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Community Calendar

Sunday, Oct. 4

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

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

Third Grade Basketball practice in the GHS Gym, 4 p.m.

United Methodist: Worship with communion 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, 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.

Third Grade Girls Basketball, 4 p.m., GHS Old Gym

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Sixth Grade Girls Basketball Practice, 4 p.m., Arena
Dance Team Practice, 5:30 p.m., Arena

Monday, Oct. 5

Senior Menu: Chili with beans, mixed vegetables, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Egg bake.

School Lunch: Corn dogs, baked beans.

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

State A Boys Golf, 9 a.m.

Second Grade Girls Basketball, 3:30 p.m., Elementary Gym

JH Football vs. Deuel at Langford, 4 p.m.

Volleyball hosts Tiospa Zina (JH/C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., Varsity at 7:15 p.m.)

JV Football vs. Deuel at Langford, 5:30 p.m.

Winter Gear Drive at Dacotah Bank, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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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

Trump Bans Media to Escape Scrutiny, Accountability

President Donald Trump's decision to ban CNN, MS Now and Politico from the White House, a function of his groundless claims that the outlets engage in "fake news," a euphemism for his irrational rage against the media for news coverage that he dislikes, has morphed into an after-the-fact litigation posture that invokes squishy "national security" concerns as justification for the iron curtain that he would impose to avoid oversight, scrutiny and accountability.

Trump's latest ban on journalists and news organizations that refuse to do his bidding, violates a history of case law that stands for the principle that denying or restricting journalists' access to the White House based on their reporting violates the First Amendment's Freedom of the Press Clause. More than an exercise in "viewpoint discrimination," failure of the White House to provide a clearly stated justification for any denial violates the Fifth Amendment's due process clause.

Beyond Trump's trampling of the Constitution, indeed, of foundational rights, is his offense against the cherished, centuries-old rationale for freedom of the press. The English commentator, William Blackstone, rightly observed that, "The liberty of the press is indeed essential to the nature of a free state." The founders of our republic, who looked to Blackstone at every turn for their education about the English constitution and common law, saw clearly that freedom of the press was indispensable to the existence of a free and responsible government.

President Trump has never made a secret of his contempt for freedom of the press. Readers will recall his earliest rants against reporters, uttered frequently on the campaign trail in his first run for the presidency. Reporters, he said, are "scum of the earth." The press, he delighted in saying, is "the enemy of the people," seizing the line from them lips of totalitarian leaders in the 20th Century. Trump told his audiences, "Don't believe what you read or hear. Believe what I tell you." The Associated Press was banned from the White House for steadfastly referring in its reporting to the "Gulf of Mexico," rather than Trump's petulant preference for "Gulf of America." With that lesson, we should surmise that news organizations that will adhere to the name, "Lake Ontario," will be punished if they don't adopt Trump's preference for "Lake America."

James Madison, who described freedom of the press as one of the "choicest" of the "great rights of mankind," understood as well as any of the nation's founders that a free press was critical to the functioning of popular government and the protection of civil liberties. His fellow Virginian, Thomas Jefferson, nailed its importance when he referred to freedom of the press as the "people's right to know." Without a free press to report on the activities of government—at any level—the people will depend for their knowledge about official activities on those most interested in shaping the understanding and opinions of the electorate. A citizenry solely dependent on the representations of those anxious to win public support—and votes—will be vulnerable to manipulation and deceit by elected officials who, in a system of government based on popular participation, most require the scrutiny and oversight that only a free and independent press can provide. Banning reporters is an efficient way for governmental leaders to hide their deceit.

The Supreme Court, in its most famous free press case, *The New York Times v. United States* (1971), was alert to presidential efforts to withhold and hide information behind the thinly veiled assertion of "national security." Of the several opinions written by the Justices, the most powerful, long-lasting and eloquent of the lot, was Justice Hugo Black's. Black's opinion, his last, before illness and death in September, was one of his most memorable. "The press was protected," he wrote, "so that it could bare the secrets of government and inform the people. Only a free and unrestrained press can effectively expose deception in government." Black wrote that the press in exposing the government's deception about the Vietnam

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War, should be "commended" for serving the framers' purpose. "In revealing the workings of the government that led to the Vietnam War, the newspapers nobly did precisely that which the Founders hoped and trusted they would do."

Banning news organizations from the White House for coverage that the president dislikes defies the framers' purpose in crafting the free press clause.

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.

Groton Area netters goes 2-2 at Redfield tournament

Groton Area split four matches Saturday at the Redfield volleyball tournament, picking up victories over North Central and Gettysburg while falling to Madison and Aberdeen Roncalli.

The Tigers opened tournament play with a 2-0 loss to Madison. Madison won the opening set 25-21 before taking the second set 25-13.

Groton Area then battled Aberdeen Roncalli in a tight opening set before falling 29-27. Roncalli completed the sweep with a 25-19 victory in the second set.

The Tigers bounced back against North Central with a convincing 25-8 win in the opening set. North Central stayed closer in the second, but Groton Area finished off the match with a 25-21 victory.

Groton closed out the tournament with another 2-0 win, defeating Gettysburg 25-16 and 26-24.

Chesney Weber led the Groton Area attack for the tournament with 26 kills. She also recorded four aces, 15 digs, seven assists and two block assists.

Taryn Traphagen finished with 20 kills, one ace, four solo blocks, five block assists and 16 digs. Tevan Hanson added 16 kills, 32 digs, one ace and six assists, while Kella Tracy recorded 14 kills, four digs and one block assist.

Sydney Locke led the defensive effort with 39 digs while also recording two aces, one kill and three assists. McKenna Tietz added 18 digs and three aces.

Liby Althoff handed out 33 assists to go along with three aces, 18 digs, two kills and one block assist. Tori Schuster recorded 27 assists, eight digs and four ace serves.

Abby Fjeldheim finished with seven kills, two digs, one block assist and one assist. Makena Krause had three kills and eight digs, Libby Cole recorded four kills and one block assist, Ryelle Gilbert had nine digs, and Kinsley Rowen added one ace and one dig.

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: Would storing the Large Language Models (LLMs) behind AI on our personal computers save resources from shared data centers and be better for the planet? – P.L., via email

Huge computer buildings known as data centers use up massive amounts of electricity and water to run artificial intelligence, which heats up cities and strains power grids. Because AI is growing so fast, these massive cloud facilities burn through millions of gallons of water every single day just to keep their servers cool. This heavy resource use has started a big conversation about whether running AI programs right at home on our own laptops could take the pressure off those giant industrial centers.



Experts don't think storing LLMs locally would do much to lighten the environmental load of data centers. Credit: Pexels.com.

Running a smaller computer model right on your own device instead of sending every single question away to a far-away cloud computer is called local inference. So, does moving the computer work to our personal machines save the planet, or does it just spread the energy waste out to everyone's houses?

Executing workloads locally bypasses the direct transmission overhead and heavy water-cooling loops characteristic of large data centers. Doing your computer work locally means you skip the big energy loss of sending data far away and avoid the heavy water-cooling systems used in massive warehouses. Instead, the electricity needed comes straight from your wall plug at home rather than a giant factory-sized hub.

Moreover, computer limits and file sizes matter a lot because if a computer tries to run a massive, uncompressed file that is way too big for its memory, it completely ruins its efficiency. As Vlad Butacu, Founder of OmniForge, explains regarding how these limits work: "A local model saves electricity when three conditions hold: The task is simple enough for the local model's capability. The model runs efficiently on existing hardware... The user doesn't retry repeatedly or escalate to cloud anyway."

Luckily, clever computer tricks like shrinking and compressing files make programs much more efficient by using less data precision. When engineers optimize these model weights, it completely changes how much power the computer draws to get the job done. Butacu points out: "A 2025 edge-inference study evaluating 28 quantized LLMs found that q3 and q4 variants reduced energy consumption by up to 79 percent compared with FP16, while reducing latency by up to 69 percent." However, saving energy at the chip level only helps if the smaller compressed model actually works on the very first try.

Even with those great numbers, real-life habits like making mistakes and trying things over and over again change the final score. If a smaller home computer fails to answer a tricky question and makes you type it again five times, or forces you to give up and send it to the cloud anyway, you end up wasting more energy than you would have with one smart cloud search. In the end, running local AI is a helpful precision tool rather than an automatic green fix, proving that saving energy depends on doing the right task in the right place.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

COMMENTARY

Whatever the motivation, Republican's endorsement of Democrat deserves points for facts and reason

by Rick Snedeker

Since South Dakota's Republican lame-duck Secretary of State Monae Johnson oddly endorsed the Democrat campaigning to replace her, voters reasonably might wonder: Is she for real?

Even though she has been viewed at times during her tenure as just politically eccentric and confounding, this partisan betrayal was a core taboo, akin to political treason.

Instead of taking this act of apparent partisan infidelity at face value, the current toxic divisiveness in American politics leads us to wonder whether Johnson's decision was a genuine, evidence-based reversal of her previous MAGA-centric stances, an act of political revenge, or a calculated tactic to undergird an unstated future political ambition.

After all, like proverbial rats fleeing a sinking ship, more and more Republican candidates in the midterm elections this fall — and non-candidates like Johnson — seem to be running full speed away from the hard-core MAGA base and its election-denying messiah, President Donald Trump, to whom they've heretofore slavishly stuck like glue.

Even our own junior Sen. Mike Rounds, R-South Dakota — a sometime MAGA critic, to be fair — who is up for reelection to a six-year term in November, purposely decided to forgo the unusual 2026 Republican Midterm Convention on Sept. 9 in Dallas to instead confer with voters at coffees and meet-and-greets in 14 different South Dakota counties, according to The Hill, an influential Washington, D.C.-based political news organ.

The Hill article noted that Rounds, "who may face a tougher-than-expected challenge in a Republican-leaning state, said his time is better spent meeting with constituents in South Dakota" than gracing the vanity convention.

Still, questions abound about Johnson's apparent stark betrayal of her political party.

Whereas she campaigned for secretary of state in 2022 refusing to clearly admit Joe Biden won the presidential election in 2020, making the conspiracy-theory concept "election integrity" a centerpiece of her platform, and releasing information that "revealed whether those on the state's voter rolls were seeking government assistance such as food aid" (she apologized for that "accident"), she now says she's changed her tune.

After the state Republican convention in June, where MAGA-aligned, hand-ballot-counting proponent Heather Baxter defeated her for the secretary of state nomination, Johnson announced in September she was endorsing the Democrats' candidate, Terrence Davis, over Baxter. She stressed, "I cannot remain silent when I believe the integrity, stability, and professionalism of this office is at stake."

Johnson wrote in a Sept. 19 letter published by South Dakota War College, a Republican blog, that she now believes:

"South Dakota deserves a Secretary of State who will strengthen confidence through performance rather than provocation; who will support election officials rather than burden them for political effect; who will protect voter access and election security without pretending those goals are enemies; and who will treat the office's employees, voters, candidates, and business owners with dignity."

In other words, much the opposite of what she originally ran on.

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Whatever her real motivations, she gets points even at this awkward late stage for seeming to apply facts and reason to the 2026 election equation. Indeed, rather than parroting partisan political gospel, whether or not it actually makes any sense, the sacred motivator of every candidate and elected official should be identifying truth and presenting it fairly to voters. Which is to say public officials should always apply thoughtful, objective skepticism with good faith to societal problems, instead of knee-jerk, visceral bias.

"How tightly should you hold your beliefs?" Massimo Pigliucci, the K D Irani Professor of Philosophy at City College of New York, recently asked in *Aeon*, a digital magazine of ideas, philosophy and culture. "You face the question several times a week without noticing. Hold them too loosely and you don't stand for anything, hold them too tightly and you become the sort of person no argument can reach."

"Most of us swing between the two and have no vocabulary for the ground in between," he added in his fascinating essay. "A Roman lawyer [Marcus Tullius Cicero, 106-43 BCE] worked one out ... and it is still the best answer available."

Pigliucci noted that uber-skeptic Cicero believed, "a genuine sceptic, confronted with compelling new evidence, updates (beliefs) — whereas the contrarian does not: they shift goalposts, raise new objections, or ignore what they cannot explain."

Monae Johnson's intent in her political about-face might be noble. But who can really be sure in American politics these days?

Rick Snedeker, a retired journalist living in Mitchell, is the author of a 2020 memoir about growing up in a Saudi oil camp in the 1950s, "3,001 Arabian Days," and a 2022 historical overview of Christianity's coercive evolution in America, "Holy Smoke."

Anxiety is growing Trump may try to disrupt the midterm elections. States are prepping.

BYJONATHAN SHORMAN

When Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin declared in September that Immigration and Customs Enforcement could serve warrants on individuals at polling places this fall, officials in Denver, a liberal city where roughly 14% of residents are foreign-born, quickly sued.

"Every day we find new things to be astonished about but I think that we just want residents to not be afraid to vote because that's ultimately what the president was after," Denver Mayor Mike Johnston, a Democrat, said in an interview.

Johnston and other local and state officials across the country are bracing for possible federal election interference from now through Nov. 3 — even as they remain unsure of what will actually happen.

One month from Election Day, President Donald Trump's long-running pressure campaign over elections is approaching a decisive moment. For the past year, the Trump administration has sought to bend the U.S. election system to the president's will across multiple fronts, despite the Constitution's guarantee that states administer elections.

Interviews and public comments by more than a dozen current and former election officials, legal experts, lawmakers and others ahead of the midterms reveal anxiety over what Trump may do. Election administrators often plan for natural disasters, bomb threats and other possible problems, but this year many are also thinking about possible disruptions driven by the federal government.

Potential scenarios range from armed federal personnel deploying at or near the polls to Trump declaring a national emergency — ideas widely condemned as illegal by election law experts. Homeland Security denies it plans to specifically target polling locations.

Others include efforts to discredit voting machines or federal law enforcement obtaining search warrants to seize ballots, a fear that's grown since the FBI took 2020 election ballots in Fulton County, Georgia, earlier this year.

Barb Byrum, the country clerk in Ingham County, Michigan, which includes much of Lansing, said that when she became a clerk 13 years ago, she and other officials conducted table-top exercises to plan for

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power outages and tornadoes. Now it's moved on to "federal misbehavior," she said.

"It's really unfortunate that's where we are. But that is, in fact, where we are," Byrum, a Democrat, said in an interview.

Memories of 2020

Fears of election interference are at least partly rooted in previous efforts by Trump and his allies to overturn his 2020 election loss in key swing states, culminating in a mob of his supporters storming the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. The riot led to Trump's second impeachment in the House on a charge of inciting an insurrection, but the Senate acquitted him.

Nearly six years later, Trump's approval ratings are sagging and Republicans are fighting to retain control of Congress amid encouraging polling for Democrats. Loss of the House or Senate would effectively end Trump's legislative agenda and lead to investigations that consume his final two years in office.

"A desperate Trump is a dangerous Trump," California Attorney General Rob Bonta, a Democrat, said during an appearance at the progressive Center for American Progress in September.

At the same time, Americans' trust in elections is eroding. Just 49% of respondents said they expect the midterm elections to be free and fair, according to a national survey of more than 5,000 adults in early September conducted by the University of California San Diego Center for Transparent and Trusted Elections.

Still, election officials and legal experts remain largely confident any interference effort ultimately won't succeed. The United States has a decentralized election system run by state and local officials that guards against large-scale efforts to steal elections or prevent voting, they say, predicting courts would swiftly rule against the deployment of federal agents.

Many votes are also cast by mail, sidestepping any Election Day show of force. More than 1 million votes have already been cast, according to data compiled by the University of Florida's Election Lab.

"It's not going to happen," David Becker, executive director of the nonpartisan Center for Election Innovation & Research, told reporters on Tuesday. "You're not going to have to run a gauntlet. You're not going to see troops or armed individuals at the polls."

'I don't rule anything out or in'

Trump and his aides refuse to flatly rule out interfering in the midterms. In an interview with TIME magazine published Thursday, Trump declined to take extreme measures off the table. Asked about sending ICE to the polls, he said only that he hadn't thought of it.

"I don't rule anything out or in. We'll see," Trump said of a national emergency.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has dismissed questions about sending troops to the polls as "another gotcha hypothetical," though the Department of Defense has said it has no plans to deploy active-duty troops or federalized National Guard members.

Some Republicans have suggested they would welcome the presence of soldiers if state and local authorities want them. "If that's something that they decide that they need to look at, then that's fine with me," Rep. Mike Collins, a Georgia Republican, told reporters in September.

Mullin, the Homeland Security secretary, last month sought a Department of Justice investigation into whether ballot tabulation machines that read barcodes or QR codes comply with federal law, raising concerns that the Trump administration could create a pretext to dismiss the validity of some ballots.

The Georgia State Election Board's executive director recently called on the DOJ to potentially intervene in the state over the use of QR code-based tabulation.

Earlier this year, Mullin also warned that election officials who don't "participate in securing the elections" could face prosecution. He promised to "hold election officials accountable."

Roadblocks to interference

But with Election Day nearing, Trump has been stymied on every major initiative to influence the election process this year:

Congress didn't pass the SAVE America Act, which would require voters to prove their citizenship.

The U.S. Supreme Court blocked the U.S. Postal Service from imposing new rules on mail ballots.

The Justice Department has lost more than two dozen lawsuits seeking to force states to turn over

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sensitive voter data.

A DOJ push to prosecute noncitizen voters has led to only a few dozen prosecutions, reflecting studies that consistently found that noncitizen voting happens extremely rarely. In the most recent action, U.S. Attorney General Todd Blanche in late September announced indictments against 10 noncitizens over allegations of unlawfully voting.

The White House did secure a recent victory when the Supreme Court allowed states to use a super-charged version of a Homeland Security computer program that can identify possible noncitizen voters. But the decision will have minimal impact on the midterms because, under federal law, it's too close to Election Day for most states to purge large numbers of voters off their rolls.

In response to questions from States Newsroom, White House spokeswoman Lauren Bis in a statement accused "extreme liberal Democrats" of preventing Americans from having full confidence in their elections by not supporting the SAVE America Act, though the legislation faced bipartisan opposition in the Senate.

"President Trump is absolutely right: we fix this now, or we lose our country," Bis said.

ICE at the polls?

Trump's failure to advance his signature election-related policies has left him with few options to exert control outside of increasingly audacious and potentially illegal options. So when Mullin said that ICE can execute warrants at polling sites, the remarks provoked a swift backlash from voting rights activists and Democrats.

"The only reason why we would be at polling places is if there is a threat to that polling place or we're serving a warrant on someone that we have been actively tracking down," Mullin said during a news conference on Sept. 1.

On Friday, Homeland Security sent an unsigned statement to States Newsroom denying any plans to target polling locations, adding that Mullin has answered the question "dozens of times."

DHS said ICE agents are part of trained special response teams that can rapidly respond to major incidents if necessary to aid local law enforcement, regardless of location.

"Any 'anxiety' among election officials is the unfortunate result of fake news reports of 'federal interference' despite the Secretary's numerous clear statements to the contrary," the DHS statement said.

Notably, the statement does not address Mullin's remark about serving warrants.

At least three lawsuits seek to block any possible deployment of federal agents to election sites. The oldest case, filed on Sept. 10 by Denver and several voting rights groups, points to Mullin's comments and alleges ICE has already conducted law enforcement operations at polling places this year.

ICE agents "swarmed" a parking lot of an active polling site in San Antonio in May to detain someone, the suit says. In June, agents visited a Ventura County, California, polling place and accosted an election worker at a Syracuse, New York, polling place, it says.

Preparing for the worst

Tina Barton co-chairs the Committee for Safe and Secure Elections, a nonprofit group that helps elections and officials and law enforcement think through how to protect election workers and voters from violence, threats and intimidation. She said the organization has about 138 events on its calendar this year, compared to 67 in 2024.

In communities with concerns about a possible federal presence, the organization has officials work through a scenario involving ICE activity near a polling place that affects voters coming to the area, allowing local leaders to think through questions about what their legal options would be, how they would respond and what they would tell the public.

"Their conversation and how they choose to move forward, that's owned by them and their community and how they choose to handle that. What we encourage is relationship-building ahead of time with them, conversations ahead of time," Barton said.

Local election officials receive an "incredible" amount of training in how to handle crises, said Kamryn Hoadley, who advises Michigan election officials for Keep Our Republic, a pro-democracy nonprofit. "They are truly as prepared as somebody could be for anything that will happen on Election Day," Hoadley said.

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In Los Angeles County — the most populous county in the country, with more than 10 million residents — election officials have studied the potential for disruptions to the election.

But Dean Logan, the Los Angeles registrar-recorder/county clerk, emphasized in a statement that scenarios concerning federal agents at polling sites and the seizure of ballots haven't occurred in his area and haven't been upheld in court.

"We've engaged in scenario and tabletop planning with our partners so that if an unexpected situation arises, roles are clear and our response is calm, coordinated, and focused on voter access and participation, rather than politically reactive," Logan said.

"Voters should know the behind-the-scenes work is thorough, and the fundamentals of a secure election are sound," he said.

Jonathan Shorman covers democracy for States Newsroom. Based in Kansas City, his coverage area includes elections and voting rights, fights over state and federal power, civil liberties and more. An alumnus of the University of Kansas, he previously covered politics for The Kansas City Star.

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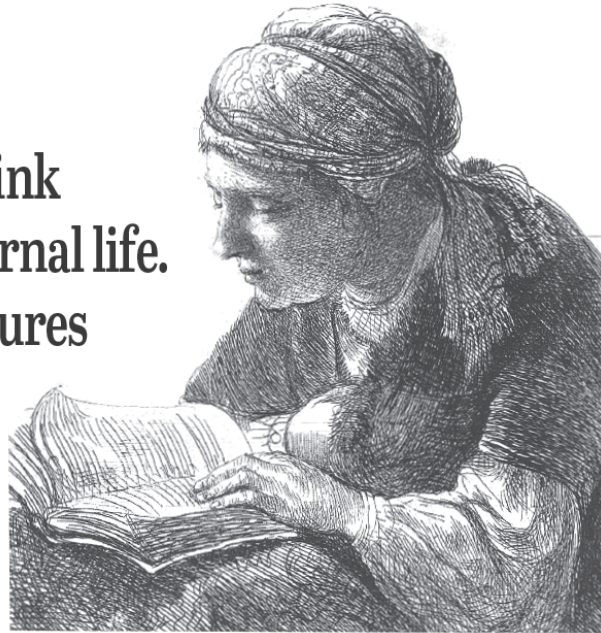


THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

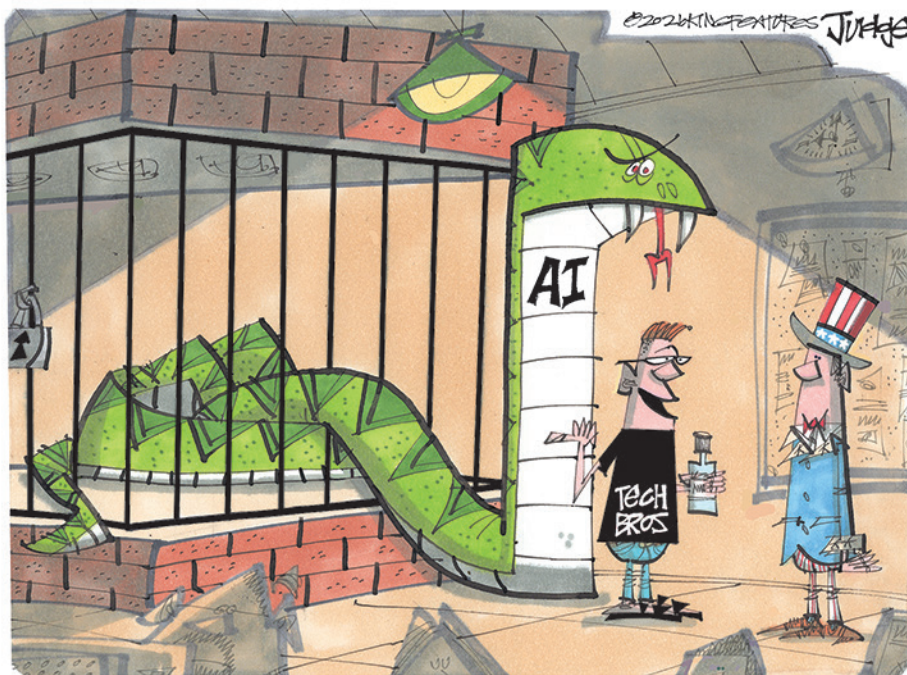
You study the Scriptures
diligently because you think
that in them you have eternal life.
These are the very Scriptures
that testify about Me...

JOHN 5:39

"Woman Reading" by Rembrandt (1634)



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"NO WORRIES...WE PUT IT IN A CAGE."

BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. Which king wanted to see miracles when the arrested Jesus was before him? *Pilate, Shishak, Herod, Solomon*

3. From Judges 3, who was the left-handed Benjamite who killed Eglon? *Geshem, Agag, Ehud, Joram*

4. How many beasts rising out of the sea did Daniel have a dream about? *4, 7, 13, 20*

5. From Judges 1:6, which king had his thumbs and toes cut off? *David, Adoni-Bezek, Josiah, Herod*

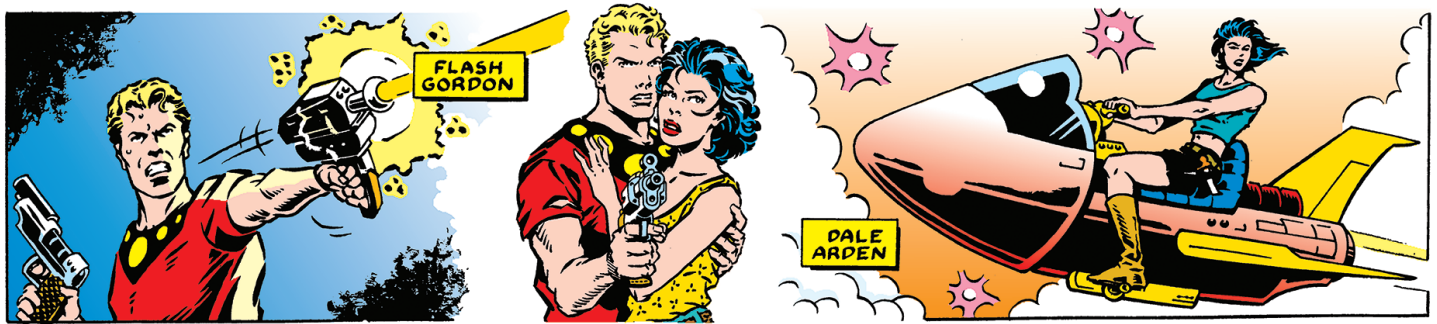
6. Whose biblical name meant “messenger”? *Aaron, Moses, Samuel, Malachi*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Herod, 3) Ehud, 4) Four, 5) Adoni-Bezek, 6) Malachi

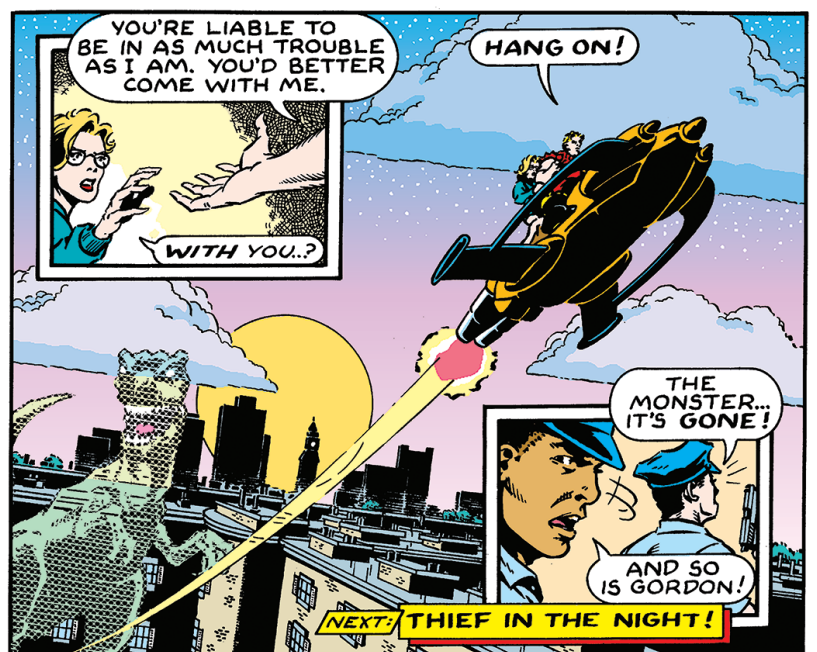
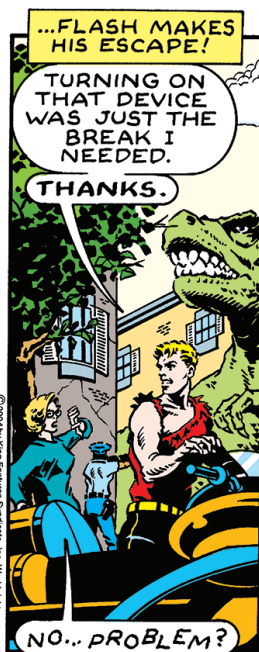
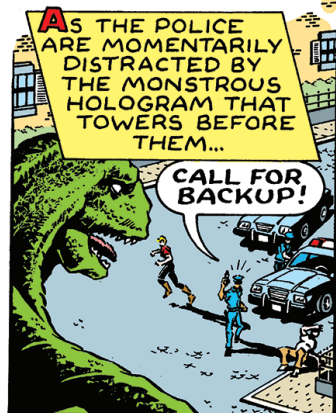
Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscribersite at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

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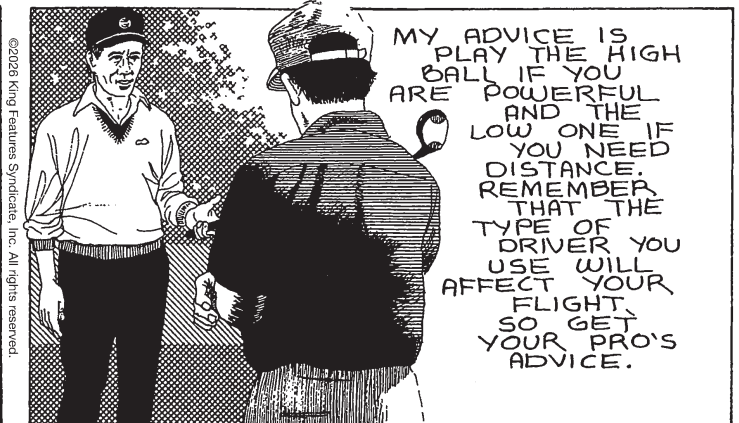
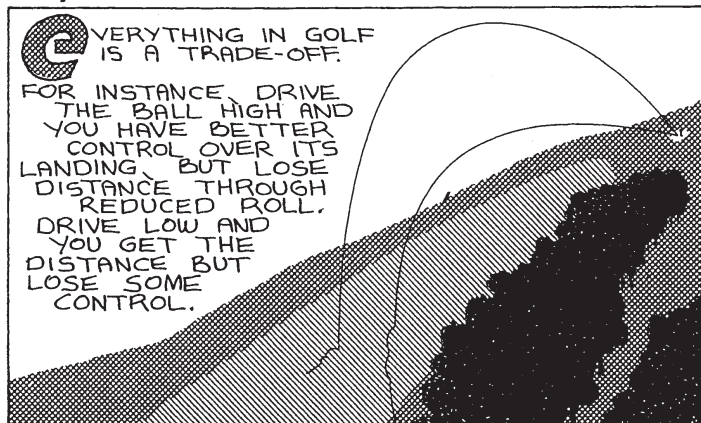
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9/19 BY JIM KEEFE



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Frequent MRIs and CANCER Surveillance Cause Patient Anxiety

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm writing to seek your perspective on a diagnosis that has caused me significant anxiety. A recent incidental finding on an MRI, followed by an endoscopic ultrasound, revealed a cluster of several small cysts (3-7 mm) in my pancreas. They're suspected to be branch-duct intraductal papillary mucinous neoplasms (IPMNs). My main pancreatic duct is mildly enlarged.

My doctors have recommended an MRI/MRCP with and without contrast in six months, followed by ongoing monitoring every six months to two years. I've been told that IPMNs are precancerous but usually don't progress to cancer. The thought of frequent, lengthy MRIs and long-term cancer

surveillance is overwhelming.

Is this intense level of monitoring truly necessary for cysts that are this small, or is it overly aggressive? Are there any safe alternatives such as shorter, non-contrast scans to help me manage the burden of testing? I'd deeply appreciate any guidance you can provide on how to balance medical safety with peace of mind. -- J.D.

ANSWER: As you say, IPMNs can progress to pancreatic cancer, which is why your doctors want to keep a careful eye on them. There are several guidelines on the management of these cysts. The main risk factor in a person developing cancer is the size of the cyst; however, a dilated main pancreatic duct is also a worrisome feature, according to the guidelines.

Because of the dilated duct, the risk for developing cancer in the next five years is about 10%. Even though this means that 90% of the time you won't develop cancer, doctors can find and potentially cure one person for every 10 people who agree to a careful follow-up.

CT scans aren't as accurate and have the downside of ionizing radiation. I do understand that MRIs do take a long time (and can be very noisy), but your risk is high enough that I'd add my recommendation to your doctors' to get the follow-up scans.

You should also get CA19-9 blood testing. If the main pancreatic duct enlarges over time (by more than 2 mm per year), then it's time to consult a surgeon. It's your body and your choice; however, an MRI is a time-consuming but safe way of checking the stability of these cysts.

DR. ROACH WRITES: A recent column on vertigo led many readers to question whether the reader had Meniere's disease, rather than benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV). The information provided wasn't enough to be sure, but the reader noted that a BPPV diagnosis had been confirmed.

There are several ways that a clinician can help separate these two diagnoses. In people with BPPV, vertigo is usually triggered by a change in head position; whereas with Meniere's, vertigo is spontaneous. Attacks last for seconds to at most 1 minute in BPPV, but with Meniere's, they can last anywhere from 20 minutes up to 12 hours.

In addition, Meniere's disease causes hearing loss, which isn't always noticed by the patient. Tinnitus and a sense of fullness in the ear are common with Meniere's. Maneuvers that are done by clinicians in the office can also help separate the conditions.

People can also have both BPPV and Meniere's, which complicates things. When I'm not certain, I often order audiology testing or send my patient to an expert in the diagnosis and treatment of vertigo. Another reader wrote in to tell me that I should've mentioned that neurologists and ENT physicians often have expertise in managing cases of dizziness, if the problem can't be solved by the primary physician. Receiving the right diagnosis is essential to getting the right treatment.

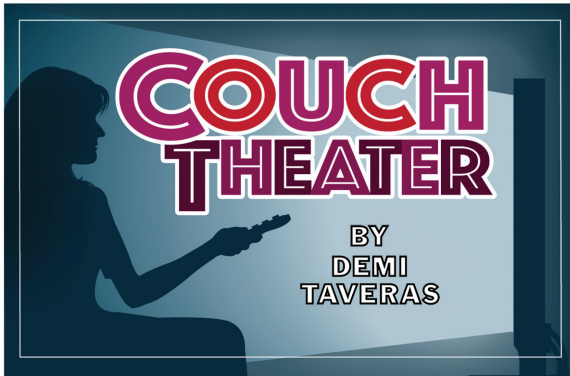
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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From left, Arturo Castro, Jessica Biel, John Cena, Teyonah Parris and Sam Richardson star in "Matchbox: The Movie." (Courtesy of Apple TV)

"Spider-Man: Brand New Day" (PG-13) -- The fourth installment in Tom Holland's "Spider-Man" film series is finally out to rent on Oct. 6 after its legendary run in theaters, where it became the third-highest-grossing film of all time! (Luckily,

Marvel isn't holding back with on-demand streaming of the film, like Universal is with Christopher Nolan's "The Odyssey.") Zendaya ("The Odyssey") and Jacob Batalon ("The Wrecking Crew") are back in their roles from the previous three films, while Jon Berthal's Punisher makes his first appearance in the series. More newcomers include Florence Pugh ("Thunderbolts"), who joins the cast as her MCU character Yelena Belova, and Sadie Sink ("Stranger Things") makes her debut in the MCU as Jean Grey. The film picks up four years after Dr. Strange's spell wipes Peter's (Holland) existence off the face of the planet. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Animals" (R) -- After teaming up with his longtime buddy Matt Damon for action-thriller film "The Rip," Ben Affleck is back on Netflix with this crime thriller, co-starring Kerry Washington ("Wake Up Dead Man") and Gillian Anderson ("The Julia Set"). "Animals" follows Los Angeles mayoral candidate Mark Kimball (Affleck), whose son suddenly gets kidnapped during his political campaign. The kidnapper demands a ransom, but with all his money spent on his campaign, Mark is forced to resort to more dangerous methods of getting his child back. In turn, amid the chaos, secrets from his and his wife's past emerge that they never expected to come to light. Steven Yeun ("The Rip") and Adriana Paz ("A Mouthful of Ash") round out the rest of the cast. Stream it on Oct. 9! (Netflix)

"Avatar: Seven Havens" (TV-PG) -- If you have any Zillennials in your home, you know the chokehold that "Avatar: The Last Airbender" still has on them. It's long regarded as one of the best animated fantasy series of all time and introduced us to beloved characters like Aang, Katara, Zuko, Appa and more. Shortly after the original "Avatar" series ended, a sequel series, "The Legend of Korra," aired from 2012 to 2014. Now, 12 years later, a third series is set to premiere on Oct. 9, following Korra's Avatar successor, Pavi, who's also a reincarnation of Korra. Taking place 225 years after "Korra," Pavi and her twin sister, Nisha, team up to save the Seven Havens before an apocalyptic event destroys their world. (Paramount+)

"Matchbox: The Movie" (PG-13) -- After the \$1 billion feat that "Barbie" (2023) achieved in theaters, Mattel had no choice but to wonder, "What if we made movies about every iconic toy we have?" However, because "Masters of the Universe" bombed, they decided to go for a streaming-only release for this action-comedy film based on the Matchbox toy cars. John Cena ("Coyote vs. Acme") leads the film as spy and former soldier Sean Walker, who reconnects with the childhood friends he used to play cars with. But while they're at the bar, the entire group gets drugged and kidnapped by a group of criminals who are searching for a nuclear warhead; and even though his past almost gets his old friends killed, they decide to help Sean in an attempt to steal the bomb and clear their names. Check it out on Oct. 9. (Apple TV)

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1. Which singer provided the sound track for the 1989 movie "When Harry Met Sally"?
2. Which duo wrote and released "So Sad"?
3. What was the name of the camp in Allan Sherman's "Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh!"?
4. What was the name of the bridge in "Ode to Billie Joe"?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "You drove me, nearly drove me out of my head, While you never shed a tear, Remember, I remember all that you said."

Answers

1. Harry Connick Jr. He covered big band standards such as "Love Is Here to Stay" and "Stompin' at the Savoy." The soundtrack climbed the Traditional Jazz chart to reach No. 1 while Connick netted a Grammy for Best Jazz Male Vocal Performance.
2. The Everly Brothers, in 1960. The song has been covered by several others over the years, including Emmylou Harris and Connie Smith.
3. Camp Granada, in 1963. It won a Grammy and was added to the United States National Recording Registry.
4. Tallahatchie Bridge.
5. "Cry Me a River," by Julie London, in 1955. London's version was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2001. Others have released covers, including Joe Cocker and Michael Bublé.

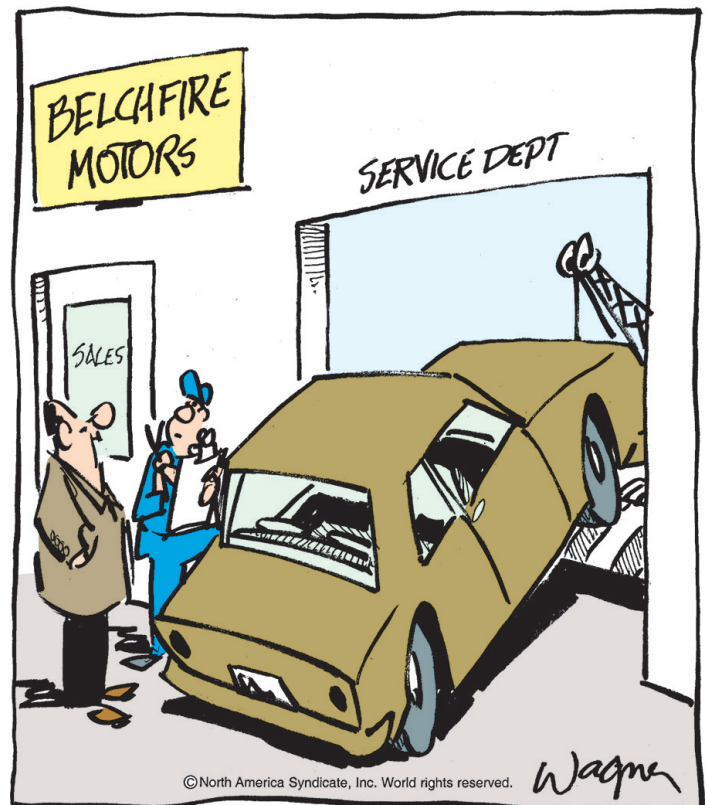
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Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



GRIN and BEAR IT



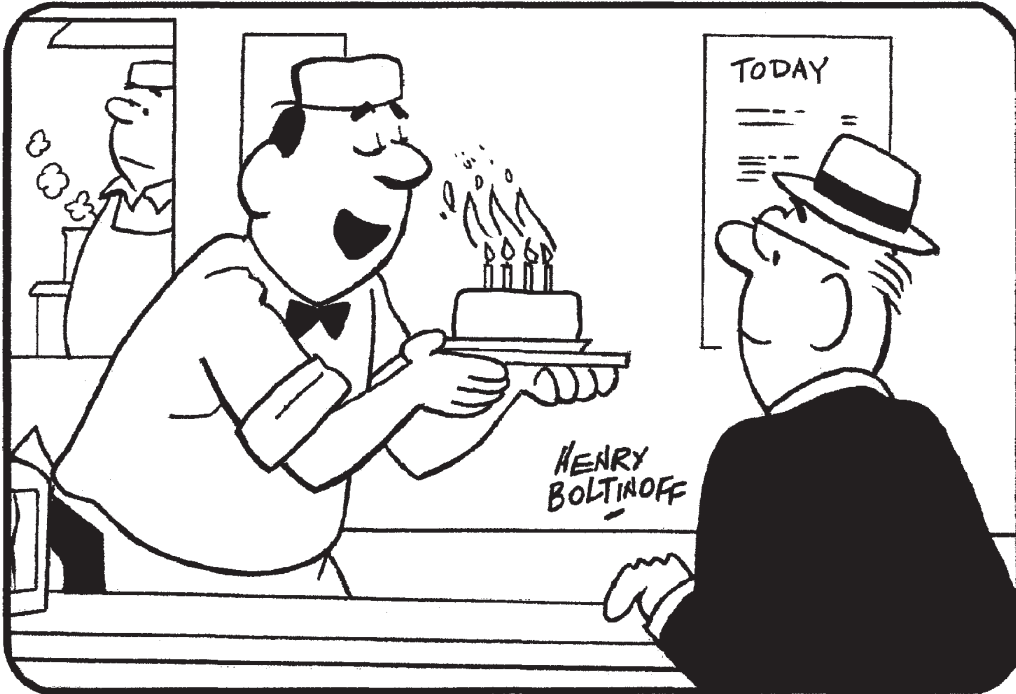
"It drives great! How does it tow?"

Groton Daily Independent

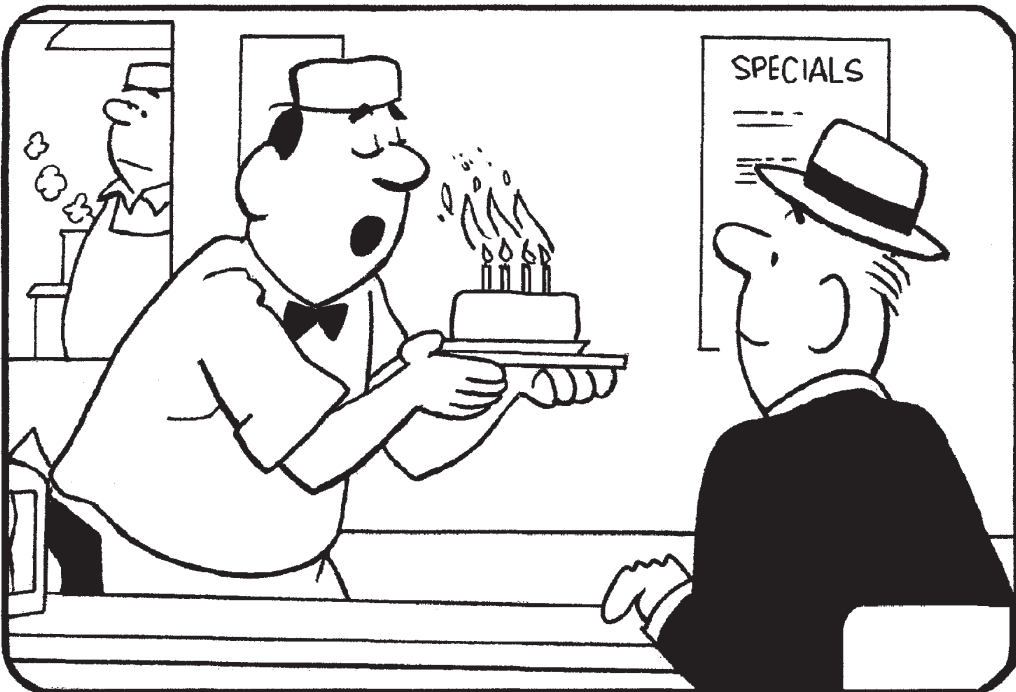
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Word is different. 2. Glasses are missing. 3. Sleeve is different. 4. Hat is larger. 5. Back of stool is added. 6. Mouth is different.

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* "Apply petroleum jelly to the panes of your windows before painting the trim. This works better than masking tape in many ways. It is easily removed, and even large paint flecks come right off." -- P.S. in Illinois

* For easy-cleanup pancakes, use a turkey baster to "squirt" the batter in the frying pan. No drips, and it usually results in a pretty good circle, too!

* When you are able to pick up extra meat at a great price, you want to be sure that while it's frozen, it maintains its best taste. Use this tip to vacuum seal your meat without any special equipment! Add meat pieces to a plastic, zipper-top bag. Fill a large pot several inches deep with water. Seal the bag, but leave an inch or so unsealed. As you lower the bag into the

water (zipper top up) the air will escape through the unsealed portion. When no air remains, seal the bag and then remove from the water.

* "Have you tried this single-serving blender hack using a mason jar? Most standard size blender blades can be screwed on to a pint Mason jar. If you're one of the lucky ones, you can make single servings of smoothies to blend and go." -- T.U. in South Carolina

* "Baby have diaper rash? One of the best remedies is 'air time' -- that is, letting baby go without a diaper for a bit. Another simple soother is a baking soda bath. Try adding 2-4 tablespoons of baking soda to Junior's bathwater." -- J.C. via email

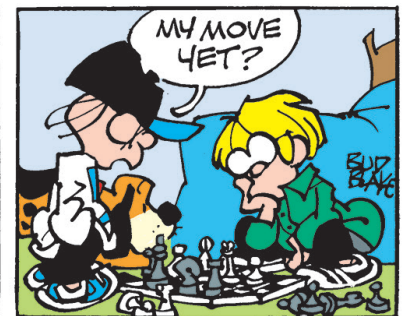
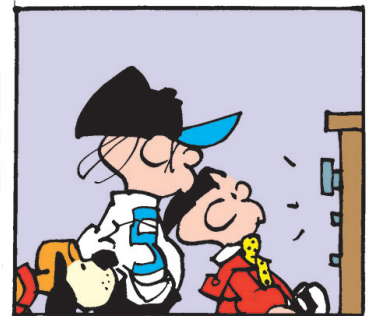
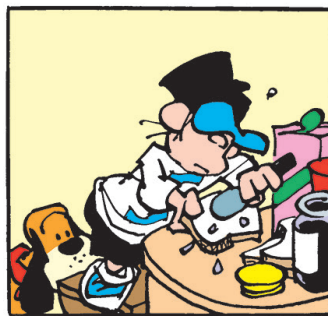
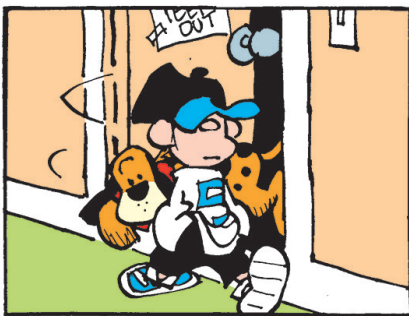
* After you've cooked your chicken whole, remove the meat and throw the bones and remaining carcass in the slow cooker with 3-4 cups of water. Let it cook on low for several hours for a spectacularly flavorful broth.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 1800 Pembroke Dr., Suite 300, Orlando, FL 32810.

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 **TIGER**

by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Use a squeegee
5 ACLU concerns
8 Oodles
12 Valhalla VIP
13 — Jima
14 Slightly
15 Reveals by accident
17 California valley
18 LAX and JFK overseer
19 Bad spell
20 Playful sea critter
21 Young bloke
22 Used to be
23 Skewered Thai recipe
26 Beach robes
30 Four Corners st.
31 Gearwheel tooth
32 Barrett or Jaffe
33 Pond floater
35 Unclothed
36 Long lunch?
37 Tier
38 Teapot feature
41 Binge
42 Hiatus
45 Galley gear
46 Legendary gossip columnist

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
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38	39	40				41				42	43	44
45						46				47		
48						49				50		
51						52				53		

- 48 Vicinity
49 Soul, to Sartre
50 Eager
51 Drudge
52 PX patrons
53 Trawler gear
9 Final notice
10 Clock reading
11 Swizzle
16 Horse-drawn carriage
20 Klutz
21 Revolving tray
22 Witty one
23 Bando of baseball
24 "Exodus" hero
25 Up to
26 Massachus-etts cape
27 Fine, to NASA
28 Compass dir.
29 Blue
31 Taxi
34 Impose
35 Egggy drinks
37 Demolishes
38 Daytime drama
39 Rid of rind
40 Sweet sandwich
41 Rock's Hendrix
42 Donate
43 Bickering
44 Profs' degrees
46 Trail the pack
47 "Sheesh!"

DOWN

- 1 Wild canine
2 Concept
3 Pocket bread
4 Em halves
5 Ticked off
6 Candy sold in twos
7 Soak (up)
8 Breaking point

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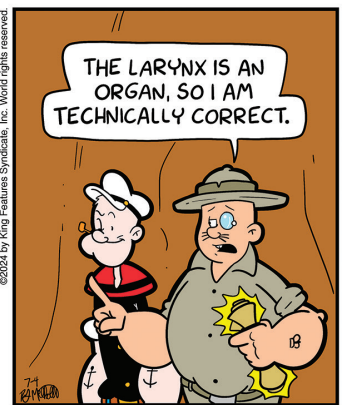
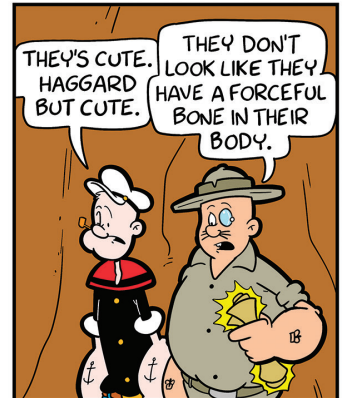
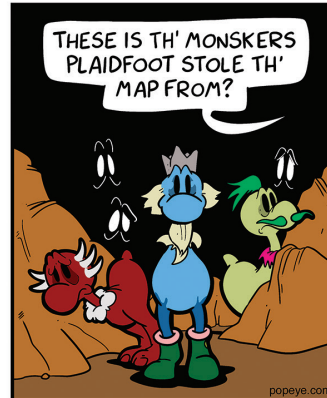
— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

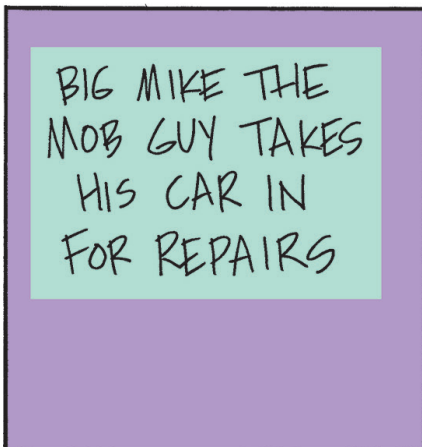
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F	A	A		H	E	X		O	T	T	E	R
			L	A	D		W	A	S			
S	A	T	A	Y		C	A	F	T	A	N	S
A	R	I	Z		C	O	G		R	O	N	A
L	I	L	Y	P	A	D		N	A	K	E	D
			S	U	B		R	O	W			
S	P	O	U	T		J	A	G		G	A	P
O	A	R	S		L	I	Z	S	M	I	T	H
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P	E	O	N		G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

Olive



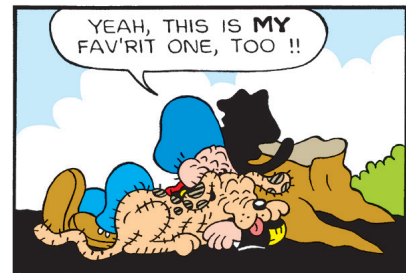
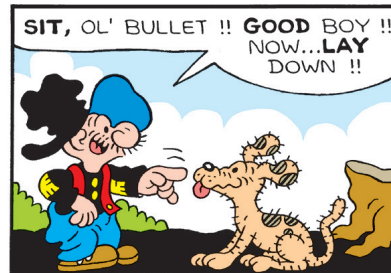
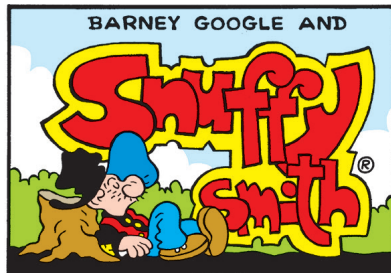
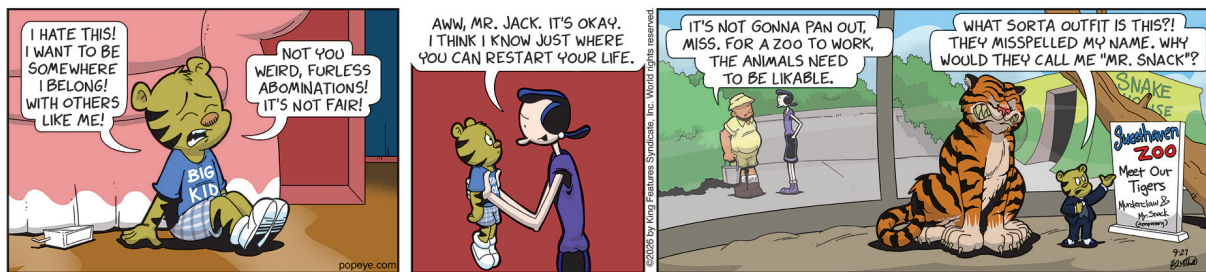
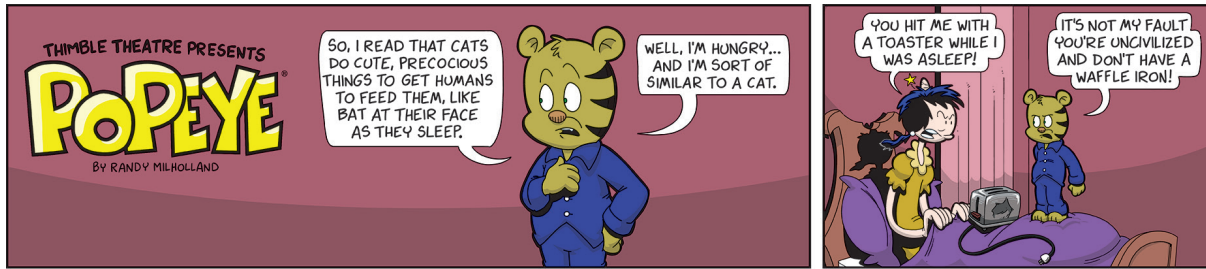
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



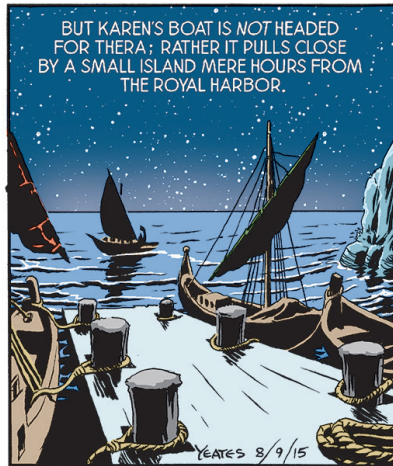
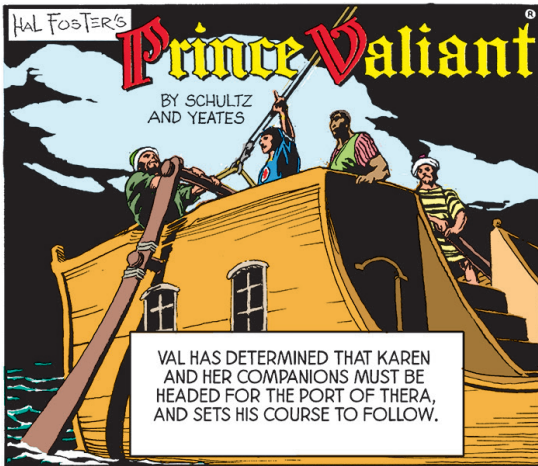
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KAREN HAD, INDEED, PLANNED ON SAILING TO THERA; BUT GURYAN AND THE OLD ARAB MURSHID HAVE PRESENTED HER WITH AN ALTERNATIVE - ONE THAT THEY HAD APPARENTLY PLANNED WELL IN ADVANCE.



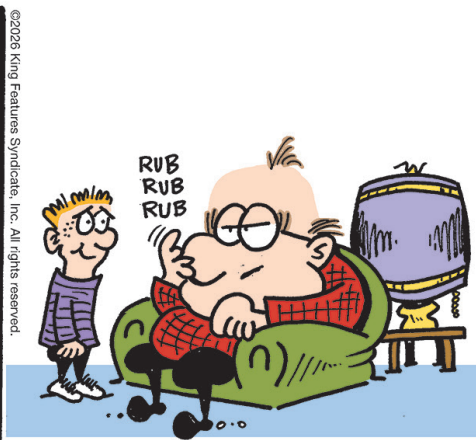
KAREN GULPS HARD AND AGREES TO THEIR PLAN. THEY PULL PAST THE ISLAND'S PORT TO A MARSHY SEA CREEK. THE SAILS ARE LOWERED AND THE VESSEL IS ROWED UPSTREAM.

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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Keep an eye on grocery prices

If you've done your grocery shopping at the same store for a long time, believing that they have the best prices in town, it might be time to revisit that thought. I just discovered that the big box store where I've shopped isn't the lower cost choice I thought it was.

I discovered this when looking at the website of the store to check availability of an item and then looked at the websites for the two other stores in town. I was shocked to see that my store was much higher in price on several of the items on my regular list. I don't know when this happened, but now that I know.

It looks like we're going to have to keep a constant eye on pricing to keep as many of our dollars as we can. Here are a few suggestions:

Compare the websites for all the stores near you. Make a little chart of the items you normally buy and see who really is the cheapest. Check your list every month.

When you do go, shop from a list. Don't let yourself be tempted to impulsively buy extra items unless you spot a great deal on an end-of-aisle display and can stock up a bit.

Try the store brands. In many cases store brands are actually made in brand name facilities.

Sign up for loyalty cards. The rewards from those can add up. Sometimes you'll get coupons sent via email.

Buy in bulk, if it makes financial sense to do that. And, if it makes sense, make large batches of meals you can freeze. Do the math.

And (although many of us don't like to do it) use the food bank. Let them give you what they will, and fill in the blanks with your own shopping.

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1. Which Brooklyn Dodgers catcher suffered a broken neck and paralysis in a 1958 auto accident that ended his Hall of Fame career?

2. In 2012, Australia's Rhein Gibson set a Guinness World Record for the lowest 18-hole round of golf with what score?

3. Which team selected UC Berkeley quarterback Steve Bartkowski with the first overall pick in the 1975 NFL Draft?

4. In 1939, Australian tennis player Adrian Quist developed which athletic shoe that is still in production?

5. Who has two NBA record streaks - 157 (2014-16) and 268 (2018-23) - of regular-season games with a 3-point shot made?

6. Toni Sailer, who swept all three alpine skiing events at the 1956 Cortina d'Ampezzo Winter Olympics, competed for which country?

7. Name the IndyCar driver who won the inaugural editions of the Java House Grand Prix of Arlington in Texas and the Freedom 250 Grand Prix in Washington, D.C., in 2026?



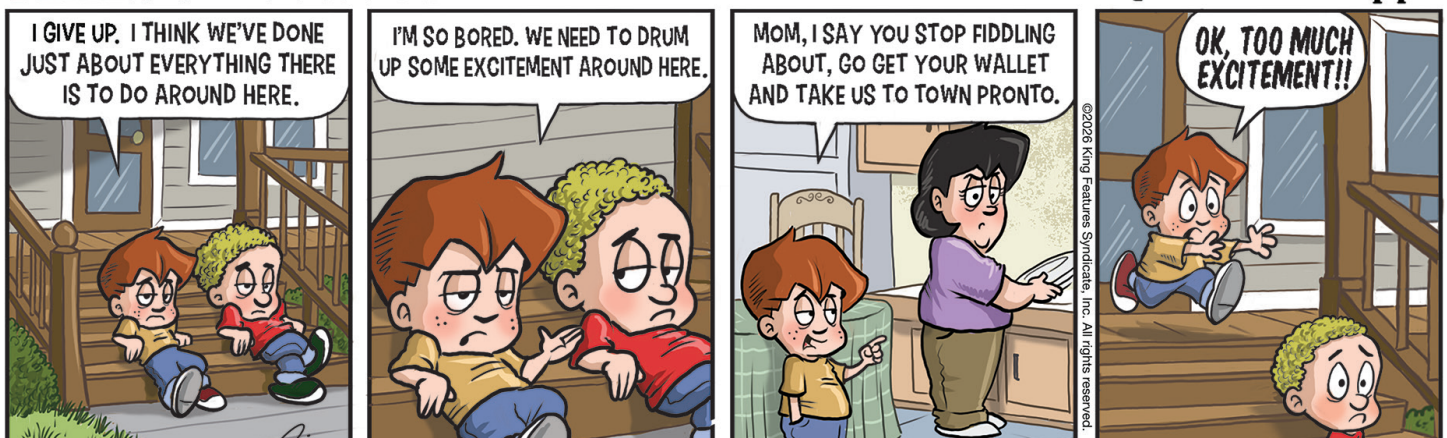
Answers

1. Roy Campanella.
2. 55 (16 under par).
3. The Atlanta Falcons.
4. The Dunlop Volley.
5. Stephen Curry, Golden State Warriors.
6. Austria.
7. Kyle Kirkwood.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Training a dog to be nonreactive

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My 1-year-old, mixed breed rescue dog "Shelly" barks at every noise and tries to lunge away from me when he sees another dog. He's skittish around certain people, and can be unpredictable when more than a few people are in the house -- sometimes he's relaxed, sometimes he barks furiously. I know he needs more than basic obedience training, but where do I start? -- Jethro H., Dallas

DEAR JETHRO: Talk to Shelly's veterinarian first. They can recommend specific professional training, socialization techniques, and can also prescribe medication to calm your dog. A calm dog is easier to work with, so any training will be more effective.

With rescue dogs, it can be difficult to imagine what their life was like before they ended up at a shelter. The shelter experience itself can be stressful. Building a daily

routine for Shelly -- always feeding, walking and training at the same time -- helps reassure him that you are not abandoning him. He's part of your family and always will be.

Keep working on basic commands while you research trainers in your area. Keep a notebook (or the note app on your phone) with you and write down Shelly's behaviors during specific events, like encountering another dog, other people or wildlife. Note what situations trigger reactivity, and avoid those setups until they can be addressed in training.

One-on-one training costs more, but may be the best option at first so that Shelly gets constant attention and correction. After each training session, reinforce the new commands by working with your dog every day. Commit to continual reinforcement for the rest of Shelly's life.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

* In ancient Egyptian mummification, onions were sometimes used to fill body cavities, even serving on occasion as false eyes.

* About 90% of all harvested olives are turned into olive oil.

* Fijian war chief Ratu Udre Udre holds the rather dubious distinction of being the most active cannibal in recorded history, with a reported consumption of between 872 and 999 people during his lifetime.

* Teenagers naturally experience a biological shift that

causes them to fall asleep later than adults.

* The red poinsettia originated in Mexico and is named after Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first United States ambassador to Mexico in the early 19th century.

* Shells and stones on the ritual blades used by the Aztecs symbolized the faces of the gods for which the hearts of sacrificed individuals were intended, with such rituals claiming between 10,000-15,000 people per year.

* Sheep only have teeth in their lower jaw and use a hard upper palate to break down food.

* Every second, the sun delivers about 173,000 terawatts of energy to Earth, which is more than 10,000 times the amount of power used by humans.

* Although English is the country's most widely spoken language, the United States has never designated an official language at the federal level, though some states have at their level.

* The video game industry consistently brings in more money than Hollywood.

* Long before the Nazis adopted it, the swastika was an ancient religious symbol associated with good fortune, spirituality and prosperity. Versions of it have appeared across India, China, Greece and other ancient civilizations for centuries.

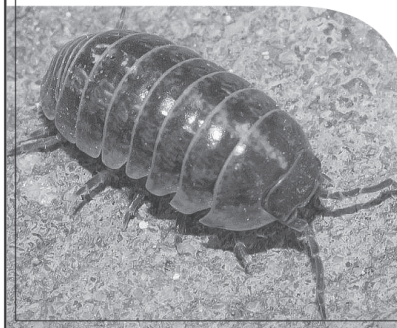
* Basketball shorts were short until 1984, when Michael Jordan petitioned the NBA for longer ones.

Thought for the Day: "Civilizations should be measured by the degree of diversity attained and the degree of unity retained." -- W.H. Auden

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Pillbugs



These creatures are not insects; they are actually tiny crustaceans that have adapted to living on land. They have gills, and are closely related to lobsters, shrimp, and crayfish. They are usually less than ½ an inch long and are dark grey with

seven pairs of legs. They can roll into a ball when disturbed, hence their common name "roly-polies." They are experts at converting decaying organic matter, so you can gently relocate them to your compost pile.

– Brenda Weaver

Source: missouribotanicalgarden.org

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by Freddy Groves

Insurance premium holiday

Here's an early holiday gift for 457,000 veterans -- three months of no payments due on their life insurance policies.

Those veterans who have policies under the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program (VGLI) will not have to make their payments in November, December and January, freeing up that cash over the holidays.

The policies under the VGLI program can be a good deal and carry over after a veteran leaves the service, as long as they keep making the payments.

The policies themselves range from \$10,000 to \$500,000. Here are two examples of the monthly premium amounts: A \$200,000 policy for a 30-year-old veteran is \$16 and a \$250,000 policy for a 55-year-old veteran is \$125 per month.

Are you eligible for VGLI? There are varying requirements, but at the top of the list is whether you had Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) while you were active duty AND you're within one year and 120 days of being released from an active duty period that ran for 31 days or more. Then if you sign up within 240 days, you don't have to prove you're in good health. After that 240 days, you need to prove it.

Check the complete details at www.va.gov/life-insurance/options-eligibility/vgli for information on eligibility, premiums, changing beneficiaries and more.

For all the information on the premium holiday, see www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/vgli_premium_holiday_faqs.asp. It covers important facts like how to handle it if you have auto pay for the premium or if the payments come out of your disability compensation pay. If you've paid in advance you'll have the opportunity to get a refund or have a credit applied to your account. One note: You won't be eligible for the premium holiday if either you cancel your coverage or it lapses on or before Oct. 31, 2026.

Keep an eye on your mail and email for notification about the premium holiday.

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Wishing Well®

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

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: Who wrote the novel "The Invisible Man"?
2. GEOGRAPHY: In which country is the Topkapi Palace located?
3. ASTRONOMY: How long is a year on the planet Mars?
4. MOVIES: What is the name of the sea witch in the animated film "The Little Mermaid"?
5. ANATOMY: What is the average lifespan of a red blood cell?
6. MATH: What is the Arabic equivalent of the Roman numerals MMI?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What are the three secondary colors in traditional color theory?
8. TELEVISION: Which TV sitcom features the Bluth family?
9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of jellyfish commonly called?
10. GAMES: How many squares are on a checkerboard?

Trivia answers

1. H.G. Wells.
2. Istanbul, Turkey.
3. 687 Earth days.
4. Ursula.
5. 120 days.
6. 2,001.
7. Orange, green and purple.
8. "Arrested Development."
9. A smack.
10. 64.

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South Dakota Governor



Larry Rhoden



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Coming Home

A few weeks ago, I did something I never thought I'd do – I joined a cheer routine at a Brandon Valley High School football game! Their marching band had just learned the exciting news that they were selected to play in the 101st Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in 2027. Waving pom poms in the air was certainly outside of my comfort zone, but it was an honor celebrating our incredible students and their accomplishment. They were playing against O'Gorman High School, and I was met with the same energy on the other side of the field.

South Dakota is home to so many incredible young folks. And this time of year gives us another reason to celebrate them. Across our state, students are putting on their school colors, cheering from the stands, and making memories they will carry with them for a lifetime. I always enjoy meeting spirited South Dakotans while walking in the parades and attending football games.

There is something special about homecoming. For a few days each fall, an entire community comes together. Students, teachers, and their family and friends all have a reason to show school spirit. It doesn't matter what grade you are in, what your background is, or what you do outside of school. You are part of the same community, and everyone comes together to celebrate.

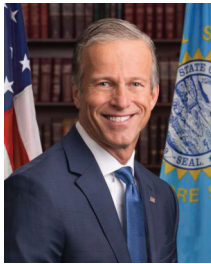
Recently, I was in Aberdeen for Northern State's Gypsy Days. A college town homecoming is one of the best examples of the spirit of community, and there were as many folks in that parade as I've seen anywhere! Whether you are walking in a parade, down main street, or into a stadium for the big game, the energy is palpable. Alumni come back to visit their alma mater and reminisce about the faculty who invested in them, the friendships they created, the games they attended, and the memories they made.

Our schools are not just places where students learn. They are places where our kids and grandkids discover their talents, build friendships, and learn how to lead. And South Dakota is blessed to have so many dedicated educators that encourage them along the way.

As Governor, I want every young South Dakotan to know that our state is Open for Opportunity. You don't need to move away to land your dream job – there are opportunities for you right here at home. Whether your future takes you into agriculture, healthcare, manufacturing, education, technology, entrepreneurship, or public service, South Dakota is a place where you can build a good life.

But if you do choose to leave for college, a career, or another opportunity, South Dakota will always be a place for you to come home to.

I am proud to call South Dakota home. And I am even more proud of the kids and grandkids who will carry that tradition forward and keep South Dakota home for generations to come.



JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

A Stable Future for College Sports

College sports has a unique place in South Dakota. It's deeply rooted in our communities and families. Many college athletes at our state's schools are South Dakotans themselves, and they have the opportunity in college to compete at a high level with the support of their friends, parents, and neighbors.

Anyone who knows me knows I'm a big sports fan, and I spend a lot of time at games around South Dakota. But in the last several years, whether I'm in a high school gym on a Friday night or at a tailgate on a Saturday morning, the current state of college athletics is bound to come up in conversations with fellow fans. Anyone who follows college sports knows that these last few years have been complex and, at times, chaotic, and that the status quo cannot continue.

At the end of September, the U.S. Senate passed a bill to restore stability to the college sports ecosystem. The Protect College Sports Act would preserve the opportunities that have been available for generations of student athletes while ensuring these opportunities can coexist with the new opportunities available to the current generation of athletes.

Restoring stability to college sports begins with uniform eligibility rules. The Senate-passed bill would limit athletes to one transfer without loss of eligibility, a maximum five years of playing time, and bar professional athletes from competing in college athletics. Additionally, it would bring transparency to athlete compensation and protect student athletes from bad actors. And importantly, the Protect College Sports Act includes safeguards that preserve opportunities in women's and Olympic sports.

This bill has been a work in progress for a number of years. I've sat down with college athletes, coaches, athletic directors, and college presidents in our state. Their input has been invaluable, and I'm proud that this bill has support from South Dakota universities and, most importantly, from hundreds of thousands of student athletes around the country.

As an athlete, fan, and member of a sports family, I've seen how sports shapes individuals and opens doors for them. My dad was a Big 10 basketball star in the 1940s. He had the chance to play point guard for the University of Minnesota, where he was the team MVP and the high point man at a game in Madison Square Garden – quite a journey for a small-town kid from South Dakota. My daughter ran cross country and track at Belmont University and was inducted in that school's hall of fame.

The Protect College Sports Act is about ensuring that the same opportunities that were available to my dad and daughter will be available to the next generation of student athletes. We have a responsibility to protect college sports and preserve stability for athletes so they can focus on their sport, their education, and their future.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

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Not Everything in Life is Funny

I'm the kind of person who finds a sliver of humor in just about everything in life. If I can't laugh, I guess I'm not awake yet.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is not on board with my attitude. It takes her quite a while to find something to laugh at. If only she could see my bathroom mirror in the morning, she could find something to laugh about.

Several years ago, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I celebrated our birthdays which are two days apart. We went to a restaurant to celebrate. I told the waitress that we were celebrating our birthdays.

She looked at me, smiled, and said, "Tell me, sir, how does it feel to be old?" Then she laughed.

Of course, I laughed back at her, then reached across the table and began squeezing the arm of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. I looked back at the waitress and said, "It sure feels good." The waitress and I were laughing, and the only one not laughing was sitting across the table from me. For some reason she didn't think it was funny.

I worried she might bring it up on the way home, but she never did.

I always find ways to turn something around and laugh at it.

Often, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would start a conversation by saying, "I was thinking..."

Then, without thinking, I interrupted her and responded, "With what?" Then I would laugh hysterically. Of course, I was the only one laughing at the time. She would look at me with one of "her looks," and I could tell she was not laughing, even on the inside.

Laughing has been one of my hobbies throughout life. If I can't laugh, then what good is anything? So I make it a practice to find something to laugh about every day.

After 55 years of marital bliss, I have had many occasions to laugh. Even when people make fun of me, I join in the laughter, which is all right with me.

Driving across town last week, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was driving the Sissy Van. She was coming close to a red light, and being the knucklehead that I am, I said to her, "There's a red light, make sure you stop."

Looking at me, she said, "You think that is funny?"

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I must've, because I was laughing then. She, on the other hand, was not laughing at all. Looking at me, she said, "Would you like to walk home?"

The one thing that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is afraid of is a cockroach. She sees one, grabs her broom, and chases it until she can get rid of it.

Once, as we were going to bed, before she turned off the light, she saw a cockroach right under her pillow. She had a screaming moment and then got her shoe and tried to kill that old cockroach.

Upon getting rid of the cockroach, she looked at me and said, "Did you plant that cockroach under my pillow?"

Of course I shook my head in the negative, but as I thought about it, that would've been a good plan for me to use. I had never thought of doing something like that. But it was another bullet in my arsenal.

Several weeks later, I thought about that. In the kitchen, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage had a box of sugar-free cookies, and I was only allowed one per day.

I wanted my second sugar-free cookie, and I didn't know how to get it without getting caught. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was in the kitchen, and there was no way I could sneak in and get a cookie. So when I came into the kitchen, I looked back down the hallway and said, "Oh, is that a cockroach down the hallway?"

I sounded serious, so she got up to get that cockroach while I sneaked across the kitchen and picked out one more sugar-free cookie without being caught.

Coming back into the kitchen, she said, "I guess it got away because I can't find it."

After she said that, she looked at me, looked at the box of sugar-free cookies, and then looked back at me. She wasn't smiling; she was scowling and growling. She just stood there quietly for several minutes, just staring.

I tried, but I couldn't control myself, and I started laughing.

Then she said, "What do you think is so funny?"

"Oh, nothing," I said, trying to control myself, "I was just thinking of a joke."

Still scowling, she stared at me and said, "I think I know what joke you were thinking of."

At this point, I was going to ask her to explain what she meant because I was afraid she had caught me. But the laughter was worth it. And I enjoy laughter; it seems to lift my spirit.

Reflecting on this, I was reminded of one of my favorite Bible verses.

"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones" (Proverbs 17:22).

To me, no medicine is better than a "merry heart." Sometimes it takes effort to have a merry heart, but it's worth it in the long run. The real challenge is knowing what I believe is funny. Sometimes I laugh at the wrong thing and suffer for it.

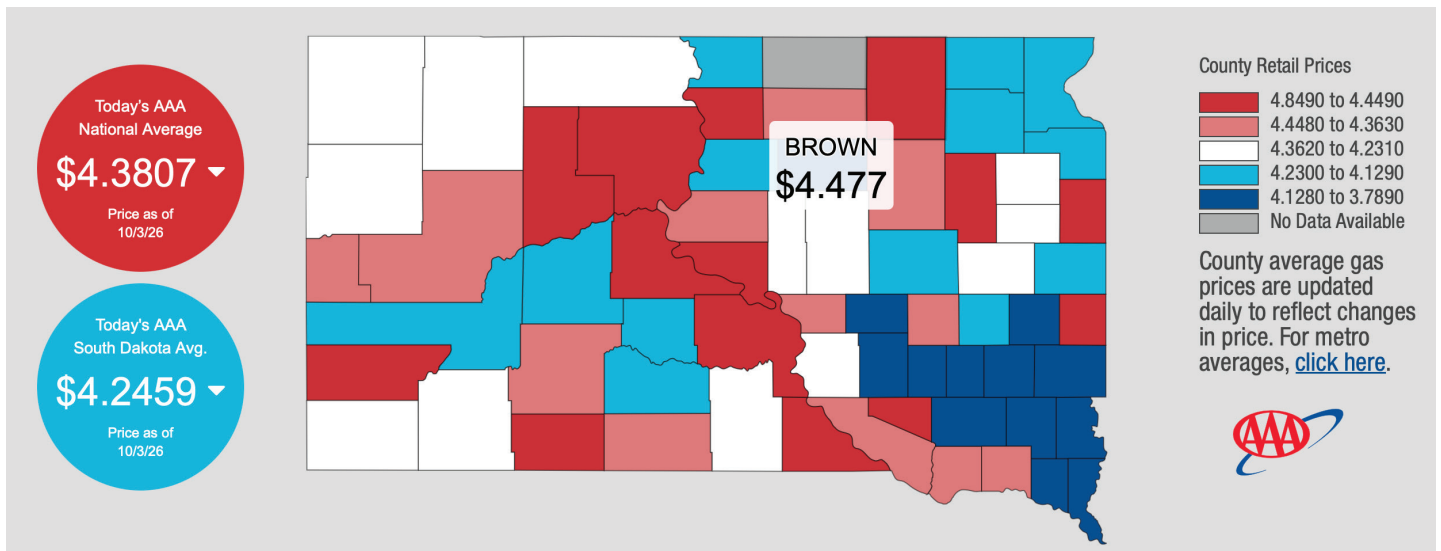
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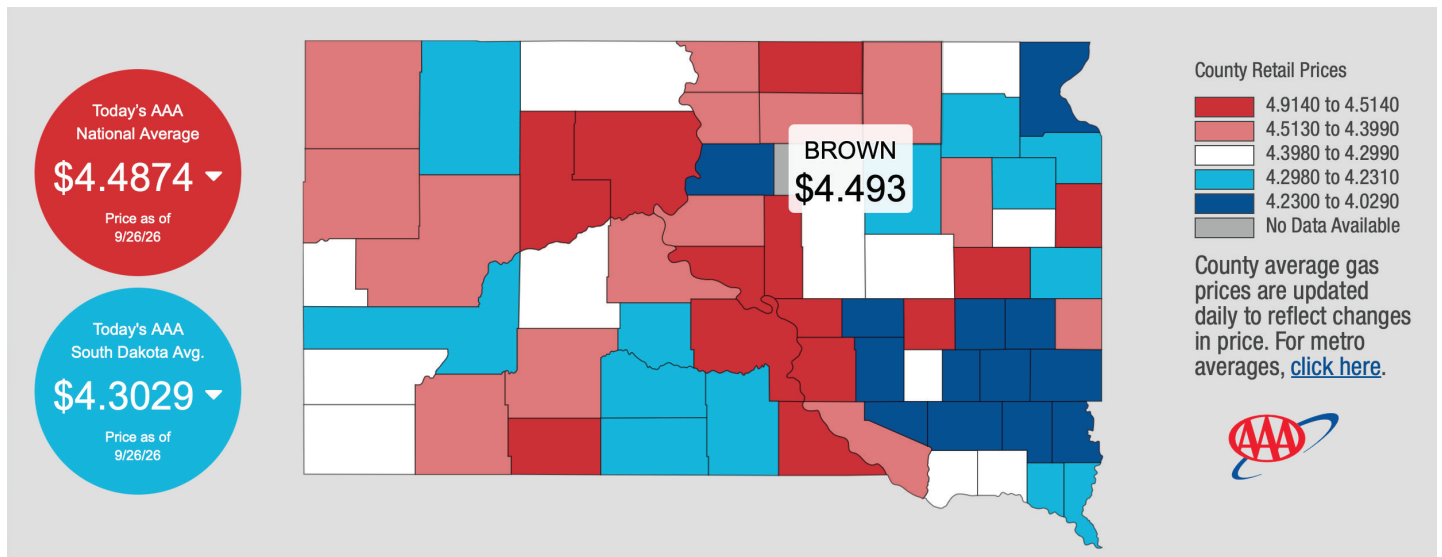
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$4.2459	\$4.4504	\$5.0562	\$6.0123
Yesterday Avg.	\$4.2539	\$4.4795	\$5.0664	\$6.0284
Week Ago Avg.	\$4.3029	\$4.4946	\$5.0925	\$6.1877
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.9973	\$4.1990	\$4.6803	\$5.3872
Year Ago Avg.	\$2.8966	\$3.0670	\$3.5410	\$3.3546

This Week



Last Week



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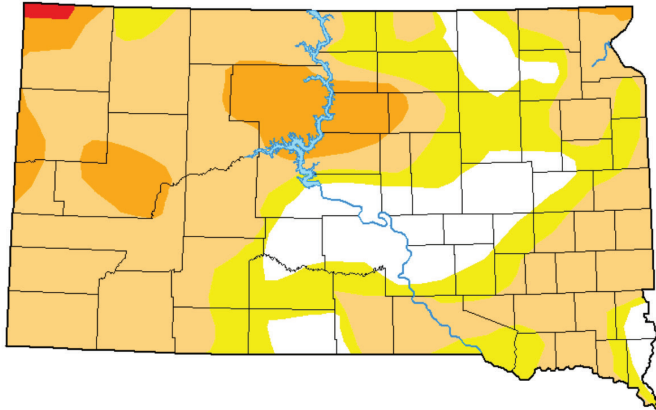
Drought Classification

None
D0 (Abnormally Dry)
D1 (Moderate Drought)

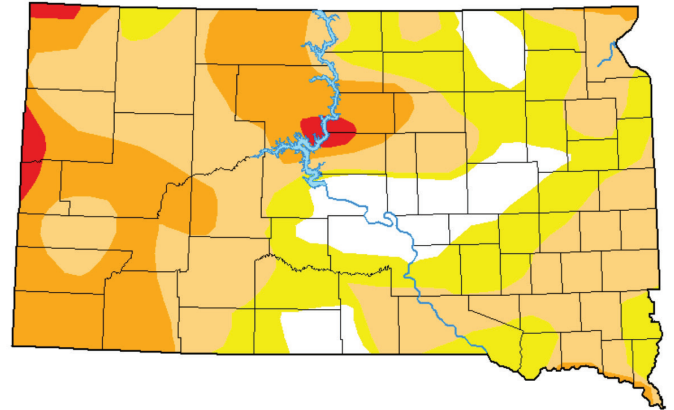
D2 (Severe Drought)
D3 (Extreme Drought)

D4 (Exceptional Drought)
No Data

Drought Monitor



Sept. 29



Sept. 22

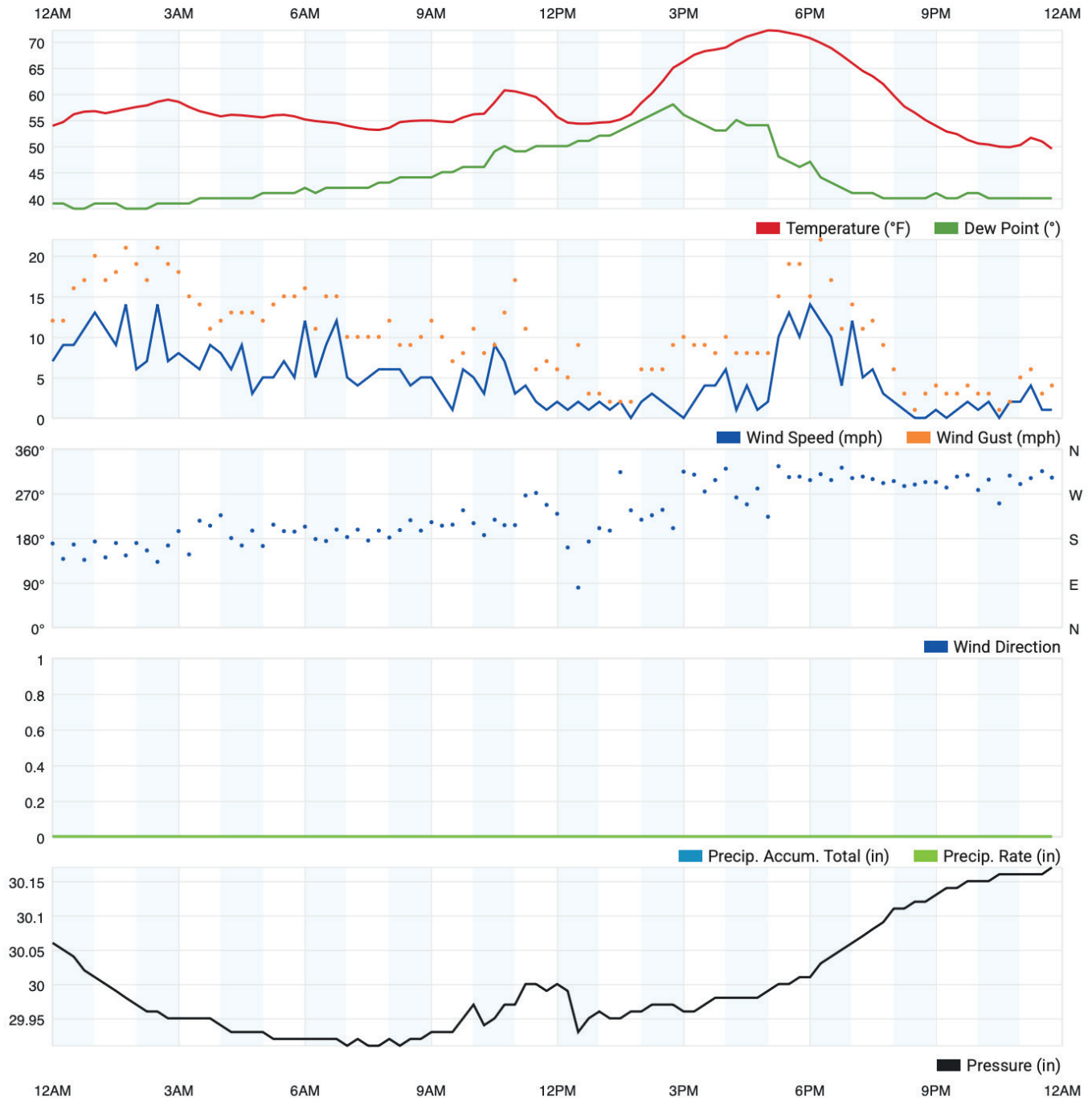
The High Plains states experienced almost exclusively drought improvements this week, as many areas experienced beneficial rainfall, with Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska being beneficiaries of the east-Pacific "El Niño" tropical connection. Despite temperatures being up to 6 or more degrees above average, the plentiful rainfall has contributed to drought improvement in many areas this week. Northern and eastern North Dakota also experienced substantial reduction in drought coverage and intensity as heavy rain fell near the Canadian border.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

October 3, 2026



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Today



High: 69 °F

Sunny

Tonight



Low: 43 °F

Increasing
Clouds

Monday



High: 74 °F

Mostly Sunny
then Sunny
and Breezy

Monday Night



Low: 52 °F

Mostly Clear

Tuesday



High: 77 °F

Sunny

Weather Highlights for the Week...

- Dry with few clouds
- Highs mainly in the upper 60s & 70s. Warmest Monday with a few low 80 degree readings west of the Missouri River.
- Lows in the 40s to low 50s



If you enjoy dry weather and sunshine, this week is for you! High temperatures will be mainly in the upper 60s & 70s. The warmest air will be overhead Monday, with a few low 80 degree readings west of the Missouri River. Low temperatures will be in the 40s to low 50s.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 72 °F at 4:56 PM

Low Temp: 50 °F at 10:40 PM

Wind: 24 mph at 2:46 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 93 in 1975

Record Low: 13 in 1894

Average High: 66

Average Low: 39

Average Precip in Oct.: 0.32

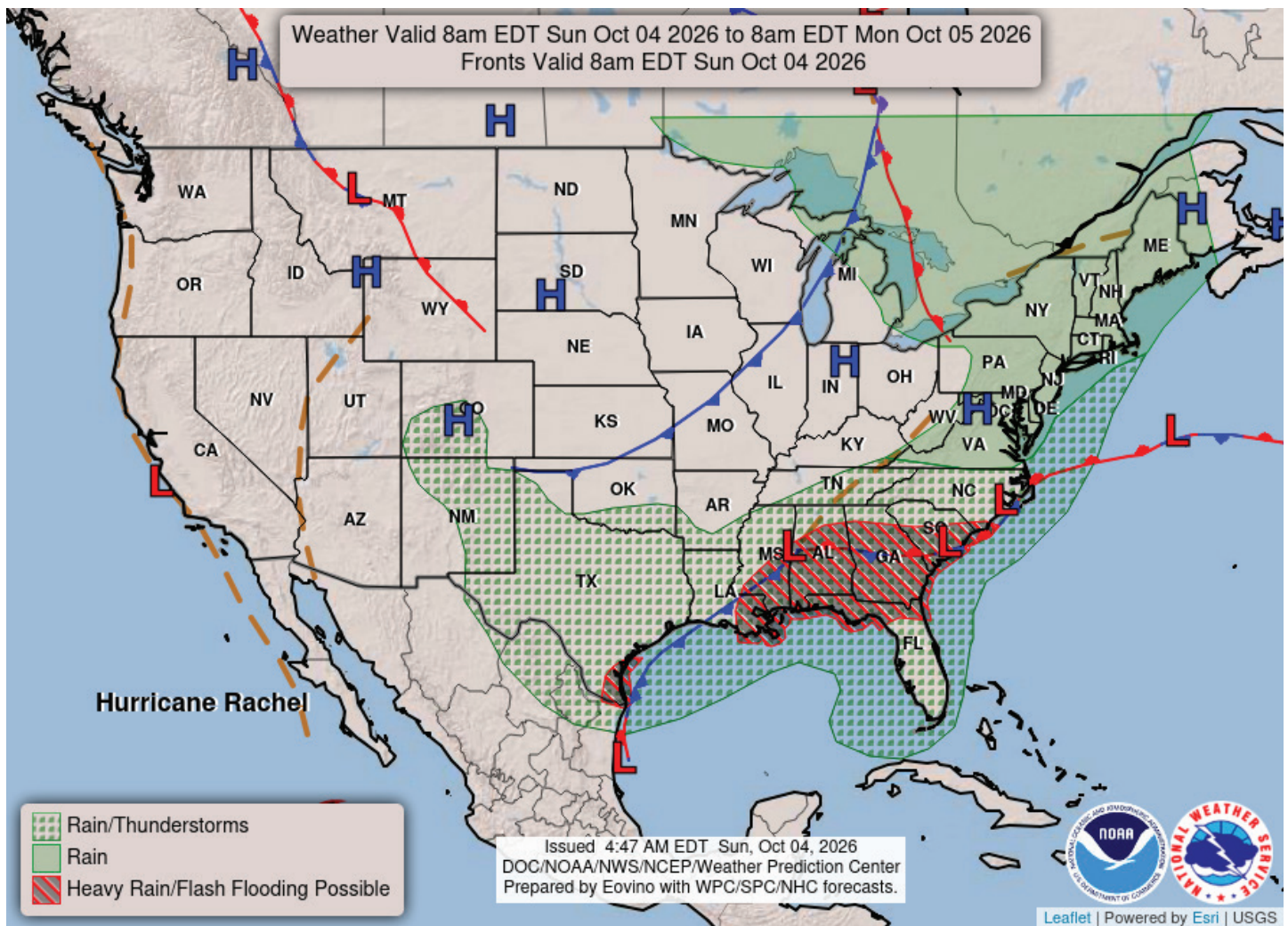
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 18.65

Precip Year to Date: 22.08

Sunset Tonight: 7:07 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:35 am



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Today in Weather History

October 4, 2005: An intense low-pressure system developed over the Central Rockies and moved through the Northern Plains, bringing heavy snow to much of the northern Black Hills and far northwest South Dakota. Precipitation started as rain during the day and changed over to snow during the late afternoon and early evening, mixed with freezing rain and sleet. Heavy snow fell during the night and ended in the morning. Snowfall amounts were generally in the 6 to 12-inch range, with locally more substantial amounts across northern and western Harding County. The heavy, wet snow resulted in many downed trees, large branches, and power lines, which caused numerous power outages and some minor property damage. A few locations had some of the highest daily snowfall amounts ever recorded in October. Camp Crook received 12 inches of snow, which tied the daily record for snow in October. Redig also tied its record for most snowfall in one day in October with 9 inches. Lemmon had its second-highest daily total snowfall for October (6.5 inches). Bison received 6 inches, which was tied for the 3rd highest daily total in October. Spearfish tied for the 8th highest daily snow total for October with 7 inches.

1777: The Battle of Germantown was fought in a morning fog that grew denser with the smoke of battle, causing great confusion. Americans firing at each other contributed to the battle's loss.

1869 — A great storm struck New England. The storm reportedly was predicted twelve months in advance by a British officer named Saxby. Heavy rains and high floods plagued all of New England, with strong winds and high tides over New Hampshire and Maine. Canton CT was deluged with 12.35 inches of rain. (David Ludlum)

1957: The world's first artificial satellite, Sputnik, was launched on October 4th, 1957 by the Soviet Union. Sputnik was about the size of a beach ball and weighed 183.9 pounds. It took about 98 minutes to orbit Earth on an elliptical path.

1969 — Denver, CO, received 9.6 inches of snow. October of that year proved to be the coldest and snowiest of record for Denver, with a total snowfall for the month of 31.2 inches. (Weather Channel)

1986 — Excessive flooding was reported along the Mississippi River and all over the Midwest, from Ohio to the Milk River in Montana. In some places it was the worst flooding of record. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1987: A storm brought record snows to the northeastern U.S. Snowfall totals ranged up to 21 inches at North Springfield, VT. It was the earliest snow of record for some locations. The storm claimed 17 lives in central New York State, injured 332 persons, and in Vermont caused seventeen million dollars damage. The six-inch snow at Albany, NY, was their earliest measurable snow in 117 years of records.

2005: Hurricane Stan, a minimal Category 1 Hurricane with 75 mph maximum sustained surface winds, made landfall near Punta Roca Partida, Mexico, at 4 AM EDT on this day. While not a particularly strong hurricane, the torrential rains caused flooding and landslides, which resulted in 1,513 deaths in Guatemala.

2013: While western South Dakota was dealing with a crippling blizzard, the tri-state region of Nebraska, South Dakota, and Iowa saw several tornadoes, including an EF-4. This violent tornado started 2 miles southwest of Climbing Hill, Iowa, flattening corn crops and snapping tree trunks. As the tornado moved northeast, it intensified and struck a farmstead approximately 5 miles west-northwest of Correctionville, Iowa. Sheds and other buildings were severely damaged or destroyed, with the residence being severely damaged. The tornado continued to increase in both size and magnitude as it continued on its trek northeast. The tornado reached its maximum intensity 2.5 miles south of Pierson, Iowa, when this mile-wide tornado struck two farmsteads. Numerous outbuildings and barns were destroyed, with farm equipment being tossed over 400 yards. It was here that the tornado was rated EF-4. The tornado stayed southeast of Pierson, Iowa, and to the west of Washta, Iowa. Before lifting, the tornado produced more tree damage and downed power poles and lines 2 miles west of Washta, Iowa.

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Daily Devotion

An Ever-Present Helper

**Whatever today holds, God has given every believer
direct access to His help through the Holy Spirit.**

John 14:16-18: 16 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Have you ever wished you could reach God directly—anytime, anywhere? The good news is that through the Holy Spirit, you can do exactly that.

Even the disciples couldn't live successfully without divine aid. That is why the Lord insisted the men wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come before they began sharing their faith. Jesus told them, "It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you" (John 16:7). While Jesus walked the earth, His physical presence was limited to one place at a time. Now, however, God's help is readily available through the Holy Spirit, who indwells all believers and is constantly present with each one.

Thanks to the Spirit, Christians can become the people God designed them to be. Through the Helper's knowledge and power, we can be devoted Christ-followers. The Spirit's work includes opening our minds to God's truth, providing strength beyond our own, and comforting us during heartache.

Our heavenly Father loves people so much that He provided an ever-present Helper to all who place their faith in Jesus. Whatever we face today, the Holy Spirit is with us—ready to guide, strengthen, and comfort.

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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The Groton Independent

Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.03.26

8 33 39 43 57 2

TOP PRIZE:

\$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 42 Mins 34 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.02.26

6 37 40 41 55 10

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$345,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.03.26

12 13 21 40 49 2

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.03.26

6 9 10 14 16

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$78,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.03.26

1 7 26 37 52 1

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.03.26

4 42 44 55 59 14

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$467,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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News from the Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Brandon Valley def. Harrisburg, 26-24, 19-25, 22-25, 32-30, 15-12
Hamlin def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-15, 25-15, 25-17
Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Sioux Falls Christian, 27-25, 25-22, 13-25, 20-25, 15-9
Sioux Valley def. Deubrook, 25-16, 28-26, 20-25, 25-14
Tri-Valley def. Wagner, 25-18, 13-25, 25-19, 19-25, 15-13
Winner def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-17, 25-14, 25-21
281 Conference Volleyball Tournament=
First Round=
Highmore-Harrold def. James Valley Christian School, 25-16, 19-25, 25-12
Hitchcock-Tulare def. Wessington Springs, 25-20, 25-15
Sanborn Central-Woonsocket def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-14, 25-21
Wolsey-Wessington def. Iroquois-Lake Preston, 25-19, 25-9
Semifinal=
Sanborn Central-Woonsocket def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-17, 25-17
Wolsey-Wessington def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 25-19, 25-8
Consolation=
Sunshine Bible Academy def. James Valley Christian School, 24-26, 25-18, 26-24
Wessington Springs def. Iroquois-Lake Preston, 24-26, 25-14, 25-16
Consolation Final=
Iroquois-Lake Preston def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 22-25, 25-15, 25-19
Seventh Place=
Wessington Springs def. James Valley Christian School, 25-20, 25-18
Third Place=
Hitchcock-Tulare def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-9, 19-25, 25-19
Championship=
Wolsey-Wessington def. Sanborn Central Woonsocket, 25-20, 25-23
GPC Volleyball Tournament=
Corsica/Stickney def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-19, 25-18
Corsica/Stickney def. Burke, 31-33, 25-23, 25-23
Corsica/Stickney def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-16, 25-12
Corsica/Stickney def. Scotland, 25-17, 25-10
Gayville-Volin High School def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-18, 24-26, 25-14
Lakota Nation Invitational=
Pool A=
Rapid City Central def. Crow Creek Tribal School, 25-13, 25-8
Rapid City Central def. Lakota Tech, 25-23, 16-25, 25-12
Pool B=
Rapid City Central def. Todd County, 25-20, 25-19
Todd County def. Custer, 24-26, 25-11, 25-19
Pool D=
Dupree def. Crazy Horse, 25-5, 25-11
Rapid City Central def. Dupree, 25-16, 25-15
Mile High Invitational=
Pool A=
Belle Fourche def. Gordon/Rushville, Neb., 25-17, 25-17

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Belle Fourche def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-21, 25-27, 26-24
Belle Fourche def. Wall, 25-21, 16-25, 25-23
Bison def. Wall, 25-22, 25-22
Gordon/Rushville, Neb. def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-18, 12-25, 25-22
Gordon/Rushville, Neb. def. New Underwood, 25-22, 27-25
Wall def. Gordon/Rushville, Neb., 25-16, 25-20
Wall def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-21, 25-23
Pool B=
Bison def. New Underwood, 25-21, 25-21
Kadoka def. Belle Fourche, 25-18, 25-19
Kadoka def. Bison, 25-12, 25-14
Kadoka def. New Underwood, 25-14, 25-19
Kadoka def. Newell, 25-8, 25-11
New Underwood def. Newell, 25-17, 25-22
Newell def. Bison, 25-21, 25-5
Redfield Volleyball Tournament=
Aberdeen Christian def. Gettysburg, 25-14, 25-21
Aberdeen Christian def. Redfield, 25-20, 25-12
Aberdeen Roncalli def. Groton, 29-27, 25-19
Aberdeen Roncalli def. Madison, 26-24, 25-23
Groton def. Gettysburg, 25-16, 26-24
Groton def. North Central, 25-8, 25-21
Herreid-Selby def. North Central, 25-15, 25-9
Madison def. Groton, 25-21, 25-13
Northwestern def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-19, 25-17
Northwestern def. Herreid-Selby, 25-10, 25-11
Northwestern def. North Central, 25-12, 25-18
Redfield def. Gettysburg, 25-11, 25-18
Gold Pool=
Aberdeen Roncalli def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-18, 25-18
Northwestern def. Aberdeen Roncalli, 16-25, 25-16, 25-21
Northwestern def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-19, 25-17
Championship=
Northwestern def. Aberdeen Roncalli, 16-25, 25-16, 25-21
Silver Pool=
Herreid-Selby def. Redfield, 25-10, 16-25, 25-20
Madison def. Herreid-Selby, 25-13, 23-25, 25-21
Madison def. Redfield, 25-13, 25-20
Bronze Pool=
Gettysburg def. North Central, 19-25, 25-23, 25-22
Groton def. Gettysburg, 25-16, 26-24
Groton def. North Central, 25-8, 25-21
Twin Cities Invitational=
Round Robin=
Chadron, Neb. def. Hill City, 25-23, 25-13
Hill City def. Alliance, Neb., 25-17, 26-24
Mitchell def. Douglas, 25-10, 25-15, 25-15
Mitchell def. Spearfish, 25-17, 25-23, 22-25, 25-17
Mitchell, Neb. def. Hill City, 29-27, 25-19
Tea def. Douglas, 3-0

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Tea def. Spearfish, 3-0

Gold=

St Thomas More def. Kearney, Neb., 12-25, 25-20, 25-23

Semifinal=

Gretna, Neb. def. St Thomas More, 25-9, 25-11

Third Place=

Adams Central, Neb. def. St Thomas More, 25-23, 25-17

Silver=

Rapid City Christian def. North Platte, Neb., 25-21, 25-22, 25-22

Rapid City Stevens def. McCook, Neb., 25-19, 25-20

Semifinal=

Rapid City Stevens def. Rapid City Christian, 25-22, 25-21

Third Place=

Sidney, Neb. def. Rapid City Christian, 25-18, 28-26

Championship=

Rapid City Stevens def. Scottsbluff, Neb., 25-21, 25-21

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

Josh Holst, Myles Green spark South Dakota State to 31-14 victory over Illinois State

NORMAL, Ill. (AP) — Josh Holst threw two touchdown passes and Myles Green scored on an interception return to lead South Dakota State to a 31-14 victory over Illinois State on Saturday night in a matchup between two of the top-ranked teams in the Championship Subdivision.

Holst completed 18 of 23 passes for 153 yards for South Dakota State (5-1, 2-0 Missouri Valley Football Conference) — No. 2 in the Stats Perform poll.

Josiah Johnson rushed 19 times for 131 yards and James Basinger added 90 on seven carries for the Jackrabbits, who are poised to grab the top spot after Idaho upset top-ranked and defending FCS champion Montana State 35-34 on Friday night.

Tenth-ranked Illinois State (4-2, 0-2) turned the ball over on downs at its own 38-yard line to start the game. Lofton O'Groske hauled in a 33-yard touchdown pass from Holst three plays later for a 7-0 lead.

Dexter Niekamp sacked Holst and forced a fumble that he recovered at the Redbirds' 36-yard line. Chase Kwiatkowski capped a 12-play drive with a 1-yard touchdown run, but Tristan Alvano kicked a 31-yard field goal on the final play of the half to put the Jackrabbits up 10-7.

Holst marched South Dakota State 73 yards in 10 plays and connected with Greyton Gannon for a 7-yard touchdown and a 17-7 lead with 1:33 left in the third quarter.

Green picked off a Gage Roy pass and returned it 31 yards for a touchdown with 11 minutes left, and Basinger broke several tackles on a 66-yard scoring run less than three minutes later to make it 31-7.

Roy totaled 141 yards on 16-for-32 passing with two interceptions for Illinois State. Kwiatkowski had a short scoring run late.

Up next

South Dakota State: At North Dakota on Oct. 17.

Illinois State: At Southern Illinois on Oct. 17.

Sign up for Top 25 poll alerts here. Visit the Top 25 here and see AP's full college football coverage here.

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Modrzewski tosses 3 TD passes, Pierre scores 3 times and defense has 5 turnovers in Coyotes' win

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Austyn Modrzewski threw three touchdown passes, Charles Pierre Jr. scored three times and South Dakota defeated Indiana State 44-14 on Saturday.

RJ Stewart made two interceptions, Kael Kolarik snared one and Wade Abrams and Jaden Brown forced fumbles for the Coyotes (4-2, 1-1 Missouri Valley Football Conference), who scored touchdowns after all five turnovers.

The Coyotes scored four first-half touchdowns, all coming following turnovers, in taking a 30-0 halftime lead. Three came on Modrzewski scoring tosses to Jesse Miller, Brayden White and Pierre. Pierre also had the other first-half TD on a 10-yard run. He added a 24-yard TD in the third quarter.

Modrzewski was 16 of 23 for 196 yards passing. Pierre rushed for 109 yards on 15 carries.

Brady Allen threw for 233 yards, including a 63-yard score to Torey French, but threw the three interceptions for the Sycamores (2-4, 0-2).

South Dakota, ranked No. 13 in the Stats Perform poll, has won six straight in the series with Saturday's win the Coyotes' 100th in the Championship Subdivision since joining the FCS in 2008.

Up next

Indiana State: home against Youngstown State next Saturday.

South Dakota: home against Southern Illinois next Saturday.

Sign up for Top 25 poll alerts here, visit the Top 25 here and see AP's full college football coverage here

2 people killed in Norway after shooter opens fire on hunting party

HALDEN, Norway (AP) — Two people were killed and another seriously injured Sunday when a shooter opened fire on a hunting party in southern Norway, police said.

The suspect was arrested at the scene and is not believed to be part of the hunting party, police said in a statement. The injured victim was flown to a hospital for treatment.

The shooting occurred near Halden, which is about 96 kilometers (60 miles) from Oslo and near the Swedish border.

Other details were not immediately available.

Germany's Merz visits Kyiv as Russia steps up attacks on Ukrainian cities

By SUSIE BLANN, STEFANIE DAZIO and ELISE MORTON Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — German Chancellor Friedrich Merz arrived in Kyiv Sunday in a show of support as Russia escalated its attacks on Ukrainian cities.

The aerial war has intensified, with Moscow menacing cities across Ukraine with hard-to-intercept ballistic missiles and jet-powered drones, while Kyiv has been striking Russia's oil industry and businesses.

Merz said he traveled to the Ukrainian capital on his second trip as chancellor to demonstrate his country's solidarity with Ukraine. Germany is Ukraine's largest donor, sending Kyiv more than €43.3 billion (\$48.8 billion) since the war began, along with equipment and weapons.

"If Russia is not stopped, its war machine will sooner or later turn against us," he said in a statement Sunday, adding that he told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy: "You can continue to count on our help."

Merz said the partnership between the two countries was "not a one-way street," pointing to German and Ukrainian companies jointly developing technologies that benefit both sides. "This makes us safer and stronger," he said.

In a post on X, Zelenskyy thanked Germany and said the two countries would make "important agree-

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ments" during the visit to strengthen Ukraine's defenses and those of the rest of Europe. "Russia must be stopped together," he wrote.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said the agenda would focus on "strengthening Ukraine, our defense and resilience, and our shared European security."

Leaders visit National Academy of Sciences attack site

Merz and Zelenskyy visited a building of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in central Kyiv that was damaged in a Russian attack on Monday, as air raid sirens sounded across the capital.

"These barbaric attacks on the civilian population of Ukraine must stop. These are daily war crimes," Merz said at the site, a few hundred meters from the German Embassy. Addressing Russian President Vladimir Putin, he called on him to end "this senseless war," adding: "We're ready to talk."

Speaking in English, Zelenskyy called the attack on the academy "absolutely terrible" and noted that Russia was carrying out strikes even while the chancellor was in Kyiv. He thanked Merz for the visit, saying Ukraine was buoyed by its "strong partners."

Souring German-Russian relations

Russia's Foreign Ministry said Saturday it would continue to carry out "mass retaliatory strikes" on Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities, urging foreign nationals and diplomats to leave the country. It previously issued a similar warning in May.

The German and Russian foreign ministers met on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly's annual gathering of world leaders last month in what was believed to be the first such face-to-face meeting since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Russia's Sergey Lavrov rejected German calls to ease off its "dangerous path of escalation" toward the country, and instead accused Germany of being Ukraine's main sponsor and seeking to be a leading military power in Europe.

Ties between Russia and Germany have soured even more in recent weeks, following an attempted drone attack in early September at Leipzig airport. Germany has blamed Russia for the incident and announced the closure of the German consulate in St. Petersburg, the latest in a cycle of tit-for-tat moves.

Meanwhile, Merz's power inside Germany has taken a blow after a string of state election defeats last month, including losses to the anti-migration and Russia-friendly Alternative for Germany party. However, he said he intends to remain chancellor.

Strikes on Kyiv's bridges continue

On Sunday morning, Russian attacks continued with a drone hitting Kyiv's Northern Bridge over the Dni-pro River again, Zelenskyy said. Video circulating on social media showed the drone flying into the bridge and the explosion as vehicles crossed. There was no immediate word on casualties.

The latest strike came after Russian assaults forced the full or partial closure of three of Kyiv's six road bridges over the Dni-pro River earlier this week, suspending traffic and causing tailbacks in Moscow's latest effort to disrupt life in the Ukrainian capital. Previously, Russia has hit apartment blocks, supermarket warehouses, gas stations and data centers, among other targets.

Seven people were wounded Sunday in a Russian aerial bomb attack on the Ukrainian city of Sumy, local officials said.

Russia invaded its neighbor more than 4½ years ago, and there are no concrete signs that a peace settlement might be possible. Fighting along the roughly 1,250-kilometer (780-mile) front line snaking through northern, eastern and southern Ukraine has been virtually deadlocked in recent months.

Verstappen beats Antonelli to win F1's Bahrain GP in Malaysia as Russell retires

SEPANG, Malaysia (AP) — Max Verstappen took his first win of the year but a retirement for George Russell handed a huge title boost to Kimi Antonelli at Formula 1's Bahrain Grand Prix in Malaysia on Sunday.

Verstappen was leading from Antonelli and Russell behind the safety car with five laps to go when Russell suddenly pulled over in his Mercedes. That means Antonelli further stretches his big standings lead

over his teammate Russell.

Mercedes told Antonelli over the radio it appeared Russell had suffered a power unit problem.

Antonelli finished second and Ferrari's Lewis Hamilton passed Verstappen's Red Bull teammate Isack Hadjar for third.

The first wet-weather race for F1 in 2026 started more than 90 minutes later than planned. The start was first delayed 40 minutes for heavy rain, then suspended again when cars had apparent software problems on the formation lap.

When it finally did get under way, Verstappen was slow off the line and lost places to Antonelli and Russell. He chased down Russell and then got past Antonelli in a side-by-side fight after a safety-car restart.

The race was relocated because of the Iran war, becoming F1's first event at the Sepang circuit in Malaysia since 2017.

UAE had shared details about FlyDubai flight with Israel, including pilots' names and nationalities

By MELANIE LIDMAN and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Authorities in the United Arab Emirates shared with Israel a list of passengers and crew ahead of the FlyDubai flight on which a pilot attempted to seize control of the Israel-bound aircraft and crash it, regional officials said Sunday, raising new questions over how the attacker evaded detection.

While the investigation continues, preliminary details about the incident have highlighted several major security lapses. Officials already have said the Omani co-pilot had been barred from flying by his own country because of concerns about his extremist views. It also remains unclear how a citizen of Oman, an Arab country that has no diplomatic relations with Israel, was allowed to fly a planeload of Israelis to Tel Aviv.

The United Arab Emirates, which is leading the investigation, said the co-pilot attacked the flight's captain with the cockpit's crash ax and tried to take control of the plummeting plane in a "terrorist attack" Wednesday. His actions nearly crashed the flight with 182 people on board before the Indian captain managed to open the cockpit door, allowing passengers and others to rush in and subdued the attacker.

The regional officials said Emirati authorities had shared information about the passengers and crew, including their nationalities. Israel hadn't raised red flags on any passenger or member of the crew, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters about the probe.

The passengers who halted the attack and helped regain control of the aircraft have been hailed as heroes in Israel.

But officials have begun to raise difficult questions and trade accusations about the security blunders that could have led to a major disaster.

The Shin Bet, Israel's domestic security agency, said the Transportation Ministry is responsible for vetting passenger lists from foreign flights. Transportation Minister Miri Regev told Israel's public broadcaster Kan that the security agencies are responsible for flight security and that her ministry wasn't given a list of passengers or any warnings.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday that Israel has long-standing agreements with foreign carriers to keep pilots from flying into the country if they are citizens of nations that don't maintain diplomatic relations with Israel.

It also remains unclear how FlyDubai, a low-cost Emirati airline that operates flights between Israel and the UAE, had failed to identify the Omani pilot as a security risk. Philip Baum, a visiting professor of aviation security at Coventry University in England who wrote a book about aircraft hijackings and bombings, said background check systems differ from country to country and there are limits on what types of information can be shared.

"In terms of aviation security itself, obviously we want to have as robust background checks as possible. But there are huge limitations on doing background checks in any case, especially in cross-border

checks," he said.

'Jane Doe' solidarity posts flood social media after Cornell rape lawsuit

By DEEPTI HAJELA Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — It was one woman, then another, and another, until a trickle became a flood.

Countless women, and some men, posting on social media that they were Jane Doe, in support of a young woman using that name to file a lawsuit against Cornell University and seven fraternity members she accuses of raping her.

For many, claiming the name came along with sharing personal accounts of being sexually abused and assaulted, joining the wave of solidarity that has surged since journalists at the college's independent student newspaper reported on the lawsuit filing late last month.

The impetus for some of those claiming the name was a desire to offer the woman some protection in this digital age, in response to those wanting to identify her real name online. They hope the flood of "I am Jane Doe" posts will confuse online algorithms.

Another moment of reckoning

The posts have come in all formats — video, photo, text — across the landscape of social media platforms.

The outcry reminds many of the energy at the heights of the #MeToo movement, which exploded a decade ago. Back then women posted their stories of sexual harassment and assault in the wake of a high-profile Hollywood case using the hashtag phrase, which had been introduced in that context a decade earlier.

"These moments ... are encouraging more women to speak up and tell their stories," said Emma Davidson Tribbs, founding director of the National Women's Defense League. "They are giving people a level of bravery and comfort to come forward and speak their truth. And they can be incredibly catalyzing for change."

Change is what Wendy Lea Brewer wants to see, and that inspired her to post reels on Instagram with captions including "I am Jane Doe" and "It's time to speak."

Brewer, 48, a singer, has her own experience with sexual abuse and has spoken of it in her songwriting and performing. But she felt like she was "screaming into the void" and people were not paying attention.

Outraged after hearing about the Cornell case, she went online and found community in the Jane Doe posts.

"We are all right here feeling the same thing, and we have had enough," Brewer said.

The Associated Press typically does not name victims of sexual abuse unless they publicly identify themselves.

The protection of the crowd

The use of pseudonyms like Jane Doe in lawsuits has grown in recent decades, said Diana Simon, a professor of law at the University of Arizona.

While the legal system is geared toward transparency, with the expectation that parties in a suit would be named, there can be situations that are highly private or sensitive "where it would be in the person's best interest to remain anonymous," she said.

But that does not mean someone's real identity would not get out, especially if people search for it.

That's why Kelsey Combe made her "I am Jane Doe" post. The idea was that numerous similar posts could provide a form of online protection to the Cornell plaintiff if her name were to be revealed, by making it harder to determine its authenticity.

"It was to confuse the AI models and stand in solidarity with her," said Combe, a photographer in the Midwest.

She decided to do so after seeing a reel from a content creator who posts as "women_inamerica," talking about how important it was. It had already generated responses from many women by the time Combe posted anything.

The attempt to sow confusion worked in a way Combe was not expecting, though: She later saw that

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AI had linked her as the actual Jane Doe, saying it was Combe that sued Cornell. She was able to get it removed, but not without getting a taste of what public critique can be like.

"It was an interesting situation, because the second that I sounded the alarm about it ... a lot of people were replying, 'Well, you asked for this. You participated in this. What did you think was going to happen?' And I was like, 'Well, look at that,'" Combe said.

It only emphasizes what the solidarity efforts are trying to show, that there are larger systemic issues to be addressed rather than just individual cases, she said.

"It's standing in solidarity with her, but it's also acknowledging that to an extent we are Jane Doe, I think the majority of us, because ... we have our own experiences with sexual assault," Combe added.

"So we are all Jane Doe until nobody is."

Bosnia votes as pro-Russian politician looms large and ethnic tensions simmer

By ELDAR EMRIC Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Voters in Bosnia cast ballots Sunday in a general election in which most are focused on everyday problems, while some mainstream politicians in the Balkan nation have whipped up war-era tensions that have kept the country divided since its brutal 1992-95 conflict.

Around 3.4 million voters are choosing the three members of the country's multi-ethnic presidency, lawmakers for the national Parliament, and heads of institutions for the country's two entities: the Muslim-majority Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Republika Srpska, which is dominated by ethnic Serbs.

Bosnia has a complex web of governing institutions that were created by a U.S.-brokered peace agreement in 1995 in an effort to manage the ethnic divisions between Muslim Bosniaks, Orthodox Serbs and Catholic Croats that gave rise to the war.

On Sunday morning, Associated Press journalists reported seeing multiple polling places where voting could not begin on time due to difficulties with new digital voting technology, a measure introduced to address earlier concerns over vote tampering.

Polls will close at 7 p.m.

Pro-Russian Dodik wields influence despite not being on ballot

Taking center stage in the contest is a staunchly pro-Russian politician who, despite not appearing on the ballot, has dominated the campaign and inflamed divisions that have sparked fears of renewed instability.

Milorad Dodik, the separatist and nationalist former president of the Serb-majority Republika Srpska, has been banned from holding public office after being convicted of defying decisions by the international envoy overseeing the 1995 peace agreement.

Dodik has just returned from a trip to Moscow, where he met with Russian President Vladimir Putin. His party, the Alliance of Independent Social Democrats, is likely to win the election in Republika Srpska.

At his party's final election rally Friday night in Banja Luka, Republika Srpska's administrative capital, Dodik told supporters that Bosnia "is dead."

"It is an impossible country. It doesn't make any sense," Dodik said at the rally, which was also attended by the Russian ambassador to Bosnia, Igor Khalabukov.

Dragan Bursac, an analyst, said that despite Dodik not appearing on the ballot for the first time in nearly 30 years, he "is still in command. He is everywhere."

"It is obvious that these measures to ban him from political life are not working, and he is using them," Bursac said.

After casting her ballot on Sunday, Dodik ally Zeljka Cvijanovic, who is running for reelection as the Serb member of Bosnia's three-member presidency, called the vote "very important" for "a peaceful and stable Republika Srpska."

Vote takes place as ethnic tensions rise

While Bosnia has been peaceful in recent years, some of its politicians have kept alive the divisions between the country's Bosniaks, who are mainly Muslim, and its Serbs and Croats. Bosnian Serb leaders like

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Dodik have pushed for the separation of their entity from the rest of Bosnia, which has led to concerns among Western countries that tensions could once again spill over.

One of the poorest countries in Europe, Bosnia is still struggling to recover decades after the war that started in 1992, after the country declared independence from the Serb-led former Yugoslavia and ethnic Serbs took up arms to carve out their own state and join Serbia. The conflict killed more than 100,000 people and displaced millions.

Bosnia is formally seeking to join the European Union, but progress has been stalled despite EU efforts to encourage Bosnia's divided leaders to work together for reform.

"We should change the old faces," Durak Miler, a resident of the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo, said. "They have been governing for 35 years ... I think whoever comes next will work better for retired people and the poor."

Bakir Izetbegovic, leader of the Bosniak nationalist Party of Democratic Action, said he expected people "to choose what is safe and reliable for them at these elections."

"I think people in Bosnia should not experiment, but rely on those who have proven themselves already," said Izetbegovic, who is running for the Bosniak seat in the three-member presidency.

Bosnia's wartime wounds were recently revived by a public homage in Serbia and among Bosnian Serbs to the wartime army commander Ratko Mladic, who died in late August while serving a life sentence for genocide and other war crimes.

Bosnian Serbs view Mladic as a hero despite his conviction by a U.N. court over the massacre of more than 8,000 Muslim men and boys in Srebrenica in 1995, and other atrocities.

Electronic election security introduced

Authorities are for the first time using electronic identification of voters and ballot scanners to prevent irregularities or organized voter manipulation, which have cast doubt on the fairness of previous elections.

On Sunday, some voters in Banja Luka expressed concern that the new digital systems could confuse older voters. Republika Srpska's interior ministry said in a press release that of 1,957 polling stations in the entity, there had been delays at 201.

Voter Radomir Vukelic said he was satisfied. "This is why I expect the results to be correct. You've got a scanner, you've got a paper, you've got it all," he said.

Most of Bosnia's 75 political parties running in the election are organized along ethnic lines.

Izetbegovic's Party of Democratic Action has focused its campaign on efforts to keep Bosnia united against Serb separatism. Bosnian Croats, too, largely support their ethnic parties, including the Bosnian branch of Croatia's ruling conservative Croatian Democratic Union.

Many people are disillusioned with politicians who use nationalism to avoid solving important problems such as poor living standards and an exodus of youth seeking a better life abroad.

"I don't see that anything is getting better, from the moment I started to vote," said Ivan Silic, from the southern city of Mostar. "We all know who lives well. ... It is better for (politicians), and for the rest of us everything is the same."

Lopsided loss could bump Florida from top 10 in AP Top 25; a move up might be tough for Alabama

By ERIC OLSON AP College Football Writer

A week after making a huge rise in The Associated Press Top 25, Florida could be in line for a big fall when the new poll is released Sunday.

The No. 8 Gators' 45-17 loss at No. 25 Missouri raised the most eyebrows on a Saturday when ranked teams generally won in workmanlike fashion.

Florida had opened 4-0 with an impressive 52-28 victory over a then-top five Mississippi to jump from No. 21 to No. 8 for its highest ranking since 2020. The Gators went bust in Columbia, with Missouri holding star running back Jadan Baugh to 13 yards on 12 carries and the Austin Simmons-led offense rolling

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up 560 yards to get the Tigers in position for a major promotion in the poll.

No. 8 Alabama put a 56-23 beating on No. 16 Mississippi State on the road, but with the seven teams ahead of the Crimson Tide winning, there doesn't appear to be much room for advancement.

No. 1 Texas had an open date Saturday. No. 2 Georgia and the rest of the top five won.

A few teams that won could slip if the voters weren't impressed with the optics.

No. 3 Notre Dame won 37-26 at North Carolina in a game it led 21-20 just after halftime. No. 10 BYU lost star running back LJ Martin to injury in the first half, generated only 216 total yards and didn't put away TCU until late in a 17-10 road win. No. 12 Texas Tech led Colorado just 12-7 entering the fourth quarter of a 29-7 road win.

No. 21 SMU, which won 25-16 at home against Boston College, ran for just 58 yards against the nation's 115th-ranked rushing defense and caught a break when the Eagles, down 19-10, turn the ball over on downs inside the SMU 10 early in the fourth quarter because of a dropped pass.

Among teams that voters might consider for entry to the Top 25 are Pittsburgh, 5-0 after a 35-33 win over Virginia Tech; Wisconsin, 4-1 after a 31-3 win over Michigan State; Wake Forest, 4-1 after a 57-3 rout of Stanford; and Duke, which is 4-0 and was idle Saturday.

Israeli strike kills 1 Palestinian in Gaza, and other Mideast news

By The Associated Press undefined

An Israeli strike has killed at least one person in the Gaza Strip as Palestinians continue reporting a surge in Israeli strikes across the enclave. Meanwhile, Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels said airstrikes hit the war-torn country's capital at midnight as its renewed war against Saudi Arabia and the Yemeni government escalates.

Here is the latest news from the Middle East on Friday. Full coverage is available here.

Israeli strike kills 1 in central Gaza, local health officials say

An Israeli strike Sunday morning on a civilian vehicle killed one Palestinian and wounded at least 11 others, according to health officials at the Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, where the casualties were taken.

Israel's military said it targeted a known Hamas militant in the strike.

Palestinians in Gaza have reported a surge in Israeli fire and airstrikes across the enclave over the past month. Israel says it is targeting Hamas and other militants who pose a threat, and in response to ceasefire violations, including occasional attacks.

Israeli strikes have killed at least 1,445 Palestinians in Gaza since a ceasefire was reached with the Hamas militant group nearly a year ago, according to the territory's Health Ministry. Its figures are seen as generally reliable by U.N. agencies and independent experts. It doesn't give a breakdown of civilians and militants. Seven Israeli soldiers have been killed in Gaza since the ceasefire.

Houthis say midnight airstrike hits Yemeni capital

The Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen said airstrikes hit the capital, Sanaa, at midnight amid their renewed war against Saudi Arabia and the Yemeni government.

The Houthi media office reported the strikes without giving further details. It accused Saudi Arabia of launching the strikes, but didn't offer evidence and there was no immediate comment from Saudi Arabia. However, the Yemeni military, which is backed by Riyadh, claimed responsibility for the strikes.

Yemeni military spokesman Col. Majed al-Nazili said it struck "vital targets" in Sanaa as well as the northern province of Saada on the borders with Saudi Arabia.

Airstrikes that hit Sanaa on Saturday morning were also claimed by the Yemeni military.

The attacks were part of a major escalation between Saudi Arabia and the Iranian-backed Houthis that revived Yemen's civil war after a four-year ceasefire.

Tanker in Strait of Hormuz struck by projectile, British military says

A projectile struck a tanker on the Strait of Hormuz, damaging the engine room, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations Center said.

It was not immediately clear who launched the attack, nor was it clear when it was carried out. The

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UKMTO said the crew was reportedly safe.

Overall ship traffic remains below prewar levels in the Strait of Hormuz, as do shipments of energy products, even though Iran has lost its near-complete chokehold over the crucial waterway due to the U.S. Navy's efforts to shepherd oil tankers through the strait. That, along with various pipelines, has allowed Gulf countries to restore oil exports to nearly prewar levels.

Nearly 1,500 Myanmar nationals repatriated from Malaysia as UN warns of risks

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — Nearly 1,500 Myanmar nationals who were sent back from Malaysia arrived in the country's largest city on Sunday, despite warnings from the United Nations refugee agency and rights groups that conditions for return remain unsafe.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi on Feb. 1, 2021, triggering widespread opposition and plunging large parts of the country into conflict.

The returnees, including 86 women, have been convicted of staying illegally and other immigration violations in Malaysia, according to reports from Myanmar state media. They were transported from Malaysia aboard two navy warships and a hospital ship last Tuesday. They arrived in southern Yangon early Sunday, Nay Lin Tun, a regional government minister, said.

The returnees are among 5,000 Myanmar nationals who will be repatriated in stages from Malaysia, where 10,388 others were being held at immigration detention centers, according to Malaysia's Home Ministry.

The U.N. high commissioner for refugees and rights groups have criticized the repatriation, saying the security and humanitarian situation in parts of Myanmar remains volatile and returnees could face persecution and forced military conscription in an active war zone.

"Under international law, the Government of Malaysia is obligated to uphold the principle of non-refoulement and prevent the return of individuals to situations where they face a real risk of persecution, torture, or other serious human rights violations," Kelley E. Currie, the U.N. special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, said in a statement on Thursday. "In my assessment, the risk of refoulement in the present circumstances is substantial."

It was unclear if any of the returnees included minority Muslim Rohingya, who are facing persecution in Myanmar and have been denied citizenship.

Myanmar Foreign Ministry official Han Win Aung told The Associated Press that the repatriation involved "genuine citizens."

Malaysia is home to about 215,600 refugees and asylum seekers registered with the UNHCR, including about 126,000 Rohingya who make up one of Southeast Asia's largest refugee communities. Despite hosting them, Malaysia is not a party to the U.N. Refugee Convention and treats refugees as undocumented migrants.

Min Aung Hlaing, the leader of Myanmar's military-backed government who was sworn in as president in April, is expected to visit Malaysia this month to discuss the refugee and migrant issues.

What to expect this week from school protests rattling France's government

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — After a weekend lull, high schoolers in France are expected back at the barricades this coming week in their protest movement that is rattling the government of President Emmanuel Macron.

A key question is whether violence on the margins of the demonstrations will worsen, blurring the lines between protest and rioting, and whether Macron's government will ratchet up the already muscular response by police. According to the interior minister, officers made more than 5,000 arrests last week, 85%

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of them minors. Hundreds have been injured.

A test of the movement's endurance and appeal will come Tuesday, when the influential CGT labor union is urging workers to demonstrate, too.

Here's what to know:

The start of the protests

Protests first erupted in the Paris region in mid-September. Teachers and students mobilized against a lack of staff at a lycée, or high school, in Creteil, in the southeastern outskirts of the French capital. From there, class strikes, blockades and demonstrations spread to other Paris suburbs and then nationwide, with protests even in high schools of smaller towns.

Hundreds of schools have had to close because of damage or attacks that targeted staff, according to the education minister. More than 170 pupils and 65 staff members have suffered injuries, he says.

The protesters' demands

From the outset, pupils focused on perceived inequalities in the school system, saying that teaching, facilities and opportunities for advancement aren't as good for students in disadvantaged neighborhoods — despite the promise of France's national motto: "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity."

Placards held up by the first protesters in Creteil read "Too many inequalities, we're disgusted," "Education is a right, not a privilege," and "Sorry to bother, it's for our future," according to photos posted by Clémence Guetté, the district's lawmaker at the National Assembly, France's parliament.

Pupils elsewhere complained that during summer heat waves, they roast in classrooms without air-conditioning, and they freeze in winter. French media broadcast videos of scampering rats, collapsed ceilings, leaks, broken furniture and other woes filmed in dilapidated schools.

"The public needs to know that conditions for studying are no longer what they were for us," said Sophie Bordy, a 50-year-old literature teacher in Paris. "It has deteriorated significantly."

Still, spending on education is one of the costliest items in the state budget that Macron's government is proposing for 2027. It earmarked 65.5 billion euros (\$74 billion) for schools, more than the 63.4 billion euros for defense.

Pupils also complain of long hours. In high schools, classes often start at 8 a.m. and can last to the early evening. French high schoolers' compulsory school hours are among the highest in Europe, according to European Union figures.

"I see the teachers more than my family," read one young girl's placard photographed by Le Parisien newspaper.

The students have strong far-left support

Guetté, the lawmaker who posted photos of herself meeting with the first protesters in Creteil, bullhorn in hand, is a rising star of the far-left France Unbowed party. Other France Unbowed lawmakers and elected officials also quickly identified with the protests, meeting with pupils and backing their demands.

France Unbowed leader Jean-Luc Mélenchon urged party members and supporters to protect pupils from the police, by putting themselves in between the two sides.

Mélenchon has denounced what he called the "savagery" of police officers who have liberally used tear gas and their batons to break up crowds. Police riot-control projectiles are suspected in some facial injuries that young protesters suffered.

Critics of Mélenchon accuse France Unbowed of stoking and manipulating the pupils for political gain. Mélenchon, a fiery anti-capitalist, says his party supports the movement but isn't organizing it and wants it to be non-violent.

Mélenchon, 75, is making his fourth run for the French presidency and is wooing young voters. They tended to vote less than other age groups in the last presidential election in 2022 but could potentially help Mélenchon qualify for the decisive second-round runoff in May — a success that has always escaped him — if he can mobilize them to turn out.

"What we want is for this country's young people to emerge from this episode with their heads held high, having won something and learned something, and to remember it when they cast their ballots," Mélenchon said Thursday.

Akuapem people in Ghana celebrate 200th anniversary of a victory over the Ashanti Empire

By DENNIS NIPAH and EDWARD ACQUAH Associated Press

AKROPONG-AKUAPEM, Ghana (AP) — The Indigenous Akuapem people in eastern Ghana celebrated this week their military victory over the Ashanti Empire 200 years ago, a vast, sprawling and powerful 18th-century West African state.

The battle helped reshape the area into what has become part of modern Ghana.

The empire might be long gone, but the battle has not faded from memory. Two centuries later, the Akuapem people still come together to honor their victory by reenacting the war.

The festival, called Akuapem Odwira, is also a means of purification, spiritual renewal and thanksgiving, they say.

The two-week-long celebration, which started on Sept. 21, has featured an array of pageantry, a re-enactment and a durbar, or ceremonial gathering.

Both royalty and subjects engaging in the festivities were draped in traditional Kente cloth. Gold ornaments glinted in the afternoon sun as drums rolled through the streets and the chiefs arrived on decorated palanquins carried by attendants. Praise singers and dancers performed around the clock in the streets.

On the 10th day of the celebration, young men dressed as warriors marched from the palace into the hills and forest for the re-enactment of the battle, fought on Aug. 7, 1826.

The performers climbed a steep mountain into the forest, following the route toward the area where the battle is believed to have taken place. At a stream, libations were poured and other rituals performed.

Some participants, acting as captured enemy soldiers, were chained and led back toward the community, where crowds gathered to receive them before they were presented to the chief.

Nanahemaa Adwoa Awindor, the Queen Mother in charge of developmental activities, said the bicentennial anniversary was important because it showed how culture can survive across generations.

"Two hundred years of Odwira represents far more than the passage of time. It is a remarkable testimony to the resilience of the people, the continuity of tradition, and the enduring power of culture to bind generations together," she said.

For younger generations, the anniversary has also become a means to reconnect with a heritage they say is too easily overlooked.

Kingsley Ketegu, a 36-year-old Akuapem resident who took part in the celebrations, said young people should use such occasions to learn about their history.

"As young people, we should embrace this and learn our culture," he said. "Odwira is a very big festival. Very, very big. But we have underrated it."

Ax-wielding FlyDubai co-pilot had been flagged over extremism concerns

By SAMY MAGDY, SAM MEDNICK and CARA ANNA Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The co-pilot accused of attacking the captain of an Israel-bound flight with an ax and trying to seize the controls was an Omani national who had been barred from flying on his country's airline because of concerns about extremist views, officials said Saturday.

The co-pilot has been identified as Hamam al-Hammami, according to three people with knowledge of the situation, including a Gulf and a Western diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

The United Arab Emirates, which is leading the investigation, said the co-pilot attacked with the cockpit's crash ax and tried to take control of the plummeting plane in a "terrorist attack" Wednesday. His actions nearly crashed the flight with 182 people on board before passengers and others rushed in and subdued him.

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The new details raised questions about how thoroughly FlyDubai vets potential employees, and how the co-pilot's presence on a flight filled with Israeli passengers got past Israel's strict security protocols.

Israel has said it has agreements with foreign carriers to keep pilots of nations without diplomatic ties from flying there. Israel and Oman don't have formal diplomatic relations. The UAE government has earned a reputation for effective measures against extremist activities but has bristled in the past over criticism of security lapses.

The incident occurred at a sensitive time for Israel, a week before the anniversary of the Hamas-led attack on Oct. 7, 2023, that sparked the war in Gaza. It also came weeks before a highly contentious election in which security, and Oct. 7 security failures, have been central issues.

FlyDubai hired the co-pilot after Oman Air barred him

Separately, a regional official and a person familiar with the matter said the co-pilot had been barred from flying by Oman over concerns that he had adopted extremist views. The official said he was moved to an administrative job at Oman Air. Both spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the ongoing investigation. They gave no details about the alleged extremist views.

The co-pilot was later hired by UAE-based airline FlyDubai, the person said. It wasn't immediately clear to what extent the co-pilot was vetted. The Gulf diplomat said he had undergone standard security checks before being hired, but it appears that the checks focused on whether he had been convicted of criminal charges and didn't go deeper into examining his background for potential signs of radicalization.

The regional official also said security agencies from four regional countries were working to establish the co-pilot's motives, aided by the United States and other Western governments. The Gulf diplomat said the investigation, which hasn't concluded, hasn't found any connections with militant groups, suggesting that the co-pilot acted on his own.

The regional official said the co-pilot was born in the UAE and his mother is Syrian. He obtained Omani nationality from his father, also an Omani national. The regional official also said the co-pilot had traveled to Syria, with no details.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Friday said the co-pilot had undergone "Islamist radicalization," but provided no evidence. There was no immediate comment Saturday from Israel's government.

A social media account was deleted the day of the flight

A FlyDubai spokesperson said in an email that the airline could not comment beyond its official statements and acknowledged "there are many questions at this stage." There was no immediate comment from Oman Air, and Oman's government has said nothing publicly in response to repeated questions since the incident.

In a statement to The Associated Press, Royal Air Maroc, Morocco's national carrier, said the co-pilot "completed a three-month theoretical training period with the airline in 2025, as part of the pre-employment process. At the end of this training period, his application was not selected for employment." There were no details.

Keith Coles, a spokesperson for Buckinghamshire New University in England, told the AP that al-Hammami previously completed a distance-learning course in aviation management there but "did not undertake any pilot training." There were no details on the timing.

Little else was immediately known about the co-pilot's background. His Instagram account was active until the day of the flight and then deleted.

Philip Baum, a visiting professor of aviation security at Coventry University in England who wrote a book about aircraft hijackings and bombings, said background check systems differ from country to country and there are limits on what types of information can be shared.

"In terms of aviation security itself, obviously we want to have as robust background checks as possible. But there are huge limitations on doing background checks in any case, especially in cross-border checks," he said.

Captain and passengers have described drama on board

Airlines are generally required to carry crash axes in the cockpit that could be used in an emergency to

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break open a window to escape or break open a panel to access a fire.

The captain, who was badly wounded, has said he used his remaining energy while being attacked to unlock the cockpit door, allowing people who had noticed alarming sounds to come in, tackle the co-pilot and stabilize the flight while passengers screamed.

In a phone call with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday, the flight's captain, Smit Machchhar, said that before the attack, the co-pilot wanted to pray, and that he turned away out of respect. He said he felt a blow to the back of his head a few minutes later, and then the blows kept coming.

Netanyahu told Machchhar that he was amazed at his courage and his ability to stay cool under impossible conditions. "You saved so many souls. ... You saved the spirit of the world," he said.

The plane made an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia after a descent so extreme that part of the rudder was torn away, and aviation experts have marveled that it didn't crash. FlyDubai has said crew traveling on the plane helped to stabilize it and land. They haven't been publicly identified.

The captain and co-pilot were later taken to the UAE. The passengers, most of them Israeli, flew home later Wednesday on a separate plane, to cheers.

Inside the DC 'Power to the People' festival headlined by Bruce Springsteen

By MARIA SHERMAN AP Music Writer

Columbia, Md. (AP) — In the shadow of Washington, D.C., Bruce Springsteen and a few musical giants had a message for the world: "Let them hear you in Washington," he cheered.

The Boss played a number of political songs during his headlining set at the inaugural "Power to the People" star-studded protest festival at Columbia, Maryland's Merriweather Post Pavilion on Saturday. Organized by Rage Against the Machine's Tom Morello, the festival aimed to celebrate "peace, justice, solidarity, music and community action," according to its mission statement, and promote voter turnout.

Additionally, a portion of the proceeds from all ticket sales will benefit the organizations VoteRiders and HeadCount.

Many of the acts used their platform to denounce recent actions conducted by the U.S. government.

For example, Springsteen opened with "Streets of Minneapolis," in response to the killings of Renée Good and Alex Pretti by federal immigration agents.

"The power and solidarity of the people of Minneapolis, of Minnesota, is an inspiration to the entire country," he told the sold-out crowd. "Their strength and their commitment told us that this is still America, and this will not stand. They gave us hope. They showed us courage."

For his second number, folk icon Joan Baez emerged, and the pair duetted Bob Dylan's "Chimes of Freedom." Later, Springsteen, Morello, Dave Matthews and Nathaniel Rateliff joined forces for Creedence Clearwater Revival's "Fortunate Son."

In addition to the protest music on stage, fans in the crowd wore shirts with strong messages. "Immigrants Make America Great," read one. "No Kings," "No one is illegal on stolen land," "Bring on the Matriarchy" read others.

And across the fest grounds stood a "Freedom Village," an activation where attendees could engage with nonprofits like the ACLU, Farm Aid, the National Domestic Workers Alliance, Oxfam and more.

How 'Power to the People' came to be

"Power to the People" was revealed in May, around the same time several musical guests announced they had backed out of America's 250th anniversary celebration, "The Great American State Fair," over the event's ties to President Donald Trump.

"Power to the People" stood in stark opposition. The one-day, two-stage festival boasted a stacked lineup heavy with veteran rock 'n' roll bands. It also included performances by acts like Dropkick Murphys, Jack Black, Serj Tankian, Killer Mike and the Linda Lindas.

And conveniently, "Power to the People" took place one month before the midterm elections.

"I think the timing is a reminder that showing up matters. I'm not here to tell anyone what to think or

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how to vote," Taylor Momsen, one of the festival's performers, told The Associated Press. "I hope people leave feeling connected, inspired to care about the people around them, and reminded that we all have a part to play in our communities. If the festival can create that feeling, I think that's a win."

The fest brought music with a message

Political messaging arrived fast and furious at the event. One of the day's earliest performers, the rap rock artist Grandson, performed a song with the refrain "My president's a felon" before launching into a cover of Bob Dylan's Cold War protest, "Masters of War."

Later, a livestream broadcast of the "Power to the People" festival cut out as Grandson introduced two actors portraying Jeffrey Epstein and Trump, who joined him on stage, connected by a leash.

Other acts focused on a central message of the festival — directing attendees to the nonprofits at the adjacent Freedom Village and, more commonly, the importance of voting in the upcoming midterm elections.

"Vote locally in thirty days," rapper Killer Mike said mid-set. "And hold the (expletive) you vote for accountable — on school boards, county commissions ... and when you do, don't have an ounce of fear or trepidation because this republic is ran by you."

'Power to the People' was full of surprise performances, too

Shortly after 3 p.m., the comedian Jack Black appeared on stage as "Jack Sabbath," performing Black Sabbath covers while backed by a band of children — including the sons of Morello and Anthrax's Scott Ian — in what read like both a real-life "School of Rock" set and a touching tribute to the late, great Ozzy Osbourne. In fact, Sabbath bassist Geezer Butler joined them on stage for "War Pigs."

In Morello's early evening set, he was joined by System of a Down's Serj Tankian for a duet of Audio-slave's "Like a Stone" in honor of the late frontman Chris Cornell. It was the start of a trend: After Tankian came Chuck D, Run DMC, Flavor Flav for various covers; Morello and Foo Fighters' frontman Dave Grohl also tackled Kiss' "Rock and Roll All Nite."

Baez, Rateliff and Matthews joined forces for Woody Guthrie's protest song "Deportees," before launching into Baez's "(Ain't Gonna Let Nobody) Turn Me Around."

As they exited, Stephen Stills took the stage to perform Buffalo Springfield's "For What It's Worth."

The festival, which Baez labeled a "magnificent antidote," concluded with all the day's performers singing Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land" — with all its original verses — as well as John Lennon's "Power to the People."

"This festival means that peace, love, and justice do not have to remain nouns. They can become verbs — things that we can all contribute to — when we come together and rock out in the name of anti-fascist, radical equality," a young fan named Evangeline Topete, who wore a shirt that read "Destroy American Fascism," told The Associated Press. "Rock 'n' roll can save us. And so can giving the power where it belongs: to the people!"

Brazil presidential vote pits Trump ally against Lula, who is seeking 4th nonconsecutive term

By MAURICIO SAVARESE Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Brazilians vote Sunday in a high-stakes presidential election pitting incumbent Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva against Sen. Flávio Bolsonaro, ideological opposites who are each seen as having a shot at an outright victory.

If no candidate gets more than 50% of the vote, the top two vote-getters will head to a runoff on Oct. 25 in Latin America's economic powerhouse. Ten other candidates are expected to garner much smaller numbers of votes on Sunday.

Bolsonaro, 45, is the son of far-right former President Jair Bolsonaro and an ally of U.S. President Donald Trump. Lula, who at 80 is one of the world's oldest heads of state, is running in his seventh presidential election and has strengthened Brazil's ties with Beijing.

Trump allies have found support in recent years in some Latin American countries, including Argentina, Colombia and Peru.

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Almost 159 million Brazilians are eligible to vote in this tense political showdown.

Bolsonaro leans into Trump alliance

Where Bolsonaro has leaned into his ideological alliance with Trump, Lula has criticized Washington. He has often spoken about risks of U.S. intervention in the Brazilian elections after the Trump administration imposed high tariffs against Brazilian exports, revoked the visa of the country's ambassador in D.C. and sanctioned a Supreme Court justice who chaired the probe that ended up resulting in the sentencing of Jair Bolsonaro, Lula's predecessor.

Flávio Bolsonaro has touted his proximity to the White House and insisted Brazil needs to strike better deals with the Trump administration, including the rare minerals economy. Brazil estimates its deposits to hold up to 21 million tons, second only to China. Bolsonaro also has campaigned on releasing his father from his 27-year prison sentence for attempting a coup and bringing him back to politics.

Bolsonaro denies he's being helped by the U.S. government. "That narrative won't stick, sorry," he said at a September campaign event.

Brazilians will also elect 27 state governors, members of state legislatures, all 513 federal congressmen and 54 of the country's 81 senators in Sunday's vote.

Last-minute mistakes could decide race

Thomas Traumann, a political consultant based in Rio de Janeiro, says last-minute mistakes by either candidate or by their allies could make all the difference for undecided voters.

"Polarization in Brazil created a trap. There's no third candidate. You only have two options, and they fight each other in an atmosphere that becomes worse and worse," Traumann said. "It is much more a competition of accusations than a competition of proposals."

Four years ago, Lula beat Jair Bolsonaro by 2.1 million votes — a margin of just under 2 percentage points. At the time, Brazilians were upset with the then-president's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, his repeated threats against democracy, his attacks on the electronic voting system, and the poor shape of the nation's economy as inflation was on the rise.

Now, the incumbent faces a tough battle due to an affordability crisis and a corruption scandal that ensnared the same justice who led the investigation into Bolsonaro.

Carlos Melo, a political science professor at Insper University in Sao Paulo, says some voters have grown weary of Lula, who is seeking a fourth nonconsecutive term as president. He is one of the oldest presidents on the continent, along with Trump and Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega, both of whom also are 80.

"Many in the Lula campaign were not expecting such a difficult election a few weeks ago, and it is clear to them that the present election is a tough battle and the next ones, without Lula, could be even more so," Melo said.

Bolsonaro has seen his political career tainted by several corruption accusations, the latest of them involving a disgraced banker paying him millions of dollars, allegedly to produce a movie on his father's life. More recently, he has been under fire from Roman Catholics who fear he might make too many concessions to his evangelical base.

A gut punch in Ohio: Nearly 1,400 laid off at truck factory just days before Trump rally

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio (AP) — Sipping tea from beer mugs with his co-workers, Kyle Bos listed the ways his life is changing.

Bos has two daughters, with a third due in January. At the grocery store, five items cost as much as a full cart once did. And on Wednesday, Bos and nearly 1,400 other people were laid off from their jobs at what had been the Navistar truck factory in southwestern Ohio.

The layoffs — occurring just three days before President Donald Trump's rally on Saturday at a nearby high school — were large enough to basically erase an entire year of job growth in the greater Dayton, Ohio, area. And they are one reason why Bos, 30, plans to spend the final weeks before the November

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election canvassing votes for Democrats.

Asked how many times he had voted for Trump, Bos held up three tattooed fingers. But he said he's done with the president.

"Something has to change politically in this country," said Bos, a member of the United Auto Workers who identifies as a centrist. "Seems like it just kept getting worse and worse and worse."

Trump campaigned in this area on Saturday

This year's election is a test for the working-class coalition that lifted Trump into the White House and gave majorities to Republicans in the House and Senate. The outcome will be decided in places like Dayton, which once sprouted factories because it led America in patents per capita. The Wright brothers' airplane, the cash register, the stepladder and the electric car starter were all invented in this city of 137,000.

Trump's blunt talk and status as a celebrity businessman initially helped him around Dayton, where voters sensed that politics as usual had failed them. Republicans secured wins in the larger metro area, but this year, the party is vulnerable with voters who are disgruntled about inflation, the Iran war and a president who seems unsympathetic to their struggles.

An Ohio race could help determine control of the Senate. Republican Sen. Jon Husted is facing a challenge from former Democratic Sen. Sherrod Brown, who is trying to harness that disenchantment as he attempts a comeback two years after losing his seat.

Americans increasingly blame Trump for the high cost of living with just 17% approving of his handling of the issue. Trump didn't talk about grocery prices or gas prices or layoffs at his Saturday night rally in Vandalia, part of what he says will be a 32-day marathon of rallies to try to convince the public that the economy is better than they think.

"The fake news media, they refuse to talk about our record-setting numbers. So tonight, if you don't mind, I'm going to do it myself," he told the rally.

Trump has largely sneered at concerns about affordability, but he is promising to give people \$5,000 checks if Republicans win the House and Senate next month — something Bos said he found offensive.

"It feels like a bribe, a slap in the face, and, like, that we're all ignorant," Bos said.

When factory work moved abroad, Republicans gained traction

The Dayton area has shed about half of its 90,000 factory jobs since 1990, according to federal data, after the North American Free Trade Agreement shifted many jobs to Mexico where auto parts could be made more cheaply. That trend accelerated after China joined the World Trade Organization.

As steady paychecks vanished, drug addiction and crime increased. Things seemed to hit bottom after the 2008 financial crisis, prompting Phil Plummer — who was then Montgomery County Sheriff — to enter politics.

"My jail was 40% drug addicts, 50% mental health patients, 10% criminals," said Plummer, who has been a Republican state representative since 2019. "We got it upside down — that's what drove me to the state house."

Plummer, the Montgomery County Republican chairman, is now on the ballot for the Ohio state Senate and stressed that Trump has been what keeps the GOP's coalition of businesses and working-class families together.

In recent years, the local economy has improved as the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base expanded, now directly employing 38,000 people. The base's innovations have attracted new aerospace companies to the area, including Joby Aviation, the Sierra Nevada Corporation and Electra.

Trump pointed to the \$850 million investment by aircraft maker Electra — along with a new project in Ohio from Stellantis and a Friday announcement from Bayer for a \$2.2 billion drug plant near Columbus — as evidence his policies were creating jobs.

Dayton rebounded because Republicans and Democrats alike saw the value coming out of Wright-Patterson over the past two decades, said Jeff Hoagland, CEO of the Dayton Development Coalition.

"In economic development, it takes time, and you have got to give it a little bit of time to bake, and then once it does, then you're going to have something special," Hoagland said.

Even as Dayton recovers, its politicians say this election is about inflation

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Downtown Dayton has added lofts for housing, and the historic Dayton Arcade complex with its glass dome and mosaic-tiled floors has been renovated into shops, an art gallery and eateries.

On Monday, the gallery echoed with the sounds of an acoustic guitar and flute during a fundraiser for Rose Lounsbury, a former schoolteacher who, for the second time, is running as a Democrat for state representative.

The guests radiated optimism that Democrats might pick up a U.S. Senate seat, a governorship and enough spots in the Ohio House of Representatives to end a Republican supermajority.

"There is a gap between what people want and what they feel is available," Lounsbury said. "People don't want to live a life of subsistence. They want to live the middle-class dream and they feel it's not available like it once was."

Lounsbury's Republican opponent, State Rep. Andrea White, was in the state capital, Columbus, during the past week, where she helped lead a push to pass a temporary suspension of the state gas tax of 38.5 cents per gallon to offer some relief at the pump.

White said the Republican-led state government has helped to cushion the blow of inflation by flattening the state income tax and reining in property tax hikes.

"The concept is, put it back in the hands of the people who pay the taxes — so they have more of their own money," White said.

No tax on overtime doesn't help these factory workers

The White House said Trump's tax cuts and trade deals have helped Ohio. But the experiences at what had been the Navistar plant show that policies that were supposed to help the working class were not enough.

His broad tariffs failed to boost demand and the plant's former owner, International Motors, chose to offload the facility. And Trump's major legislative achievement — the One Big Beautiful Bill — contributed little to people's take-home pay, even as it temporarily stripped taxes from tips and overtime.

"We weren't getting a lot of overtime because of the economy," said Marianne Donnelly, who drove a forklift at the factory. "There just wasn't any to be had, very little to be had."

Meanwhile, costs have kept climbing. Donnelly said she buys marked-down beef, pork and chicken and stows them in her freezer. She canceled her subscriptions to The Columbus Dispatch and The Washington Post newspapers, along with some streaming services.

Laid-off workers like Donnelly say they expect to be rehired in six to 12 months by Roshel, a Canadian manufacturer of armored vehicles that is buying the plant. Roshel said in a statement that it's "working with everyone involved not only to protect the current workforce, but to more than double it over the coming years through a phased process."

Laid-off workers are looking for hope

On the Monday before the layoffs, Morgan Hughes and JoJo Burkhard were knocking on doors in Kettering, a Dayton suburb named after the inventor of the electric car starter. They were trying to convince union members and retirees to vote for Democrats.

The Navistar job had helped Hughes, 35, buy a house at age 21 and work alongside her father.

When her hours were first cut, Hughes moonlighted for DoorDash and got a real estate license. On her wrist, she has a tattoo of a cross and the words "Be Still And Know," a reference to Psalm 46:10, which speaks to how faith in God can overcome fear.

Hughes said that what union members and retirees want is to be heard after feeling ignored by politicians. Burkhard said inflation and the economy have made it easier to swing voters to their side.

"It isn't a hard pitch at all," she said. "And even if they don't want to stay Democratic long-term, they'll at least give the candidates a chance this election, which could be a turning point for us."

After a morning of talking to voters, the pair settled down at a Chinese restaurant for some potstickers, and the weight of the week hit them.

Burkhard cracked open a fortune cookie and tears began to well up. The layoffs meant no work for her, her boyfriend and her mother — and the words in small print almost seemed prophetic. She said she needed the hope they conveyed.

Her fortune read: "You'll find your inner strength to overcome challenges."

Trump announces \$90 payments for seniors on Medicare ahead of midterm elections for premium costs

By MELISSA GOLDIN Associated Press

President Donald Trump is promising more payments to voters just ahead of the Nov. 3 midterm elections — this time, to more than 20 million seniors, giving them \$90 each to help pay for Medicare premiums.

The announcement, made late Friday night by Trump on social media, comes after the president last month said about 1 million people would get rebate checks of \$500 for Affordable Care Act premiums. He has also promised on the campaign trail to send every American adult \$5,000 if Republicans retain control of the House and Senate in the midterm elections.

That pledge — which would require approval from Congress — would likely cost more than \$1 trillion, adding to the deficit and worsening inflation.

Trump highlighted his \$5,000 promise at a rally in Vandalia, Ohio, on Saturday night, and told supporters that 70,000 families in the state would receive the ACA rebates "within the next couple of days." He also reminded voters about the \$1,776 payments to military members, announced in December — though he mused that they should have been timed better.

"Maybe I should have waited a year," he said. "To be honest, I said that. Should I wait for before the election?"

Polls show Americans increasingly blame Trump for the high cost of gasoline and groceries with just 17% approving of his handling of inflation. Trump has sought to shrug off concerns about affordability, saying the economy is booming.

The White House said the \$90 payments for seniors will come from the Medicare Improvement Fund, established by Congress in 2008 as flexible funding to improve program operations and payments to health care providers.

Medicare Part B enrollees can expect to receive a one-time payment in October, either through direct deposit or by check, the White House said. Total monthly costs for the program — which covers costs like doctor's visits, ambulance services and lab tests — start around \$200 and vary with income.

To be eligible, seniors must be living in the U.S. and not be already receiving premium assistance from Medicaid or paying adjusted monthly premiums based on income, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Seniors enrolled in Medicare Advantage, a private plan alternative to traditional Medicare coverage, are not eligible for the payment. More than half of eligible Medicare beneficiaries have Medicare Advantage, according to healthcare research nonprofit KFF.

Previous administrations have not used the Medicare Improvement Fund in this way, although Congress has periodically taken out money from the fund to pay for other priorities, said Larry Levitt, KFF's executive vice president for health policy. For example, \$20.74 billion was used for the creation of the Affordable Care Act in 2010.

"The Medicare Improvement Fund language is quite broad and gives substantial discretion to the administration," Levitt said.

Who are the mystery men who stepped in to keep the FlyDubai plane from crashing?

JERUSALEM (AP) — Who are the mystery pilots who stepped in to stabilize the FlyDubai flight as it hurtled toward disaster?

As of Saturday, three days after the uniformed crew members rushed to the cockpit to steady the Israel-bound plane carrying 182 people after a sickening plummet, they still haven't been publicly identified. FlyDubai has called them only on-duty crew members traveling on the plane. It's not clear why the airline

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hasn't said more.

One passenger at the front of the plane, though, described the men's actions in an interview with The Associated Press, giving one of the most detailed accounts of the yet-unsung heroes.

"This is one of the miracles," said Daniel Schlichter, who was seated in the second row.

"That not in every flight they bring two extra pilots. In this case, they brought them because they should have brought the plane back from Tel Aviv to Dubai, and this is the only reason they were there." The practice is called deadheading.

The two men responded after screaming passengers discovered what was unfolding in the cockpit. They said the co-pilot was attacking the captain over and over, and blood was everywhere. The captain, while badly wounded, managed to unlock the cockpit door.

After a passenger grabbed the co-pilot and pulled him out, and others grappled with the man to subdue him, Schlichter said that one of the traveling pilots practically hurdled the scrum to enter the cockpit and seize the controls.

"He was actually kind of jumping above the guys that were handling the terrorist, and he reached out to the pilot area and started to take over," Schlichter said. "And then the other guy, the other pilot, joined in and they closed the door because they didn't want anybody else to be there."

Schlichter, like others, wasn't sure where the two men had come from. But whoever the first one was, he moved very quickly.

"He acted really like a hero, taking over the plane and reacted like he understood exactly what is going on, and I think we owe him our lives not less than the other heroes that went on the flight," Schlichter said.

Once the two entered the cockpit and closed the door, Schlichter wasn't sure who did what inside. It took "quite a lot of minutes," maybe 10 or more, to stabilize the plane after a descent so extreme that part of its rudder was torn away.

A mayday call was made as the men frantically sought a place to land.

Meanwhile, some of the frightened and wary passengers wondered about them and whether they could be trusted.

"After they managed to stabilize the airplane, actually they did not have any communication with us, and I have to tell you, I was worried about this," Schlichter said.

He worried about an even worse situation — that the men might be "hijacking the plane into maybe Iran, or I don't know where, because we're actually not too far."

But after about 45 minutes, he said, the pilots announced that they would be landing in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia, and everything was going to be OK.

With that, Schlichter said, he decided to trust them. And it turned out to be true.

What to know about the investigation into Cornell University gang rape allegations

By HALLIE GOLDEN and LEAH WILLINGHAM Associated Press

An intense, public outcry over a woman's account of being gang-raped at a Cornell University fraternity house prompted New York's governor this week to angrily yank control of the investigation away from the local prosecutor who didn't initially see what happened as a crime.

Tompkins County District Attorney Matthew Van Houten has said Cornell police omitted key information that could have affected his decision whether or not to pursue criminal charges.

Now, the task of unraveling the case will fall to the state's attorney general, Letitia James, who was appointed as a special prosecutor.

James, a Democrat best known for tangling with President Donald Trump, suggested at a news conference Friday that her investigation wouldn't be rushed. She described it as a monthslong process, with no predetermined outcome.

Here's what we know and don't know about the woman's allegations and the investigations that followed: A lawsuit shone a fresh light on the woman's allegations

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The woman sued Cornell and seven former students last month, alleging she was given ketamine and became completely incapacitated while members of the Chi Phi fraternity sexually assaulted her at their campus residence in October 2024.

She reported the alleged assault to campus police about three weeks later, giving investigators a detailed account over two days. She also spoke with Cornell's disciplinary investigators.

But Van Houten quickly declined to pursue charges or further investigation after reviewing a police summary of her interview.

After the victim filed her civil suit, Van Houten said it contained allegations he had never seen. He contended Cornell's police had withheld key information, including a transcript of the woman's interview where she explicitly said she was "100% confident" she was raped.

Van Houten said the materials suggested she had consented to some sex with multiple men, hadn't been forced into other acts, and was intoxicated, but not to the point of helplessness.

Under New York law, being too drunk or high to consent to sex isn't necessarily enough to support a rape charge. The law distinguishes that from being physically helpless or incapacitated by drugs administered without consent.

Van Houten later reopened the investigation. "Seeking justice sometimes requires us to reconsider or reopen cases when we are provided with additional evidence," he said.

The school's investigation produced conflicting accounts

Only a fraction of the evidence collected by the school has become public, but the portions that have provided a fuller — though disputed — timeline of events, as well as a glimpse at how the men responded to being accused.

According to the records, the woman had been invited to the fraternity by a member for whom she had long held strong romantic feelings. Cornell's disciplinary panel found that she initially consented to sex with that man and one of his friends, though she later alleged in her lawsuit that she had been pressured into taking drugs and alcohol and was too intoxicated to consent.

Later, other men started coming into the room, some drawn by a message one of the fraternity brothers sent to a Snapchat group at 1:42 a.m. using a vulgar term to advertise that a woman's body was freely available.

The woman told investigators that her intoxication had rendered her partly defenseless. She said some of the men inhaled drugs off her unclothed body.

"I felt like bait. I felt like lions around me. It just was a totally debilitating place to be in," she told investigators.

The records also show that she acknowledged that her memory of the night was spotty, due to her extreme inebriation, and had verbally acquiesced to some acts she later felt were sexual abuse.

Some of the accused men disputed her account when speaking to investigators, or said that the drug use and sexual activity were consensual.

Cornell hasn't detailed the results of its investigation, but said it resulted in some students being expelled. The records show it also cleared at least some of the men of sexual assault allegations.

New York's governor was outraged by the police investigation

Hochul said she appointed James because she had lost faith in Van Houten's handling of the case. She said Van Houten should have asked Cornell for more information and interviewed the woman before closing it.

"This woman, this young woman, had already endured something that is utterly unspeakable," she said. "And then at every turn, she was failed by people and institutions with an obligation to protect her."

Van Houten said he supports James' appointment but maintains that New York law didn't allow him to prosecute based solely on the woman's allegations that she was too incapacitated to consent.

The case sparks calls for change

At a Cornell Student Assembly meeting Thursday, students and other members of the university community spent more than 2 1/2 hours discussing the handling of sexual assault allegations. Some expressed fear, anger, and grief — while others shared their own experiences of sexual violence on campus.

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Among them was Jane Wang, who said she had reported being sexually assaulted at Cornell a year earlier. When she filed her Title IX case in the midst of "mental, physical and emotional recovery from the assault," she said, "I was also met with an abundance of paperwork, very little instruction on how to navigate it and no follow-up from our Title IX office of an outcome."

The presidents of every fraternity in Cornell's Interfraternity Council voted unanimously to cancel social events this weekend in response to the allegations, according to The Cornell Daily Sun. Twenty student organizations are also planning a protest Monday to voice support for a promised independent review of Cornell's handling of the case and advocate changes to its sexual assault policies, the newspaper reported.

In a video message Saturday, Cornell President Michael Kotlikoff pledged greater transparency amid the mounting outrage about how the school handled the case. He called the gang rape allegations "deeply disturbing" and said the case would weigh on the university for years to come.

The case has also renewed scrutiny of a New York sexual assault law that makes it more difficult to prosecute cases involving people too intoxicated to consent. New York is one of 19 states with such laws. Hochul said Friday that she supports changing the law.

Tennessee's prisons chief is resigning after failed execution of Christa Pike

By ED WHITE Associated Press

The head of Tennessee's prison system is resigning, Gov. Bill Lee announced Saturday, the first major staff shake-up since Christa Pike's stunning failed execution left her unconscious and on a ventilator at a hospital.

Frank Strada, commissioner of the Department of Correction, will step down this month, Lee said. Some of the governor's fellow Republicans and other elected officials had been urging a change in leadership.

It was the second time since May that Tennessee has not been able to execute a prisoner who was seemingly moments away from death.

The governor also announced that former U.S. Attorney Ed Stanton would lead a review of what happened in Pike's death chamber. Stanton previously was named to conduct a review after Lee called off a different execution in 2022; he found in that case that Tennessee had not complied with its own lethal injection process.

Strada said in a statement that resigning was "in the best interest of Tennesseans" while Stanton's review is conducted. The state failed to execute Pike despite administering two doses of a lethal drug, pentobarbital.

Pike, now 50, was 18 when she and her boyfriend tortured and killed a classmate, Colleen Slemmer, in a jealous rage in 1995. She became one of the youngest women to be sent to death row.

Strada defends execution protocol

There was no immediate response from Pike's lawyers for an update Saturday on her condition at a hospital. They had disclosed Friday that she was on a ventilator and unconscious in the hours following the execution attempt and that hospital staff were trying to clear the two doses of pentobarbital.

The shocking failure has left both sides of the death penalty debate demanding answers. Lee has ordered an independent review and halted any new executions. Strada said he believes the state "carried out its responsibilities in accordance with the established protocol."

Pike's legal team welcomed Strada's departure but said "it does nothing to help Christa now."

"What happened to her Wednesday reflects a systemic failure that goes far beyond any one person," the four-lawyer team said. "We hope the governor's call for a full, independent review will expose the profound problems within Tennessee's entire death penalty system."

Second failed execution since May

Pike's attorneys said they believed problems with the IV lines caused the pentobarbital to flow into her body instead of her bloodstream.

Pike was extraordinarily cooperative with the execution team, even instructing them to "please try here,

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please try here” as they tried to insert lines, lawyer Randy Spivey told reporters Thursday.

In May, Tennessee stopped the execution of Tony Carruthers after staff placed an IV into his right arm but couldn’t get a secondary IV line. The governor ordered officials to wait at least a year before trying to execute him again.

Strada took over the Correction Department in January 2023 after serving as deputy director of the Arizona Department of Corrections. In late 2024, he announced that Tennessee was changing its lethal injection protocol and would use only pentobarbital.

Four people have been executed in Tennessee since 2025, according to the Correction Department.

Some Arizona executions had snags

Court filings show that Strada’s job included overseeing executions in Arizona when they resumed in 2022 following an eight-year break.

Clarence Dixon was the first that year. The medical team had trouble finding a vein to administer the lethal drugs and finally made an incision in his groin area. The process took about 25 minutes.

That same year in Arizona, medical staff preparing Frank Atwood for execution initially could not locate a vein in his right arm but inserted the IV in his right hand — at Atwood’s suggestion, said Henry Brean, an Arizona Daily Star reporter who was a witness.

Strada announced Murray Hooper’s execution by lethal injection, the third in 2022. There was an unsuccessful attempt to insert an IV line in his right arm. The IV in Hooper’s leg was inserted into his femoral artery.

“When Governor Lee hired Strada to fix execution problems in Tennessee, his problematic history of executions in Arizona was well known,” said Kit Thomas, an attorney who has represented people on Tennessee’s death row.

Air Force beats Navy 14-9 to get jump on Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy competition

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AP) — Liam Szarka rushed for two touchdowns and Air Force defeated Navy 14-9 on Saturday.

This was the opening game of the round-robin Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy competition between Air Force (3-1), Navy (1-3) and Army. Air Force plays at Army Nov. 7 with the Midshipmen (1-3) taking on Army on Dec. 12 in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Air Force has won the trophy 21 times — the last time in 2022 — Navy 18 and Army 10. Air Force leads its series with Navy 35-24.

The Falcons never trailed with Szarka scoring on a 1-yard run to complete a 14-play, 65-yard drive that lasted nearly eight minutes. He added an 8-yard score in the final minute of the first half, set up by his fourth-down, 23-yard pass to Simon Kibbee on the previous play, for a 14-3 lead.

Navy’s points came on a Nolan Bartley field goal and a 68-yard pass when Jackson Gutierrez found Truman Brasfield alone deep down the middle with seven minutes remaining in the third quarter. A failed 2-point conversion left Navy trailing by five.

The Midshipmen’s final four possessions ended with a fumble then three drives for a combined 19 yards. They converted just 1 of 11 third downs for the game.

Szarka rushed for 81 yards and passed for 82 but was intercepted twice.

Gutierrez threw for 140 yards and rushed for 33 more.

Defense secretary Pete Hegseth spoke to the Air Force cadets prior to attending the game.

Up next

Navy: home against Tulsa next Saturday.

Air Force: at Northern Illinois next Saturday.

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A \$28B hemp THC industry is fighting to save itself from a looming federal ban

By GENE JOHNSON Associated Press

In a commercial kitchen outside Raleigh, North Carolina, Nicholas Hohns spreads a blue-green goo into a gridded mold, making one of his company's signature products: potent THC gummies, featuring the primary intoxicating compound found in marijuana.

It's a business he might soon have to give up. America's multibillion-dollar market for impairing hemp products — from THC seltzers sold at some Target stores to smokable cannabis flowers, and different from the regulated legal marijuana industry — faces potential elimination after Congress voted to close a loophole in federal law that has allowed it to flourish.

Advocates for the industry, along with some lawmakers, are fighting to save it. The short-term government-funding bill signed by President Donald Trump last month delayed the effective date of the "hemp THC ban" from Nov. 12 to Dec. 11, giving Congress more time to consider regulating the products rather than banning them.

"It's such a weird spot to be in," said Hohns. "You worked 100 hours a week for the past four years, and, yeah, you made some money. But now you might have nothing to show for it."

Sen. Mitch McConnell closed a loophole in the hemp law he championed

Marijuana and hemp are the same plant — cannabis. Marijuana is cultivated for high levels of THC in its flowers. Low-THC hemp has historically been grown for its sturdy fibers, food or wellness products. "Rope, not dope" was long the motto of farmers who supported legalizing hemp.

To give farmers a new cash crop, Kentucky Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell successfully pushed the legalization of industrial hemp in the 2018 farm bill.

But the way that law defined hemp — as having less than 0.3% of a specific type of THC, called delta-9, by weight — opened a huge loophole. Beverages or snacks could meet that threshold and still contain more than enough THC to get people high.

Vape oil, gummy candies, chips, sodas and other unregulated, untested products laden with hemp-derived THC spread around the country, including in gas stations or convenience stores, where they were available even to teens. Some businesses started selling marijuana under the theory that raw marijuana's THC is in a form called THC-A, which only turns into impairing delta-9 when heated or burned.

The products evaded state prohibitions on recreational weed or undercut heavily taxed and regulated cannabis where it is legal.

Dozens of states responded by regulating or banning impairing hemp products.

McConnell finally closed the loophole late last year by inserting a hemp THC ban into a measure that ended the longest government shutdown in history.

The ban, which limits the amount of THC in hemp products to 0.4 milligrams per container, wouldn't take effect for a year.

An industry tries to save itself

The ban "threatens to reduce retail revenues by \$28.3 billion, displacing 225,000 jobs and reducing state sales tax potential by \$2.1 billion," according to a report last month from Whitney Economics, which studies the market.

The industry hopes to save itself by restricting impairing products to people 21 and older, limiting how much THC can be in a package, and banning imported cannabis compounds.

The owners of Kentucky's Cornbread Hemp, Eric Zipperle and Jim Higdon, are prepared to cap their products at, say, 5 milligrams if that's what it takes to win support from lawmakers. But the 0.4 milligram limit would destroy their business, they said.

"If it goes through in December, this place is toast — it's gone," Zipperle said.

They have 105 employees, sell hemp beverages in 18 states and expect to bring in \$65 million this year.

The 0.4-milligram cap is so low that it would ban even some non-impairing CBD products, such as topical lotions, said Jonathan Miller, general counsel of the industry group U.S. Hemp Roundtable.

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Some consider other work

Hohns, who runs Deutermann Farms in Clayton, North Carolina, entered the hemp industry after losing his job as a personal trainer during the COVID-19 pandemic. North Carolina has not legalized either medical or recreational marijuana, but many of the edibles Hohns makes are more potent than what's available in states that have.

"When I started seeing THC edibles being sold ... I was like, I got 18 months to two years to make money in this industry," Hohns said. "No way is the government just going to sit here and let us do this when this was supposed to be for fiber, plastics, building materials, rope."

That was more than four years ago. Hohns kept his capital investments minimal, fearing a shutdown. He has considered making other products, such as creatine gummies, if he has to get out of the hemp THC business.

Things have been more stressful for others. Drinkin' Buds, a cannabis beverage company in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, has mothballed production. Co-founder Matt Swanson took himself off the payroll on Thursday.

"There's just so much uncertainty," Swanson said. "I'm actively looking for employment."

Allies and opponents line up

Among those who have come to the defense of the hemp industry are alcohol retailers, including Total Wine & More. Sales of cannabis seltzers have helped offset falling alcohol sales.

Opponents include people who say the products are dangerous.

"I have sympathy for people losing their jobs, but I also have sympathy for the many, many more people whose lives are affected by this," said Kevin Sabet, CEO of Smart Approaches to Marijuana.

The regulated legal marijuana industry, which sees hemp THC as unfair competition, also supports the ban. Cory Harris, a lobbyist for state-legal cannabis operators, suggested that dire predictions about its effect on the intoxicating hemp industry are overstated.

While the ban would end interstate sales of products like THC seltzers and gummies, some could find a home in legal in-state markets, he said. It's possible THC drinks could be sold at stores in the states where they were produced. States like North Carolina could adopt legal hemp programs.

"If you go from having virtually no rules to suddenly having an awful lot of rules, that's a buzzkill," Harris said. "Welcome to our world. But if you establish your whole business within a legally questionable loophole, that's just sort of the risk you take."

Russian attacks kill 6 in Ukraine and damage Kyiv's Northern Bridge

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian attacks in Ukraine killed at least six people and damaged Kyiv's Northern Bridge, suspending traffic and causing tailbacks for a third day in Moscow's latest effort to disrupt life in the Ukrainian capital.

The strike came after two days of Russian assaults forced the full or partial closure of three of Kyiv's six road bridges over the Dnipro River. Previously, Russia has hit apartment blocks, supermarket warehouses, gas stations and data centers, among other targets.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said Saturday it would continue to carry out "mass retaliatory strikes" on Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities, urging foreign nationals and diplomats to leave the country. It previously issued a similar warning in May.

Russia invaded its neighbor more than 4 ½ years ago, and there are no concrete signs that a peace settlement might be possible. Fighting along the roughly 1,250-kilometer (780-mile) front line snaking through northern, eastern and southern Ukraine has been virtually deadlocked in recent months.

Kyiv Mayor Vitalii Klitschko said the strike on the bridge damaged the road surface and trolleybus cables, forcing traffic to be suspended. He later said two people were wounded in the attack, one of whom was briefly hospitalized.

Russia's Defense Ministry on Saturday confirmed it was behind the latest attack, claiming the bridge is used to "facilitate troop movements and the logistics of military cargo deliveries" for Ukraine's armed forces.

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Videos circulating on social media appeared to show the moment of impact as vehicles crossed the bridge, including footage purportedly recorded by a driver's dashcam.

Moldova expresses concern over the war spillover

The aerial war has intensified, with Kyiv striking Russia's oil industry and businesses while Moscow has menaced Ukrainian cities with hard-to-intercept ballistic missiles and jet-powered drones.

Moldovan President Maia Sandu said Saturday that the war is "dangerously reaching" her country, following a spate of airspace incursions.

"I condemn Russia's attack on Ukraine this morning. Its war is dangerously reaching Moldova," she said in a post on X, adding that five "Russian air attack weapons, including Banderol missiles and drones, violated our airspace and exploded on our soil."

"Moscow is putting lives at risk across Europe and must be stopped," she added.

Ukraine's air force said that Moscow overnight launched Banderol cruise missiles — low-cost, jet-powered loitering munitions that Russia uses to overwhelm Ukrainian air defenses — at the Odesa region, which shares a long land border with Moldova. A loitering munition is designed to hover over an area, searching for targets, and detonate while crashing into them.

Russian, Ukrainian attacks leave 9 dead and scores wounded

Russia attacked Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, and nearby areas with drones and guided bombs on Friday and overnight, killing five people and wounding over 40, according to regional head Oleh Syniehubov.

In nearby Izyum, Russian drone strikes wounded three people, according to the local military administration. It said a drone slammed into an industrial warehouse, while another damaged homes.

In Ukraine's Odesa region, home to multiple Black Sea ports, a sailor was killed and three others wounded after Russian forces struck a civilian cargo ship on Saturday, the Ukrainian Sea Ports Authority reported. It said the ship was flying the Liberian flag.

In eastern Ukraine, in the Russian-occupied Luhansk region, Ukrainian drones killed two people and wounded two others, according to Kremlin-installed regional head Leonid Pasechkin. Pasechkin said the drones attacked a truck and passenger car driving along a highway, adding all victims were civilians.

In Russia, Ukrainian drone strikes killed a civilian and wounded two more in the Belgorod region, in villages just kilometers (miles) from the Ukrainian border, local authorities said Saturday.

Brazilians will vote in a highly polarized presidential race on Sunday. Here's what to know

By ELÉONORE HUGHES and ANNA-CATHERINE BRIGIDA Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Millions of Brazilians will vote Sunday in an election dominated by two rivals: incumbent President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Sen. Flávio Bolsonaro, the son of ex-leader Jair Bolsonaro who Lula defeated four years ago.

Twelve candidates are on the presidential ballot, but only Lula and Bolsonaro are thought to have a real chance of becoming Brazil's next head of state. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote, the top 2 will advance to a runoff on Oct. 25.

Lula, who at 80 is one of the world's oldest heads of state, is running in his seventh presidential election. Bolsonaro, 45, is competing in his first and seeking to return his family name to power after his father governed Brazil from 2019 through 2022.

The two represent opposite sides of the political spectrum, with conflicting visions on issues ranging from how to tackle organized crime to the relationship Latin America's biggest country should have with the Trump administration.

Here's what to know about Brazil's election.

Electronic voting machines

Brazil holds general elections every four years, and voting is mandatory. Those who fail to cast a ballot without justification face a small fine.

On Sunday, Brazilians will choose a president, state and federal representatives as well as governors and

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some senators. Elections for mayors and city councilors are also held every four years, but in different years.

Almost 160 million eligible voters will use electronic voting machines to punch in the digits corresponding to their candidates, preparing number-heavy lists.

Brazilian authorities adopted electronic voting machines in the 1990s to combat fraud. In earlier local elections, ballot boxes were stuffed or stolen, and paper ballots were routinely falsified, according to Brazil's electoral authority. The country held no direct presidential elections between 1960 and 1989, a period that included military rule from 1964 to 1985.

Now, results are reported mere hours after polls close.

In the lead-up to the 2022 vote, Jair Bolsonaro repeatedly cast unfounded doubts on Brazil's electronic voting system. No significant fraud has ever been detected.

A historically popular leader tries for a fourth term

Lula, who got his start as a union worker and has a missing pinky finger following an accident in a factory when he was 19, has at times inspired cult-like devotion. He spent more than a year in prison on corruption convictions that were later annulled before winning a third nonconsecutive term in 2022.

Former U.S. President Barack Obama once called him "the world's most popular politician." But during his current term, Lula's approval ratings fell as low as 24%, one of his lowest levels. Voters' concerns about crime and the cost of living could hurt him at the ballot box. He has promised to ensure Brazilians are the ones to benefit from the country's rare minerals and resources, protect the Amazon rainforest and continue his flagship welfare program Bolsa Familia.

Sen. Bolsonaro promises to follow in his father's footsteps

With former President Jair Bolsonaro barred from running as he serves a 27-year-long sentence for a coup attempt, his eldest son has largely embraced his father's ultra-conservative agenda, while at times trying to strike a more moderate communication style to attract centrist voters.

His hardline security policies have been a pillar of his campaign, and polls show these proposals are popular among Brazilians. The senator has pledged to fight the country's criminal groups by building El Salvador-style megaprisons, following the Trump administration's lead by designating transnational gangs terrorist organizations and reducing the age to be tried as an adult to 16.

Deforestation in the Amazon rainforest, which plays a vital role in stopping climate change, hit a record high under former President Bolsonaro. His son has also denied human-caused climate change and only committed to stopping illegal deforestation.

Sen. Bolsonaro's admission of accepting millions of dollars from disgraced banker Daniel Vercaro to produce a film on his father's life has cast a shadow over his campaign. He is under investigation for corruption, money laundering and tax evasion in connection with the case.

Trump looms large

Lula has repeatedly warned the U.S. not to meddle in Brazil's elections. The Trump administration did not respond to a request for comment on whether it is seeking to interfere in the vote.

Last year, Washington imposed 50% tariffs on Brazilian goods, citing — among other reasons — the trial of Jair Bolsonaro, a Trump ally. Earlier this year, the U.S. imposed a new round of tariffs, citing unfair trade practices despite running a U.S. surplus, and classified Brazil's biggest drug-trafficking groups as foreign terrorist organizations shortly after a visit to the White House from Sen. Bolsonaro. Lula opposed both moves.

A victory by Sen. Bolsonaro would add Brazil to a list of Latin American countries — including Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Peru — that have elected Trump-friendly governments in recent years.

Lula has made defending Brazilian sovereignty a major campaign issue. In the days before the election, his team launched a Portuguese version of the Bad Bunny song, "Lo que le pasó a Hawaii," which invokes the U.S. colonization of Hawaii as a cautionary tale.

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Voters favor Democrats on key issues but lack faith in either party to solve problems: AP-NORC poll

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and LINLEY SANDERS Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Aaron Siever was never a single-party voter. But now, the 41-year-old from southwest Virginia is more frustrated than ever with the two political parties whose chief accomplishment, he says, is blaming each other for getting little done.

"There's so much turmoil," said Siever, a former police officer who now guides Civil War battlefield tours. "It really messes up chances of getting anything done. It gets really disgusting."

Voters are deeply dissatisfied with President Donald Trump and his Republican Party heading into the Nov. 3 midterm elections, according to an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll, and Democrats have built a clear advantage on pressing issues such as the cost of living and healthcare over just a few months.

But the survey also points to a bigger problem for both parties: Few registered voters think either party is able to solve important problems or help Americans like them.

That undercurrent of cynicism will be a challenge for Democrats and the Republicans, no matter which party controls Congress. Frustration with Republicans is growing, but voters do not appear to think Democrats have a long-term solution to the country's problems, either.

Democrats have gained on key issues, survey shows

Voters give Democrats the advantage when it comes to which party would be better to handle the cost of living, an issue that has proved to be a weak spot for Trump.

The survey finds that 38% of registered voters say the Democrats would be better for costs, compared with 27% who say that about the Republicans. The issue was about evenly split among U.S. adults in February, with about 3 in 10 saying each party would be better.

Democrats have also gained ground on the economy. About 4 in 10 registered voters now pick the Democrats, compared with 26% of U.S. adults in February.

These shifts are good news for Democratic candidates who are hammering an increasingly unpopular president — and by extension, his party. Few Americans approve of Trump's handling of the cost of living, and views of his performance on the economy are only a little better.

Voters appear to view Republicans, in particular, as focused on the wealthy. The survey finds that about 6 in 10 registered voters say the phrase "focused on helping rich and powerful people" describes the Republican Party "extremely" or "very" well. Only about 3 in 10 registered voters say the same about the Democratic Party.

Few voters think either party is focused on people like them

While voters expressed deep dissatisfaction with Republicans, the survey indicates that voters have relatively little confidence Democrats have their problems in mind.

Democrats are less likely to be described as corrupt or focused on the wealthy than are Republicans, but not more likely to be seen as focused on ordinary people or capable of solving problems.

Only about 2 in 10 registered voters say that "able to solve important problems" or "focused on helping people like me" describes the Democratic Party "extremely" or "very" well. That is similar to the percentages who say this about the GOP.

Democrats are out of power in Washington, and that may contribute to the perception that they are unable to get traction in solving problems.

In the last year alone, the federal government partially shut down twice for weeks because of partisan disputes in Congress over spending on healthcare and immigration enforcement.

But gridlock has not been exclusive to Republican control. Despite Democratic majorities early in Democratic President Joe Biden's administration, the party did not achieve its goals on key priorities such as abortion rights, voting rights and raising the minimum wage.

Siever is frustrated by what he sees as a commitment to partisanship in Congress at the expense of progress at a time when consumers are paying higher prices for daily necessities such as groceries and

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gasoline.

Driving around the region to lecture and guide tours, his travel costs have soared and led him to raise his prices.

"I've really become tired of the idea that, if you're in this party, you have to be loyal to this but, if you're in that party, you have to be loyal to that," he said. "There's big problems and neither side seems able to fix them."

Meanwhile, 55% of registered voters say the Republican Party is "too extreme." Some 45% say the same about the Democratic Party.

Democrats are divided on their party's path forward

Voters overall do not see an abundance of moderate sentiment in either party. But they are more likely to say Democrats are "too moderate" than Republicans — a reflection of the lack of unity within Democratic Party about its strategy.

Slightly fewer than half of Democratic voters say their party is "too moderate," while a similar share say it is "about right." That is a sharp contrast with Republican voters, who mostly say their party is "about right."

Voters such as Meagan Ludwig of Milwaukee illustrate the party discontent that has emerged in Wisconsin and other closely contested states this year.

Ludwig, a 41-year-old real estate broker, voted for democratic socialist Francesca Hong in the Democratic primary for governor in August, arguing the candidate seemed more committed to a policy agenda aimed at helping working families than Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley.

Crowley won the primary by a half percentage point — roughly 3,800 votes — illustrating Democrats' soul-searching in the Upper Midwestern swing state.

In the November general election, Ludwig is "reluctant," but plans to vote for Crowley rather than Republican Tom Tiffany, a congressman. Ludwig hopes that Crowley, if elected, perceives the discontent about his party.

"We need to seize the opportunity to boldly enact policies that will improve the lives of Americans," said Ludwig, who is married and has an elementary school-age child. "I'm tired of us pursuing incremental change."

Doctors warn about the risks energy drinks pose to kids. What families need to know

By LAURA UNGAR AP Medical Writer

Sean and Heidi Cripe will never forget the call from their son's high school saying Davis was being taken to the emergency room.

"He chugged an energy drink — like, just trying to be cool," said Sean Cripe, recounting the day nearly a decade ago.

The teen's heart soon fell out of rhythm and he died. While such deaths are rare, doctors across the country have warned for years that energy drinks contain high levels of caffeine that can seriously harm children, causing problems such as abnormal heartbeats, increased heart rate, sleep disturbances, dehydration, agitation, high blood pressure and seizures.

A newly formed coalition of doctors is highlighting these risks in the wake of a sponsorship deal between Monster Energy and the Big 12 Conference college athletic organization. The group has asked conference leaders to pause the sponsorship and the NCAA to review energy drink marketing to youths in general, citing the deaths of three children including Davis, a 16-year-old from South Carolina.

The doctors stress that they're not just concerned about Monster but all energy drinks and any similar partnerships.

"Kids are going to see energy drinks now promoted by the universities and the athletes that they admire and want to emulate," said Dr. Matthew Nelson, an Idaho cardiologist involved with the effort. "The kids will think of them as sports drinks, which they're not."

Too much caffeine can harm kids in many ways

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Various medical groups, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, say children and teens should avoid energy drinks altogether. Yet many are not. According to the latest results of the federally funded Monitoring the Future survey, run by the University of Michigan, 23% of 12th graders, 20% of 10th graders and 18% of eighth graders reported consuming energy drinks daily.

Depending on the product, caffeine content can range from 80 to 300 mg per serving. By comparison, a typical 8-ounce coffee contains about 80 to 100 mg and some sodas contain 50 mg or less. Overall, the pediatrics academy recommends children ages 12 to 18 limit caffeine to 100 mg a day. Younger kids are discouraged from consuming any caffeine.

Caffeine and other stimulants increase heart rate and the reactivity of the nervous system – basically “how fast things go in the body, which can create an overload of the system,” said Dr. Tamara Hannon, an Indiana pediatrician who chairs the academy’s nutrition committee.

She likened it to running a blender until the motor heats up too much. “The same thing can happen when you deliver stimulants to people,” she said. “The heart can wear out, the nervous system can go haywire and you can have really serious consequences.”

While such cardiovascular dangers are real, Harvard Medical School experts say there’s no scientifically valid evidence behind the common belief that caffeine can stunt a person’s growth.

Mixing different types of caffeine can be risky

Children with preexisting conditions such as high blood pressure are at especially high risk, Hannon said, but even healthy children who get too much of a stimulant can have serious problems. That includes young athletes.

Another consideration: Kids often drink various types of caffeinated beverages. That was the case with Davis Cripe, who died in 2017. According to the coroner at the time, Davis had no prior heart condition and drank a Mountain Dew and a latte from McDonald’s earlier in the day. He experienced arrhythmia after having the energy drink.

It wasn’t the first time Davis drank one, although he didn’t consume them regularly.

“We had talked to him and let him know that they weren’t healthy,” Sean Cripe said. “We didn’t understand they could be deadly.”

Trade group says the energy drink industry tries to protect kids

The American Beverage Association — which includes Monster and other companies comprising 94% of the energy drink category — said members voluntarily disclose caffeine totals on product labels, which carry advisories such as: “Not intended for children, pregnant or nursing women, or persons sensitive to caffeine.” Members also don’t sell or market energy drinks in K-12 schools.

Monster Energy said in a statement that caffeine and other drink ingredients are found in a broad range of food products. “Mainstream energy drinks have been marketed worldwide for more than 30 years and more than 100 billion energy drinks have been sold and safely consumed globally,” the company added.

The deal between Big 12 and Monster calls for a co-branded logo on football and basketball jerseys, fields and courts, and across digital and social media channels.

“The energy drink category is not new to collegiate athletics,” the Big 12 Conference said in a statement, adding that beverage companies are always looking for ways to reach sports fans.

The NCAA doesn’t have the authority to regulate conference or school sponsorship agreements, Dr. Deena Casiero, the association’s chief medical officer, told the doctor group in a letter. She said the association offers schools educational resources on caffeine and student-athlete health, and caffeine has been a topic of interest for an NCAA committee, which recently commissioned a cardiac advisory group.

How to educate kids about excess caffeine

To protect children, teachers and coaches can educate them about the dangers of too much caffeine and the difference between energy drinks and sports drinks, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sports drinks are designed to help replace water and electrolytes lost through sweating after activity.

Parents and other adults can also model good behavior by not consuming energy drinks in front of kids.

At well visits, parents should talk with pediatricians about all the beverages their children are consuming,

said Hannon, who often advises families to "Rethink your drink."

Sean Cripe said sharing stories like his could also help children understand that energy drinks are not for them. "We just pray parents will use our stories, our tragedies, our grief, to have an impact on their own kids."

The Supreme Court will hear a major climate change case involving a devastating Colorado wildfire

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and BRITTANY PETERSON Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Colo. (AP) — Less than an hour after the first warning that a wildfire was headed for her suburban street, Tawnya Somauroo's Colorado home was in ashes.

She has worked tirelessly for nearly five years to rebuild her house and help ensure her neighborhood can withstand the next blaze. But as climate change contributes to more frequent wildfires, she worries that the careful landscaping, metal fencing and flame-resistant siding are not enough.

"We lost our homes and they left us to figure out for ourselves how to make our neighborhoods safe again," Somauroo said. "At the end of the day, it comes out of our pockets, you know? And it does feel like maybe the oil and gas industry should have a part in this."

She lives in Boulder County, one of dozens of jurisdictions across the United States suing oil and gas companies to help pay for damage from disasters linked to climate change.

The case is part of a wave of climate change litigation across the country and the world, with billions of dollars at stake. On Monday, the first day of the Supreme Court's new term, the justices will hear the Boulder case that could decide the fate of others like it.

The city and county of Boulder first sued two oil companies in 2018, years before the fire. They argued that Suncor Energy and ExxonMobil had violated state law by deceiving the public about their contributions to climate change and sought unspecified damages to help cover the cost of worsening disasters.

The companies say that a flood of lawsuits in state courts is not the way to deal with the global issue.

"The problem is that climate change is caused by pretty much everybody living on earth," said Phil Goldberg, special counsel for the Manufacturers' Accountability Project, an industry group. "We need to figure out how to address that. We need to address it in a very meaningful way. This litigation doesn't do that."

The companies have the backing of the Trump administration. Federal government attorneys say the lawsuits are a backdoor way to regulate heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions and amount to an unconstitutional power grab.

"No one state can superimpose its own regulatory preferences on the rest — least of all to address a global problem that exists almost entirely outside its borders and affects the world at large," they wrote.

The Clean Air Act, they say, allows the federal government, rather than states, to regulate emissions. The Republican administration has largely used that power to roll back environmental regulations.

Last month, the Environmental Protection Agency ceded some of its climate authority by repealing rules that limit planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions from power plants fueled by coal and natural gas. The move could complicate its argument.

Boulder says it is not trying to regulate emissions beyond its borders, only holding companies accountable for local costs.

"Boulder County and city aren't trying to change what's happening in Texas or New York, they're trying to get compensation for things happening now in Colorado," said Sam Sankar, senior vice president at Earthjustice, which filed an amicus brief in the case.

Climate change was considered a factor in the 2021 Marshall Fire that destroyed Somauroo's home, after the county's suit was originally filed. The total damage was estimated at \$2 billion. It was the costliest wildfire in Colorado history.

"Local county municipal governments play a very important role in helping front line communities adapt to climate change. This case could very well set a precedent," said Chris Winter, executive director of the

Getches-Wilkinson Center, an environmental research group in Colorado.

The case will come before a conservative-majority Supreme Court where environmental regulations have not always fared well, including a 2022 decision that limited the EPA's authority to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from power plants.

Only eight of the nine justices will be on the bench, though. Justice Samuel Alito recused himself just a week before arguments after facing calls to step aside because he owns stock in oil companies.

That creates the possibility of a tie vote in the case, though it's unclear how likely that might be. The court is also weighing a question that experts say is a potential "off-ramp": whether the justices have jurisdiction to hear the case at this stage.

Dual UK-Iranian national released on bail over suspected plot against US-run military base

LONDON (AP) — A dual U.K.-Iranian national arrested on suspicion of plotting a terror attack following a security incident at a U.S.-run military air base in England has been released on bail, authorities said Saturday.

The 25-year-old man was arrested Thursday in London on suspicion of preparing terrorist acts close to the RAF Fairford air base, which has been used by American bombers to strike Iran. He was the sixth person taken into custody and then released on bail as detectives investigate the incident.

British authorities have linked the incident to Tehran.

The five other men were not named, but police said they are all British nationals in their 20s and from London.

Scores of residents were evacuated from their homes near the base early Sunday as armed police officers and army bomb-disposal experts swooped on the rural area. Police later said they had found a quantity of an accelerant – gasoline – in three vans linked to the five suspects, but no explosives.

Prime Minister Andy Burnham has said the U.K. sees "strong indications" that Iran played a part in the incident. He did not provide details about what the suspects were planning or why the U.K. thinks Iran was involved.

Iran has denied involvement. It has previously said that it considers any base used to attack its territory a legitimate target.

RAF Fairford, 100 miles (160 kilometers) west of London, has been used by American bombers during decades of conflicts in the Middle East, including this year's war with Iran.

Top U.S. officials have criticized the decision to grant the five suspects bail, with President Donald Trump saying "I wouldn't have done that" and Secretary of State Marco Rubio saying a lot of people were "disturbed" by the move.

The arrests came at a time of heightened tensions around the threat from hostile states, with British security services saying Russia and Iran have both used proxies to commit crimes on U.K. soil. British officials have said the number of national security cases involving activity by hostile states, including Iran, increased by 50% in the six months to December 2025.

U.K. officials say proxies linked to Iran have been behind a string of arsons and other attacks in Britain and other countries, many of them targeting the Jewish community and intended to sow fear. They have previously warned that Tehran could expand its targets in the U.K. if conflicts in the Middle East continue.

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Today in History: October 4

Soviets launch Sputnik, spark the Space Age

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Oct. 4, the 277th day of 2026. There are 88 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 4, 1957, the Space Age began as the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite, into orbit.

Also on this date:

In 1777, Gen. George Washington's troops launched an assault on the British at Germantown, Pennsylvania, resulting in heavy American casualties and the retreat of Washington's Continental Army.

In 1927, sculptor Gutzon Borglum began construction on what is now Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

In 1965, Pope Paul VI became the first pope to visit the Western Hemisphere as he addressed the U.N. General Assembly.

In 1970, rock singer Janis Joplin was found dead in her Hollywood hotel room at age 27.

In 2001, a Russian airliner flying from Israel to Siberia was accidentally downed by a Ukrainian anti-aircraft missile over the Black Sea, killing all 78 people aboard.

In 2002, "American Taliban" John Walker Lindh received a 20-year sentence after a sobbing plea for forgiveness before a federal judge in Alexandria, Virginia. (He was released from prison in May 2019.)

In 2004, the SpaceShipOne rocket plane broke through Earth's atmosphere to the edge of space for the second time in five days, capturing the \$10 million Ansari X prize aimed at opening the final frontier to tourists.

In 2010, a vast release of red toxic sludge from an aluminum oxide plant in Hungary flooded three towns, killing eight people and injuring more than 220 others. The highly alkaline sludge burned the skin of some victims while others were swept away in the flood and drowned.

In 2017, four U.S. Army Green Berets and four Nigerian soldiers were killed during an ambush of a joint U.S.-Nigerian mission outside the village of Tongo Tongo, Niger. U.S. officials later said a local affiliate of the Islamic State militant group bore responsibility for the attack.

In 2021, Facebook and its Instagram and WhatsApp platforms suffered an hourslong global outage, throwing businesses, services and the people who rely on the platforms into chaos. Facebook later apologized, saying there were no signs of malicious activity and it was trying to understand what caused the largest social media disruption in years.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Fame manager Tony La Russa is 82. Actor Susan Sarandon is 80. Actor Armand Assante is 77. Actor Christoph Waltz is 70. Singer Jon Secada is 65. Actor Liev Schreiber is 59. Actor Abraham Benrubi is 57. Actor Alicia Silverstone is 50. Actor Caitríona Balfe is 47. Actor Rachael Leigh Cook is 47. Actor Melissa Benoist is 38. NBA All-Star Derrick Rose is 38. Actor Dakota Johnson is 37. Actor Ryan Lee is 30. Actor Ella Balinska is 30. Singer Lunay is 26.