that decision has not been made yet. It depends on how the case goes."

## Merrick Garland exits with his record under scrutiny and the Justice Department bracing for upheaval

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER, ERIC TUCKER and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — During hearings on Merrick Garland's nomination to be President Joe Biden's attorney general, the longtime federal appeals court judge told senators in 2021 that he hoped to "turn down the volume" on public discourse about the Justice Department and return to the days when the agency was not the "center of partisan disagreement."

It didn't go as planned.

Garland came in with a mission to calm the waters and restore the department's reputation for independence after four turbulent years under Republican President Donald Trump, who fired one attorney general and feuded with another. Now, the soft-spoken Garland, who was denied a seat on the Supreme Court by the Republican-led Senate, is leaving this month with the department under siege and his own legacy in question.

Those on the right are incensed over the department's effort to hold Trump criminally responsible for his failed effort to overturn his 2020 election loss and have accused prosecutors of going too easy on Biden's son Hunter. Democrats have claimed Garland failed to pursue Trump aggressively enough immediately after the Capitol riot on Jan. 6, 2021, and have criticized the Garland-appointed special counsel, who, they thought, took gratuitous swipes at Biden.

Some senior Biden aides have said privately that Garland was the wrong choice for the job and they believe he bent too far trying to show impartiality.

Garland's defenders say that despite the political pressures, he stood firm in his commitment to independence and fairness.

"The story that has been told by some outside of this building about what has happened inside of it is wrong," Garland told employees Thursday during an emotional farewell address inside the Justice Department's Great Hall. "You have worked to pursue justice — not politics. That is the truth and nothing can change it."

From judge to the Justice Department

Garland was the chief judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, when he was nominated by President Barack Obama for the high court in March 2016.

A Justice Department lawyer who worked under five attorneys general, Garland had burnished his reputation as a hard-charging prosecutor supervising the case against Timothy McVeigh for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people. Garland has called his work on the investigation "the most important thing" he has ever done.

On civil rights matters, the Justice Department under Garland undertook a dozen investigations into law enforcement agencies, uncovering widespread misconduct — work that had been curtailed under Trump's first term. The department was also aggressive in its antitrust enforcement, bringing cases against Google, Apple and others.

But the confluence of investigations on his desk at once presented arguably the biggest test in the Justice Department's 150-year history.

Political investigations swirled, especially around the Capitol riot

The department, at one point, was investigating Joe Biden for his handling of classified documents,

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Hunter Biden for tax and gun offenses, and Trump — the president's chief political rival. To do this, Garland appointed special counsels in an effort to remove any whiff of political bias.

Yet no event shaped Garland's tenure more than the Capitol riot, which unfolded on live TV on the same day news broke that Biden had picked Garland for the job.

By the time Garland assumed the job in March 2021, the Justice Department had begun charging rioters, building what would become its largest-ever investigation.

Long before Jack Smith was appointed as special counsel for the Trump investigations, the department in 2021 launched an investigative unit looking at Trump allies who were at Washington's Willard Hotel around Jan. 6, 2021. Investigators searched for financial ties between Trump allies and the rioters — believing that would allow them to bring a more straightforward case. But that hit a dead end.

The Supreme Court tied up Smith's case for months before granting former presidents broad immunity from prosecution and sending the case back to the trial court. It likely would have gone back to the high court at least once before it could reach trial, making a trial before November's election unlikely.

Some in the White House sour on the attorney general

Inside the White House, frustration mounted over Garland. Biden felt hemmed in by his choice, particularly as the Justice Department investigated both him and Hunter.

White House officials were particularly dismayed at special counsel Robert Hur's report on his investigation into Biden's handling of classified documents. That report portrayed the president as a "well-meaning elderly man with a poor memory," and White House officials said it was inappropriate to include such "prejudicial" language in a report explaining why no criminal charges were warranted.

The report was released just as Biden's age (he turned 82 in November) and mental acuity were becoming major political liabilities that would eventually, following his disastrous debate performance in June, sink his reelection effort.

By releasing the entire unedited document, Garland reflected his determination not only to avoid the appearance of protecting the president but also to turn the page from his predecessor. William Barr was castigated by the left after he issued his own four-page summary of special counsel Robert Mueller's report on Russian election interference that was seen as glossing over some of the document's more damning assessments.

The unraveling of years of work

Garland is about to see years of work dismantled.

The cases against Trump have unraveled. The Justice Department has decided to withhold from the public for now the section of Smith's final report on Trump's classified documents case because an appeal involving Trump's co-defendants is pending. It's possible that it will never be released by Trump's Justice Department.

The future of the Jan. 6 investigation, which has resulted in more than 1,200 convictions against rioters, is in peril. Trump has said he plans to pardon many of them.

Biden, too, pardoned his son after Hunter's trial conviction and guilty plea.

In his final speech to the workforce, Garland made no overt mention of Trump or the president-elect's suggestions that he might use the agency's powers to pursue his foes. But Garland warned that "the same powers that enable the federal prosecutor to pursue justice also create the potential for grave injustice."

## Keeping blood pressure under control is critical. There's a new option for tough cases

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nothing doctors prescribed controlled Michael Garrity's dangerously high blood pressure — until they zapped away some nerves on his kidneys.

If that sounds weird, well, kidneys help regulate blood pressure in part through signals from certain nerves. The new treatment disrupts overactive renal nerves.

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"My blood pressure would spike and I'd run out of breath and feel tired, and that doesn't happen anymore," said Garrity, 62, of Needham, Massachusetts. He still takes medicine but at lower doses, his blood pressure normal for the first time in years. "I'm thrilled."

About half of U.S. adults have high blood pressure, a major risk for heart attacks, strokes, kidney failure, even dementia. Many people don't even realize they have hypertension until it's done serious damage.

"Know your blood pressure, know the numbers," stressed Dr. Randy Zusman of Massachusetts General Hospital, who specializes in the hardest-to-treat cases and advises people who think they're fine to at least get a yearly check.

And only a fraction of patients have their hypertension well-controlled, meaning there's a need for novel strategies. The Food and Drug Administration approved that "renal denervation" option about a year ago, based on studies showing a modest benefit in patients whose blood pressure remains high despite multiple medicines.

Now, after the American Heart Association recently deemed it promising, some hospitals including Mass General Brigham are cautiously offering it as they work out who are good candidates — and whether their insurance will cover a minimally invasive procedure costing thousands of dollars.

What is high blood pressure?

Two numbers describe blood pressure. The top, "systolic" pressure, is the force blood puts on the walls of arteries as it's pumped out of the heart. The bottom "diastolic" number measures that same pressure but between heartbeats.

Normal is less than 120 over 80. Blood pressure naturally fluctuates throughout the day, higher when you're physically active or stressed. But when it stays high — consistently 130 over 80 or higher, according to the most recent guidelines — it stiffens arteries and makes the heart work harder.

How to measure blood pressure

It doesn't take a doctor's visit. Pharmacies and sometimes even libraries offer screening, and people can use at-home monitors.

To avoid falsely high readings, the American Medical Association has tips: Sit quietly with feet on the floor, legs not crossed. Place the cuff on a bare arm, not over clothing. Don't dangle the arm — rest it on a table.

Drugs aren't the only way to treat high blood pressure

Lifestyle changes are the first step, especially for otherwise healthy people. Guidelines urge losing weight, exercise, eating more fruits and vegetables, limiting salt and alcohol, and taking steps to handle stress.

Medicine is a must once hypertension reaches 140 over 90. The average patient requires two or three drugs, sometimes more, along with healthier living, Zusman said.

But the hypertension Garrity has struggled with since his late 20s is treatment-resistant. Despite taking four to six drugs plus a strict diet and exercise, his blood pressure regularly reached 150 over 100 or worse.

What is renal denervation?

Doctors thread a small catheter, or tube, through blood vessels to reach the kidneys, and then beam in ultrasound or radiofrequency energy. Those pulses pass through the renal arteries to selectively target surrounding nerves, said Dr. Joseph Garasic, a Mass General interventional cardiologist who performed Garrity's procedure. It takes about an hour.

Although already used in other countries, a key U.S. trial of renal denervation failed about a decade ago, prompting changes before researchers tried again. In November 2023, the FDA approved two catheter systems, from Recor Medical and Medtronic.

It's not a cure — and some patients get no benefit. But Garasic said multiple studies show on average an 8 to 10-point drop in blood pressure, a modest but important improvement. Some like Garrity see a bigger drop, enough to gradually scale back medications.

The FDA deemed the procedure safe for carefully chosen patients — it wasn't tested in those with kidney disease or narrowed arteries, for example. And studies have lasted only a few years, not long enough to tell if the nerves might eventually regenerate.

Guidance from the American Heart Association urges would-be patients and experienced doctors to have "thoughtful and informed discussions" to decide who's a good candidate.

## Russian attack kills at least 3 in Kyiv as Ukrainian drone strikes set Russian fuel stores alight

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia attacked Ukraine’s capital with a barrage of drones and missiles Saturday, leaving at least three people dead, while industrial sites in Russia were set ablaze by Ukrainian strikes.

Russia launched 39 Shahed drones, other simulator drones and four ballistic missiles in the early hours of Saturday morning, according to Ukraine’s Air Force. Ukrainian air defense forces shot down two missiles and 24 drones. A further 14 drone simulators were lost in location, the statement said.

The Kyiv City Military Administration said three people were killed and three more injured in the attack. A fourth victim had been assumed dead but the administration said later the case has yet to be confirmed. The known victims are two men aged 43 and 25, and a 41-year-old woman, officials said.

The office of Ukraine’s general prosecutor said in a statement that the casualties included a security guard at a food establishment and people who were in a minibus on the street.

AP journalists at the scene saw a man lying dead amid the debris in a pool of blood. Water flooded the streets as firefighters put out the blaze from the attack.

Kyiv’s mayor, Vitali Klitschko, said windows were broken in the city’s Shevchenkivskiy district, and there was smoke at the entrance of a residential building. A water supply pipeline was also damaged, he added. The Lukyanivska metro station was closed after the attacks damaged its glass entrance, but was later reopened.

Drones and missiles were also shot down across numerous regions in Ukraine, including Poltava, Sumy, Kharkiv, Cherkasy, Chernihiv, Kyiv, Khmelnytskyi, Zhytomyr, Kirovohrad, Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson and Donetsk.

Ten people were injured when a Russian missile struck the regional center of Zaporizhzhia, damaging residential buildings and private vehicles, local governor Ivan Fedorov said. Eight people aged between 28 to 69 were hospitalised, including a 48-year-old woman in a serious condition, he wrote in a statement.

Elsewhere, industrial sites in Russia’s Kaluga and Tula regions were set ablaze by Ukrainian drone attacks, local officials said Saturday.

Russia’s Defense Ministry said that 46 Ukrainian drones had been destroyed across the country overnight.

In the Kaluga region, a drone strike sparked a fire in the town of Lyudinovo, Gov. Vladislav Shapsha wrote on Telegram. Residents said on social media that the attack had targeted a local oil depot.

A fire was also reported in Tula region, where Gov. Dmitry Milyaev said a fuel storage tank had been set alight. He warned residents to stay away from fallen drone debris.

No casualties were reported in either case.

## How scientists with disabilities are making research labs and fieldwork more accessible

By ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN AP Science Writer

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) — The path to Lost Lake was steep and unpaved, lined with sharp rocks and holes.

A group of scientists and students gingerly made their way, using canes or a helping hand to guide them. For those who couldn’t make the trek, a drone brought the lake — blue and narrow — into view.

The field trip was designed to illustrate the challenges disabled researchers often face and how barriers can be overcome.

“Just because you can’t do it like someone else doesn’t mean you can’t do it,” said Anita Marshall, a University of Florida geologist leading the outing. The group included scientists with sight, hearing and mobility disabilities.

Marshall’s organization ran the field trip to the lake along the San Andreas Fault, outside of San Bernardino. Her group — the International Association for Geoscience Diversity — and others are working to improve access to field and lab work so that those with disabilities feel welcome and stay.

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Taormina Lepore, a Western Michigan University paleontologist who went on the trip, said scientists tend to value a single, traditional way of getting things done.

At Lost Lake, everyone got a view — even if they couldn't physically get there.

"It's really about empathy, as much as it is about science," said Lepore, who also researches science education.

Making research labs more accessible

Disabled people make up about 3% of the science, technology, engineering and math workforce, according to 2021 data from the National Science Foundation.

Scientists with disabilities say that's in part because labs, classrooms and field sites aren't designed to accommodate them. Students and faculty are still told that they can't work in a lab or do research safely, said Mark Leddy, who formerly managed disability-related grants for the National Science Foundation.

The Americans with Disabilities Act, passed in 1990, sets minimum regulations for new buildings and labs, including ramps and wheelchair-accessible walkways.

But modifying older labs can be a complicated and lengthy process.

Alyssa Paparella is working on her doctorate in biology at Baylor College of Medicine and founded an online community for disabled scientists. She said a science building at one of her former schools had no automatic buttons to open doors.

"What is that saying about who you want actually working in the laboratories?" she said. "That's the front door that they're not even able to get in."

Leddy said researchers with disabilities are invaluable because of their life experiences. They have to constantly come up with creative ways to get past barriers in their lives — a problem-solving skill that's indispensable in a lab.

"If they don't feel welcome, if they don't get access, then how can they contribute that talent?" Leddy said.

Venu Varanasi, a biomaterials engineer at the University of Texas at Arlington who has low vision, prints out signage using high-contrast color combinations and encourages his students to keep floors and counters clutter-free so he can navigate the lab more easily.

He said those modifications also keep accidents to a minimum for non-disabled students.

"When you realize that you have a person with a disability, you have an opportunity, not a problem," he said.

At Purdue University in Indiana, engineering professor Brad Duerstock helped design an accessible biomedical lab years ago with support from the school and a National Institutes of Health grant, removing cabinets under sinks and fume hoods so that wheelchairs can easily pull up.

The cost of making a lab more accessible varies depending on how extensive the changes are, Duerstock said. Some schools set aside money for improvements and science organizations can offer grants.

Accessibility in the outdoors

On the California geology field trip, the group explored the lake carved into the landscape by the San Andreas Fault, where the grating of two tectonic plates can cause earthquakes.

The group included rock enthusiasts at all different stages of their careers. A handful were students. Others were professors, eager to explore the outdoors in a group they could trust to look after them.

Central Connecticut State University professor Jennifer Piatek, who uses a wheelchair, saw the lake through drone footage and used a pocket lens to examine rocks brought back by other participants.

She said it was nice to be part of a community that anticipated her needs. For example, their bus pulled forward to park at a flatter location to make it easier for her to get off.

You can learn a lot from images and maps, "but really you need to get to the space to be in it," said Piatek, who studies planetary geology.

Lepore, a neurodivergent person with low vision, scanned rocks using an artificial intelligence app that described their color and shape out loud.

"Nature is not inherently accessible," she said. "Nature just doesn't have ramps and the kinds of things that we might wish it had. But there are so many workarounds and ways that we as geoscientists can make things truly open."

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Bushra Hussaini uses tips from the field trips to support interns and volunteers with disabilities at New York's American Museum of Natural History, where she works. She said the supportive community of geologists is what keeps her coming back. "We learn from each other and we help each other," she said.

Before heading out, Marshall urged the participants to ask for a hand or a shoulder to lean on if needed. She and others from the organization have been leading field trips every year as an offshoot from the Geological Society of America's annual meeting.

As a doctoral student, Marshall would go on field trips with her peers only to wait back in the van, frustrated, because the organizers hadn't thought about how to accommodate her disabilities.

She wants things to be different for the next generation of scientists.

"The whole point of these little day trips is to just plant that seed out there," Marshall said, "that there's another way forward."

## Today in History: January 19

### Howard Hughes sets coast-to-coast flight record

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Jan. 19, the 19th day of 2025. There are 346 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Jan. 19, 1937, Howard Hughes set a new transcontinental air speed record in his H-1 Racer aircraft, flying from Los Angeles to Newark, New Jersey, in seven hours, 28 minutes and 25 seconds.

Also on this date:

In 1853, Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Il Trovatore" premiered in Rome.

In 1861, Georgia became the fifth state to secede from the Union; it would join the Confederacy the following month.

In 1942, a German submarine sank the Canadian liner RMS Lady Hawkins off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, killing 251 people; 71 survived.

In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower held the first televised presidential press conference.

In 1966, Indira Gandhi was elected to her first term as prime minister of India.

In 1987, H. Guy Hunt became Alabama's first Republican governor since 1874 as he was sworn into office, succeeding George C. Wallace.

In 2012, Rupert Murdoch's media empire apologized and agreed to cash payouts to 37 people whose telephones had been hacked by its tabloid press.

Today's birthdays: Actor Tippi Hedren is 95. Actor-singer Michael Crawford is 83. Actor Shelley Fabares (fab-RAY') is 81. Country musician Dolly Parton is 79. Actor Katey Sagal is 71. Comedian Paul Rodriguez is 70. Basketball coach and commentator Jeff Van Gundy is 63. Tennis Hall of Famer Stefan Edberg is 59. Actor Shawn Wayans is 54. Actor Drea (DRAY-uh') de Matteo is 53. Football Hall of Famer Walter Jones is 51. Comedian-impressionist Frank Caliendo is 51. Actor Jodie Sweetin is 43. U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg is 43. Film director Damien Chazelle is 40. Olympic gymnastics gold medalist Shawn Johnson is 33.