

Groton Daily Independent

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Sunday, Nov. 23

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m. (Special Congregational Meeting); Choir 6 p.m.

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

United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School Christmas Program Practice, 9:30 a.m.

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

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

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

7th grade soccer at Elementary School Gym, 1 p.m.

6th grade GBB Practice, 2 p.m.

1st grade GBB Practice, 3:30 p.m.

5th grade GBB Practice, 4 p.m.

2nd grade GBB Practice, 4 p.m.

Dance Team Practice, 5 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 24

Senior Menu: Stir fry beef with rice, oriental blend vegetables, fruit cocktail.

School Breakfast: Egg bake.

Sunday Blessings
God's Spoken Word
MINISTRIES
May the Lord
open the
floodgates of
Heaven and pour
His blessings on
you and your
entire household.
In the Mighty
name of Jesus,
Amen.
Good Morning
God's Spoken
Word Ministries

School Lunch: Ham patty, baked beans.

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

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

4th grade GBB practice, 4 p.m.

Fall Sports Awards Night, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 25

Senior Menu: Baked chicken, mashed potatoes, cauliflower, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Muffins.

School Lunch: Pizza burger, tri tater.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

5th grade GBB practice, 4:15 p.m.

Wrestling kick-off fundraiser, 5 p.m.

MS GBB hosts Aberdeen Roncalli (7th at 6 p.m., 8th at 7 p.m.)

Groton Daily Independent
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We the People

The South Dakota Humanities Council is making available a weekly column -- "We the People" -- that focuses on the U.S. Constitution. It is written by David Adler, who is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality, and civic education.



By David Adler

An American Odyssey: Restoring a Constitutional Presidency

An American Odysseus, undertaking the arduous journey to restore a constitutional presidency, will almost certainly face a series of daunting challenges worthy of Homer's exploration in his epic poem, *The Odyssey*, about the king's desperate effort to return to Ithaca, after the ten-year Trojan War. Whether our hero, like the Greek hero himself, can return to Ithaca, will determine the very fate of our republic, 250 years after the founders created it in writing the Declaration of Independence. Presidential Government, drenched in authoritarianism, is triumphant and its blatant disregard of the Constitution haunts American Constitutionalism. There is no way home for America, no return to Ithaca, until the presidency is saddled, bridled and bitted.

Under the Trump Presidency, the entrenchment of executive power is swollen beyond anything that the framers of the Constitution imagined as they worked to confine presidential authority at every turn. In Donald Trump's hands, the exercise of presidential powers—including those found within Article II and those illegally wielded in its name-- has laid waste to the doctrines of separation of powers, checks and balances and enumeration of powers.

Trump's presidency represents a striking repudiation of the explicit structure of the Constitution itself. Article VI provides, emphatically, that the Constitution is the law of the land, and thus superior law to anything that the president might assert. The president takes an oath to defend the Constitution, and swears, in accordance with Article II, to take care to "faithfully" execute the laws. Trump's flagrant infidelity to the Constitution, the duties and responsibilities imposed by Article II, the laws of the United States, the rulings of federal courts and the ideals of the Declaration of Independence, has plunged our nation into an abyss.

In a brazen violation of the presidential oath of office, Trump has usurped the fundamental constitutional powers vested in Congress, including lawmaking, appropriations and warmaking, powers which the framers of the Constitution insisted, were legislative, not executive, in nature and required legislative determination "if" the republic were to be maintained. Trump's ongoing assault on freedom of speech, press and assembly, moreover, betrays his presidential duty to defend these pillars of republicanism, each of which is central to government of, by and for, the people.

An oath of office, whether sworn by the president, member of Congress, or any officer of government, imposes a moral duty to obey the Constitution, unless and until it is amended. "There is an absolute duty to obey," the eminent constitutional scholar, Alexander Bickel, wrote 50 years ago, for "to disobey is to deny the idea of constitutionalism. To deny this idea is in the most fundamental sense to deny the idea of law itself." Thus, no president may decide to stay in office for six years, rather than four, or by virtue of the 22nd Amendment, to run for a third term.

Presidential transgression of the Constitution recalls James Madison's warning in *Federalist No. 48*, that "all power is of an encroaching nature, and that it ought to be effectually restrained from passing the limits assigned to it." Yes, of course, but how, and by what means is it possible to restrain the assertion of executive power that defies the oath of office and the Constitution?

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Is the remedy for presidential usurpation of power—the restoration of a constitutional presidency—to be found in the Constitution itself? There seems little wrong with the constitutional blueprint, as it pertains to the scope of executive authority, for the grant of presidential powers is lean and meager, particularly when compared to the capacious powers vested in Congress. The principal problem lies, rather, in the unwillingness of the men and women in positions of power, those at the helm, duly to perform their duties and responsibilities. And, it should be emphasized, if the constitutional arrangement were deficient, its violation by the president could hardly be justified in a nation which exalts the rule of law, a principle that requires executive subordination to the Constitution and the laws of the nation. If the constitutional design is perceived to be inadequate, then the Amendatory Clause—Article V—supplies a remedy: Change the fundamental law and render it appropriate to the needs of the nation.

If constitutional change is not the remedy to restore a constitutional presidency, then, we ask, what is? Thus, we begin in this column in the weeks ahead our journey to return to Ithaca.

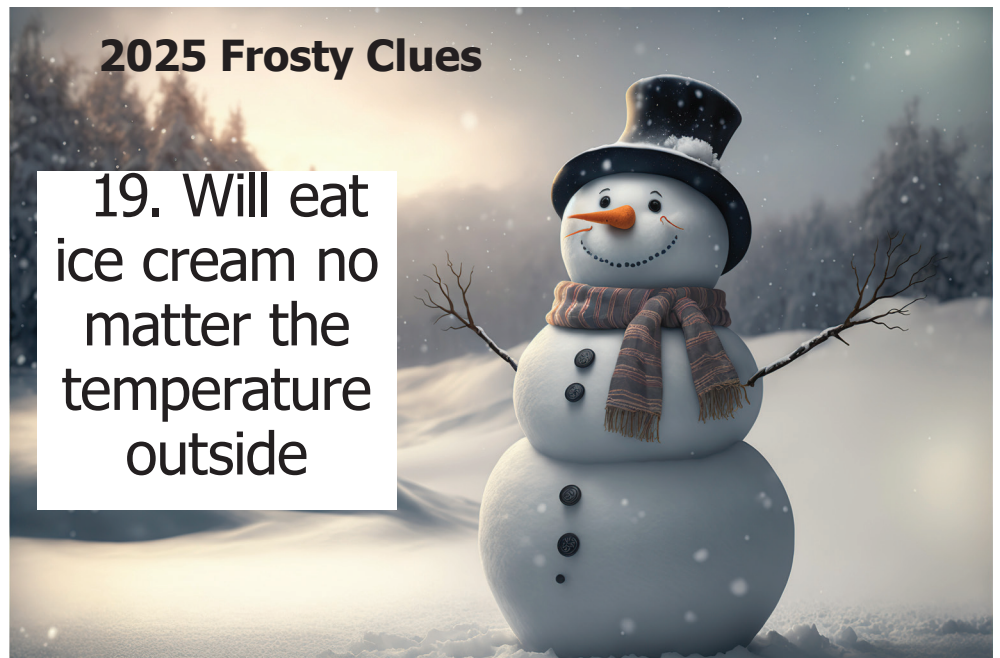
David Adler is president of The Alturas Institute, a non-profit organization created to promote the Constitution, gender equality and civic education. This column is made possible with the support of the South Dakota Humanities Council, South Dakota NewsMedia Association and this newspaper.

Frosty is Back!!!

Please check the Groton Daily Independent for daily clues as to who the Groton Area Mystery Frosty is. The unveiling of Frosty will take place at the Groton Area Snow Queen Contest on Sunday, November 30th, at 4:00 pm.

2025 Frosty Clues

19. Will eat ice cream no matter the temperature outside



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NSU Women's Basketball

Northern takes down South Dakota Mines 64-51

SIoux FALLS, S.D. – Northern State earned their third win of the season against South Dakota Mines, 64-51. As a team, the Wolves tallied 64 points, 42 rebounds, 13 assists, seven steals and two blocks while shooting 37.7% from the field, 22.2% from deep and 71.4% from the line.

QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 64, SDSM&T 51

Records: NSU 3-1, SDSM&T 1-4

HOW IT HAPPENED

The Wolves opened the game with a trio of 3s to take an early 9-5 lead in the first quarter and shot 40% from deep in the first quarter, their best 3-point shooting quarter of the day

Northern State scored 21 points in the first quarter, the most points in a quarter for both teams

Of their 64 points, 32 were scored inside the paint

Leading the charge was Izzy Moore, who dropped 16 points, seven rebounds and two assists while recording a team high of three steals

Moore also was a perfect 6-for-6 at the charity stripe and was 62.5% from the field, NSU's second-highest field goal percentage of the afternoon

Lily Klein and Telia Graham led the Wolves in rebounds with eight apiece, while Klein scored six points and Graham tallied five

Of Northern's four made 3-pointers, Taylor Tool recorded two of them, going 50% in the game and leading the team in the category

As a team, the Wolves' bench contributed 17 points and, as a whole, NSU tallied another 17 points off turnovers, forcing 16 in the game

The Hardrockers had two players (Addison Miranda and Savea Mansfield) go over 10 points in the evening
Miranda led the charge with 13 points, while Mansfield followed with 11

NORTHERN STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Izzy Moore: 16 points, 7 rebounds, 2 assists, 3 steals

Taylor Tool: 11 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 block

Megan Counts: 7 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals

Lily Klein: 6 points, 8 rebounds, 3 assists, 1 steal

Telia Graham: 5 points, 8 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 block

UP NEXT

Northern State will play their home and conference opener against Jamestown inside Wachs Arena on Tuesday. The NSIC matchup is slated for 5:30 p.m.

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NSU Men's Basketball

The Wolves close out the weekend with loss to the Bearcats

Wisconsin Dells, Wis. – Four Northern State University Wolves scored in double figures on Saturday against Northwest Missouri State, despite NSU falling 73-65 in the contest. The Wolves trailed by 13 at the half and came within two of the Bearcats with five minutes remaining in regulation, however a late run by NWMSU secured the game in their favor.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 65, NWMSU 73

Records: NSU 0-4, NWMSU 5-1

Attendance: 126

HOW IT HAPPENED

The Wolves out-shot the Bearcats 81.8 to 78.9 from the foul line and tallied seven made 3-pointers to their six in the game

Northern however struggled with efficiency, shooting 36.4% from the floor and 26.9% from the 3-point line, while Northwest shot 48.1% from the floor and 40.0% from the 3-point line

For the first time this season NSU out-rebounded their opponent 37-30, scoring 11 points off of 11 offensive boards

NSU tallied 24 points in the paint and 16 points off the bench via Marshawn Smith

NWMSU recorded 24 points in the paint, 18 points off the bench, and 13 fast break points

In total, the Wolves notched 37 rebounds, seven made 3-pointers, nine assists, three steals, and 1 block
Smith and Ty Rogers led the offense with 16 points a piece with the pair going a combined 12-for-21 from the field

Cameron Mercadel and Benjamin Bowen followed with 12 points each

Tobi Obiora led the team off the glass with nine rebounds, followed by Smith with six

The trio of Obiora, Smith, and Joshua Book led the team dishing out two assists

Mercadel and Rogers have scored in double figures in all four game this season and currently lead the team averaging 14.3 and 14.0 points per game respectively

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Marshawn Smith: 16 points, 66.7 field goal%, 6 rebounds, 2 assists

Ty Rogers: 16 points, 50.0 field goal%, 5 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 block

Benjamin Bowen: 12 points, 6 rebounds, 1 assist

Cameron Mercadel: 12 points, 3 rebounds, 1 steal

UP NEXT

Northern will open the NSIC season on Tuesday, November 25 from Wachs Arena, hosting the University of Jamestown. Tip-off is set for 7:30 p.m. following the women's game.

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



Detail of "Landscape with a Ruined Tower and a Clear Foreground" by Rembrandt (1650)

Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.

PSALM 37:3,4

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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. Who wrote in Ephesians 5:20, “Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”? *Matthew, Peter, Paul, Jude*

3. From Psalms 107:1 and 118:1, why should we give thanks to the Lord, because He is ...? *Evermore, Good, Watching, Hopeful*

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

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

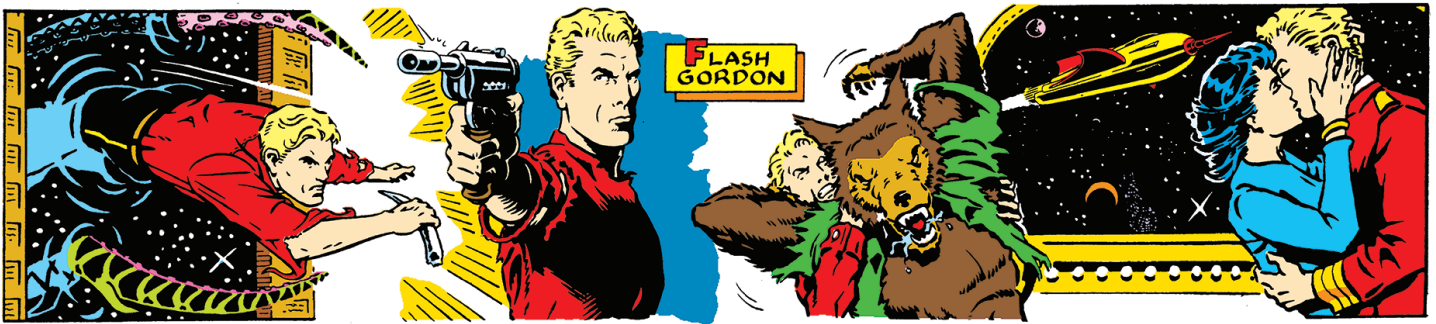
6. In Leviticus 22, a sacrifice of thanksgiving is most meaningful when it is ...? *Sincere, Often, At your own will, Extravagant*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither (Hebrew for thank you), 2) Paul, 3) Good, 4) Psalms, 5) Unthankful people, 6) At your own will

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscribersite at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

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FLASH GORDON
 BY JIM KEEFE
 11-9-03

ACCOMPANYING FLASH'S SCOUTING PARTY, RENSHAW HAPHAZARDLY TRIPS A SENSOR...
 ...PLUNGING THEM INTO DARKNESS!

EVERYONE OKAY?

MY LEG... I THINK IT'S BROKEN.

YOU'RE LUCKY THAT'S THE WORST OF IT.

FROM NOW ON YOU DON'T MAKE A MOVE UNLESS I SAY SO!

FLASH!

MY SENSOR'S PICKING UP A LIFE FORM APPROACHING.

www.kingfeatures.com

SOMETHING BIG...

RRRRRAHR!

NEXT: NO DEFENSE!

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Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

AWARE OVER-AGGRESSIVENESS IN INITIATING THE THROUGH-SWING WITH YOUR FEET AND LEGS TO THE POINT WHERE YOUR BODY SPINS TARGETWARDS TOO QUICKLY.

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START DOWN WITH A SMOOTH SHIFT OF WEIGHT TO YOUR FORWARD FOOT, ALONG WITH CONTROLLED SHUTTLE OF YOUR KNEES TARGETWARDS.

KEEPING YOUR RIGHT HEEL GROUNDED WHILE WORKING ON THE KNEE ACTION WILL GIVE YOU THE PROPER FEEL.



'Lactose Intolerance' Proves To Be A Casein Sensitivity

DEAR DR. ROACH: My wife believed that she had lactose intolerance. After some tests, it was found that she was sensitive to casein rather than lactose. Are there other things in cow's milk besides lactose and casein that people are sensitive to? -- K.A.

ANSWER: There are three main components of cow's milk that can lead people to having a bad reaction.

Lactose is a type of compound sugar called a "disaccharide," which includes two separate single sugars ("monosaccharides") -- glucose and galactose -- that are connected by a chemical bond. This chemical bond is broken by a specific enzyme called lactase. Deficiency is rare in children but

common in adults, especially in people with ancestry from Asia and Africa, as well as Native Americans.

Without the ability to break lactose into its component monosaccharides, a person is likely to get abdominal cramps, gas and diarrhea if they consume lactose. This is because lactose passes into the colon, where colonic bacteria will digest the lactose and produce gas (as well as discomfort). There is a wide variety in the amount that people need to consume to have symptoms, with some people being exquisitely sensitive and others needing a fair amount of it to develop symptoms.

Milk allergies are different. Eighty percent of adults with cow's milk allergies are women. Cow's milk allergies are most commonly due to the protein casein (the "curds" of the nursery rhyme) but may also be due to whey protein. People who are allergic to whey protein often have less symptoms if the protein is heated or cooked (for example, milk in baked goods) or if it is changed by digestive enzymes, as in yogurt.

Cow's milk allergies can have various symptoms. They can be serious and cause anaphylaxis, a life-threatening allergic reaction. But they may also cause symptoms that people might not recognize as a food allergy, such as skin changes, symptoms of the mouth and esophagus, and food- and exercise-associated anaphylaxis. Some people develop eosinophilic esophagitis, which can resemble gastroesophageal reflux disease; this causes heartburn that doesn't respond to the usual treatments.

This is only a brief overview of a complicated topic that generally requires an expert in allergy and immunology to help diagnose and manage the condition.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I have a "trigger thumb." My thumb no longer bends at the middle joint and hurts. Exercise doesn't seem to work. I tried physical therapy, too, without results. -- A.M.

ANSWER: Stenosing flexor tenosynovitis, aka trigger finger, is a common issue that I see very frequently in my clinical practice. Symptoms usually start with some "catching" or locking of the fingers while flexing and extending one or more of them. This may progress to discomfort or pain, and it can progress to the point where a finger or thumb is locked in place and needs to be bent by the other hand.

Initial treatment includes rest and anti-inflammatories. Some experts use a splint to reduce the trauma from repetitive movement in the pulley system of the hand. If conservative treatment isn't effective, most hand experts will try an injection of a steroid into the area of the pulley and tendon. Surgery is an option if two or three injections haven't solved the problem.

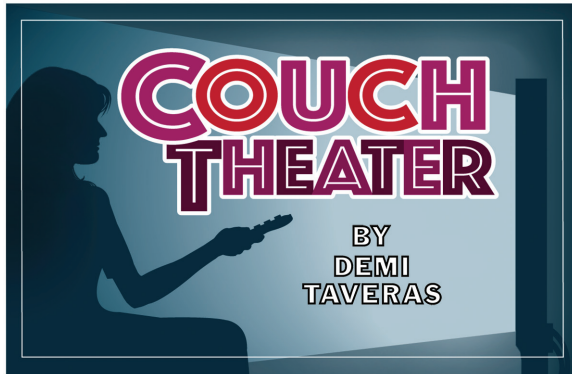
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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From left, Gaten Matarazzo, Finn Wolfhard, Caleb McLaughlin and Noah Schnapp star in "Stranger Things: Season 5." (Courtesy of Netflix)

"Stranger Things: Season 5, Volume 1" (TV-14) -- The hit Netflix series that began in 2016 is finally reaching its culmination with its fifth season, which premieres on Nov. 26. Although

the season will be released in volumes, with the second volume premiering Christmas Day and the finale on New Year's Eve, fans are excited to see how their favorite characters' stories will conclude after so many years of being invested in the series. Picking up a year after the events of the fourth season, the season starts during the fall of 1987 after the "Rifts" have been opened in Hawkins, and our favorite group of misfits are preparing for battle against Vecna. Meanwhile, the military seeks to capture Eleven (Millie Bobby Brown) again in Hawkins. Get ready for lots of action, tense scenes, and heartache. Let's see how "Stranger Things" ends! (Netflix)

"Malice" (TV-MA) -- This new psychological-thriller series starring Jack Whitehall ("Robots") and David Duchovny ("Adam the First") just premiered its first season, and all six episodes are out now to binge! Whitehall plays Adam Healey, a tutor/nanny who signs on to accompany a wealthy family during their vacation. Although Adam seems kind, nurturing and helpful in the beginning, his aura puts some of the family on edge as they can't seem to figure him out. But when the patriarch of the family, Jamie (Duchovny), watches his life begin to unravel, he realizes that somebody is out to get him. What he doesn't realize is that the culprit might be under his own roof. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Bride Hard" (R) -- Rebel Wilson ("Juliet & Romeo") and Anna Camp ("A Little Prayer") are teaming up together again after their "Pitch Perfect" days together for this action-comedy film releasing on Nov. 28. The film picks up as maid of honor Sam (Wilson) is trying her best to fulfill her duties to her best friend, Betsy (Camp), but neither her best friend nor the bridal party know that Sam is actually a secret agent. Sam's hidden secret-agent activities cause tension with the rest of the bridal party, but even after her planned bachelorette party goes wrong, Sam still wants to support Betsy. Fast forward to the wedding, where killer mercenaries show up to steal from Betsy's fiance's family, and Sam might be the only one who could save her best friend's wedding day. This pick is perfect for a night in with the girls or those looking for an easy watch. (Hulu)

"The Family Plan 2" (PG-13) -- Surprisingly, Mark Wahlberg's 2023 film "The Family Plan" was greenlit for a sequel with Michelle Monaghan ("The White Lotus") returning, as well as Zoe Coletti and Van Crosby, who portray Wahlberg and Monaghan's children in the movie. Similar to the first movie, the Morgan family are attempting to live a normal life amid Dan's (Wahlberg) past as an assassin. They travel to London for Christmas so that they can spend the holidays with their daughter who is abroad, but Dan encounters someone from his past -- a man named Aidan (Kit Harrington) who is determined to take over the network of assassins that Dan's father built. So, it's time for the Morgans to once again put their family plans on hold and get down to some dirty business. Out now. (Apple TV+)

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1. Which song was the Allman Brothers' only one to top the charts?
2. What do Elton John's "Rocket Man," Frank Sinatra's "Come Fly With Me" and Dean Martin's "Going Back to Houston" have in common?
3. Name the Sheriff song that topped the charts in Canada in 1983, but didn't hit No. 1 in the U.S. until 1989, long after the group had disbanded.
4. Who released "The Devil Went Down to Georgia"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "You came when I was happy in your sunshine, I grew to love you more each

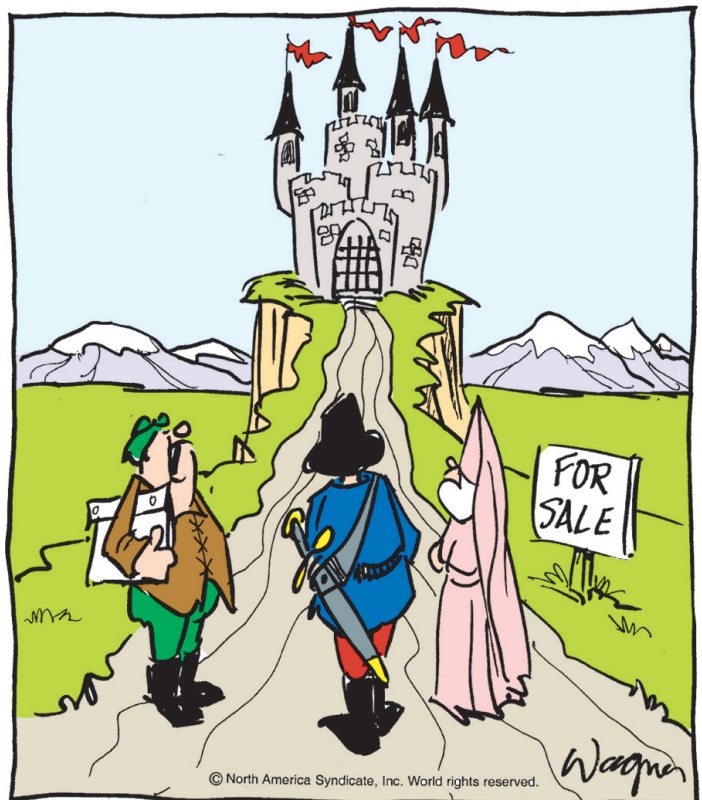
passing day."

Answers

1. "Good Clean Fun," in 1990, a single from their "Seven Turns" album.
2. All were among the many songs to be used over the years as wakeup music sent by NASA to the astronauts on space missions.
3. "When I'm With You." The song is notable because it has a single lead singer note that's held for 19.3 seconds, a record per Guinness World Records.
4. The Charlie Daniels Band, in 1979.
5. "If You Love Me (Let Me Know)" by Olivia Newton-John, in 1974. The song netted a nomination for Country Music Association Award for Single of the Year in 1974.

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GRIN and BEAR IT ^{by Wagner}



"It survived wars, plagues and evil spells ... and finally fell to an adjustable rate mortgage."

Just Like Cats & Dogs

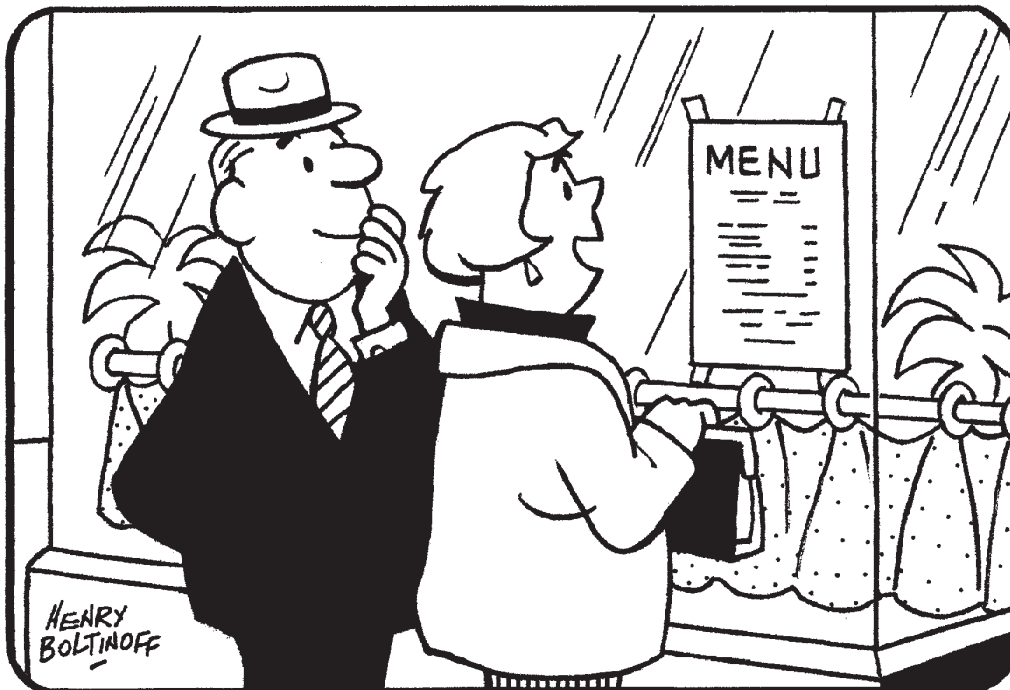
by Dave T. Phipps



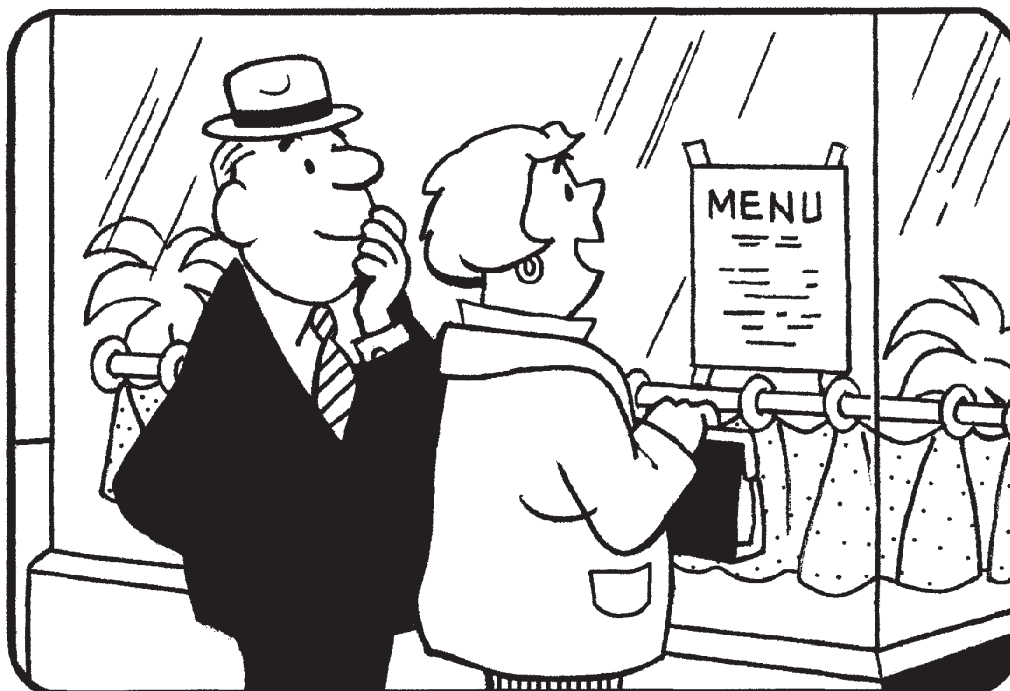
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Curtain is shorter. 2. Menu is smaller. 3. Plant is not as tall. 4. Collar is different. 5. Pocket is added to coat. 6. Earring is different.

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* If you are traveling with pets, you know to bring something for them to drink out of. If you have ice in a container, they can lick the ice to stay hydrated, but it doesn't slosh around or spill easily.

* For moister and softer cookies, use honey as a substitute for a third of the sugar in your cookie recipe.

* "At a party, a cup of red wine spilled on one of my throw pillows. I love the pillow, since it is just the right size and really soft, but I could not get the stain out. So I covered it with a new fabric. I ended up doing all the assorted pillows in the same fabric, and it made a big change in the room. I wish I had done it sooner." -- I.F. in Pennsylvania

* "Keep venetian blinds from sticking to one another and discourage dust by rubbing them down individually with a sheet of fabric softener. This effect will last at least a month in my experience." -- S.F. in Alabama

* "Have a headache? Try drinking a couple of glasses of a sports drink. This works for me and my friends. Maybe we just need to be drinking more water, but the sports drinks get us back on track more quickly than medicine most times." -- E.L. in Colorado

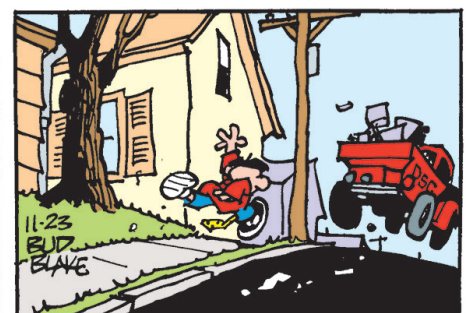
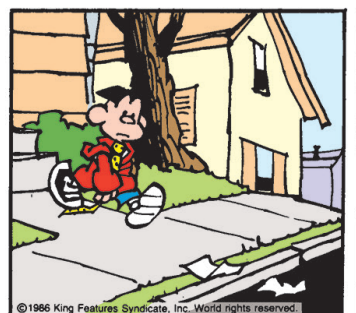
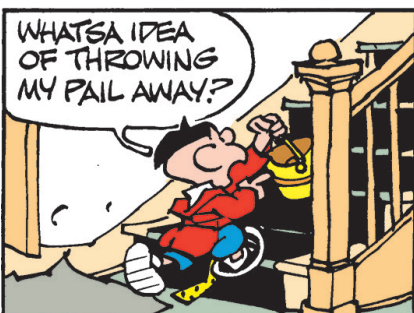
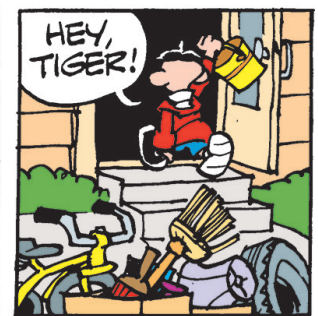
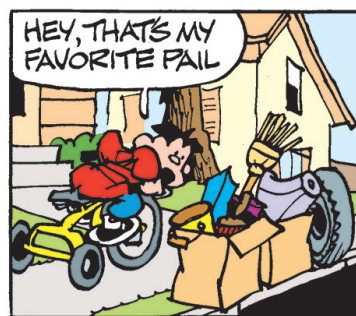
* Bringing some plants indoors? Use Styrofoam packing peanuts in the bottom of pots when planting. They aren't as heavy as rocks, and they do just as good a job. The pots will be easier to move around should you need to move them.

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

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TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Novelist Carr
- 6 Posture
- 12 Criminal's "why"
- 13 Tribulation
- 14 Small beard
- 15 Japanese automaker
- 16 Queue after Q
- 17 500 sheets
- 19 Pot brew
- 20 Elite alternative
- 22 Standard
- 24 Non-Rx
- 27 Yoga class pads
- 29 Modern "carpe diem"
- 32 No. 1 hit by Men at Work
- 35 Wife of Jacob
- 36 Rebuff
- 37 Sean, to Yoko
- 38 Ultra-modernist
- 40 Recipe meas.
- 42 Paper Mate rival
- 44 Amorphous mass
- 46 "House" actor Omar
- 50 Surround with light
- 52 Woodwind player
- 54 Radio components

	1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11
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42	43			44	45				46	47	48	49
50			51				52	53				
54							55					
56							57					

- 55 Tourist's vehicle
- 56 Fancy fiddles
- 57 Birds' homes
- 10 Birthday cut-up?
- 11 Director Kazan
- 12 Store boss (Abbr.)
- 18 Corrode
- 21 "— Believer"
- 23 Sailor's assent
- 24 Barn bird
- 25 Commonest English word
- 26 One of a news show pair
- 28 Unwilling to budge
- 30 Privy
- 31 Have
- 33 "Evita" narrator
- 34 Small ammo
- 39 Gawked at
- 41 Drudges
- 42 Hotel furniture
- 43 Monogram pt.
- 45 Privation
- 47 Brad of Hollywood
- 48 Unpaid TV ads
- 49 Cardinal cap letters
- 51 Nabokov novel
- 53 Spelldown

DOWN

- 1 Dove calls
- 2 Rat- —
- 3 Illuminated
- 4 Prior night
- 5 Six-pack units
- 6 Slugger Sammy
- 7 Surpass
- 8 Wood-shaping tool
- 9 Uncharged particles

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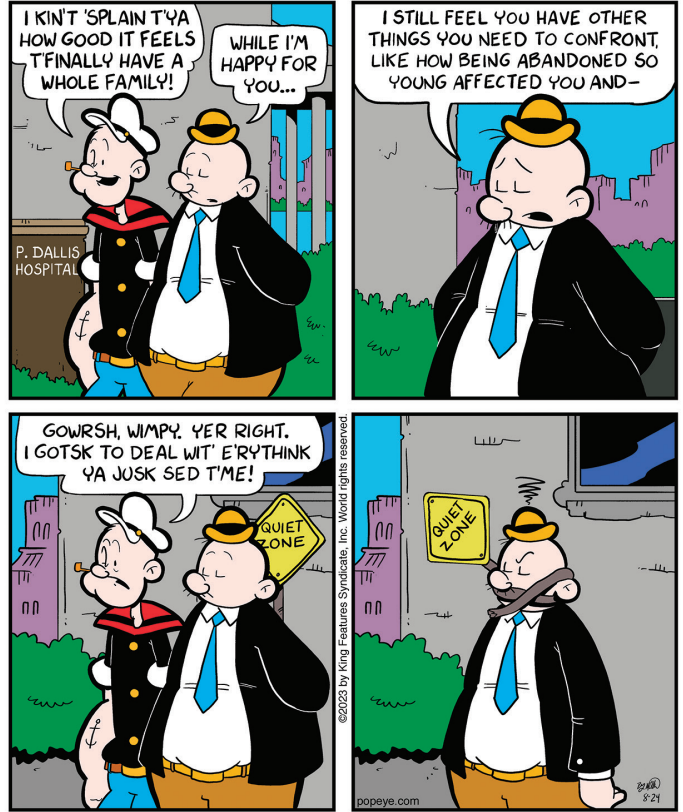
King Crossword

Answers

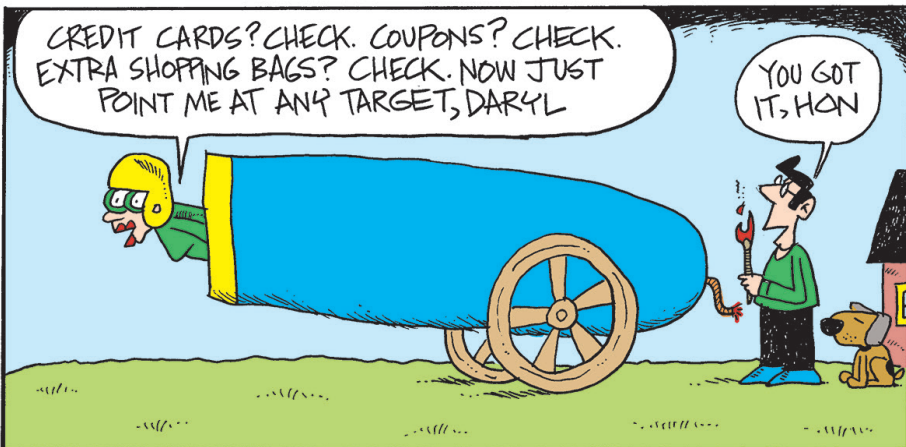
Solution time: 21 mins.

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Olive



Out on a Limb

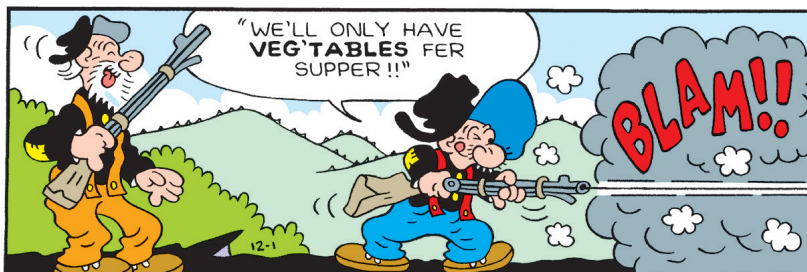
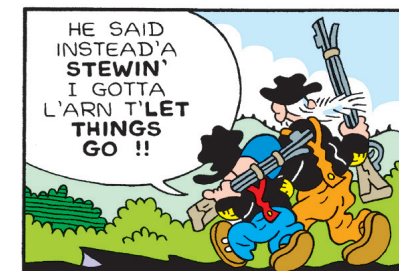
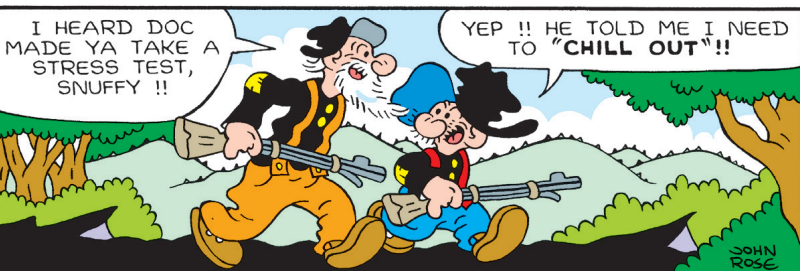
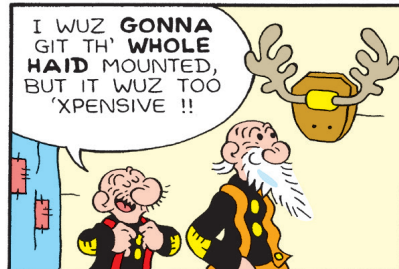
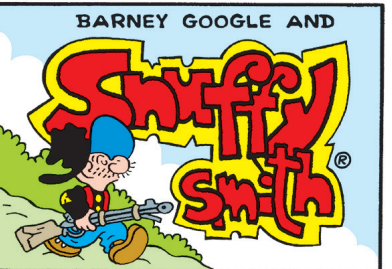
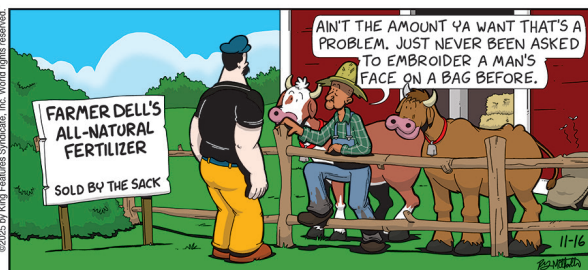
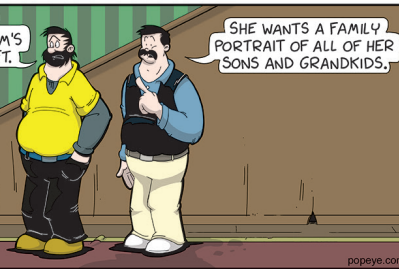
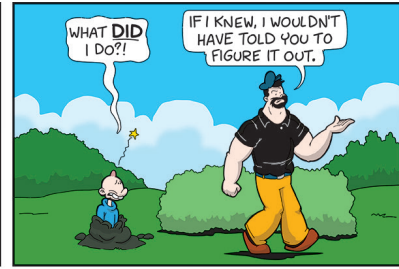


by Gary Kopervas



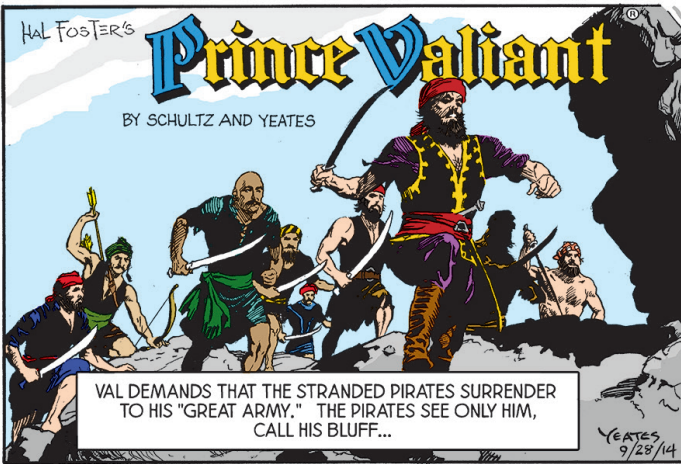
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VAL DEMANDS THAT THE STRANDED PIRATES SURRENDER TO HIS "GREAT ARMY." THE PIRATES SEE ONLY HIM, CALL HIS BLUFF...



...AND PAY FOR THAT DECISION WHEN AN IMAZIGHEN ARROW SHOT FROM THE FAR SIDE OF THE ENCIRCLING CLIFFS FEATHERS AN EASY TARGET.



THE BRIGANDS QUICKLY RETREAT, NOW CONVINCED THAT THERE ARE AT LEAST A FEW MORE TO FACE THAN VAL ALONE. JUST HOW MANY IS THE QUESTION—LIKE MOST PREDATORS, PIRATES DO NOT LIKE UNKNOWN ODDS.



STRAKONUS, THEIR CHIEF, IS NOT AT ALL CONVINCED THAT THIS BARREN ISLAND COULD SUPPORT A LARGE FORCE. STILL, WITH NO SHIP TO ALLOW FURTHER RETREAT, HE KNOWS HE IS IN A POOR POSITION. HE MUST NEGOTIATE AND BUY TIME.

"I AM STRAKONUS, AND I HAVE NO QUARREL WITH YOU! I COME SEARCHING ONLY FOR MY LOST BROTHER AND HIS CARGO."

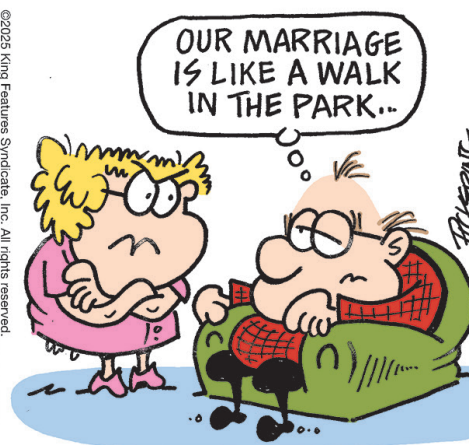
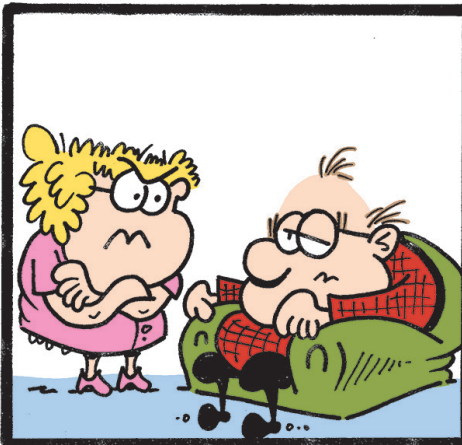


"IF THIS ISLAND HOLDS TRYPHONUS AND HIS IMAZIGHEN CONCUBINES, RETURN THEM TO ME AND I WILL LEAVE YOU IN PEACE!"

NEXT:
Too late

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Stay calm to foil scammers

This is a new scam, but then it's what we expect from thieves -- yet another way to steal from us. This one involves our innocent-seeming bank debit card, a scammer and a pair of scissors. Here's how it works:

You'll get a call from someone claiming to be from your bank who says there is fraudulent activity happening on your account, and they need your help. You'll be told that you need to act fast before you lose all your money.

The scammers will tell you to cut up your debit card, but not to cut up the little microchip on the card. Put all the pieces, they'll say, in an envelope and leave it at your door, because a bank "official" is going to rush over to take possession of the evidence. Oh, and there will be one last little detail they'll need -- your bank PIN. By that time, if you're sufficiently rattled, you'll willingly tell them the number.

A scammer will quickly show up at your door to grab the envelope. Armed with that little card chip and your PIN, they can quickly empty your account.

The key is for you to not get rattled, to not let scammers direct your actions.

If you're suspicious about any call, hang up! It's OK (even preferable in this case) to be rude! Call the bank or company on their official number and ask if they were trying to contact you about fraudulent activity on your account.

If your debit card (or any card) expires and the bank or company sends you a replacement, cut up the old one. Be sure to cut through the chip, the magnetic strip on the back and the numbers as well as your name. Divide them up in multiple trash bags to keep the pieces apart.

Remember: Stay calm to defeat the scammers.

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15 N Main St. - Ste. 101
Downtown Groton

Call/Text Paul: 605-397-7460
Call/Text Tina: 605-397-7285



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

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1. Name the Los Angeles Rams defensive end who scored two safeties in a single game in 1973 and went on to star in the 1984-1991 NBC TV police drama "Hunter."

2. Basketball Hall of Famer Willis Reed's No. 19 is the first number retired in the history of what NBA franchise?

3. A pair of sneakers worn in 1984 by what Basketball Hall of Famer fetched \$1.472 million at a 2021 Sotheby's auction?

4. What trophy, created in 2009 and carved from a 1,000-year-old oak tree, is awarded to the winner of the Florida Gators vs. Georgia Bulldogs college football rivalry game?

5. In the 2022 National League Championship Series, who became the first siblings to face each other as pitcher and batter in a Major League Baseball playoff game?

6. What Detroit Lions defensive tackle, selected No. 7 overall in the 1987 NFL Draft, killed three teenagers in a drunk driving crash in 1988 and was convicted of vehicular homicide?

7. What Italian cyclist set the new hour record by completing 56.792 kilometers at the Velodrome Suisse in 2022?



Answers

1. Fred Dryer.

2. The New York Knicks.

3. Michael Jordan (an autographed pair of Nike Air Ships worn in his fifth NBA game).

4. The Okefenokee Oar.

5. Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Aaron Nola faced his brother Austin of the San Diego Padres.

6. Reggie Rogers.

7. Filippo Ganna.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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A happy Thanksgiving starts with pets' safety and comfort

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Please remind your readers, as the holiday season begins, to keep a close eye on their pets. Many of our favorite foods at Thanksgiving and Christmas contain ingredients that are poisonous to dogs and cats. Holiday gatherings with lots of family and friends can be really stressful for them, too. -- Larry in Secaucus, New Jersey

DEAR LARRY: You're absolutely right, and thank you for sending this reminder along. Dogs and cats alike will be attracted to all of the delicious aromas coming from the kitchen this week. Turkey, gravy and lots of side dishes will smell irresistible.

But owners should know that it's not just chocolate that is dangerous for pets to ingest. Onions, garlic, chives, avocados, grapes (and raisins) can all be deadly. Sugar substitutes, especially xylitol, are also very dangerous. Coffee and caffeinated drinks, like chocolate, contain a chemical that causes illness, seizures and even death. A complete list can be found here: www.asPCA.org/pet-care/aspca-poison-control/people-foods-avoid-feeding-your-pets.

Here are some ways to keep your pet safe during holiday preparation and gatherings.

Create a safe space for your pets: a quiet room away from all the bustle and noise. Fill it with their favorite toys, food and water, and a cozy place to curl up and relax. If you crate your dog, place their crate in this "safe room" a few days before the gathering.

Wall off the kitchen: Put up baby gates in front of each entrance while you're preparing food.

Keep a close eye on pets: Have a family member monitor your pets while preparations are underway.

Give them attention and cuddles. Before and after the big gathering, spend time with your pets. They'll settle back into their home routine afterward much more easily.

Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

* The blocks of the Washington Monument are held together by gravity and friction, rather than mortar.

* Ancient Romans gave a hard “no” to the practice of eating butter, with Pliny the Elder referring to butter as “the choicest food among barbarian tribes.” Why? Mainly because they used it for treating burns and thus thought of it as a medicinal salve rather than food.

* Pencils have never been made from lead.

* The leather diamond patch on the outside of backpacks,

called a “lash tab,” was initially used by mountaineers to secure their gear.

* Harvard University is older than calculus.

* Some research has shown that up to 40% of a worker ant colony may remain idle while their comrades soldier on with the labor. But before you label them lazy, one theory, based on scientific observation, is that keeping a team of workers on standby allows the colonies to stay productive.

* Heinz Ketchup has a “speed limit” of .028 miles per hour, set by the company as an indicator of the product’s consistency.

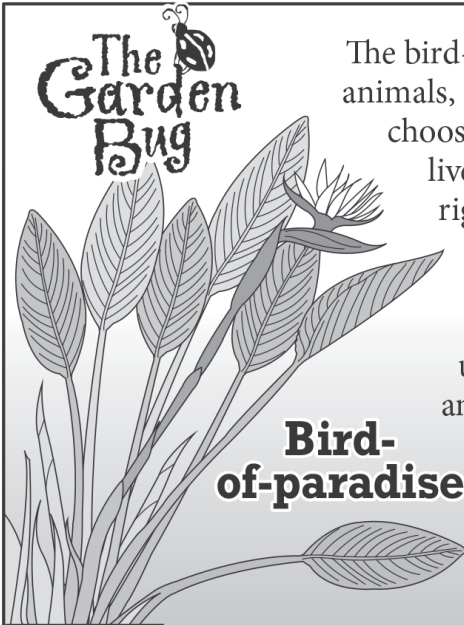
* “Watching paint dry” is an actual occupation for some folks, requiring an observation of the changing colors and particles of the substance as it dries, both on walls and under a microscope.

* Manhattan, New York’s most popular transportation hub, Grand Central Terminal, is radioactive.

* The tradition of serving ham at Christmas comes from the Norse festival of Yule, where a boar was sacrificed to honor the deity Freyr.

Thought for the Day: “A strong nation, like a strong person, can afford to be gentle, firm, thoughtful and restrained. It can afford to extend a helping hand to others. It’s a weak nation, like a weak person, that must behave with bluster and boasting and rashness and other signs of insecurity.” -- Jimmy Carter

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The Garden Bug

The bird-of-paradise plant can be toxic to animals, so keep pet access in mind if you choose one. These plants are known to live for more than 50 years with the right growing conditions, not even flowering until they are five or six years old. They can do well in pots indoors, but they grow tall, upward of five feet in some cases, and their leaves love to spread out, so be sure your potted bird-of-paradise has plenty of room.

Bird-of-paradise

- Brenda Weaver

Source: www.housebeautiful.com



by Freddy Groves

Errors in benefits decisions

I'm all in favor of processing veterans benefits claims as fast as possible, but not like this. It appears that a senior VSR (veterans service representative) was authorizing claims decisions at such a fantastic rate that it came to the attention of the VA Office of Inspector General.

In a legitimate decisions process, there are several steps involved in handling a claim, including doing interviews, looking at the issues, checking the evidence and so forth. After all the steps are correctly completed and a decision is made about an award (which includes granting or denying claims), the whole file is sent to a senior VSR to review for accuracy and to authorize.

That senior review, one assumes, involves actually looking at a file, at the data and evidence involved, and at the claims processor's conclusion. This is where the senior VSR skipped steps -- and managed to process 19 times the number of claims as anyone else in the country. He did this by spending less than five minutes on each file, where others across the country averaged 21 minutes per file. When queried about that, directors said it was "not physically possible" to do that many claims and have them be correct. During one period of time, it was learned that the VSR was processing a claim every one to three minutes, meaning that files weren't being opened at all.

OIG reviewed a sample of claims done by that VSR over a six-month period and estimated that 84% of the claims had errors.

And errors, when it comes to disability claims, mean granting claims, denying claims and awarding money. In this case, the errors came to an estimated \$2.2 million in wrong payments.

There are too many questions at this point to know how the situation will conclude. But we want to know: Is that VSR still employed? Will denied claims automatically be reviewed? And will overpaid benefits need to be repaid?

Veterans deserve better than this.

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Wishing Well®

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S	B	D	E	A	W	S	A	I	E	S	P	E
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Y	J	I	O	S	R	S	O	A	O	Y	K	E
8	6	8	3	8	4	3	4	3	4	3	4	4
E	N	R	V	S	Y	E	S	N	Y	T	E	S

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

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1. LITERATURE: What is the name of the dragon in "The Hobbit"?
2. MOVIES: Which holiday is being celebrated at the end of "When Harry Met Sally"?
3. GEOGRAPHY: Which country is home to the famous Angkor Wat Temple?
4. HISTORY: In which year did the Internet become available to the public?
5. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which wrestler is known by the nickname "The Rock"?
6. LANGUAGE: What is cryptophasia?
7. TELEVISION: In which state was the sitcom "Newhart" set?
8. MATH: How many sides does a nonagon have?
9. MUSIC: Which singer/songwriter wrote the soundtrack for the animated movie "Tarzan"?
10. FOOD & DRINK: What is the essential spice in paella?

Answers

1. Smaug.
2. New Year's Eve.
3. Cambodia.
4. 1993.
5. Dwayne Johnson.
6. A unique language developed between twins.
7. Vermont.
8. Nine.
9. Phil Collins.
10. Saffron.

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South Dakota Governor



Larry Rhoden



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Thankful for Opportunities

Thanksgiving is a special time for family, traditions, and good food – but it is also a time for reflection. When the Pilgrims first celebrated Thanksgiving in 1621, they had a lot to reflect on. They celebrated surviving their first year in Plymouth, the freedom of religion, and the relationships they made with the Wampanoag people.

But with all the festive traditions, we often forget that the Pilgrims' first year in Plymouth was far from sunshine and rainbows – it was a year marked by hardship, loss, and uncertainty. Despite that, they still chose to remember the year with gratitude and thanksgiving. They chose to see God's provision, rather than their lack, and they gave thanks for the blessings all around them.

Having a thankful heart doesn't mean that every day is easy. It doesn't mean that you never face hardship. In fact, some of the hardest things in life are actually the greatest blessings. I've said it many times, but challenges in life are often opportunities not yet realized – all it takes is a shift in perspective.

The Pilgrims focused on their opportunities, rather than their challenges, when they celebrated the first Thanksgiving. In the same way, all of us today should seek to find the good in every situation and thank our Creator for the blessings He's given us. When you do, you will realize that there are open opportunities all around you!

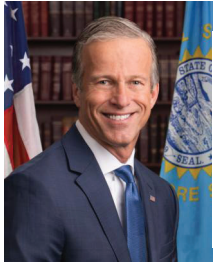
I recently read this quote, and I was struck by its truth: "What a privilege to be tired from work you once prayed for; what a privilege to feel overwhelmed by growth you used to dream about; what a privilege to outgrow things you used to settle for."

Being Governor of this great state is certainly not a cakewalk – there are days that I'd much rather be on my ranch, working with my hands. But I am grateful the good Lord has led me here, and I thank Him every day for the opportunity to serve as your Governor. It is the greatest honor of my life, and I will never take it for granted.

Here in South Dakota, we have so much to be grateful for! We have the lowest unemployment rate, the highest birth rate, a AAA credit rating, and a fully funded pension. We are the most Second Amendment-friendly state, the most pro-life state, and we have less regulations than almost any other state in the nation!

As you spend time with loved ones this Thanksgiving, I encourage you to take stock of all the blessings in your life. But I also encourage you to reflect on the hardships you might be facing –because even the tiring, overwhelming, and challenging moments may be opportunities you once prayed for.

Take a moment to demonstrate the heart of gratitude the Pilgrims modeled – to recognize God's hand in every season, and to offer thanks for both the joys and trials that shape us. Happy Thanksgiving, and may God bless you all!



JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

Air Travel Improvements You'll Be Thankful For

We are entering one of the busiest travel seasons of the year. More than 80 million Americans are traveling for Thanksgiving this week. While most of them are packing up their cars and hitting the road, 6 million Americans will be boarding a plane in order to spend Thanksgiving with their loved ones.

I know a lot of people don't particularly look forward to flying, and I get it. With our state's unpredictable bouts of severe weather, South Dakotans are no strangers to flight disruptions. And our aging air traffic control system can cause disruptions as well. I know air traffic controllers are working hard every day to keep planes moving quickly and safely, but I also recognize they have to rely on technology that's often decades old. Not to mention, we're facing a shortage of controllers, which means controllers at a number of airports need to work longer hours and extra shifts to keep everything running smoothly.

These challenges were exacerbated during the recent government shutdown. Air travel was snarled from the beginning of Democrats' shutdown, and by the time the shutdown entered its second month the Federal Aviation Administration had to order cutbacks in air traffic as a matter of safety. Fortunately, regional air service was preserved, so states like ours could continue to access air travel. I'm grateful to the controllers who were on duty and working without pay during the shutdown, and I'm glad that air traffic is back at normal levels today. Now we must return our focus to modernizing America's air traffic control system for the long term.

This is something that has been a priority for the Trump administration and for Congress. Republicans' One Big Beautiful Bill made a significant investment in technology improvements for the air traffic system, which will support the deployment of state-of-the-art technology to towers across America. The Trump administration is also working to hire and train new controllers to get the controller force back to full strength. And for our part, Congress remains committed to providing funding in order to hire 2,500 new controllers next year.

Upgrading outdated technology and bringing on additional controllers will make a big difference for the traveling public and for supply chains that rely on air cargo. It means maximizing efficiency without compromising safety. And hopefully it means less time on tarmacs and in terminals and more time spent with loved ones.

Like many families, one of our Thanksgiving traditions is going around the table to say what we're thankful for. For me, being with my family is at the top of that list. I know how important it is to make sure that all Americans are able to spend the holidays with their families and not stuck at an airport.

We won't fix the system overnight, but thanks to the Trump administration and our continued efforts in Congress, we are making progress toward a state-of-the-art air traffic control system for America. I'm glad that the system is back at full strength after the shutdown, and we're working to make it stronger every day.

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AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE ENERGY

BIG News

Jeffrey Epstein committed heinous, evil crimes. I voted to release the Epstein files, which is something I've supported for a while. We all want transparency and for any person found guilty to face the full force of justice. My heart goes out to the victims, and I hope proper action is taken to protect their identities.

The House Oversight Committee's investigation has already released more than 65,000 documents to the public. The House committee and the Justice Department will continue to release additional information and documents and those involved will be held responsible.

BIG Update

In the first six months of this year, Customs and Border Patrol seized around \$60.3 million worth of illegal vapes imported from China. Many of these devices are designed to appeal to kids and include video games in the device. These illegal products are fueling the youth vaping epidemic.

I'm supporting the END Illicit Chinese Tobacco Act which allows the United States to destroy these devices imported into our country and stop these harmful products from reaching our communities. It's important to protect our kids from these unknown and unregulated products.

BIG Idea

Rising energy prices and energy reliability are becoming a growing concern for many. This week, I voted to pass a number of bills to keep energy bills affordable and ensure the lights stay on in our communities. These bills roll back unnecessary regulations and prioritize domestic energy production. House Republicans are taking an all-of-the-above approach to meet America's energy needs.

I've voted to refill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, secure the power grid, open markets for liquified natural gas, increase refining capacity, and more. These efforts all play a role in decreasing energy prices and bolstering American energy production.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

Fall Fell Way Too Soon This Year

This summer was the best I have had in a long time. I enjoy summer because the weather is always warm, sometimes even hot.

I was so focused on enjoying my summer that I did not realize Fall had arrived.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came into my office the other day and said, "Do you know what day it is today?"

Looking at her with a smug smile, I said, "Yes, my dear, I do know what day it is. It's today."

She chuckled and said to me, "Oh, you don't know what today is. It's Fall. Don't you keep up with anything?"

Looking at her with a bit of hesitation, I said, "What do you mean it's Fall?"

It was then that I began to understand what she was saying. The leaves were turning from their vibrant green to a dull brown, the air was getting crisper and the days were getting shorter. Summer is over, and now it is Fall. For me, Fall fell way too soon. I need a little more summer time before I am ready to graduate to Fall.

During the summer, I get many things done in the "catch-up" category. I was not quite all caught up when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage announced that it was officially Fall.

The critical thing about summertime is The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage stocking up on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's activities. She packs the refrigerator and freezer to their maximum. By the time summer is over, she is already prepared for the upcoming holidays.

It takes her a few weeks to find the right turkey for the holiday season. She is an expert in finding the right turkeys; after all, she found me.

What I like about the summer season is the variety of activities available. I do not have to make an excuse to go and do something. I'll say, "It's summer and I'm going to enjoy this season."

Now that I'm a little older, I have to scale back my physical activities. Years ago, I used to go bowling with some friends. Now, it takes me a while to gather the energy to go and watch a bowling game.

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I can take a couple of days off and say to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, "After all, it is summertime." I try to take advantage of this as often as possible. It is almost impossible to trick The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. She knows what I'm doing before I tell her what I'm going to do. However, I still try.

Now that summer is over, I have graduated into the Fall season. There are some advantages to this time of the year, and I am still learning what some of them are.

One advantage I use as much as possible is the weather. In the Fall, it is colder than in summertime. Of course, with me, when the temperature drops below my age, I am freezing.

So, there is an advantage to this because if The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage wants me to go outside, I renege and say, "Oh, boy, I really would love to, but it is so cold I really can't handle it."

Looking at me, she will smile and say, "If you think it is cold, why don't you put on a sweater and then go outside?"

She has me at that. I try as much as possible, and occasionally it works; that is all that is important.

The other aspect of the Fall season is the many holidays celebrated during this time. They go from Halloween to Easter. Once it starts, it is tough for me to keep up with these holidays.

I am not a holiday person, except for the food, which I like. However, these holidays come so fast; I do not know which one I am celebrating at any given time. As long as there's food on the table, I will celebrate whatever holiday it is.

Of course, the great benefit of all these holidays is that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage organizes our family get-together. It is during the summer that she stocks up on all the food for these get-togethers. Then, when that holiday comes, I really do not care what holiday it is; I am going to celebrate the food she puts on the table.

I do not think anybody makes a better pumpkin pie than The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Actually, it does not matter which pie she is making; they are all marvelous as well as delicious. My favorite pie is the one I'm eating at the time. I would make up a holiday if it meant I could have one of her pies.

If it weren't for all these holidays, I wouldn't have gotten to see some of my family. Therefore, the great thing about graduating to the Fall season is about families. Nothing is greater than gathering around the dinner table with your family and eating the delicious food that is there for us.

As I considered gathering as a family to celebrate, I thought of a verse in the Bible.

"Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men" (Psalm 107:8).

Gathering together is a great time to celebrate all that God has blessed us with during the year. And He has blessed us wonderfully.

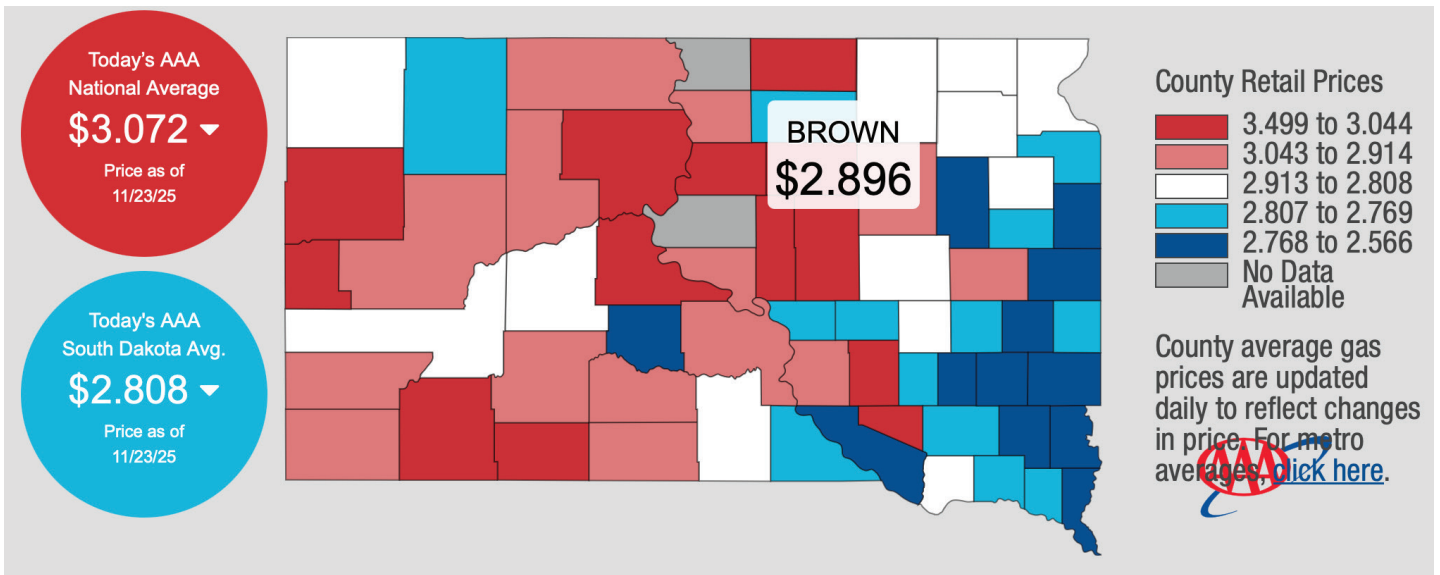
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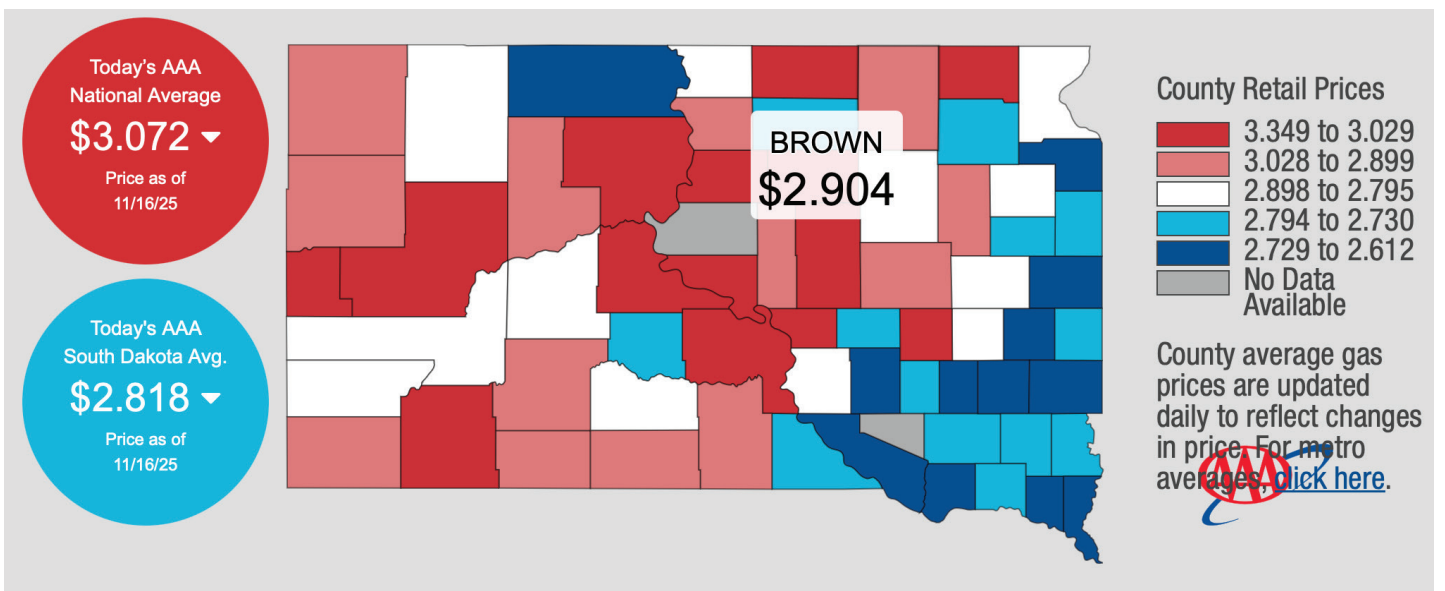
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$2.808	\$2.985	\$3.473	\$3.509
Yesterday Avg.	\$2.817	\$2.991	\$3.471	\$3.513
Week Ago Avg.	\$2.818	\$3.026	\$3.474	\$3.491
Month Ago Avg.	\$2.857	\$3.028	\$3.502	\$3.296
Year Ago Avg.	\$2.873	\$3.077	\$3.482	\$3.248

This Week



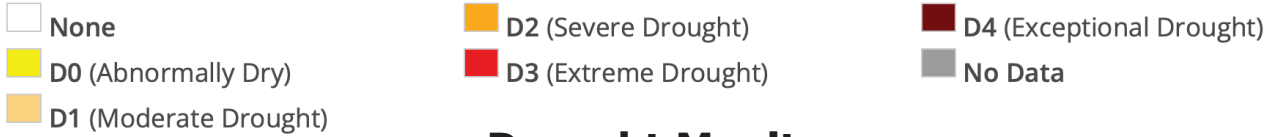
Last Week



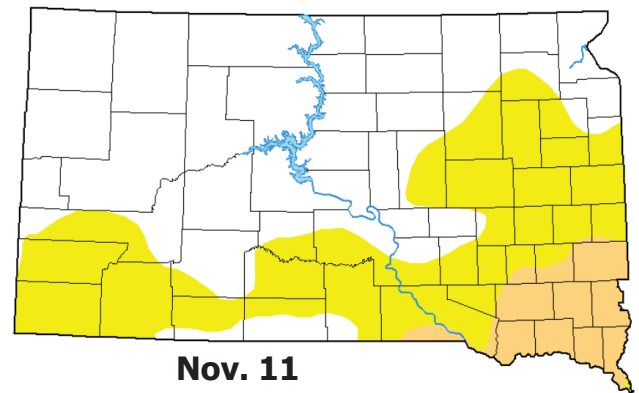
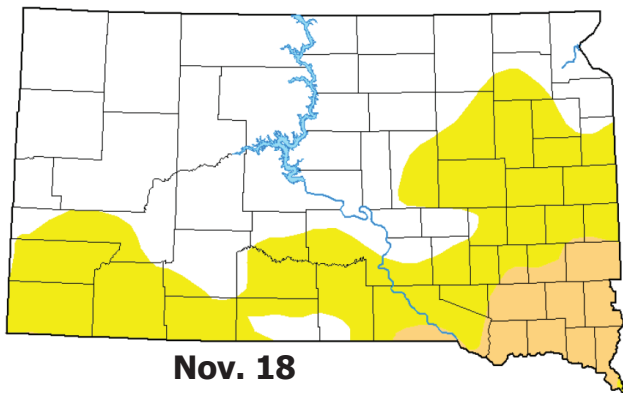
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Drought Classification



Drought Monitor



Primarily dry and warmer-than-normal weather occurred in the High Plains region this week, with the exceptions of east-central South Dakota and some high-elevation areas of Colorado and Wyoming. Temperatures in Wyoming and parts of eastern Colorado were 12 or more degrees above normal this week, while eastern parts of the Dakotas, Nebraska and Kansas were mostly 3-9 degrees warmer than normal. Short-term precipitation deficits and decreasing soil moisture in some areas led to expansions and development of abnormal dryness and moderate drought in parts of eastern and central Nebraska. In western Nebraska, abnormal dryness and moderate drought expanded under similar conditions, while severe drought also developed where more substantial longer-term precipitation deficits were taking place. In and near the Kansas City area, moderate and severe drought locally expanded where soil moisture levels decreased and short-term precipitation shortfalls grew. Abnormal dryness expanded across the southeast Colorado plains where short-term precipitation deficits grew, while moderate drought filled in in northwest Colorado where short-term dryness aligned with long-term precipitation deficits.

EARTHTALK

Revolutionizing Wind Power With Bladeless & Other New Tech

by Rachel Berliner

Dear EarthTalk: What's new on the horizon for wind energy?
-- R.H.K., Newport, RI

Wind power, a renewable energy source generated from wind turbines, is expected to become significantly more efficient in the coming future. Experts have long been researching, improving and rethinking the structure of wind turbines and wind farms for maximum efficiency.

Recently, a team at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) improved on the Momentum Theory, devised in the 19th century to model how rotors move in an environment. Many factors go into operating a wind farm, like continuously monitoring and changing the direction, angle and rotational speed of the turbines. By advancing this mathematical model, the MIT team devised a tool that allows wind farm operators to make more precise adjustments to maximize energy production. "This is what we're so excited about, is that it has immediate and direct potential for impact across the value chain of wind power," says Michael Howland, an Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at MIT.

Improvements to conventional turbines also show promise. For example, producing turbines with longer blades allows each turbine to capture more energy. Creating taller towers enables generating electricity from the stronger winds that exist at higher heights. Another feasible development is "wake steering," which purposefully misaligns turbines with the direction of the airflow in order to generate more energy.

Some companies are innovating beyond the familiar wind turbine, such as Vortex Bladeless, a start-up that has engineered a conical, bladeless wind turbine that utilizes vorticity, an effect that creates a vortex. Vorticity is often avoided because it can cause oscillation, movements back and forth. But David Suriol, a Vortex Bladeless's founder argues, "why don't we try to use this energy, not avoid it."

Another way to generate more energy is to create turbines so they can harness energy in less windy places that don't have the space for wind farms, like large cities. Some scientists want to harnessing wind power on the ocean with off-shore turbines that float on platforms tethered to the ocean floor.

Although there have been great advancements by researchers, scientists and engineers, there is still strong resistance from people across the country. Policy makers have the important role of developing public knowledge and experience with wind energy, especially in places that are not typically wind-harvesting areas. If you are interested in wind energy's progression, take the time to educate yourself, friends, family and community about wind energy and the potential it has. In addition, you can contact elected officials to support wind energy legislation in the country.



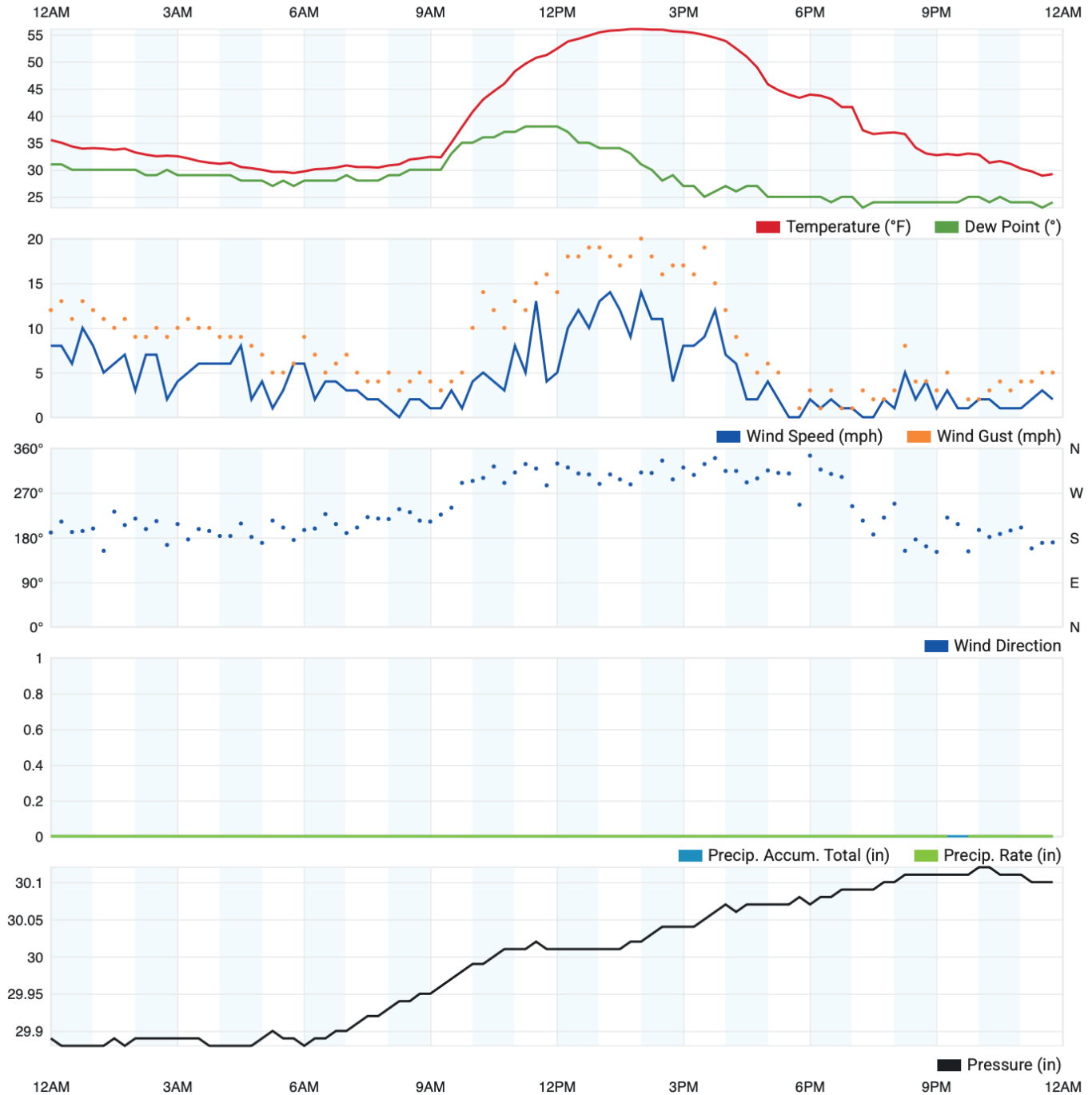
Wind power is poised to become significantly more efficient — and safer for wildlife — in the coming years thanks to technological advances.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

November 22, 2025



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Today



High: 53 °F

Sunny

Tonight



Low: 31 °F

Partly Cloudy

Monday



High: 48 °F

Mostly Cloudy

Monday Night



Low: 31 °F

Cloudy then
Chance Rain

Tuesday



High: 36 °F

Rain/Snow
Likely and
Patchy
Blowing Snow



Tuesday Rain Changing to Snow

November 23, 2025
5:24 AM

Precipitation will mainly be rain Monday night and transition to snow Tuesday morning.

Key Messages

- Rain will move into north central SD Monday evening. Early Tuesday morning, this rain will start to change to snow as it move east
- Strong winds Tuesday could cause blowing snow over northern SD
 - ◆ This could cause areas of lower visibilities for those traveling
- Temperatures will start dropping Monday to be below normal for Thanksgiving
 - ◆ Bundle up when heading outside and traveling to stay warm

	11/24 Mon			11/25 Tue							
	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm
Aberdeen	0%	5%	5%	30%	30%	55%	55%	45%	45%	10%	10%
Britton	0%	10%	10%	35%	35%	70%	70%	60%	60%	20%	20%
Chamberlain	5%	0%	0%	10%	10%	25%	25%	15%	15%	5%	5%
Clark	5%	5%	5%	25%	25%	60%	60%	45%	45%	25%	25%
Eagle Butte	0%	20%	20%	35%	35%	20%	20%	10%	10%	0%	0%
Eureka	0%	15%	15%	50%	50%	55%	55%	35%	35%	5%	5%
Gettysburg	0%	10%	10%	45%	45%	35%	35%	25%	25%	5%	5%
McIntosh	0%	40%	40%	50%	50%	35%	35%	15%	15%	0%	0%
Milbank	5%	5%	5%	15%	15%	60%	60%	60%	60%	30%	30%
Miller	5%	5%	5%	25%	25%	40%	40%	30%	30%	10%	10%
Mobridge	0%	20%	20%	50%	50%	35%	35%	20%	20%	5%	5%
Murdo	0%	5%	5%	20%	20%	20%	20%	15%	15%	0%	0%
Pierre	0%	5%	5%	30%	30%	25%	25%	15%	15%	0%	0%
Redfield	5%	5%	5%	25%	25%	50%	50%	35%	35%	15%	15%
Sisseton	0%	5%	5%	25%	25%	70%	70%	65%	65%	30%	30%
Watertown	10%	5%	5%	20%	20%	55%	55%	50%	50%	25%	25%
Webster	5%	10%	10%	30%	30%	65%	65%	55%	55%	25%	25%
Wheaton	5%	5%	5%	20%	20%	70%	70%	75%	75%	30%	30%

- Rain + - Wintry Mix + - Snow +



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Rain will be moving into north central SD Monday evening and will transition to a rain/snow mix then snow Tuesday morning. Strong winds will be gusting Tuesday, which could cause blowing snow and lower visibilities in areas. Additionally, temperatures will start to drop Monday to be below normal by Thanksgiving. If you are traveling, make sure to be prepared for winter is on its way.

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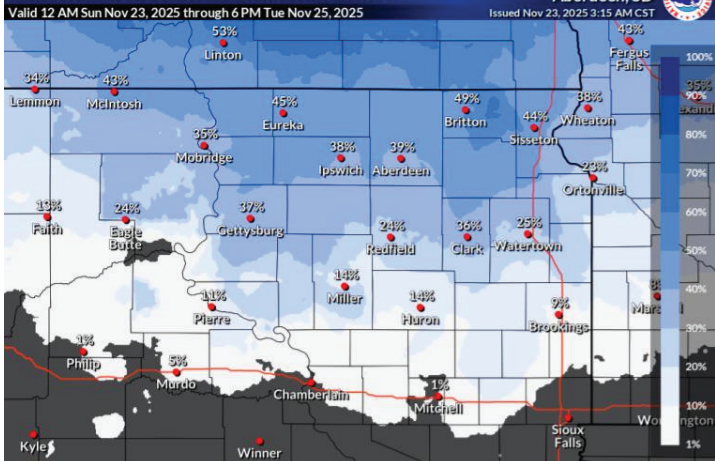
Probability of Upcoming Snow

November 23, 2025
5:24 AM

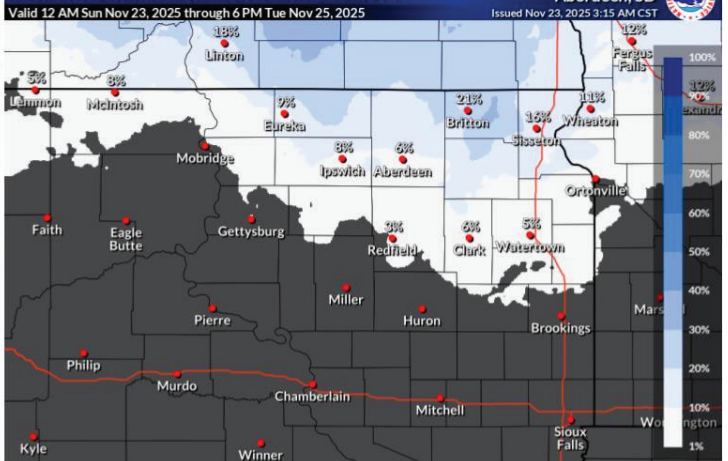
System Tuesday brings snow to South Dakota and west central Minnesota

- Precipitation will start Monday evening as rain and then transition to snow Tuesday morning. Patchy blowing snow possible over northern SD Tuesday.
- The heaviest snowfall is expected Tuesday afternoon and evening over northeastern South Dakota. There is a 30% chance of 4" or more snow over portions of Marshall County.
- There is still a lot of uncertainty in the snowfall amounts, with amounts expected to change in future forecasts. Higher snow amounts will be to the north in ND and the northern half of MN, so take caution if traveling north. Be sure to stay up to date on the latest forecast.

Percent Chance of 1" Snowfall or More



Percent Chance of 4" Snowfall or More



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Once the snow starts to fall Tuesday, there are higher chances for inch of snow over northern SD counties, with portions of Marshall County having 30% chance for 4 inches or more of snow. There will be higher snowfall amounts to the north in ND and the northern half of MN. Be sure to stay up to date on the latest forecast, especially if you are traveling.

WINTER DRIVING

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Get the weather forecast.
Change your travel plans if hazardous weather is expected.

Check road conditions.
Call 511 or visit your state's DOT webpage to check on road conditions. Choose a different route or adjust your travel plans if road conditions are poor.

Ready your vehicle.
Check your battery, wipers, coolant, and other systems affected by cold temperature. Make sure your tires have good tread. Clear snow, ice or dirt from your windows, lights and camera.

Pack an emergency supply kit.
Stock your vehicle with a mobile phone, charger, batteries, blankets, flashlight, first-aid kit, high-calorie, non-perishable food, candle to melt snow for drinking water, sack of sand or cat litter for traction, shovel, scraper, and battery booster cables.

Looking for a specific forecast for your route? Check us out at www.weather.gov/abr

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD
Updated: 11/5/2025 10:27 AM Central

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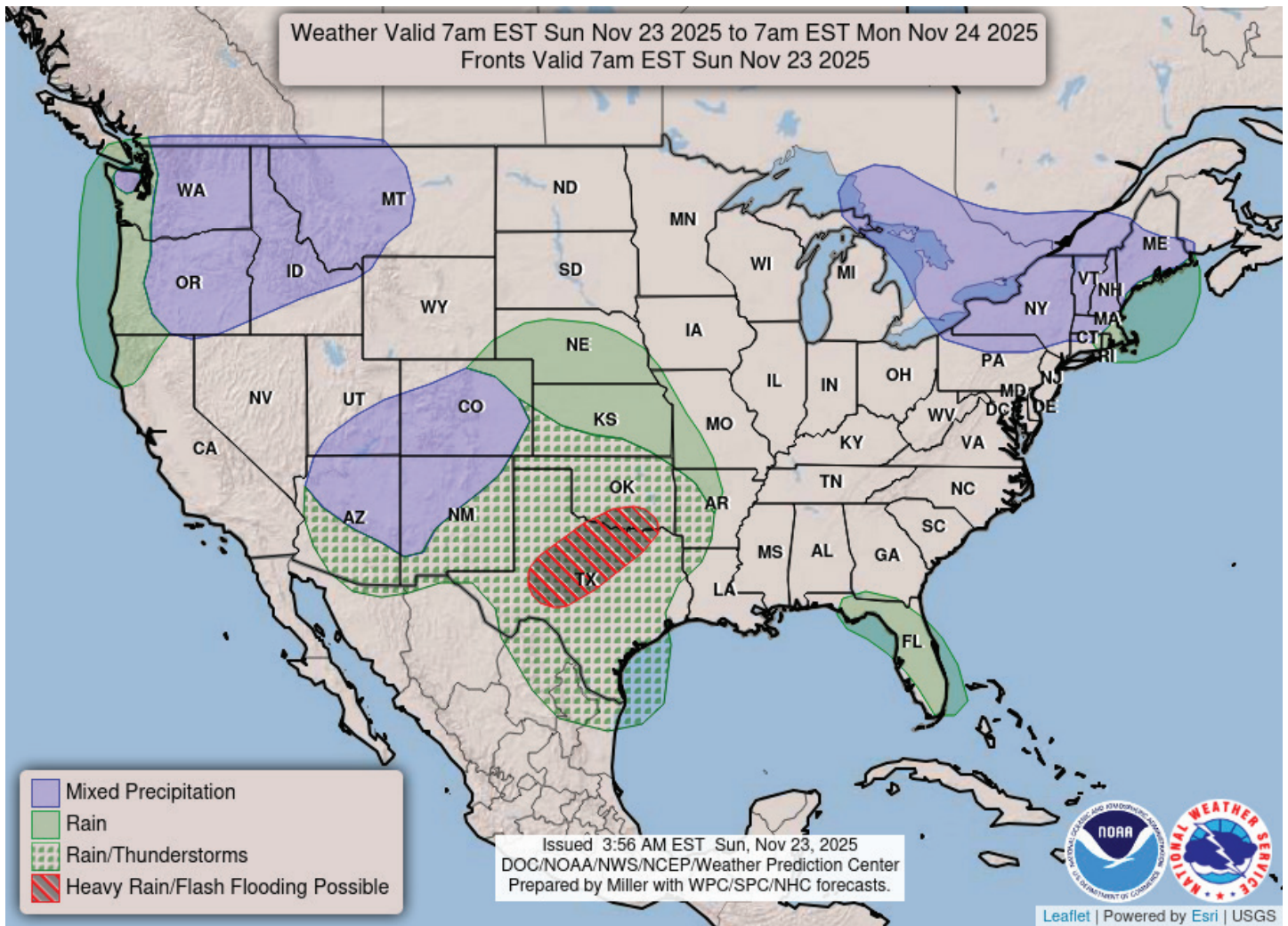
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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 56 °F at 1:37 PM
Low Temp: 29 °F at 11:28 PM
Wind: 21 mph at 12:51 PM
Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 59 in 2017
Record Low: -17 in 1985
Average High: 39
Average Low: 16
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.60
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 21.07
Precip Year to Date: 23.51
Sunset Tonight: 4:55 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:43 am



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Today in Weather History

November 23, 1996: Heavy snow of 6 to 8 inches fell across most of northern South Dakota, adding to already significant snow depth. Roads became snow-packed, which hampered travel, resulting in the postponement of many activities. Some snowfall amounts included 6 inches at Aberdeen, Isabel, Roscoe, and Mellette; 7 inches at Eagle Butte, Timber Lake, Selby, Faulkton, Leola, Frederick, Webster, and Sisseton; and 8 inches at Britton, Ipswich, Eureka, and McLaughlin.

1909 - Rattlesnake Creek was deluged with 7.17 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a record for the state of Idaho. (The Weather Channel)

1912: The Rouse Simmons was a three-masted schooner famous for sinking during a violent storm on Lake Michigan on this day. The ship was bound for Chicago with a cargo of Christmas trees when it foundered off the coast of Two Rivers, Wisconsin, killing all on board.

1943 - Northern New Hampshire was in the grips of a record snowstorm which left a total of 55 inches at Berlin, and 56 inches at Randolph. The 56 inch total at Randolph established a 24 hour snowfall record for the state. In Maine, Middle Dam received a record 35 inches of snow in 24 hours. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Rain and gale force winds prevailed along the Northern Pacific coast. Quillayute, WA, received 1.57 inches of rain in 24 hours, including nine tenths of an inch in six hours. Heavy snow fell over northern Oregon and the Cascade Mountains of Washington State. Temperatures began to moderate in the eastern U.S. following a bitterly cold weekend. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Low pressure crossing the Great Basin brought wintry weather to parts of the western U.S. Up to a foot of snow blanketed Yellowstone Park, and winds gusted to 70 mph at Casper WY, and reached 95 mph near Reno NV. Up to seven inches of rain was reported in the Grass Valley and Nevada City area of California. Paradise CA was soaked with 5.37 inches of rain in 24 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Low pressure tracking across the Carolinas brought heavy rain to parts of the Southern Atlantic Coast Region for Thanksgiving Day, and blanketed the Middle Atlantic Coast States and southern New England with heavy snow. The storm produced up to nine inches of snow over Long Island NY, and up to 14 inches over Cape Cod MA, at Yarmouth. Totals of 4.7 inches at New York City and 6.0 inches at Newark NJ were records for Thanksgiving Day, the 8.0 inch total at Providence RI was a record for any given day in November, and the 6.5 inch total at Strasburg CT was a record for the month of November as a whole. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2004 - An outbreak of severe thunderstorms produced reports of 54 tornadoes across portions of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Alabama. In Texas's Hardin county, one person was killed with three injured when a tornado struck during the afternoon (Associated Press).



New Birth: Your Part

As soon as we place our faith in Jesus, we're indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

John 3:14-19: 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

After reading the last two devotions, you might be thinking, I want to be born again, so what do I do? Or perhaps you want to explain the new birth to someone else but aren't sure how. For answers, today's reading is a good place to start.

So, what is our responsibility in the new birth experience? There's nothing in John 3 about earning salvation. Instead, we find Jesus affirming that whoever trusts in Him will be saved and will have eternal life. Essentially, Jesus is saying, You want to be born again? Then you must place your faith in Me. This means believing He's exactly who He says He is—the Son of God. It means believing that He is the Savior and He died for your sins. And it means surrendering your life to Him.

The new birth describes something that takes place in our inner being. As soon as we place faith in Jesus, we're indwelt by the Holy Spirit. From that moment on, our conduct will begin to change because a new person is in charge.

If you're willing to pray and ask Jesus to bring about the new birth experience in your life, you can depend on His promise that He'll never turn away anyone who comes to Him (John 6:37). Salvation is His gift to everyone who believes.

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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Upcoming Groton Events

- 11/15/2025 Legion Post #39 Turkey Party 6:30pm
- 11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving 11:30am-1:30pm Community Center (Thanksgiving)
- 11/30/2025 Snow Queen Contest, 4 p.m.
- 12/06/2025 Olive Grove Holiday Party and Silent Live Auction Fundraiser

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 Password _____

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 11.21.25

3 4 19 31 63 9

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$70,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.22.25

4 12 19 20 50 4

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$7,730,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.22.25

4 8 24 28 47 16

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 28 Mins 27 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.22.25

3 6 16 22 24

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$97,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.22.25

5 6 24 44 58 12

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

11.22.25

28 32 36 51 69 2

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$654,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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News from the **AP** Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL

SDHSAA State Championship=

Class A=

Championship=Dakota Valley def. Dell Rapids, 26-24, 26-24, 24-26, 25-22

Seventh Place=Rapid City Christian def. Wagner, 25-16, 25-16, 25-12

Fifth Place=Clark-Willow Lake def. St Thomas More, 27-25, 26-24, 12-25, 25-23

Third Place=Sioux Falls Christian def. Hamlin, 25-19, 25-15, 25-18

Class AA=

Championship=Harrisburg def. Sioux Falls O'Gorman, 25-16, 25-16, 25-13

Seventh Place=Sioux Falls Jefferson def. Mitchell, 25-22, 25-12, 25-10

Fifth Place=Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Sioux Falls Washington, 20-25, 26-24, 25-22, 25-20

Third Place=Brandon Valley def. Watertown, 25-15, 25-19, 25-21

Class B=

Championship=Chester def. Warner, 25-23, 25-16, 25-18

Seventh Place=Herreid-Selby def. Harding County, 23-25, 23-25, 25-21, 25-13, 15-12

Fifth Place=Gayville-Volin High School def. Parkston, 25-8, 26-24, 25-21

Third Place=Northwestern def. Bennett County, 25-20, 25-19, 25-12

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

Beasley's 24 points pace San Francisco past Minnesota 77-65

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Ryan Beasley scored 24 points and Tyrone Riley IV and reserve Mookie Cook each scored 14 points and San Francisco pulled the surprise beating Minnesota 77-65 on Saturday.

Reserve David Fuchs scored 11 points and Guillermo Diaz Graham 10 for San Francisco (5-1) which made 11 of 22 from 3-point range. Cook made all four his 3-point attempts and Beasley was 4 of 6.

Reserve Langston Reynolds scored 16 points, Cade Tyson scored 14 points and Jaylen Crocker-Johnson 10 for the Golden Gophers (4-2).

San Francisco of the West Coast Conference built a 17-9 lead and never trailed. The Dons led 34-27 and reached their first double-digit lead when out of the break, Diaz Graham made 1 of 2 foul shots and Beasley made a layup.

Reynolds made two layups and Crocker-Johnson and Tyson made layups in succession at the midway point of the second half and the 8-0 run got Minnesota to a tie at 52. But Diaz Graham and Beasley sandwiched 3s around a Reynolds layup and San Francisco led the rest of the way.

San Francisco leads the all-time series between the two 2-0.

Henry's desperate TD throw in OT sends South Dakota State past North Dakota 34-31

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — Jack Henry threw a 23-yard touchdown pass to a leaping Grahm Goering in overtime to give South Dakota State a dramatic 34-31 overtime win against North Dakota on Saturday.

Ranked 22nd in the FCS despite entering with a four-game losing streak, South Dakota State (8-4, 4-4 Missouri Valley Football Conference) finished second in the conference and is expected to secure an at-large bid to the FCS playoffs.

Kenten Laughman gave North Dakota (7-5, 5-3) a 31-28 lead to start overtime.

On the Jackrabbits' ensuing drive, on third-and-8, the Fighting Hawks blitzed the middle of the line, broke through and forced Henry to escape running to his right. Without the luxury of being able to stop and plant his feet, he threw a pass across his body from the 37-yard line that an outstretched Goering

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snared before landing on his back.

Henry completed just 6 of 17 passes for 132 yards and two touchdowns and was intercepted twice. Joisah Johnson ran for 76 yards on 19 carries and had three touchdowns for South Dakota State.

North Dakota built leads of 14-0 after a quarter and 17-7 at halftime before the Jackrabbits scored two touchdowns in the third and one in the fourth for a 28-0 lead. North Dakota evened it when Jerry Kaminski threw a 16-yard touchdown to Nate DeMontagnac with 1:52 left in regulation. The two-point conversion forced overtime.

Kaminski threw for 292 yards, two touchdowns, and an interception while running for a touchdown for 13th-ranked North Dakota.

All five of North Dakota's defeats were against ranked opponents by a combined 17 points.

Trump paints Zelenskyy into a corner with his new plan to end Russia's war on Ukraine

By AAMER MADHANI and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With his new 28-point plan to end Russia's war in Ukraine, President Donald Trump is resurfacing his argument that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy doesn't "have the cards" to continue on the battlefield and must come to a settlement that heavily tilts in Moscow's favor.

Trump, who has demonstrated low regard for Zelenskyy dating back to his first term, says he expects the Ukrainian leader to respond to his administration's new plan to end the war by next Thursday.

The president said Friday of Zelenskyy, "He's going to have to approve it," though he was more conciliatory a day later, saying, "I would like to get to peace."

"We're trying to get it ended. One way or the other, we have to get it ended," Trump told reporters outside the White House on Saturday.

Hours later, senators critical of Trump's approach to ending the Russia-Ukraine war said they spoke with Secretary of State Marco Rubio who told them that the peace plan Trump is pushing Kyiv to accept is actually a "wish list" of the Russians and not the actual proposal offering Washington's positions.

The State Department called that account "false" and Rubio later took the extraordinary step Saturday night of insisting that the plan was U.S.-authored — but the incident raised still more questions about the plan's fate.

However, buffeted by a corruption scandal in his government, battlefield setbacks and another difficult winter looming as Russia continues to bombard Ukraine's energy grid, Zelenskyy says Ukraine is now facing perhaps the most difficult choice in its history.

Trump and Zelenskyy have had a tortured relationship

Zelenskyy has not spoken with Trump since the plan became public this week, but has said he expects to talk to the Republican president in coming days. It's likely to be another in a series of tough conversations the two leaders have had over the years.

The first time they spoke, in 2019, Trump tried to pressure the then newly minted Ukrainian leader to dig up dirt on Joe Biden ahead of the 2020 election. That phone call sparked Trump's first impeachment.

Trump made Biden's support for Ukraine a central issue in his successful 2024 campaign, saying the conflict had cost U.S. taxpayers too much money and vowing he would quickly bring the war to an end.

Then early this year in a disastrous Oval Office meeting, Trump and Vice President JD Vance tore into Zelenskyy for what they said was insufficient gratitude for the more than \$180 billion the U.S. had appropriated for military aid and other assistance to Kyiv since the start of the war. That episode led to a temporary suspension of U.S. assistance to Ukraine.

And now with the proposal, Trump is pressing Zelenskyy to agree to concessions of land to Moscow, a massive reduction in the size of Ukraine's army, and agreement from Europe to assert that Ukraine will never be admitted into the NATO military alliance.

"Now Ukraine may find itself facing a very difficult choice: either loss of dignity, or the risk of losing a key partner," Zelenskyy said in a video address Friday.

At the center of Trump's plan is the call on Ukraine to concede the entirety of its eastern Donbas region, even though a vast swath of that land remains in Ukrainian control. Analysts at the independent Institute

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for the Study of War have estimated it would take several years for the Russian military to completely seize the territory, based on its current rate of advances.

Trump, nevertheless, insists that the loss of the region — which includes cities that are vital defense, industrial and logistics hubs for Ukrainian forces — is a fait accompli.

"They will lose in a short period of time. You know so," Trump said Friday when asked during a Fox News Radio interview about his push on Ukraine to give up the territory. "They're losing land. They're losing land."

Trump's patience remains a question

The Trump proposal was formally presented to Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Thursday by Dan Driscoll, the U.S. Army secretary. The plan itself was a surprise to Driscoll's staffers, who were not aware as late as Wednesday that their boss would be going to Ukraine as part of a team to present the plan to the Ukrainians.

Army officials walked away from that meeting with the impression that the Ukrainians were viewing the proposal as a starting point that would evolve as negotiations progressed, according to a U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive talks.

It's unclear how much patience Trump has for further negotiation. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Thursday that Trump's new plan reflects "the realities of the situation" and offers the "best win-win scenario, where both parties gain more than they must give."

Asked about Zelenskyy's initial hesitant response to the proposal, Trump recalled the February Oval Office blow-up with Zelenskyy: "You remember, right in the Oval Office, not so long ago, I said, 'You don't have the cards.'"

Trump, though, was also asked Saturday if the proposal was his final offer to end the Ukraine war and said it wasn't — leaving open the possibility of more negotiation. Still, asked what would happen if Ukraine and Zelenskyy ultimately reject the proposal, the president turned almost dismissive: "Then he can continue to fight his little heart out."

Zelenskyy is now in a vulnerable spot

The mounting pressure from Trump comes as Zelenskyy is dealing with fallout over \$100 million in kickbacks for contracts with the state-owned nuclear energy company. The scandal led to the resignations of top Cabinet ministers and implicated other Zelenskyy associates.

Konstantin Sonin, a political economist and Russia expert at the University of Chicago, said, "what Donald Trump is certainly extremely good at is spotting weak spots of people."

One of the 28 elements of Trump's proposal calls for elections to be held within 100 days of enactment of the agreement.

"I think it's a rationalistic assessment that there is more leverage over Zelenskyy than over Putin," Sonin said. He added, "Zelenskyy's back is against the wall" and "his government could collapse if he agrees" to the U.S. proposal.

All the while, Ukraine is increasingly showing signs of strain on the battlefield after years of war against a vastly larger and better-equipped Russian military. Ukraine is desperately trying to fend off relentless Russian aerial attacks that have brought rolling blackouts across the country on the brink of winter.

Kyiv is also grappling with doubts about the way ahead. A European plan to finance next year's budget for Ukraine through loans linked to frozen Russian funds is now in question.

The Trump proposal in its current form also includes several elements that would cut deeply into Ukrainian pride, said David Silbey, a military historian at Cornell University.

One provision calls on Russia and Ukraine to abolish "all discriminatory measures and guarantee the rights of Ukrainian and Russian media and education," and "all Nazi ideology and activities must be rejected and prohibited." That element could be seen by the Ukrainian side as giving credence to Putin's airing of distorted historical narratives to legitimize the 2022 invasion.

Putin has said the war is in part an effort to "denazify" Ukraine and complained of the country's "neo-Nazi regime" as a justification for Russia's invasion. In fact, in Ukraine's last parliamentary election in 2019, support for far-right candidates was 2%, significantly lower than in many other European countries.

The plan's provision is "very clearly an attempt to build up Putin's claim to Russian cultural identity within Ukraine," Silbey said. He added, "From territory loss to the substantial reduction of the Ukrainian military to cultural concessions that have been demanded, I just don't think Zelenskyy could do this deal and look

his public in the eye again.”

US senators say Rubio told them Trump’s Ukraine peace plan is Russia’s ‘wish list’

By ROB GILLIES and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (AP) — Lawmakers critical of President Donald Trump’s approach to ending the Russia-Ukraine war said Saturday they spoke with Secretary of State Marco Rubio who told them that the peace plan Trump is pushing Kyiv to accept is a “wish list” of the Russians and not the actual proposal offering Washington’s positions.

A State Department spokesperson denied their account, calling it “blatantly false.”

Rubio himself then took the extraordinary step of suggesting online that the senators were mistaken, even though they said he was their source for the information. The secretary of state doubled down on the assertion that Washington was responsible for a proposal that had surprised many from the beginning for being so favorable to Moscow.

It all added up to a confusing — and potentially embarrassing — turn of events for a Trump administration-blessed peace plan that already faced a potentially rocky future.

The widely leaked 28-point U.S.-backed peace plan was, according to the White House, the result of a month of work between Rubio and Trump envoy Steve Witkoff along with input from what it said was both Ukrainians and Russians. The plan acquiesces to many Russian demands that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has categorically rejected on dozens of occasions, including giving up large pieces of territory. Trump says he wants Ukraine to accept the plan by late next week.

“This administration was not responsible for this release in its current form,” said Republican Mike Rounds from South Dakota, speaking at a security conference in Canada. “They want to utilize it as a starting point.”

Rounds said “it looked more like it was written in Russian to begin with.”

The senators said they spoke to Rubio after he reached out to some of them while on his way to Geneva for talks on the plan. Independent Maine Sen. Angus King said Rubio told them the plan “was not the administration’s plan” but a “wish list of the Russians.”

The bipartisan group of senators, who are veteran legislators and among those most focused on foreign relations, stood together at the press conference as they relayed Rubio’s message on the call.

Rubio, who serves as both national security adviser and secretary of state, was expected to attend a meeting in Geneva on Sunday to discuss Washington’s proposal as part of a U.S. delegation, according to a U.S. official who was not authorized to publicly discuss the American participants before the meeting and spoke on condition of anonymity.

“The peace proposal was authored by the U.S. It is offered as a strong framework for ongoing negotiations,” Rubio posted on X. “It is based on input from the Russian side. But it is also based on previous and ongoing input from Ukraine,” Rubio wrote.

Tommy Pigott, a State Department spokesperson, said the senators’ account was “blatantly false.”

A senior Trump administration official, who insisted on anonymity to detail internal discussions, noted Saturday night that the White House has consistently maintained that the plan was authored by the U.S. but included input from Russians and Ukrainians.

The official said the plan had always been considered by the administration as a helpful place to start continued negotiations with an eye toward working to a more lasting peace plan.

The senators earlier Saturday said the plan would only reward Moscow for its aggression and send a message to other leaders who have threatened their neighbors.

“It rewards aggression. This is pure and simple. There’s no ethical, legal, moral, political justification for Russia claiming eastern Ukraine,” King said during a panel discussion at the Halifax International Security Forum in Canada.

Putin welcomed the proposal late Friday, saying it “could form the basis of a final peace settlement” if the U.S. can get Ukraine and its European allies to agree.

Zelenskyy, in an address, did not reject the plan outright, but insisted on fair treatment while pledging

to “work calmly” with Washington and other partners in what he called “truly one of the most difficult moments in our history.”

In its 17th year, about 300 people gather annually at the Halifax International Security Forum held at Halifax’s Westin hotel. The forum attracts military officials, U.S. senators, diplomats and scholars but this year the Trump administration suspended participation of U.S. defense officials in events by think tanks, including the Halifax International Security Forum.

A large number of U.S. senators made the trip this year in part because of strained relations between Canada and the U.S. Trump has alienated America’s neighbor with his trade war and insistence that Canada should become the 51st U.S. state. Many Canadians now refuse to travel to the U.S. and border states like Shaheen’s New Hampshire are seeing a dramatic drop in tourism.

JFK’s granddaughter reveals terminal cancer diagnosis, criticizes cousin RFK Jr.

John F. Kennedy’s granddaughter disclosed Saturday that she has terminal cancer, writing in an essay in “The New Yorker” that one of her doctors said she might live for about another year and criticizing policies pushed by her cousin, Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Tatiana Schlossberg, the daughter of Kennedy’s daughter, Caroline Kennedy, and Edwin Schlossberg, said she was diagnosed in May 2024 at 34. After the birth of her second child, her doctor noticed her white blood cell count was high. It turned out to be acute myeloid leukemia with a rare mutation, mostly seen in older people.

Her essay was published on the 62nd anniversary of her grandfather’s assassination.

Schlossberg, an environmental journalist, wrote she has undergone rounds of chemotherapy and two stem cell transplants, the first using cells from her sister and the next from an unrelated donor, and participated in clinical trials. During the latest trial, she wrote, her doctor told her “he could keep me alive for a year, maybe.”

Schlossberg also said policies backed by RFK could hurt cancer patients like her. Caroline Kennedy urged senators to reject his confirmation.

“As I spent more and more of my life under the care of doctors, nurses, and researchers striving to improve the lives of others, I watched as Bobby cut nearly a half billion dollars for research into mRNA vaccines, technology that could be used against certain cancers,” the essay reads.

Schlossberg wrote about her fears that her daughter and son won’t remember her. She feels cheated and sad that she won’t get to keep living “the wonderful life” she had with her husband, George Moran. While her parents and siblings try to hide their pain from her, she said she feels it every day.

“For my whole life, I have tried to be good, to be a good student and a good sister and a good daughter, and to protect my mother and never make her upset or angry,” she said. “Now I have added a new tragedy to her life, to our family’s life, and there’s nothing I can do to stop it.”

Takeaways from the outcome of UN climate talks in Brazil

By MELINA WALLING, ANTON L. DELGADO and SETH BORENSTEIN Associated Press

BELEM, Brazil (AP) — After two weeks of negotiations, this year’s United Nations climate talks ended Saturday with a compromise that some criticized as weak and others called progress.

The deal finalized at the COP30 conference pledges more money to help countries adapt to climate change, but lacks explicit plans to transition away from the fossil fuels such as oil, coal and gas that heat the planet.

The conference didn’t do as much as scientists thought the world needed. It wasn’t as meaningful as activists and Indigenous people demanded. Few countries got everything they wanted. And the venue even caught fire.

But that disappointment is mixed with a few wins and the hope for countries to make more progress next year.

Here’s what you need to know about the outcome.

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Leaders tried to nail down specifics on fighting climate change

Leaders have been working on how to fight the impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather and sea level rise, for a decade. To do that, every country had the homework of writing up their own national climate plans and then reconvened this month to see if it was enough.

Most didn't get a good grade and some haven't even turned it in.

Brazil, host of the climate conference known as COP30, was trying to get them to cooperate on the toughest issues like climate-related trade restrictions, funding for climate solutions, national climate-fighting plans and more transparency on measuring those plans' progress.

More than 80 countries tried to introduce a detailed guide to phase out fossil fuels over the next several decades. There were other to-do items on topics including deforestation, gender and farming.

Countries reached what critics called a weak compromise

Nations agreed to triple the amount of money promised to help the vulnerable countries adapt to climate change. But they will take five more years to do it. Some vulnerable island countries said they were happy about the financial support.

But the final document didn't include a road map away from fossil fuels, angering many.

After the agreement was reached, COP President André Corrêa do Lago said Brazil would take an extra step and write their own road map. Not all countries signed up to this, but those on board will meet next year to specifically talk about the fossil fuel phase out. It would not carry the same weight as something agreed to at the conference.

Also included in the package were smaller agreements on energy grids and biofuels.

Responses ranged from happy to angry

"Given what we expected, what we came out with, we were happy," said Ilana Seid, chair of the Alliance of Small Island States.

But others felt discouraged. Heated exchanges took place during the conference's final meeting as countries snipped at each other about the fossil fuel plan.

"I will be brutally honest: The COP and the U.N. system are not working for you. They have never really worked for you. And today, they are failing you at a historic scale," said Juan Carlos Monterrey Gomez, a negotiator for Panama.

Jiwoh Abdulai, Sierra Leone's environment and climate change minister said: "COP30 has not delivered everything Africa asked for, but it has moved the needle." He added: "This is a floor, not a ceiling."

The real outcome of this year's climate talks will be judged on "how quickly these words turn into real projects that protect lives and livelihoods," he said.

Talks set against the Amazon rainforest

Participants experienced the Amazon's extreme heat and humidity and heavy rains that flooded walkways. Organizers who chose Belem, on the edge of the rainforest, as the host city had intended for countries to experience firsthand what was at stake with climate change, and take bold action to stop it.

But afterward, critics said the deal shows how hard it is to find global cooperation on issues that affect everyone, most of all people in poverty, Indigenous people, women and children around the world.

"At the start of this COP, there was this high level of ambition. We started with a bang, but we ended with a whimper of disappointment," said former Philippine negotiator Jasper Inventor, now at Greenpeace International.

Indigenous people, civil society and youth

One of the nicknames for the climate talks in Brazil was the "Indigenous peoples' COP." Yet some in those groups said they had to fight to be heard.

Protesters from Indigenous groups twice disrupted the conference to demand a bigger seat at the table. While Indigenous people's rights weren't officially on the agenda, Taily Terena, an Indigenous woman from the Terena nation in Brazil, said so far she is happy with the text because for the first time it includes a paragraph mentioning Indigenous rights.

She supported countries speaking up on procedural issues because that's how multilateralism works. "It's kind of chaotic, but from our perspective, it's kind of good that some countries have a reaction," she said.

UAB football player accused of stabbing 2 teammates before game

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — A University of Alabama at Birmingham football player stabbed two teammates Saturday morning hours before the team's game against the University of South Florida, the university said in a statement.

The two wounded players were in stable condition, interim head coach Alex Mortensen said at the post-game news conference. He added that the team decided to play to honor graduating seniors in the last home game of the season, though several players understandably opted to sit it out due to the incident.

The teammate suspected in the stabbing was in custody, the university said. The school did not release the names of the players involved.

Daniel Mincey, an offensive lineman who transferred to the school in May, was arrested and booked on charges of aggravated assault and attempted murder in the afternoon, according to Jefferson County Jail records. He was in custody in Birmingham and appeared to be the only UAB player who was arrested Saturday.

It was not immediately clear if Mincey had legal representation. Attempts to reach family members for comment were not immediately successful.

UAB officials would not confirm that Mincey was involved.

The team's online roster lists Mincey as a 6-foot-4 redshirt freshman from Pompano Beach, Florida, who was previously at the University of Kentucky.

Mortensen said that once the team decided to play, they focused on their normal game-day routines. He also said counseling was being made available for players who want it.

The coach declined to share further details about the incident, citing the ongoing investigation.

The stabbing occurred on campus at the Football Operations Building.

The Blazers lost 48-18 to South Florida to fall to 3-8 on the season and 1-6 in the American Conference. Their last game is Nov. 29 at Tulsa.

UN climate deal increases money to countries hit by climate change, but no explicit fossil fuel plan

By SETH BORENSTEIN, MELINA WALLING and ANTON L. DELGADO Associated Press

BELEM, Brazil (AP) — United Nations climate talks in Brazil reached a subdued agreement Saturday that pledged more funding for countries to adapt to the wrath of extreme weather. But the catch-all agreement doesn't include explicit details to phase out fossil fuels or strengthen countries' inadequate emissions cutting plans, which dozens of nations demanded.

The Brazilian hosts of the conference said they'd eventually come up with a road map to get away from fossil fuels working with hard-line Colombia, but it won't have the same force as something approved at the conference called COP30. Colombia responded angrily to the deal after it was approved, citing the absence of wording on fossil fuels.

The deal, which was approved after negotiators blew past a Friday deadline, was crafted after hours of late night and early morning meetings. After the deal was approved, COP30 President André Corrêa do Lago said the tough discussions started in Belem will continue under Brazil's leadership until the next annual conference "even if they are not reflected in this text we just approved."

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the deal shows "that nations can still come together to confront the defining challenges no country can solve alone." But he added: "I cannot pretend that COP30 has delivered everything that is needed. The gap between where we are and what science demands remains dangerously wide."

Deal gets mix of lukewarm praise and complaints

Many gave the deal lukewarm praise as the best that could be achieved in trying times, while others complained about the package or the process that led to its approval.

"Given the circumstances of geopolitics today, we're actually quite pleased with the bounds of the package that came out," said Palau Ambassador Ilana Seid, who chaired the coalition of small island nations. "The alternative is that we don't get a decision and that would have been a worse alternative."

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"This deal isn't perfect and is far from what science requires," said former Ireland President Mary Robinson, a fierce climate advocate for the ex-leaders group The Elders. "But at a time when multilateralism is being tested, it is significant that countries continue to move forward together."

Absent from the talks was the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump.

"This year there has been a lot of attention on one country stepping back," U.N. climate chief Simon Stiell said, referring to the United States' withdrawal from the landmark 2015 Paris agreement. "But amid the gale-force political headwinds, 194 countries stood firm in solidarity — rock-solid in support of climate cooperation."

Some countries said they got enough out of the deal.

"COP30 has not delivered everything Africa asked for, but it has moved the needle," said Jiwah Abdulai, Sierra Leone's environment minister. What really matters, he said, is "how quickly these words turn into real projects that protect lives and livelihoods."

U.K. Energy Minister Ed Miliband said the agreement was "an important step forward," but that he would have preferred it to be "more ambitious." He added: "These are difficult, strenuous, tiring, frustrating negotiations."

Swift final push prompts complaints

The deal was approved minutes into a plenary meeting open Saturday to all nations that were present.

After the main package was approved — to applause by many delegates — angry nations took the floor to complain about other parts of the package and about being ignored as do Lago moved quickly toward approval. The objections were so strong that do Lago temporarily halted the session to try to calm things down.

Colombia's Daniela Duran Gonzalez blasted the conference's president for ignoring her, saying: "The COP of the truth cannot support an outcome that ignores science."

An area that usually gets less attention became a big point of contention. The approved deal established 59 indicators for the world to judge how nations are adapting to climate change. Before the Belem conference, experts crafted 100 precisely worded indicators, but negotiators changed the wording and cut the total.

The European Union, several Latin American countries and Canada said they had severe problems with it, calling it unclear and unworkable. They complained that they tried to object but were ignored.

Do Lago apologized.

How major issues were handled

A handful of major issues dominated the talk. Those included coming up with a road map to wean the world from fossil fuels, telling countries that their national plans to curb emissions were inadequate, tripling financial aid for developing nations to adapt to extreme weather and reducing climate restrictions on trade.

"COP30 gave us some baby steps in the right direction, but considering the scale of the climate crisis, it has failed to rise to the occasion," said Mohamed Adow, director of Power Shift Africa.

Critics complained there was not much to the deal.

"Strip away the outcome text and you see it plainly: The emperor has no clothes," said former Philippine negotiator Jasper Inventor, now at Greenpeace International.

Panama negotiator Juan Carlos Monterrey Gomez railed against the deal.

"A climate decision that cannot even say 'fossil fuels' is not neutrality, it is complicity. And what is happening here transcends incompetence," Monterrey Gomez said. "Science has been deleted from COP30 because it offends the polluters."

Many nations and advocates wanted something stronger because the world will not come close to limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since the mid 1800s, which was the goal the 2015 Paris agreement set.

The financial aid for adapting to climate change was tripled to a goal of \$120 billion a year, but the goal was pushed back five years. It was one of several tough issues to dominate the late stage of talks. Vulnerable nations have pressed the wealthier countries most responsible for climate change to help out with money to rebuild from damaging extreme weather and to adapt to more of it in the future.

Pushing back the goal leaves "vulnerable countries without support to match the escalating needs," Adow said.

After the main deal was approved, tempers flared as the open meeting stretched on. Russia's ambassador at large, Sergei Kononuchenko, lectured Latin American delegates who were objecting frequently that they were "behaving like children who want to get your hands on all the sweets, and aren't prepared to share them with everyone."

An angry Eliana Ester Saissac of Argentina said Latin Americans "are in no way behaving like spoiled children who want to stuff our mouths full of sweets" to a roar of cheers and applause.

Brazil's ex-president Bolsonaro arrested over alleged plot to escape and avoid 27-year prison term

By MAURICIO SAVARESE and LUCAS DUMPHREYS Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — Brazil's federal police on Saturday arrested former president Jair Bolsonaro over suspicion he was plotting to escape and avoid starting a 27-year prison sentence for leading a coup attempt. The decision laid bare some of the country's divisions, with many uncorking Champagne outside the far-right leader's prison to celebrate as his supporters prepared a religious act in his favor.

In a dramatic and unexpected twist in the final stage of a long and divisive criminal trial, federal agents entered Bolsonaro's house early Saturday under the order of a Supreme Court Justice to take the former president to the headquarters of the country's federal police in the capital, Brasilia.

Justice Alexandre de Moraes, who oversaw the case on Bolsonaro's attempt to keep the presidency after his defeat to President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in 2022, ordered the preemptive arrest after saying the far-right leader's ankle monitor was violated at 12:08 a.m. on Saturday. His lawyers claimed in a statement that did not take place.

A report by custody agents released later in the day — and reviewed by The Associated Press — said Bolsonaro admitted using a soldering iron to try to open the device. In a court video also seen by the AP, Bolsonaro is heard admitting such attempt. The footage shows the ankle monitor's cap heavily damaged.

Bolsonaro, 70, who had been under house arrest, was ordered to wear the device after being deemed a flight risk. His aide Andriely Cirino confirmed that the arrest took place around 6 a.m. on Saturday.

In the following hours, dozens of cars honked outside the federal police's headquarters as some Bolsonaro supporters protested. Police have since tried keep the small, but fierce, opposing sides separated.

A protest organized by Bolsonaro's son alerted the justice

De Moraes said the arrest was a preventive measure to avoid a potential escape during a protest organized by his son later Saturday.

"Are you going to fight for your country or are you going to watch it all from your cellphone in your home's sofa?" Flávio Bolsonaro said in a video inviting people to go outside his fathers' house at 7 p.m. "I invite you to fight with us."

De Moraes said the attempt to break the ankle monitor was a confirmation Bolsonaro would try to escape during "the confusion that would be caused by a demonstration organized by his son."

The judge said there was a chance of Bolsonaro fleeing to the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia. The Supreme Court justice also mentioned other defendants in the coup case and political allies of the former president leaving Brazil to avoid jail.

"He is located about 13 kilometers (8 miles) away from where the United States of America embassy lies, in a distance that can be covered in a 15-minute drive," said de Moraes, who has been sanctioned by the Trump administration.

In August, Brazil's federal police found messages that linked Bolsonaro to a political asylum request to Argentina, where an ally of his, Javier Milei, is president.

Trump was asked outside the White House on Saturday about Bolsonaro's arrest, but said that was the first he was hearing of it. "Is that what happened? That's too bad," he said. Pressed for further comment, he said: "I just think it's too bad."

Trump also said he'd spoken with Lula on Friday night and that the two might be meeting "in the very near future."

Bolsonaro's lawyers said in a statement that the former president's arrest "causes deep perplexity be-

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cause, as (de Moraes') chronology of facts shows, it is based in a vigil for prayer," not a protest.

The preemptive arrest of Bolsonaro, who is an ally of U.S. President Donald Trump, will be discussed and voted on Monday by the five-justice Supreme Court panel that both convicted and sentenced him to prison by 4 votes to 1 in September.

'Pathetic illegal initiatives'

Local media reported that Bolsonaro, who was Brazil's president from 2019 to 2022 and remains a key political player, was expected to begin serving his sentence sometime next week after all appeals of his conviction are exhausted.

Few protesters were outside the federal police headquarters in Brasilia as of Saturday morning, with more expected later as organizers of the vigil mentioned by Bolsonaro's lawyers say they will move it to where the former president is jailed.

Detractors of the former president were celebrating online and scheduling parties later in the day in major Brazilian cities.

"The video shot by Flávio Bolsonaro stimulates the disrespect to the constitutional text, to the judicial decision and to (democratic) institutions, showing there's no limits for the criminal organization in its attempt to create chaos and conflict in this country, in a total disrespect to democracy," de Moraes wrote in his ruling.

Bolsonaro and several of his allies were convicted by a panel of Supreme Court justices for attempting to overthrow Brazil's democracy following his 2022 election defeat. Prosecutors said the coup plot included plans to kill Lula, Vice President Geraldo Alckmin and de Moraes.

Bolsonaro was also found guilty on charges of leading an armed criminal organization and attempting the violent abolition of the democratic rule of law. He denies any wrongdoing.

Bolsonaro's allies vow to defend him

Fabio Wajngarten, Bolsonaro's former press adviser and lawyer, said the arrest of the former president was "a terrible stain on the institutions."

Speaking in a video posted on X, Wajngarten added: "It's a shame. I hope this is reviewed soon." He claimed Bolsonaro's ankle monitoring device was working perfectly as of Saturday morning.

"How could something that was broken, violated, be functioning normally nine hours later?" he wrote. "The president had dinner — a soup — yesterday with four brothers and brothers-in-law, took medication for hiccups, felt drowsy and laid down around 10 p.m. None of his sons were at the house."

Sóstenes Cavalcante, Bolsonaro's party whip in the lower house, accused de Moraes of showing "psychopathy at the highest level."

"We will always stand by your side. Stay strong," he said in a video shared with the AP. "We will respond appropriately."

In an Instagram post, Michelle Bolsonaro, the former first lady, vowed Bolsonaro's supporters "will not give up on our nation." She was outside Brasilia when her husband was arrested at home.

Lula is in South Africa for a summit of the G20 group of industrialized and emerging-market nations. Gleisi Hoffmann, one of his top ministers, said on her social media channels that Bolsonaro's arrest comes after "violent attempts of coercion" of Supreme Court justices by the former president.

'Martyr and impactful popular leader'

Bolsonaro was placed under house arrest in early August, weeks before he was convicted. His lawyers were pleading with Brazil's Supreme Court to keep him at home to serve his sentence, citing his poor health, but Brazilian law requires that all convicts start their sentences in prison.

Creomar de Souza, a political analyst with Dharma Political Risk and Strategy, a political consultancy firm based in Brasilia, said the move by de Moraes will impact next year's presidential election, with Lula seeking reelection and Bolsonaro already barred from running.

"They had the idea of turning the 2026 election into a referendum on Bolsonaro. And for that to happen they needed actions, they needed to build an optics of Bolsonaro as a martyr and an impactful popular leader," de Souza told the AP. "At the end of the day, this shows the Bolsonaro family they will need to build their own alternative for the 2026 elections."

Ukraine's allies push back on a US peace plan seen as favoring Moscow

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine's Western allies rallied around the war-torn country on Saturday as they pushed to revise a U.S. peace plan seen as favoring Moscow despite its all-out invasion of its neighbor. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has vowed Ukrainians "will always defend" their home.

A Ukrainian delegation, bolstered by representatives from France, Germany and the U.K., is preparing for direct talks with Washington in Switzerland on Sunday.

The 28-point blueprint drawn up by the U.S. to end the nearly four-year war sparked alarm in Kyiv and European capitals, with Zelenskyy saying his country could face a stark choice between standing up for its sovereign rights and preserving the American support it needs.

Speaking to reporters outside the White House on Saturday, President Donald Trump said the U.S. proposal was not his "final offer."

"I would like to get to peace. It should have happened a long time ago. The Ukraine war with Russia should have never happened," Trump said. "One way or the other, we have to get it ended."

Trump didn't explain what he meant by the plan not being his final offer and the White House didn't respond to a request for clarification.

The U.S. plan foresees Ukraine handing over territory to Russia, something Kyiv has repeatedly ruled out, while reducing the size of its army and blocking its coveted path to NATO membership. It contains many of Moscow's long-standing demands, while offering limited security guarantees to Kyiv.

On Saturday, leaders of the European Union, Canada and Japan issued a joint statement welcoming U.S. peace efforts, but pushed back against key tenets of the plan.

"We are ready to engage in order to ensure that a future peace is sustainable. We are clear on the principle that borders must not be changed by force. We are also concerned by the proposed limitations on Ukraine's armed forces, which would leave Ukraine vulnerable to future attack," the statement said. It added that any decisions regarding NATO and the EU would require the consent of member states.

The leaders of France, Germany and the U.K. met during the day on the sidelines of a Group of 20 summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, to discuss ways to support Kyiv, according to a person with knowledge of the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz told reporters at the summit that "wars cannot be ended by major powers over the heads of the countries affected," and insisted Kyiv needed robust guarantees.

French President Emmanuel Macron said the U.S. peace plan for Ukraine "requires broader consultation" because "it stipulates many things involving Europeans," like Russia's frozen assets and Ukraine's accession to the European Union. Europe's security issues must also be taken into account, Macron said, adding: "We want a robust and lasting peace."

Merz and Macron said that envoys from Germany, France, the U.K. and the EU will join Ukrainian negotiators as they meet a U.S. delegation in Geneva on Sunday to discuss Washington's proposal. Zelenskyy confirmed the meeting on Saturday, after Trump set a deadline for Kyiv to respond to the plan by next Thursday.

Among those expected to represent Washington are Trump's Army secretary, Dan Driscoll, and Marco Rubio, who serves as both national security adviser and secretary of state, according to a U.S. official who was not authorized to publicly discuss the American participants before the meeting and spoke on condition of anonymity. Driscoll presented the U.S. plan to Ukrainian officials this week.

European leaders have long warned against rushing a peace deal, seeing their own future at stake in Ukraine's fight to beat back Russia, and insist on being consulted in peace efforts.

'Quite a way from a good outcome'

Kyiv's key allies in Europe reiterated their reservations about the Kremlin's readiness to end the war.

"Time and again, Russia pretends to be serious about peace, but their actions never live up to their words," U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer told reporters ahead of the G20 summit, days after a Russian strike on western Ukraine killed over two dozen civilians.

European leaders have long accused Russia of stalling diplomatic efforts in the hope of overwhelming

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Ukraine's much smaller forces on the battlefield. Kyiv has repeatedly accepted U.S. ceasefire proposals this year, while Moscow has held out for more favorable terms.

"An end to the war can only be achieved with the unconditional consent of Ukraine," Merz said during G20 summit briefing, adding that he had told Trump in a long phone call on Friday that Europe needed to be a part of any peace process, and that Russia had previously failed to keep its promises to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity.

"From my perspective, there is currently a chance to end this war," Merz added. "But we are still quite a way from a good outcome for everyone."

EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said that a key principle for Kyiv's European allies was "nothing about Ukraine without Ukraine."

Zelenskyy defiant as Ukraine remembers Soviet-era famine

Zelenskyy, in a video address published Saturday, said Ukrainian representatives at the Geneva talks "know how to protect Ukrainian national interests and exactly what is needed to prevent Russia from carrying out" another invasion. "Real peace is always based on security and justice," he added.

Nine officials are to take part in the talks, including Zelenskyy's chief of staff Andrii Yermak and top envoy Rustem Umerov, according to a statement posted on the Ukrainian presidency's website, which also stated that the negotiators are empowered to deal directly with Russia.

On Saturday, Ukraine commemorated the "great famine" that Soviet leader Josef Stalin imposed in the early 1930s, which led to millions of deaths.

"We all know how and why millions of our people died, starved to death, and millions were never born. And we are once again defending ourselves against Russia, which has not changed and is once again bringing death," Zelenskyy said in a post on Telegram marking Holodomor Memorial Day.

"We defended, defend, and will always defend Ukraine. Because only here is our home. And in our home, Russia will definitely not be the master," he added.

Cargo ship fire in Los Angeles nearly contained after shelter-in-place order lifted

By JULIE WALKER AND TRÂN NGUYỄN Associated Press

A fire on a container ship docked at the Port of Los Angeles was nearly contained Saturday afternoon, though authorities were still assessing whether enough hazardous material burned to cause significant contamination.

The blaze, which broke out Friday night, prompted a shelter-in-place order for surrounding communities over concerns about hazardous materials in the One Henry Hudson's cargo.

The order was lifted in the morning, and the ship was moved out to sea. Fireboats sprayed water on the vessel to tame "a small section" that was still on fire, Los Angeles Fire Department spokesperson Adam Van Gerpen said.

The electrical fire apparently started below deck before spreading to several levels of the ship, leading to an explosion mid-deck, according to the fire department. The cause was under investigation.

Roughly 100 cargo containers burned, and many of them carried dangerous materials, Van Gerpen said. Officials said some included lithium-ion batteries and other hazardous waste, though it was not clear if they caught fire.

"We don't know specifically which ones burned," Van Gerpen said.

A Coast Guard spokesperson did not immediately have more information on the hazardous materials and said the extent of potential contamination was not yet known.

All 23 crew members were accounted for, and there were no injuries, according to the fire department.

The Coast Guard said a safety zone of half a nautical mile and a temporary flight restriction were established around the vessel. Port operations resumed by morning.

More than 100 firefighters were called to battle the blaze at the busiest seaport in North America. Their efforts continued overnight, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said.

The 1,102-foot (336-meter) ship is operated by Ocean Network Express, which is headquartered in

Singapore.

The company said in a statement that it was closely monitoring the situation and was able to confirm that all crew members were safely accounted for. It thanked first responders and said it was "fully committed to supporting incident management and subsequent investigations."

Before Los Angeles the ship was most recently in Japan, stopping in Kobe, Nagoya and Tokyo.

Israel launches strikes in Gaza ceasefire's latest test as hospitals say 24 killed

By WAFAA SHURAFU Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israel's military on Saturday launched airstrikes against Hamas militants in Gaza in the latest test of the ceasefire that began on Oct. 10, as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said five senior Hamas members were killed. Health officials in Gaza reported at least 24 people killed and another 54 wounded, including children.

The strikes, which Israel said were in response to gunfire at its troops, came after international momentum on Gaza, with the U.N. Security Council on Monday approving the U.S. blueprint to secure and govern the territory. It authorizes an international stabilization force to provide security, approves a transitional authority to be overseen by President Donald Trump and envisions a possible future path to an independent Palestinian state.

Israel has previously carried out similar waves of strikes after reported attacks on its forces during the ceasefire. At least 33 Palestinians were killed over a 12-hour period Wednesday and Thursday, mostly women and children, health officials said.

'A fragile ceasefire'

One of Saturday's strikes targeted a vehicle, killing 11 and wounding over 20 Palestinians in Gaza City's Rimal neighborhood, said Rami Mhanna, managing director of Shifa Hospital, where the casualties were taken. The majority of the wounded were children, director Mohamed Abu Selmiya said.

Associated Press video showed children and others inspecting the blackened vehicle, whose top was blown off.

A strike targeting a house near Al-Awda Hospital in central Gaza killed at least three people and wounded 11 others, according to the hospital. It said a strike on a house in Nuseirat camp in central Gaza killed at least seven people including a child and wounded 16 others.

Another strike, targeting a house in Deir al-Balah in central Gaza, killed three people, including a woman, according to Al-Aqsa Hospital.

"Suddenly, I heard a powerful explosion. I looked outside and saw smoke covering the entire area. I couldn't see a thing. I covered my ears and started shouting to the others in the tent to run," said Khalil Abu Hatab in Deir al-Balah. "When I looked again, I realized the upper floor of my neighbor's house was gone."

He added: "It's a fragile ceasefire. This is not a life we can live. There's no safe place."

Israel's military in a statement said it launched attacks against Hamas after an "armed terrorist" crossed into an Israeli-held area and shot at troops in southern Gaza. It said no soldiers were hurt. The military said the person had used a road on which humanitarian aid enters the territory, and called it an "extreme violation" of the ceasefire.

In other statements, the military said soldiers killed 11 "terrorists" in the Rafah area and detained six others who tried to flee an underground structure. It also said its forces killed two others who crossed into Israeli-held areas in northern Gaza and advanced toward soldiers.

Israeli forces remain in just over half of Gaza after withdrawing from some areas under the ceasefire.

A senior member of Hamas' political bureau, Izzat al-Rishq, in a statement accused Israel of "fabricating pretexts to evade the (ceasefire) agreement and return to the war of extermination" and said Hamas had urged the U.S. and other mediators to compel Israel to implement the agreement.

The Hamas statement didn't comment on the claim by Netanyahu's office of five senior members killed. The toll of war

The war began with the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, that killed some 1,200 people and took over 250 hostage. Almost all of the hostages or their remains have been returned in ceasefires or other deals. The remains of three are still in Gaza.

Israelis rallied again on Saturday night in Tel Aviv, demanding a state commission of inquiry into the events around the Oct. 7 attack.

"The government of Israel failed in its most important mission: to protect its children, to protect its citizens, not to abandon soldiers on the battlefield without rescue and without assistance," said Rafi Ben Shitrit, father of Staff Sgt. Shimon Alroy Ben Shitrit, who was killed in the attack.

Gaza's Health Ministry says 69,733 Palestinians have been killed and 170,863 injured in Israel's retaliatory offensive. The toll has gone up during the ceasefire both from new Israeli strikes and from the recovery and identification of bodies of people killed earlier in the war.

The ministry does not distinguish between civilians and combatants in its figures but has said women and children make up a majority of those killed. The ministry, part of the Hamas-run government and staffed by medical professionals, maintains detailed records viewed as generally reliable by independent experts.

Trump pledge to 'immediately' end protections for Minnesota Somalis sparks fear and legal questions

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ Associated Press

President Donald Trump's pledge to terminate temporary legal protections for Somalis living in Minnesota is triggering fear in the state's deeply-rooted immigrant community, along with doubts about whether the White House has the legal authority to enact the directive as described.

In a Truth Social post late Friday, Trump said he would "immediately" strip Somali residents in Minnesota of Temporary Protected Status, a legal safeguard against deportation for immigrants from certain countries.

The announcement drew immediate pushback from some state leaders and immigration experts, who characterized Trump's declaration as a legally dubious effort to sow fear and suspicion toward Minnesota's Somali community, the largest in the nation.

"There's no legal mechanism that allows the president to terminate protected status for a particular community or state that he has beef with," said Heidi Altman, policy director at the National Immigrant Justice Center.

"This is Trump doing what he always does: demagoguing immigrants without justification or evidence and using that demagoguery in an attempt to take away important life-saving protections," she added.

The Trump administration has until mid-January to revoke the legal protection for Somalis nationally. But that move would affect only a tiny fraction of the tens of thousands of Somalis living in Minnesota. A report produced for Congress in August put the number of Somalis covered by TPS at just 705 nationwide.

"I am a citizen and so are (the) majority of Somalis in America," Minnesota Rep. Ilhan Omar, a Democrat from Somali, said in a social media post Friday. "Good luck celebrating a policy change that really doesn't have much impact on the Somalis you love to hate."

Still, advocates warned the move could inflame hate against a community at a time of rising Islamophobia.

"This is not just a bureaucratic change," said Jaylani Hussein, president of the Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations. "It is a political attack on the Somali and Muslim community driven by Islamophobic and hateful rhetoric."

In his social media post, Trump claimed, without offering evidence, that Somali gangs had targeted Minnesota residents and referred to the state as a "hub of fraudulent money laundering activity."

Federal prosecutors have in recent weeks brought charges against dozens of people in a social-services fraud scheme. Some of the defendants hail from Somalia. "Accountability is coming," Minnesota Republican Rep. Tom Emmer wrote in response to that story.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, a Democrat, has noted that Minnesota consistently ranks among the safest states in the country.

"It's not surprising that the President has chosen to broadly target an entire community," Walz said Friday. "This is what he does to change the subject."

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In response to Trump's announcement, Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison his office was "exploring all of our options," adding that Trump "cannot terminate TPS for just one state or on a bigoted whim."

"Somali folks came to Minnesota fleeing conflict, instability and famine, and they have become an integral part of our state, our culture and our community," he added.

The protection has been extended 27 times for Somalians since 1991, with U.S. authorities determining that it was unsafe for people already in the United States to return there.

Somalia for decades has been regarded as one of the world's most dangerous countries. People have been fleeing ever since leader Siad Barre was removed in 1991 by clan-based militias and civil war erupted. The chaos later led to the rise of the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab militant group, which still holds parts of the country and carries out deadly attacks in the capital, Mogadishu, and elsewhere against the fragile federal government.

Community advocates note that the Somali diaspora in Minnesota has helped to revitalize downtown corridors in Minneapolis and plays a prominent role in the state's politics.

"The truth is that the Somali community is beloved and long-woven into the fabric of many neighborhoods and communities in Minnesota," said Altman. "Destabilizing families and communities makes all of us less safe and not more."

As part of a broader push to adopt hardline immigration policies, the Trump administration has moved to withdraw various protections that had allowed immigrants to remain in the United States and work legally.

That included ending TPS for 600,000 Venezuelans and 500,000 Haitians who were granted protection under President Joe Biden. The Trump administration has also sought to limit protections previously extended to migrants from Cuba and Syria, among other countries.

Republicans hyped the Epstein files for years. Now Trump is under pressure to deliver

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI and STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — What began as a campaign-trail promise to release the Jeffrey Epstein files has become one of the most fraught tests of President Donald Trump's second term — opening a rift in his political coalition and raising the stakes for an administration now under intense pressure to produce documents that may fall far short of public expectations.

The issue came to a head this week. After months of efforts by the Trump administration to quash it, both chambers of Congress passed a measure forcing the release of the Epstein files with near-unanimous support. Trump, who changed course days before the vote to bless the effort, signed the legislation Wednesday, starting a 30-day window for the Justice Department to deliver the records.

Expectations are sky-high, fueled by years of conspiracy theories promoted by many now in Trump's orbit. Yet with some claims — such as a rumored "client list" of prominent men linked to Epstein — already deemed nonexistent by federal officials, the antiestablishment coalition Trump built in part by elevating those theories is showing cracks that may widen with the anticipated release.

"Watching this actually turn into a fight has ripped MAGA apart," Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., said this week, flanked by Epstein survivors ahead of the House vote.

"The only thing that will speak to the powerful, courageous women behind me is when action is actually taken to release these files," said Greene, who announced late Friday that she will resign from Congress in January. "And the American people won't tolerate any other bulls—."

How Epstein files entered the political mainstream

Epstein's abuse and 2019 death in a New York jail cell have generated conspiracy theories for years, especially on the political right.

On the campaign trail, Trump expressed openness to releasing the investigative documents, nodding to anti-establishment demands to open up the government's files on other high-profile cases such as the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr.

But once Trump was back in office, divulging records from the federal investigations, as well as satisfying the appetites of conspiracy theorists, became less appealing. Attorney General Pam Bondi raised expectations of a full release, only to reverse course over the summer. Her attempt to close the book on

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the Epstein saga outraged many on the right.

It was the first sign of a rift in Trump's coalition, and Democrats took notice.

In Congress, they began looking for ways to force Republicans to take votes on releasing the Epstein files. Eventually, they found traction with two tracks: initiating an investigation in the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee and putting full support behind a rarely successful petition that maneuvers around the House speaker's control of which bills see the floor.

The Democratic effort, joined by a few key Republicans, including Greene, culminated last week in passage of the bill with overwhelming support from both chambers of Congress. It was a sign that the Epstein files had risen from the realm of obscure conspiracy theorists to a political force that neither political party could deny.

Still, it's not clear whether the complete files will be released — or that the public interest in them will ever be satisfied.

The release and the limits of what may be in the files

At a Tuesday press conference ahead of the House vote, the bill's sponsors — Reps. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., and Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., joined Greene and several Epstein survivors in warning the administration not to hold anything back.

"The real test will be whether the Department of Justice releases the files, or whether it all remains tied up in investigations," Greene said, adding that whether a list of names is released "will be the real test."

While Bondi in February said on Fox News that an Epstein "client list" was "sitting on my desk right now to review," her department has since reversed course, saying such a list doesn't exist. In a letter this July, the Justice Department said its review uncovered no incriminating "client list."

It's one example of how the Trump administration helped build hype for the release of files — and a reminder of the political danger in being unable to deliver the material his coalition has long believed is hidden.

Before Congress got involved, tens of thousands of pages of records were released over the years through civil lawsuits, Epstein and Maxwell's public criminal case dockets, public disclosures and Freedom of Information Act requests.

Lawmakers believe there are reams more of documents, but they have received little indication that the Department of Justice is ready to put out that information despite a subpoena from the House Oversight Committee that was issued in August.

Khanna said he still has concerns about how fully the administration will comply, but he believes passage of the bill, and the possibility of contempt of Congress, gives lawmakers leverage. He declined to speculate about who might appear in the files but said he expects whistleblowers to emerge if anything is withheld.

"The president has realized, as Marjorie Taylor Greene said, that this is splitting his MAGA base," Khanna said.

"It would be foolish for him to have a drip, drip, drip fight. I mean, if he wants to fight over Epstein the remainder of his presidency, I suppose we can. But that's not really smart."

'Forgotten America against the Epstein class'

Khanna, a Silicon Valley progressive with aspirations for higher office, hopes the Epstein fight will evolve into a broader movement, describing it as a modern version of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "forgotten class against the economic royalists."

"This is a forgotten America against the Epstein class," Khanna said in an interview.

"There's a real anger at an elite that people think are out of touch and taking away control over the lives," he added.

As Democrats look for ways to reconnect with working-class voters, Khanna thinks the party should pursue causes like the Epstein files. He has already begun discussions with Massie, Greene and others about teaming up again.

"This crack," Khanna said of the Epstein vote, is the "answer to taking on Trump."

Potential presidential candidates are less coy about 2028 plans: 'Of course I'm thinking about it'

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — There was a time when presidential hopefuls played coy about their ambitions, crisscrossing the country under the guise of helping other candidates and deflecting when pushed on their obvious plans.

Not so for some Democrats considering running in 2028. With no clear party leader and Democratic voters raring for a fight, some could-be candidates are being far more transparent about their intentions, doing away with pretensions as they try to gain maximum visibility at a time when authenticity is in high demand.

"Of course I'm thinking about it. I haven't ruled it out," New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker recently told Fox News during a trip to early-voting New Hampshire, even as he stressed that his focus is on 2026, when he will be up for reelection.

"I'd be lying otherwise. I'd just be lying and I can't do that," California Gov. Gavin Newsom told CBS when pressed on whether he will consider a run after the midterms next year.

To be sure, many Democrats remain circumspect.

Of the dozen potential 2028 candidates The Associated Press requested interviews with to discuss the changing dynamic, none was immediately available. Some Democrats deflect questions and say their attention is elsewhere even as they campaign for others in early-voting states.

On the Republican side, an entirely different dynamic is brewing under the surface. Potential candidates are keeping low profiles amid expectations that President Donald Trump will play kingmaker in choosing his would-be successor.

Presidential campaign strategists say the Democrats' less guarded approach makes sense given the wide-open 2028 field and sheer number of candidates competing for attention. Among the others who have said they are considering a run: Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, who also was a White House chief of staff, and Hawaii Gov. Josh Green.

"Old rules just don't apply to anything anymore," said Jess O'Connell, a Democratic strategist who advised Pete Buttigieg's 2020 presidential campaign. She said the change was a good thing for the party.

"You've got to be out there every single day fighting and sharing your vision," she said. "And I think the more runway they have to talk to people in this moment and to communicate about meeting the needs of the future," then the better.

New dynamics at play

Alex Conant, a veteran of the presidential campaigns of Republicans Marco Rubio, a former Florida senator who is now Trump's secretary of state, and Tim Pawlenty, a former Minnesota governor, said the dynamics of the emerging Democratic primary, with no clear front-runner, have changed the calculus for candidates.

"I think the Democratic primary is going to be the longest primary of our life. It's hard to recall a field that is this wide open. And the Democratic base is so hungry for someone to take on Trump and win back the White House," he said. "The more crowded it is, the more important it is to start early."

Candidates, he noted, are also "immediately more relevant if you might be the next president," adding to the incentive to say the quiet part out loud.

Voters these days are also turned off by the kind of politician-speak that was once the norm.

"One of the takeaways from Trump is that people want authenticity," Conant said. "Voters are rejecting candidates who sound like politicians, so the rhetorical tricks that politicians have used for decades to avoid answering questions now just irritates voters."

Some are elusive

Not everyone has embraced the approach.

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker played coy on stage during a recent interview with journalist Kara Swisher, repeatedly dodging her questions about his expected timeline.

"Blah, blah," she responded as he tried to pivot to talking about the strength of the Democratic bench.

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro has been equally circumspect, refusing to acknowledge any White House ambitions or even commit to running again for governor, even as the shadow of 2028 follows him every-

where he goes. But during an appearance on "The Breakfast Club" podcast last month, as he reflected on the arson attack on his official residence, he sounded like someone who is eager to remain in the arena.

"I love public service," he said. "You can't walk away now, with everything that's on the line. ... This is not a time to quit."

His perceived national ambitions have become a frequent attack line for his potential GOP rival for governor, state Treasurer Stacy Garrity.

"We need somebody that is more interested in Pennsylvania and not on Pennsylvania Avenue," Garrity said recently on a conservative radio show in Philadelphia.

There are risks for candidates

That is one of the risks for candidates, said Mike DuHaime, a longtime GOP strategist who advised the presidential campaigns of Chris Christie, John McCain, Rudy Giuliani and George W. Bush.

In 2013, he noted, Christie's opponent in the New Jersey governor's race often tried to use his national buzz as a campaign issue against him.

Candidates, DuHaime said, also need to strike a balance and make that they are not distracting from midterm races by funneling money or attention away from candidates who need them.

"I think it makes sense not to be so coy because people kind of get it, but they still should be careful about putting themselves in front of the country cause it could backfire," he said. They "have to be careful that they still look a little bit like team players."

In other cases, candidates have genuinely not made up their minds, and may be lured by party leaders in early-voting states eager to draw rising stars to their events, DuHaime said.

"It's very intriguing and exciting for candidates and would-be candidates to be asked," he said, with some deciding, "Let's go experience it, the national circus. Let's be part of that."

Along with potential legal considerations, O'Connell, the Democratic strategist, also noted that many of those expected to run have day jobs they need to balance. While picking fights with Trump certainly puts them in the spotlight, it could have ramifications for constituents if the Republican president retaliates, meaning that candidates will need to choose their moments wisely.

"You have to fulfill your obligations to the states that you're in," she said. "It's not so much that you're playing a game, it's that I think that there are some practical considerations."

"I think we're going to see people struggling with that," she added.

She also urged candidates to embrace what she called a "Beyonce-Taylor Swift strategy," referring to the pop stars' boosting the economies of the cities where they performed on tour.

"What I would advise anyone who wants to be president in 2028," she said, "is to roll up your sleeves and help."

Babies who drank ByHeart formula got sick months before botulism outbreak, parents say

By JONEL ALECCIA AP Health Writer

As health officials investigate more than 30 cases of infant botulism linked to ByHeart baby formula since August, parents who say their children were sickened with the same illness months before the current outbreak are demanding answers, too.

California public health officials confirmed late Friday that six babies in that state who consumed ByHeart formula were treated for botulism between November 2024 and June 2025, up to nine months before the outbreak that has sickened at least 31 babies in 15 states.

At the time, there was "not enough evidence to immediately suspect a common source," the California Department of Public Health said in a statement.

Even now, "we cannot connect any pre-August 1 cases to the current outbreak," officials said.

Parents of at least five babies said that their infants were treated for the rare and potentially deadly disease after drinking ByHeart formula in late 2024 and early 2025, according to reports shared with The Associated Press by Bill Marler, a Seattle food safety lawyer representing the families.

Amy Mazziotti, 43, of Burbank, California, said her then-5-month-old son, Hank, fell ill and was treated for botulism in March, weeks after he began drinking bottles filled with ByHeart formula.

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Katie Connolly, 37, of Lafayette, California, said her daughter, M.C., then 8 months old, was hospitalized in April and treated for botulism after being fed ByHeart formula in hopes of helping the baby sleep.

For months, neither mother had any idea where the infections could have originated. Such illnesses in babies typically are caused by spores spread in the environment or by contaminated honey.

Then ByHeart recalled all of its products nationwide on Nov. 11 in connection with growing cases of infant botulism.

As soon as she heard it was ByHeart, Mazziotti said she thought: "This cannot be a coincidence."

ByHeart officials this week confirmed that laboratory tests of previously unopened formula found that some samples were contaminated with the type of bacteria that leads to infant botulism.

Marler said at least three other cases that predate the outbreak involved babies who drank ByHeart and were treated for botulism, according to their families. One consumed ByHeart formula in December 2024. The other two were sickened later in the spring, he said.

An official with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said federal investigators were aware of reports of earlier illnesses but that efforts are focused now on understanding the unusual surge of dozens of infections documented since Aug. 1.

"That doesn't mean that they're not necessarily part of this," said Dr. Jennifer Cope, a CDC scientist leading the probe. "It's just that right now, we're focusing on this large increase."

Because so much time has passed and because parents of babies who got sick earlier may not have recorded lot numbers of product or kept empty cans of formula, "it will make it harder to definitively link them" to the outbreak, Cope said.

Connolly said it feels like her daughter has been forgotten.

"What I want to know is why did the cases beginning in August flag an investigation, but the cases that began in March did not?" Connolly said.

Cope and other health officials said the strong signal connecting ByHeart to infant botulism cases only became apparent in recent weeks.

Before this outbreak, no powdered infant formula in the U.S. had tested positive for the type of bacteria that leads to botulism, California health officials said. The number of cases also were within an expected range. A test of a can of open formula fed to a sick baby in the spring did not detect the bacterium.

Then, beginning in August and through October, more cases were identified on the East Coast involving a type of toxin rarely detected in the region, officials said. More cases were seen in very young infants and more cases involved ByHeart formula, which accounts for less than 1 percent of infant formula sold in the U.S.

Earlier this month, after a sample from a can of ByHeart formula fed to a sick infant tested positive for the germ that leads to illness, officials notified the CDC, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the public.

Less than 200 cases of infant botulism are reported in the U.S. each year. The disease is caused when babies ingest spores that germinate in the gut and produce a toxin. The bacterium that leads to illness is ubiquitous in the environment, including soil and water, so the source is often unknown.

Officials at the California Infant Botulism Treatment and Prevention Program track reports of botulism and the distribution of the only treatment for the illness, an IV medication called BabyBIG.

Outside food safety experts said the CDC should count earlier cases as part of the outbreak if babies consumed ByHeart formula and were treated for botulism.

"Absolutely, yes, they should be included," said Frank Yiannas, former deputy commissioner for food policy and response at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. "Why wouldn't they be included?"

Sandra Eskin, chief executive of STOP Foodborne Illness, an advocacy group, agreed.

"This outbreak is traumatic for parents," she said. "They may have fed their newborns and infants a product they assumed was safe. And now they're dealing with hospitalization and serious illness of their babies."

Connolly and Mazziotti said their babies are improving, though they still have some lingering effects. Botulism causes symptoms that include constipation, poor feeding, head and limb weakness and other problems.

After months of uncertainty about the potential cause of the infection, Connolly said she "became com-

pletely obsessed" with the link to ByHeart formula. Now, she just wants answers.

"We deserve to know the data that can help us understand how our babies got sick," she said.

Number of children abducted in Nigerian school attack raised to more than 300

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — A total of 303 schoolchildren and 12 teachers were abducted by gunmen during an attack on St. Mary's School, a Catholic institution in north-central Nigeria's Niger state, the Christian Association of Nigeria said Saturday, updating an earlier tally of 215 schoolchildren.

The tally was changed "after a verification exercise and a final census was carried out," according to a statement issued by the Most. Rev. Bulus Dauwa Yohanna, chairman of the Niger state chapter of CAN, who visited the school on Friday.

He said 88 other students "were also captured after they tried to escape" during the attack. The students were both male and female and ranged in age from 10 to 18.

The school kidnapping in Niger state's remote Papiri community happened four days after 25 schoolchildren were seized in similar circumstances in neighboring Kebbi state's Maga town, which is 170 kilometers (106 miles) away.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the abductions and authorities have said tactical squads have been deployed alongside local hunters to rescue the children.

Yohanna described as false a claim from the state government that the school had reopened for studies despite an earlier directive for schools in that part of Niger state to close temporarily due to security threats.

"We did not receive any circular. It must be an afterthought and a way to shift blame," he said, calling on families "to remain calm and prayerful."

School kidnappings have come to define insecurity in Africa's most populous nation, and armed gangs often see schools as "strategic" targets to draw more attention.

UNICEF said last year that only 37% of schools across 10 of the conflict-hit states have early warning systems to detect threats.

Niger state has now shut down all schools as a measure to forestall other kidnappings. The decision was in a bid to protect lives and property, Niger Gov. Umar Bago told reporters Saturday after meeting with security officials in Minna.

"It is the decision of stakeholders today to close all schools in Niger state. All schools are closed till further notice. So we have declared Christmas holiday for all schools in Niger state," Bago said.

The kidnappings are happening amid U.S. President Donald Trump's claims of targeted killings against Christians in the West African country. Attacks in Nigeria affect both Christians and Muslims. The school attack earlier this week in Kebbi state was in a Muslim-majority town.

The attack also took place as Nigerian National Security Adviser Nuhu Ribadu was visiting the U.S. where he met Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth on Friday.

Today in History: November 23 Doug Flutie's 'Hail Mary' beats Miami

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Nov. 23, the 327th day of 2025. There are 38 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Nov. 23, 1984, Boston College quarterback Doug Flutie completed one of the most famous passes in college football history, connecting with Gerald Phelan for a 48-yard touchdown with no time left on the clock as Boston College defeated the Miami Hurricanes 47-45.

Also on this date:

In 1863, thousands of Union soldiers under Gen. Ulysses S. Grant marched out of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and battled Confederate forces through Nov. 25, forcing their retreat into Georgia in a significant blow to the South in the American Civil War.

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In 1939, early in World War II, the British armed merchant cruiser HMS Rawalpindi was on patrol when it was shelled and sunk in an engagement with two German warships southeast of Iceland, leaving more than 200 dead aboard the Rawalpindi and only a few dozen survivors.

In 1963, President Lyndon B. Johnson proclaimed Nov. 25 a day of national mourning following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

In 1971, the People's Republic of China was seated in the United Nations Security Council.

In 1980, an estimated 2,500 to 3,000 people were killed by a series of earthquakes that devastated southern Italy.

In 1996, a hijacked Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 767 ran out of fuel and crashed into the Indian Ocean near the Comoro Islands, killing 125 of the 175 people on board, including all three hijackers.

In 2005, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was elected president of Liberia, becoming Africa's first democratically elected female head of state. She guided her nation through recovery after its exit from a decade-long civil war.

In 2006, former KGB spy Alexander Litvinenko (leet-vee-NYEN'-koh) died in London from radiation poisoning after making a deathbed statement blaming Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In 2008, the U.S. government unveiled a bold plan to rescue Citigroup, injecting a fresh \$20 billion into the troubled firm as well as guaranteeing hundreds of billions of dollars in risky assets.

In 2011, Yemen's authoritarian President Ali Abdullah Saleh (AH'-lee ahb-DUH'-luh sah-LEH') agreed to step down amid a fierce uprising to oust him after 33 years in power. (After formally ceding power in February 2012, he was killed in 2017 by Houthi rebels who were once his allies.)

In 2024, Israeli airstrikes in central Beirut killed at least 20 people and wounded dozens more, the latest strikes in renewed fighting between Israel and Lebanon-based Hezbollah militants. (A U.S.-brokered cease-fire would be reached on Nov. 27, with sporadic violations of that truce for months afterward.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Franco Nero ("Django") is 84. Singer Bruce Hornsby is 71. TV journalist Robin Roberts ("Good Morning America") is 65. Composer Nicolas Bacri is 64. Poet and author Jennifer Michael Hecht is 60. Olympic gold medal sprinter Asafa Powell is 43. Ice hockey player Nicklas Bäckström is 38. Singer-actor Miley Cyrus is 33.