

Groton Daily Independent

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Community Calendar

Sunday, Oct. 11

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; No Sunday School; WELCA Women meet. St. John's Lutheran: Worship 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 at Conde, 8:15 a.m.; at Groton, 9:30 a.m.; at Britton, 11:15 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Sixth Grade Girls Basketball Practice, 4 p.m., Arena

Dance Team Practice, 5:30 p.m., Arena

Groton Daily Independent

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

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Monday, Oct. 12

Senior Menu: Closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day.
School Breakfast: No school.

School Lunch: No school.

NO SCHOOL — Native American Day

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

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

JV Football hosts Aberdeen Roncalli, 4 p.m., Doney Field

Volleyball at Britton-Hecla (JH at 4 p.m., C at 5 p.m., JV at 6 p.m., Varsity at 7 p.m.)

Groton Senior Citizens meet, 1 p.m., Groton Community Center

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No. 25 Wolves suffer second NSIC loss to (RV) Bulldogs

No. 25 WOLVES SUFFER SECOND NSIC LOSS TO (RV) BULLDOGS

Duluth, Minn. – The No. 25 Northern State University football team fell to (RV) Minnesota Duluth on Saturday, facing offensive woes throughout the contest. With the loss, the Wolves drop to 5-2 overall and 4-2 in the Northern Sun.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 7, UMD 34

Records: NSU 5-2 (4-2 NSIC), UMD 5-2 (5-1 NSIC)

Attendance: 3879

HOW IT HAPPENED

The Bulldogs scored early with 14 points in the opening quarter and added six in the second, seven in the third, and seven in the fourth

The Wolves tallied their lone touchdown of the afternoon with just 1:07 remaining on the clock as Joey Dube-Garrett connected with Brodey Sauerwein for the tight end's first career touchdown

Northern recorded 60 yards rushing and 122 yards passing in the game, while Duluth notched 142 yards rushing and 201 yards passing

NSU struggled in late down situations, going 1-of-13 on third down and 0-of-5 on fourth down, while UMD converted at rates of 50.0% on third down and 100.0% on fourth down

The Wolves defense recorded seven tackles for a loss, including one sack from NSU career sacks leader Gabe Gutierrez, as well as one forced fumble and two fumble recoveries by Jake Adams

Ty Englehart threw for 86 yards, while Dube-Garrett added 36 yards and the touchdown for the Wolves

Connor Sams tallied a team leading 32 yards rushing in his second appearance of the season, followed by Dube-Garrett with 29 yards

Jessie Campbell and Louie Schwabe led the Northern State receivers with 26 yards apiece in the contest, averaging 13.0 yards per catch

Keaton Docken averaged 47.2 yards per punt with a 53 yards long while Cooper Eisenbeisz led the contest with 45 kick return yards

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Jake Adams: 13 tackles, 11 solo tackles, 1.0 tackle for a loss, 2 fumble recoveries

Javonnee Szymanski: 6 tackles, 5 solo tackles, 1.0 tackle for a loss

Gabe Gutierrez: 3 tackles, 1.0 sack, 1 forced fumble, 1 quarterback hurry

Keaton Docken: 236 yards punting, 47.2 yards per punt, 53-yard long

UP NEXT

The Wolves enter the bye week of the league on October 17, before heading to MSU Moorhead for a 12 p.m. kick on October 24.

Simunek family settle in America from Czech Republic

by Dorene Nelson

Jaromir and Jana ("yah nah") Simunek, formerly from Czechoslovakia (or the Czech Republic), moved to Groton in 2022. He came to the United States in 1998 with Jana arriving in 2000. They have two children, Simon, a twelve year old son, and Katerina, a ten year old daughter.

"When we came to America, we settled in Topeka, Kansas, but Jaromir had some health issues due to the climate, so we moved to Groton," Jana explained, "and have been here ever since. Jaromir is disabled but as a hobby, he does make some very attractive wood burning projects such as Christmas ornaments and other wooden items."

"I work in Ken's on the register," Jana stated. "It is a good job and easy for me to get used to doing."

"We originally lived in a rented house, but two years ago we moved here," she said. "We liked the size of the rooms, having a garage to park our car in, and a basement for storage and for the kids."

"The weather in South Dakota is much like what we had back home," Jana explained. "It also allows our kids to ride their bikes or walk to school."

"Since our kids have grown up in America, they prefer American food," she smiled, "but Jaromir and I miss some of our favorite Czechoslovakian food that we grew up on!"

"Going to an American school has been a great way for our children to learn English," Jana explained. "It's been easier for them than it has been for us adults!"

"We do miss some things that were available in Czechoslovakia but are not here," she admitted. "For example, we really miss a kind of flour, which is available in three different types and is used to make some of our favorite food," she said.

"We are very happy to live in America and enjoy all of its benefits," Jana smiled.



Pictured are Jana, Simon, Jaromir and Katerina.

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EARTHTALK

Dear EarthTalk: How is India making use of decentralized water technologies to cope with the country's shrinking access to freshwater and what can we learn from them? -- Name withheld

India faces an intense environmental challenge, with roughly 600 million people experiencing high to extreme water stress. For decades, the traditional response centered on massive, centralized infrastructure projects like giant dams and transmission pipelines. While important, these large projects are expensive, slow to build, and often fail to reach vulnerable communities. Meanwhile, groundwater is being pumped out much faster than rain can refill it.

To bridge these gaps, decentralized water technology is gaining ground by focusing on capturing, treating and managing water locally. The most immediate solution is modern rainwater harvesting. In urban centers like Bengaluru and Chennai, local laws require new buildings to install rooftop harvesting systems. Today, these are paired with Internet-of-Things (IoT) monitors. These smart devices track water levels and quality in real time, alerting leaders via smartphone apps when filters need maintenance.

The most immediate and affordable decentralized solution is modern rainwater harvesting. While collecting rain is an ancient practice, new technology has made it far more efficient. In major urban centers like Bengaluru and Chennai, local laws now require new buildings to install rooftop rainwater harvesting systems.

On a larger scale, communities use digital mapping to build small check dams and percolation pits across fields. These structures slow down rushing monsoon rainwater, giving it time to naturally refill underground aquifers. Communities are also changing how wastewater is treated by utilizing engineered wetlands and bio-filtration systems right inside neighborhoods. They use specific plants, sand and natural bacteria to clean greywater without harsh chemicals, allowing it to be safely reused to water crops or flush toilets.

In response, agencies are introducing stricter rules to limit Reverse Osmosis (RO) purifiers and encourage low-cost, solar-powered disinfection units that kill bacteria in local wells without wasting a single drop. In response, agencies are introducing stricter rules to limit RO use and encourage low-cost, solar-powered disinfection units that kill bacteria in local wells without wasting a single drop. According to Sunita Narain of the Centre for Science and Environment, true water security relies on putting decentralized management technologies directly into the hands of local communities. This shift also requires addressing "bad tech" habits. For years, households relied on home RO purifiers, which can waste up to 75 percent of the water that enters the machine.

Everyday people can change how they use water by setting up gutters and storage tanks to catch rain, which significantly lowers municipal bills. Citizens can also join grassroots groups to clean up polluted local lakes, transforming neglected areas back into vibrant water basins.



India's national water infrastructure can't meet residents' needs so people are left to their own devices.

Credit: Pexels.com.

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THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

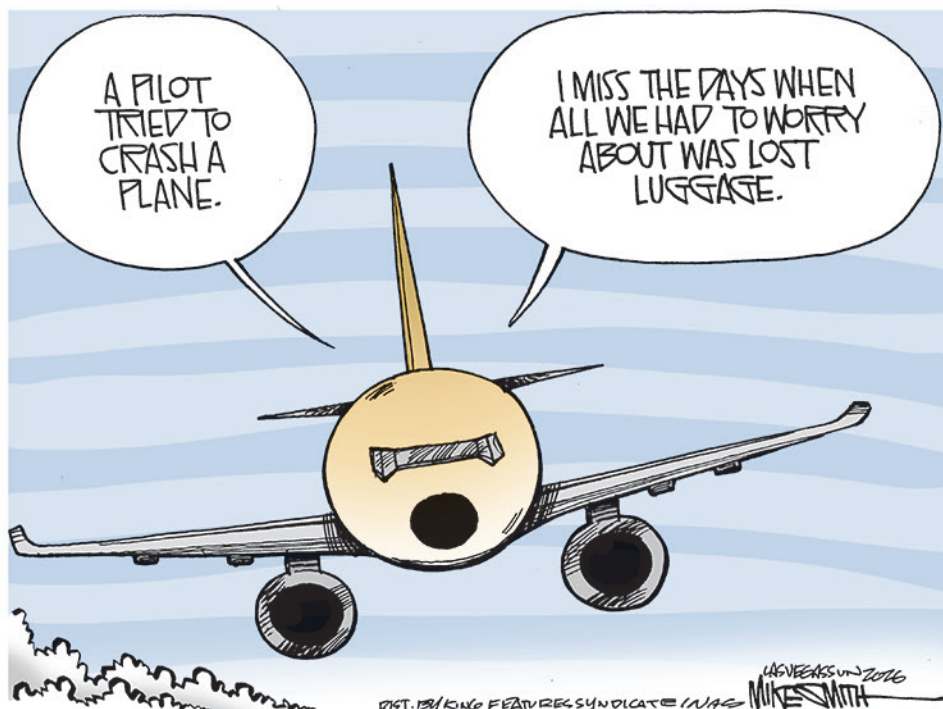


*"Christ Preaching" by Rembrandt
(1652)*

My little children, these things
I write to you, so that you may not sin.
And if anyone sins, we have
an Advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous.
And He Himself is the propitiation
for our sins, and not for ours only
but also for the whole world.

❧ 1 JOHN 2:1-2 ❧

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BIBLE

TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Genesis 17, who asked, "Shall a child be born unto him that is a hundred years old"? *Adam, Abraham, Aaron, Agrippa*

3. What group did John the Baptist exhort to be content with their pay? *Priests, Zealots, Judges, Soldiers*

4. From Genesis 8, what was the first thing Noah did after leaving the ark? *Burned the ark, Built an altar, Performed a marriage, Hiked to mountains*

5. Which king of Israel had a reputation as a wild chariot driver? *Joash, Jehoash, Jehu, Jeremiah*

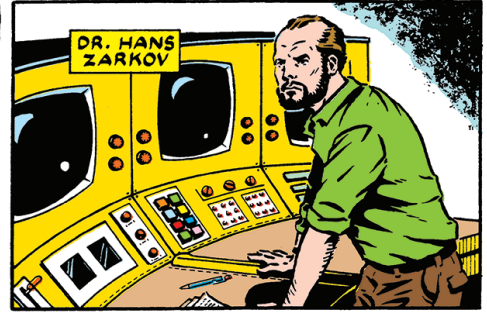
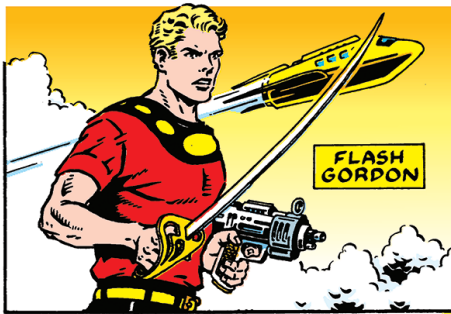
6. Whose biblical name meant "eagle"? *Nehemiah, Timothy, Aquila, Miriam*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Abraham, 3) Soldiers, 4) Built an altar, 5) Jehu, 6) Aquila

Find expanded trivia online with Wilson Casey at www.patreon.com/triviaguy. FREE TRIAL!

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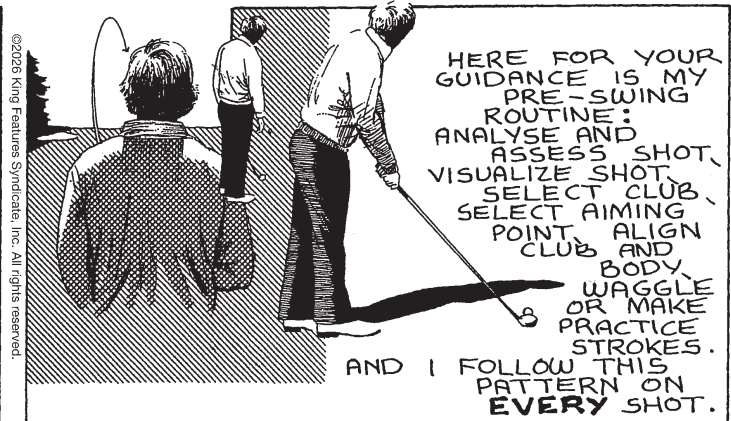
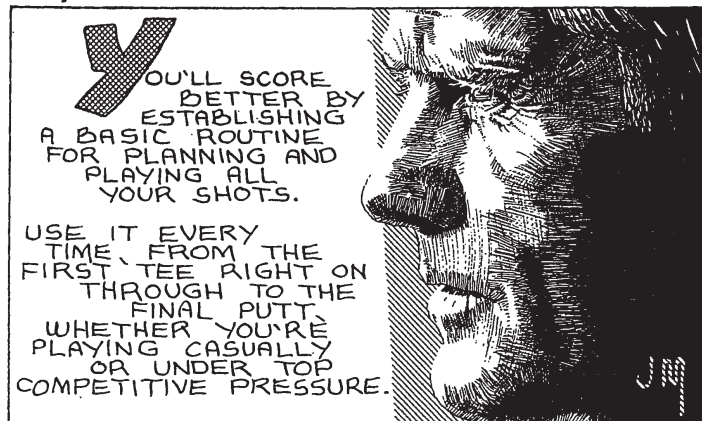
FLASH GORDON

BY JIM KEEFE

9-26



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Woman Weighs Peritoneal Dialysis Against Hemodialysis

DEAR DR. ROACH: My daughter, age 44, has had chronic kidney disease since she was 10 years old. She had a renal transplant at 23, then another at 32. The second graft started gradually failing a year back. In January, she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

This past month, she had a total hysterectomy, along with the removal of malignant tumors and nodules. She's since been on hemodialysis without any output of urine. What are the possibilities with peritoneal dialysis? Will this enable her to have a near-normal life? -- R.S.

ANSWER: Peritoneal dialysis uses the immense lining of the abdominal wall (the peritoneum) to act as a kind of kidney. A special dialysis fluid is instilled into the peritoneal space through a catheter. Excess potassium and acid, along with metabolic toxins that are normally removed by the liver, get diffused into the peritoneum and the dialysis fluid. The fluid is then drained through a second catheter, which removes these unwanted chemicals from the body.

This may be repeated multiple times at night through an automated machine (continuous cycler peritoneal dialysis, or CCPD). It can also be done manually throughout the day (continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis, or CAPD). I've asked many kidney experts which type of dialysis they'd want if they needed it, and most preferred peritoneal dialysis to hemodialysis. (The only ones who didn't prefer peritoneal dialysis wanted home-based hemodialysis.)

The main issue for your daughter is the surgical scarring from her ovarian cancer surgery. Scars greatly reduce the amount of peritoneal tissue for fluid to diffuse across and limit the effectiveness of peritoneal dialysis. Furthermore, some women with ovarian cancer have cancer disease within the peritoneum itself, which would make peritoneal dialysis a bad option due to concerns with the cancer treatment and the risk of infection.

Experts recommend a peritoneal catheter via laparoscopic surgery, which would allow the surgeon to see if she's a good candidate for peritoneal dialysis. Her cancer surgeon and kidney specialist need to discuss this.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My granddaughter, who's only 18, experiences crashes with her blood pressure. She has to put on compression hose before she even gets out of bed, and she also requires a very strict diet. I know she gets these IV drinks that have something to do with salt.

I also know she had a lot of tests done, and a tilt table test showed postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS). I'm not sure which medicine they're giving her; is this something that you can look into? -- R.W.

ANSWER: POTS has been more frequently diagnosed within the past five years, and experts believe that it's a frequent result of COVID infections, especially in younger women. Different people may have different major symptoms with POTS. For people who have low blood pressure, like your granddaughter, compression stockings as well as plenty of salt and water are the first-line treatments.

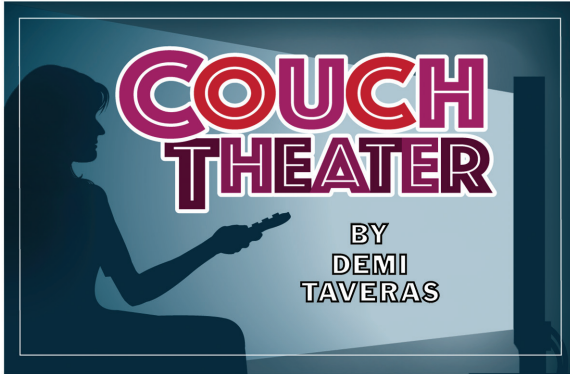
A graded exercise program helps many people but can be a problem for some. Medication isn't always needed, but midodrine and fludrocortisone are sometimes used symptomatically. However, these need to be used with caution. Most people will gradually improve, but there's a subset of people who may continue to have symptoms for even longer than a year.

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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Paul Bettany stars in "VisionQuest."

Courtesy of MovieStillsDB

"VisionQuest" (TV-14) -- The second spin-off series from 2021's "WandaVision," which followed former Avengers members Wanda Maximoff (aka Scarlet Witch) and Vision, is set to premiere its first two episodes on Oct. 14! "VisionQuest" fol-

lows the resurrected White Vision from "WandaVision," who has all of the original Vision's memories but lacks "his virtue." Vision spends his time in the "Mindspace," where Tony Stark's past creations live, including the main villain in the second "Avengers" film - Ultron, played by James Spader ("The Blacklist"). It isn't long, however, before a bounty is placed on Vision's head, forcing him to go on the run alongside a peculiar teenager named Thomas Shepherd (Ruaridh Mollica). The remaining six episodes will be released every Wednesday following its premiere. (Disney+)

"Coyote vs. Acme" (PG) -- This comedy film takes us back to the universe of "Looney Tunes" to get re-acquainted with a long-beloved villain: Wile E. Coyote. But this time around, Wile E. gets to tell his story! After failing to catch his nemesis the Road Runner for the umpteenth time, Wile E. decides to speak with a personal injury attorney about his issues with Acme and its faulty products. (He could've thought of this sooner.) He teams up with a meek lawyer named Kevin Avery (Will Forte), who quickly realizes that this will be quite a memorable case for him when Wile E. refuses to settle. Not to mention, Kevin's rival from law school, Buddy Crane (John Cena), is the acting lawyer for Acme and determined to shut them up with money. After a successful run in theaters, it's out now to rent! (Fandango at Home)

"Masterplan" (PG-13) -- Stanley Tucci ("The Devil Wears Prada 2") leads this heist film co-starring Simona Tabasco ("The White Lotus") and Victor Belmondo ("Bastion 36"). In the film, Tucci portrays a former master thief named Roger who's decided to come out of retirement for the job of a lifetime. (Where have I heard this before? Maybe every heist film ever?) But this job, which isn't your average heist, requires the expertise of two specific people: an Italian cybercrime expert named Chiara and a French explosives specialist named Jay. Why them? Chiara and Jay are also Roger's children -- long-lost siblings who have never met before. Now they get to reunite with their father and bond as thieves in a family dynamic that they've never experienced. Should be easy enough! Did I happen to mention that they're stealing the Mona Lisa? Check it out on Oct. 16. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Below" (TV-MA) -- This supernatural thriller miniseries is the only spooky pick for this week's titles, but trust me, the hair-raising vibes are real with this one! Led by a trio who are used to horror -- Josh Hartnett ("Trap"), Mackenzie Davis ("Speak No Evil"), and Charlie Heaton ("Stranger Things") -- this six-episode series takes place in Snook's Arm, Canada, a remote town by the sea. When a large iceberg suddenly appears by the town's harbor, mysterious things begin occurring throughout the town, with signs pointing toward a sea creature in the water. But one fisherman, Calvin (Hartnett), is unwavering in his resolve to protect his family and his town. All episodes are out now to binge! (Netflix)

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1. Which group released "Cry a Little Sometime"?
2. Who released the most famous version of "I Only Have Eyes for You"?
3. On the cover of the Beatles' "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" album, Paul McCartney is wearing a badge on his sleeve with letters on it. What are the letters and what do they stand for?
4. What was Shambala in the 1973 song by Three Dog Night?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Sometimes in our lives we all have pain, We all have sorrow, But if we are

wise, We know that there's always tomorrow."

Answers

1. Joey Dee and the Starlites, in 1965. Their biggest hit, however, was "Peppermint Twist" in 1961.
2. The Flamingos, in 1959. The group successfully sued Pepsi in 1997 for unauthorized use of their song in a TV commercial.
3. The letters were OPP, for Ontario Provincial Police. The shoulder patch was given to him by members of security at the airport.
4. Shambala was a mythical kingdom in the Himalayas.
5. "Lean on Me," by Bill Withers in 1972. The song stayed at the top of the Hot 100 chart for three weeks and was later inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame.

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GRIN and BEAR IT *by Wagner*



"I hate it when jousting season begins!"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

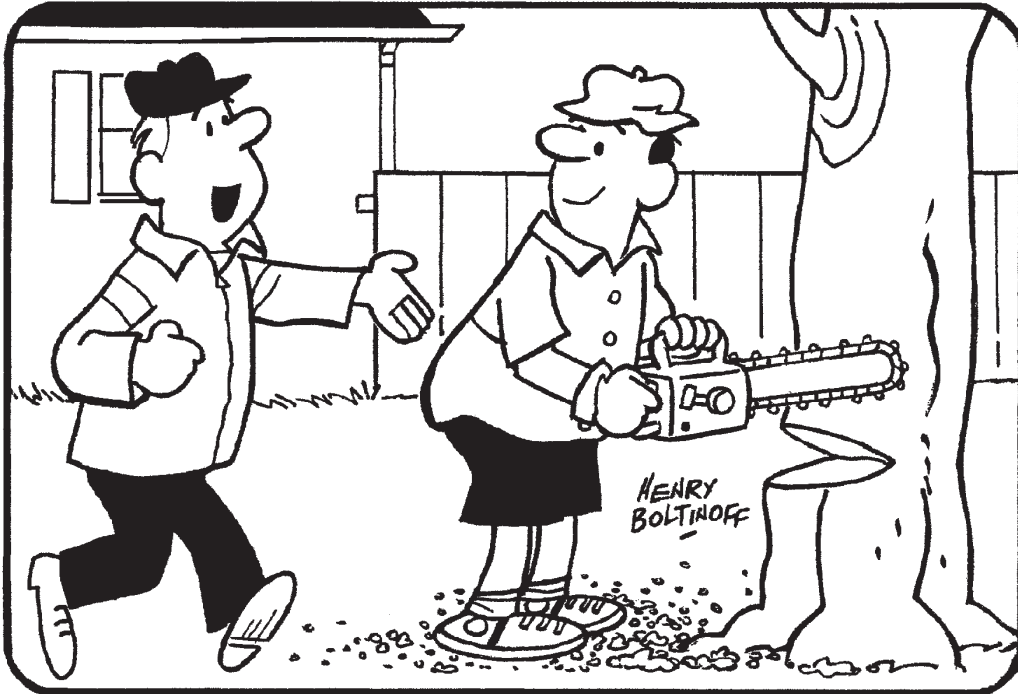


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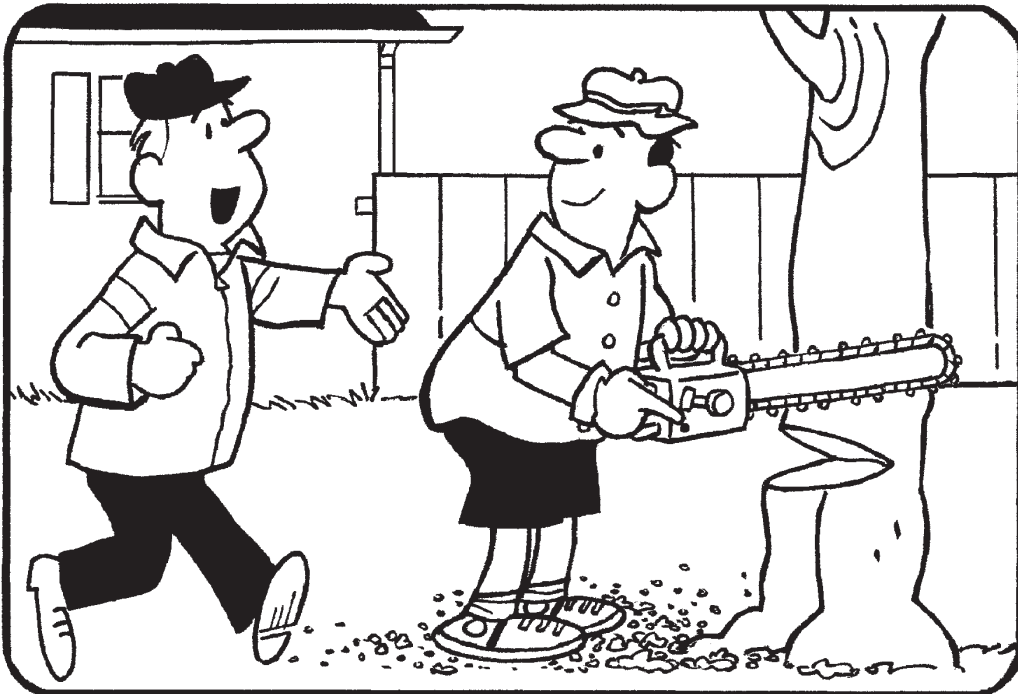
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Arm is shorter. 2. Saw blade is longer. 3. Hat is different. 4. Finger is moved. 5. Leg is moved. 6. Tree is thinner.

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* When you make a chicken in the crockpot, use this trick to have it come out moist and delicious: Prepare the bird as normal, rinsing and patting dry, then seasoning. Ball up six to eight wads of aluminum foil. Enough to cover the bottom of the crockpot. Put the bird in breast side up on top of the foil balls. The chicken should not be touching the sides of the pot. Cook on low for 6-8 hours for a succulent dinner!

* "To use the last of the peanut butter in a glass jar, simply add your morning oatmeal for a yummy flavored breakfast. Or add sliced bananas and a couple tablespoons of milk for a delicious dessert!" -- J.S. in Kansas

* To help kids in both becoming responsible for the food choices they make and being a helpful member of the household, encourage them to choose a family meal each week, and to help prep or even cook the meal according to his or her ability. Experts say this is a good opportunity to talk about nutritional choices and the impact of different food-preparation techniques.

* "If you purchase sodas or other drinks that are linked together with plastic rings, do the little critters a favor: Cut open the loops with scissors so that there are no rings for animals or sea life to get caught in." -- A.A. in Florida

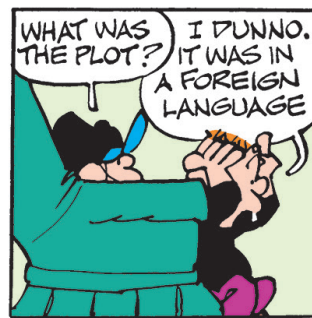
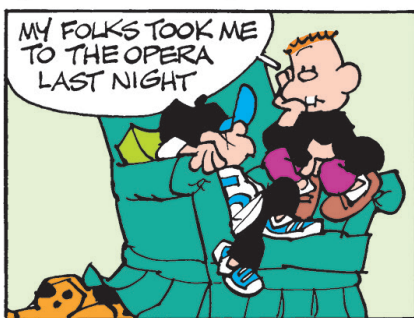
* When you are zesting or juicing oranges, lemons or limes for a recipe, go ahead and do several at a time. Freeze the citrus zest and juice in an ice-cube tray. You can pop out the cubes and use them in recipes later on.

* Lightly squish your toilet paper roll as you put a new one on. It will not spin as freely but still functions, meaning less waste.

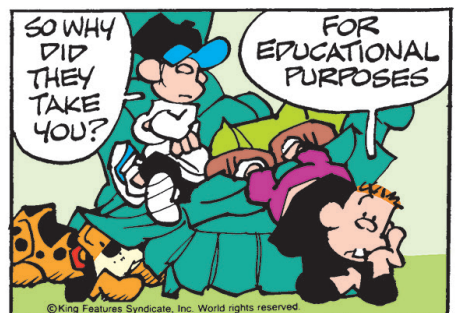
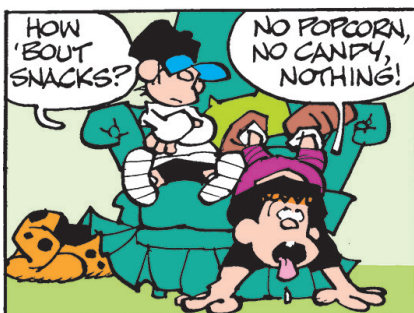
Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 1800 Pembroke Dr., Suite 300, Orlando, FL 32810.

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TIGER



by BUD BLAKE



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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Havana's land
5 High tennis shot
8 Pitt of "Moneyball"
12 Spoken
13 Shock partner
14 Shakespearean villain
15 Military groups
17 Bar fight souvenir
18 Order by classes
19 Vehement protest
21 High school subj.
22 Poi base
23 Likely
26 Small battery
28 Cowboy in "Toy Story"
31 Indy winner A.J.
33 Away from SSW
35 Peevish fit
36 Seized vehicles
38 Business mag
40 Punker Vicious
41 Shacks
43 Cyclades isle
45 1912 Olympic legend
47 Relatives of loons

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57					58				59			

- 51 Mine, to Marcel
52 Spoofs
54 Dresses in
55 Org. with a style manual
56 Squad
57 Celeb's aide
58 Tummy muscles
59 Young fellows
4 Choir members
5 From Vientiane
6 Personal
7 Make drunk
8 Casual eateries
9 Masked mammals
10 Lab gel
11 "Finding Nemo" fish
16 Killer whale
20 Motor City labor org.
23 Ghana's cont.
24 "The Bells" writer
25 Violent storms
27 Blackbird
29 Nero's 502
30 Since Jan. 1
32 Sightseer
34 Bafflers
37 NASCAR advertiser
39 Business abbr.
42 1965 march site
44 Capital of South Korea
45 "I did it!"
46 Med. plan options
48 — fide (genuine)
49 Oklahoma city
50 Bygone jets
53 Cleric's tunic

DOWN

- 1 Club in a Manilow song
2 Web addresses
3 Sheepish remarks

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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

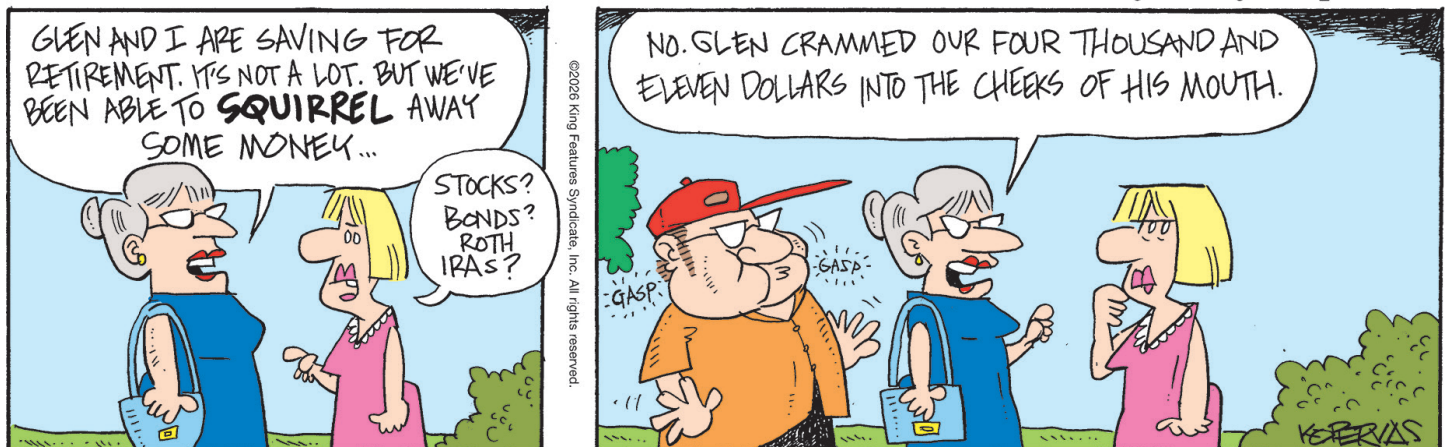
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Olive



Out on a Limb

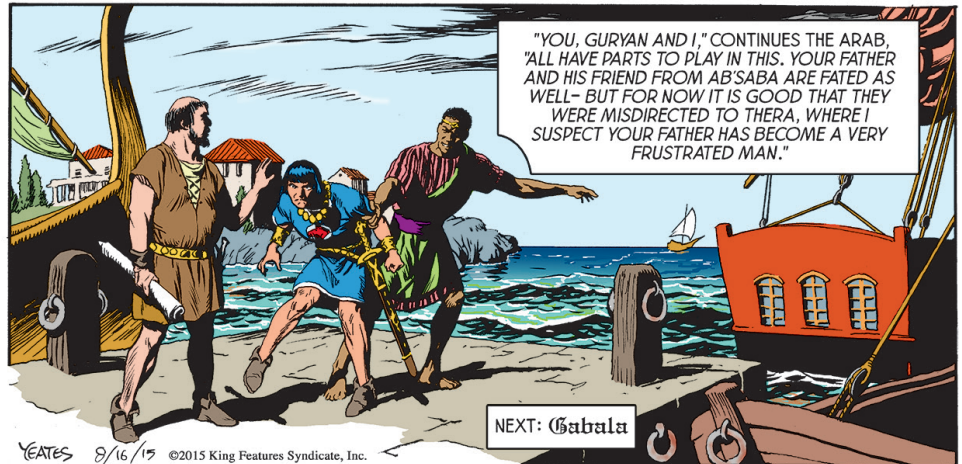
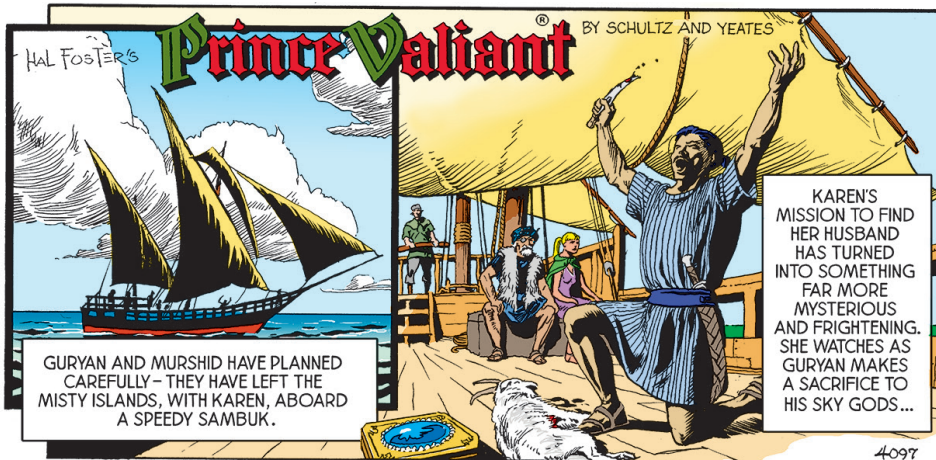
by Gary Kopervas



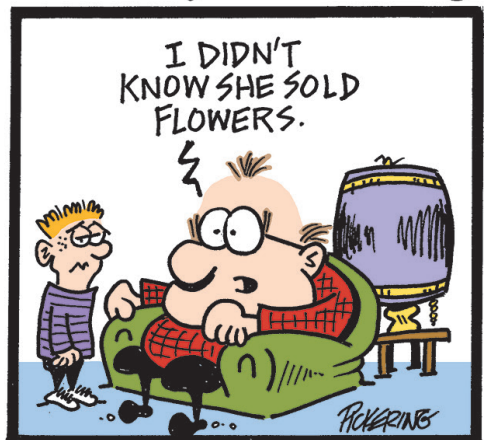
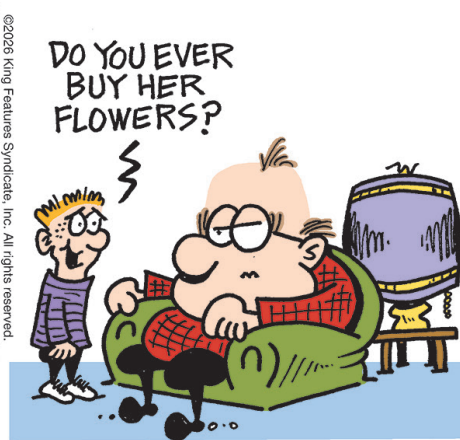
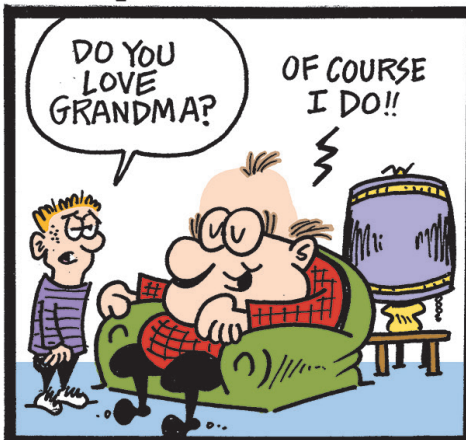
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The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Saving money -- it's worth the effort

Have you applied for assistance through Low Income Home Energy Assistance, also known as LIHEAP? The program is available in all 50 states and is managed by the states. Therefore, there are different eligibility levels in each state as well as different cutoff dates to apply.

Take a look at their main website (liheapch.acf.gov) and look up the specifics for your state. Click on "State Snapshots" to find information on the minimum and maximum available per person, the total funding for your state and more. While the application process can be cumbersome (lots of paperwork and numbers to provide), it can be worth it.

Have you applied for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for help with buying groceries? At this writing, the work requirements are changing. It used to be that those under age 54 must do some amount of work each month, approximately 20 hours per week. Now it's changing and the cutoff is age 64 -- below that age, you must work or volunteer. It's worth checking into because even one person, depending on income, can get approximately \$300 per month.

As is typical with any program, applying can be complicated. Start with the SNAP directory (www.fna.usda.gov/snap/state-directory) to find your state's information. You'll likely need documents such as utility bills, proof of identity and more.

Call churches in your area to ask if they have a food bank. (It doesn't matter if you don't attend a particular church -- they probably won't ask.)

Take advantage of the loyalty programs at your local grocery stores. Watch the sales flyers to help you decide where to shop each week and keep a small notebook with a list of the prices you usually pay. Find out if your stores have senior hours where groceries can be as much as 10% off.

Saving money can mean a bit of work, but it's worth it!

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15 N Main St. - Ste. 101
Downtown Groton

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



Open 24/7

Senior Citizens 65+
Physical Therapy.

\$20 a month

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1. Actor Carl Weathers ("Rocky") played for which NFL team from 1970 to 1971?

2. Red Holzman was head coach of which NBA team for two separate stints from 1967 to 1977 and 1978 to 1982?

3. Which racetrack hosted the Formula 1 French Grand Prix 18 times from 1971 to 2022?

4. Baseball Hall of Famers Branch Rickey, Ty Cobb, Christy Mathewson and George Sisler served in what specialized unit of the U.S. Army during World War I?

5. Rachael Gunn, the Australian breakdancer whose performance sparked controversy at the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics, was known by what competitive name?

6. What heavy object did pro wrestler Jim Neidhart throw 11 feet, 2 inches at the Calgary Stampede rodeo festival to win a contest and earn a new nickname?

7. Which Hockey Hall of Famer played 18 NHL seasons from 1971 to 1989, scored 731 career goals and appeared in 1,348 games, but never played in a Stanley Cup Final?



by Ryan A. Berenz

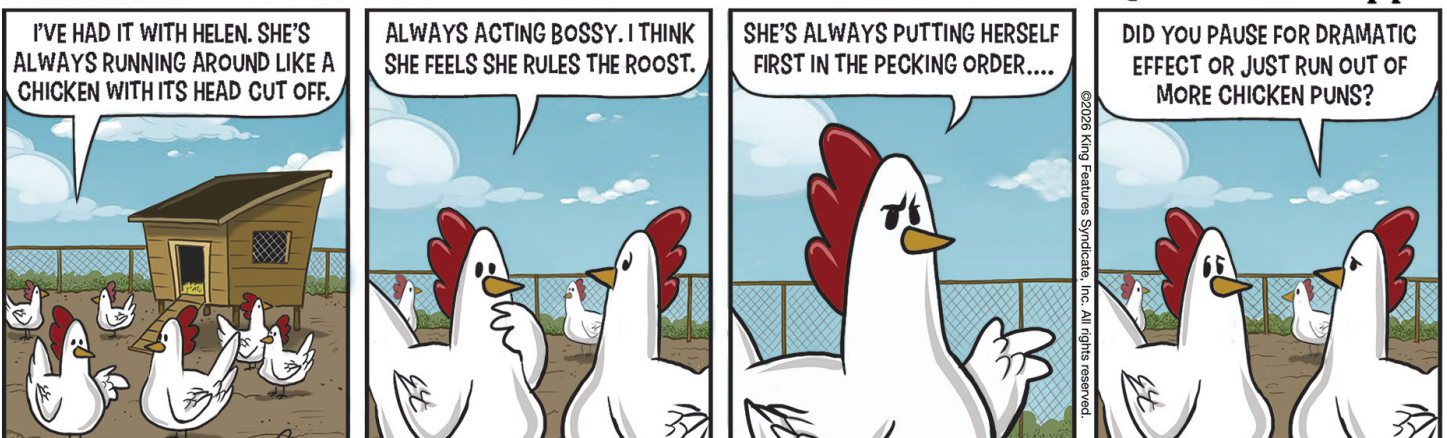
Answers

1. The Oakland Raiders.
2. The New York Knicks.
3. Circuit Paul Ricard.
4. The Chemical Warfare Service.
5. Raygun.
6. An anvil.
7. Marcel Dionne.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Pet sitting adventures: Bark, meow... baa?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I work part time as a pet sitter, which fits in well with my full-time college schedule. Dogs and cats I can handle, but recently I got a request to pet sit a flock of sheep! The owner said that they can pretty much take care of themselves, and that their two sheepdogs monitor the flock. But I was nervous about it; what if a sheep gets sick?

I decided, what the heck? The money was good, it was only for a week, and I'd have a unique experience to talk about. But before accepting, I talked directly with the owner to get more details and allay my fears. Who should I contact if a sheep or a dog gets sick? What was the feeding schedule? Were any of them currently on medication, and how was it administered? Were there any neighbors who could help if I had trouble?

The owner had no problem answering my questions and helping me get ready for the job. I spent an uneventful week at their small farm, got to romp around outside with the dogs, and met their neighbors, who have all added me to their contact list as a pet sitter.

By pushing past my fears about caring for a different type of animal, I gained a new skill, several new clients and had a great time.

I just wanted to pass this along to say that if any of your readers are considering becoming pet sitters, go for it. And don't be afraid to take on the occasional new experience -- as long as you get enough information upfront before committing. -- Haley L., Burlington, Vermont

DEAR HALEY: That is fantastic, and congratulations on the successful experience! Thank you for sharing it. Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

* Most commercial airplanes are painted white to reflect solar radiation, which helps keep the aircraft cooler and reduces potential damage to the fuselage. White paint also weighs less.

* Some snakes have hipbones, showing they once had four legs like their lizard cousins.

* More English words begin with the letter “s” than any other.

* According to seasonal relationship patterns in Facebook profiles, autumn is the season in which more singles change their status to “In a Relationship” or “Engaged” than the yearly average.

* It took just three years from the time Thomas Edison began selling his incandescent light bulb for technological advances to allow lamp prices to drop by more than 90%.

* While Plymouth, Massachusetts, is traditionally held to be the site of the first Thanksgiving, at least 12 American locations claim the honor, including places in Texas, Florida, Maine and Virginia.

* Becoming a perfumer takes at least 20 years.

* Mummies were in demand as medicine during the European Middle Ages. One such use involved boiling a mummy and using the oils to treat bruising, stomach aches and a number of other issues.

* Author Norman Mailer nearly stabbed his second wife to death after she criticized him for fighting guests. During his trial, he described the assault as some sort of artistic experiment.

* A species of bird called the maleo uses the heat from volcanic sand to incubate its eggs.

* People in the Persian Empire saved snow in underground keeps called “yakhchal,” later serving it on warm days with grape juice concentrate poured over it.

* Ancient Roman astrologers used a mnemonic device to remember the long list of different fortunes that had to be given in a horoscope reading.

**

Thought for the Day: “Your most unhappy customers are your greatest source of learning.” -- Bill Gates
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**Milk
thistle**

Its purple flowers may seem pretty, but this spiny plant is classified as a noxious weed in several U.S. states, and has the potential to overwhelm established ecosystems and agricultural areas.

Though it can be very difficult, it is possible to remove these deep-rooted weeds by wearing very thick gloves and pulling or digging them out before they are well-established. They can also be killed with vinegar or boiling water. Just be careful not to splash any nearby plants that you want to keep. – Brenda Weaver

Source: homesandgardens.com

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by Freddy Groves

Check on your buddies

Grab your calendar, including the new one for 2027, and on the 22nd of every month through the year, make a note for that day: Buddy Check.

The reason: veteran suicides.

The VA has taken major steps to address veteran suicides. Last year alone they fielded 1.3 million chats, texts and calls to the Veterans Crisis Line. They've launched Risk ID, a program that evaluates veterans and spots the red flags for at-risk veterans. They've spent millions on grants for suicide prevention programs.

But they can't do everything.

Buddy Check 22 was started years ago as a reminder that the rate of veteran suicides was shockingly high -- the latest report indicates that we're still losing 17 veterans per day to suicide -- but we can do something about it. And that includes you.

The note on your calendar will be your reminder to reach out to another veteran and check in. It's not hard. You can give them a call and ask how they're doing. You can send a text message saying you're thinking about them. You can invite them out for coffee or lunch. You can stop by and take a tray of coffee and donuts to snack on while you get caught up.

Pull in your friends, too. Enlist their help in expanding the list of veterans that are contacted every month.

If something doesn't sound (or feel) right when you check on a fellow veteran, you can provide resources for help.

To learn more about Buddy Check 22, see www.militaryveteranproject.org/buddycheck22.

Take a look at the American Legion's Buddy Check information (www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/buddy-check). Learn how to spot the danger signs and what to do about it.

Keep this information below in your wallet for when you need to support another veteran:

VA Crisis Line number: Dial 800-273-8255, then press 1. (Or dial 988.) Open 24/7.

Veteranscrisisline.net: Chat online or send a text to 838255.

As a reminder, you don't need to be enrolled in VA healthcare to get help there.

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Wishing Well®

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

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

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1. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many eggs does an average queen bee lay in a day?
2. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "The Kite Runner"?
3. MOVIES: What is the main character's name in "Ratatouille"?
4. ANATOMY: How much of the adult human body is made of water?
5. GEOGRAPHY: How many countries make up Central America?
6. SCIENCE: How old is the Earth?
7. TELEVISION: Which decade is the drama "Mad Men" primarily set in?
8. GAMES: In U.S. Monopoly, which properties are the least expensive?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What color is citrine, a type of quartz?
10. MATH: What's the Arabic equivalent of the Roman numerals XXXIX?

Trivia answers

1. 1,000 to 2,000 a day.
2. Khaled Hosseini.
3. Remy.
4. 55%-60%.
5. Seven: Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Belize, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama
6. 4.54 billion years.
7. The 1960s.
8. Mediterranean Avenue and Baltic Avenue, \$60 each.
9. Yellow.
10. 39.

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South Dakota Governor



Larry Rhoden



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

South Dakota Rising

My wife, Sandy, is passionate about the “Rising Stars” that make South Dakota the best place to live. So, about a year ago, she launched the South Dakota Rising Award to recognize the people who are stepping up, solving problems, serving their neighbors, and making their communities better. There are countless examples of South Dakotans rising to the occasion every day, often without recognition.

Some of our greatest opportunities come when people are willing to rise together. I’m focused on making life more affordable for South Dakotans, and it took a team to deliver the largest property tax cut in South Dakota history. I’m proud of all the counties that have quickly adopted the local option property tax cut – this will result in real savings for South Dakota homeowners. Another example: we heard from farmers that rising diesel prices were making harvest tough this year, so I took what action was in my authority to deliver relief.

Both of those initiatives could not have happened in a silo – we needed to work together to deliver results.

Working together involves building strong relationships built on respect, communication, and a willingness to listen. We may not always agree – but we can always choose to talk with each other, rather than at each other.

In early October, Native American Day helps us recognize the rich cultures, traditions, and contributions of the nine tribes that call South Dakota home. Even though many of us come from different backgrounds or communities, we are all South Dakotans. We all want safe communities. We all want our children to have opportunities. And we want South Dakota to continue to remain strong, safe, and free.

This year, thanks to the collaboration of state, local, and Tribal law enforcement, we busted a multistate “Operation Black Book” cocaine-trafficking. Getting these drugs out of our communities will not be accomplished by any one person or one government. It will take all of us rising together.

When I travel the state, I am always encouraged to see South Dakotans stepping up to help a neighbor, start a business, or serve their community. They are rising to the occasion. And when we bring those “Rising Stars” together, our whole state benefits.

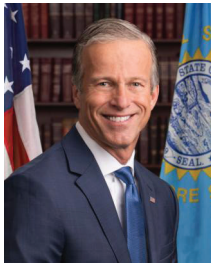
Building relationships matters. Listening matters. And it is why we recognize the people who are willing to step forward and make a difference. If you know of some “Rising Stars” in your community, I encourage you to nominate them for the First Lady’s Rising Star Award.

And I encourage every South Dakotan to look for an opportunity to rise. Rise to serve your neighbor. Rise to listen to someone with a different perspective. Rise to find agreement. And rise to the challenges facing your community.

Our greatest strength has always been our people. When we work together, there is no limit to what South Dakota can accomplish.

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JOHN THUNE
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

An Enduring Tradition

In South Dakota, the holiday season begins on the third Saturday in October. The annual pheasant opener is an unofficial state holiday, and as with any holiday, the anticipation builds as the date approaches. As we dig out our blaze orange and chaps, clean the shotguns, and exchange stories about years past, we look forward to the hunt, the big meal afterward, and the gift of a fall day spent in South Dakota's great outdoors.

Like many folks in our state, pheasant hunting is a tradition in the Thune family. My dad was born the year of the first official pheasant season in South Dakota, and he was never one to miss a hunting season, even into his late 90s. He taught my brothers and me how to bag a rooster, and ever since my first hunt when I was 12, I've looked forward to chasing pheasants every fall.

I've been blessed to share hunts with my dad, my siblings, and a number of good friends and fellow South Dakotans over the years, and it's been especially meaningful to pass along this tradition to the next generation. I taught my daughters to hunt when they were growing up, and fortunately they married outdoorsmen, and now we're sharing this tradition with my grandkids, who may even be better spotters than I am!

The annual pheasant hunt has been a fixture for a lot of families since it began over 100 years ago, and the population of birds and hunters keeps growing. A strong pheasant population isn't just nature taking its course though. Our state's famed pheasant hunting is thanks, in no small part, to the conservation efforts by farmers who support quality habitat for ringnecks in fields across South Dakota.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is not only the cornerstone of federal conservation programs, it also helps support our state's pheasant population. CRP supports farmers who take environmentally sensitive land out of production, which helps maintain a strong habitat for pheasants. My bill, the CRP Flexibility and Improvement Act, would make this program a more effective option for producers, and I'm proud that it's included in this year's Senate farm bill because programs like CRP are an important part of ensuring South Dakota remains the Pheasant Capital of the World both now and for generations to come.

Pheasant hunting is part of our way of life in South Dakota, and I hope it always will be. I'd love to be able to be out in the field in my 90s like my dad, and I trust that pheasants – and pheasant hunters – will always find a home in the fields of South Dakota.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

I Really Do Listen I Just Can't Remember

At my age, people, particularly The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, believe that I do not listen when people talk. Of course, some people aren't worth listening to. But I digress.

When I'm around people, I don't have any problem talking with everybody and responding to every conversation. My main goal is to make people laugh, and I'm pretty good at it, especially among my relatives. Seriously, I'm not quite sure if some are laughing with me or at me.

Some things I remember as if they were happening right now. I can remember some things that happened years ago as if they were happening right now. But then, there are quite a few things that, no matter how far back I go, I don't remember.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has noticed this in my life. She thinks that when she's talking to me, I am not listening. Often, she says, "Are you listening to me?" She says this several times, and I stare at her while nodding my head in the affirmative. Of course I'm listening; I just don't know when to respond.

Sometimes I get up and go to my office for my normal workday, and The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage comes to the door and says, "Are you ready?"

I look at her as though I don't know what she's saying and respond, "Oh, yes, I'm ready to work for the rest of the day. Thanks for asking."

She never accepts that and responds, "Do you remember what I told you the other day?"

To me, that is a trick question because she tells me a lot of things every day; how am I going to remember something she told me several days ago?

"No, my dear, I'm sorry, I don't remember what you told me the other day. What was it?"

Looking at me with a grimace all over her face, she said, "I told you the other day that we were going to go across town and have lunch with our friends. You agreed to that appointment at the time. Are you ready now to go?"

I rarely forget a dinner date, especially with friends. But sometimes I get so busy with everyday things that I forget important things. So I smiled back at her and said, "I'm sorry, I'm ready to go now if you are."

One question I get asked a lot from The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is, "Do you hear anything I'm saying?"

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Of course I hear everything she's saying, but the problem is remembering what she said and when she said it. If I could remember everything she has said to me, my brain would explode.

She often tells me that God gave me two ears and one mouth for a reason. And I agree with her, but she doesn't understand that just because I hear something doesn't mean I remember it the next day.

It's not that I have memory failure. I can get behind the pulpit and sometimes preach without even having notes. Sometimes I don't even refer to my notes as I preach. I don't forget my sermon because it's rather important to me.

Over the years, I have memorized Scripture that I still remember to this day.

So it's not my "listening"; it's my "remembering" that's the issue.

The one thing that I cannot remember has to do with birthdays.

I always remember my wife's birthday because it is two days after my birthday, and I never forget my birthday. But when it comes to our children and relatives, I have no idea whose birthday is on what day.

Sometimes at breakfast, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will clear her throat and then say, "Do you know whose birthday it is today?"

There is absolutely no way that I can know whose birthday it is today or any other day, for that matter.

When she asks me that question, I look at her very seriously and say, "I thought that was your job?" Then I smile at her, but she doesn't return it.

Of course, she doesn't smile back but says, "You should remember our children's birthday as well as our grandchildren's birthday."

I don't even know my siblings' birthdays. There are only two of them, but I cannot remember their birthdays. I was alive when they were born, but for the life of me I can't remember the day they were born.

In The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's craft room, one section is dedicated to birthday cards. She hasn't bought a birthday card in I don't know how long. But she makes birthday cards herself. To make the birthday cards, she has to know whose birthday it is.

When I'm having a conversation with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, I hear everything she says, and I can respond quite intelligently. I hear everything she says. However, give me two days, and I won't remember a word she just spoke.

As I reminisced about all of this, I was reminded of a verse in the Bible that sorta settles some of it.

"He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him" (Proverbs 18:13).

I have discovered that when I speak before I hear the whole sentence, I get it all wrong. I am still on the learning curve with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage

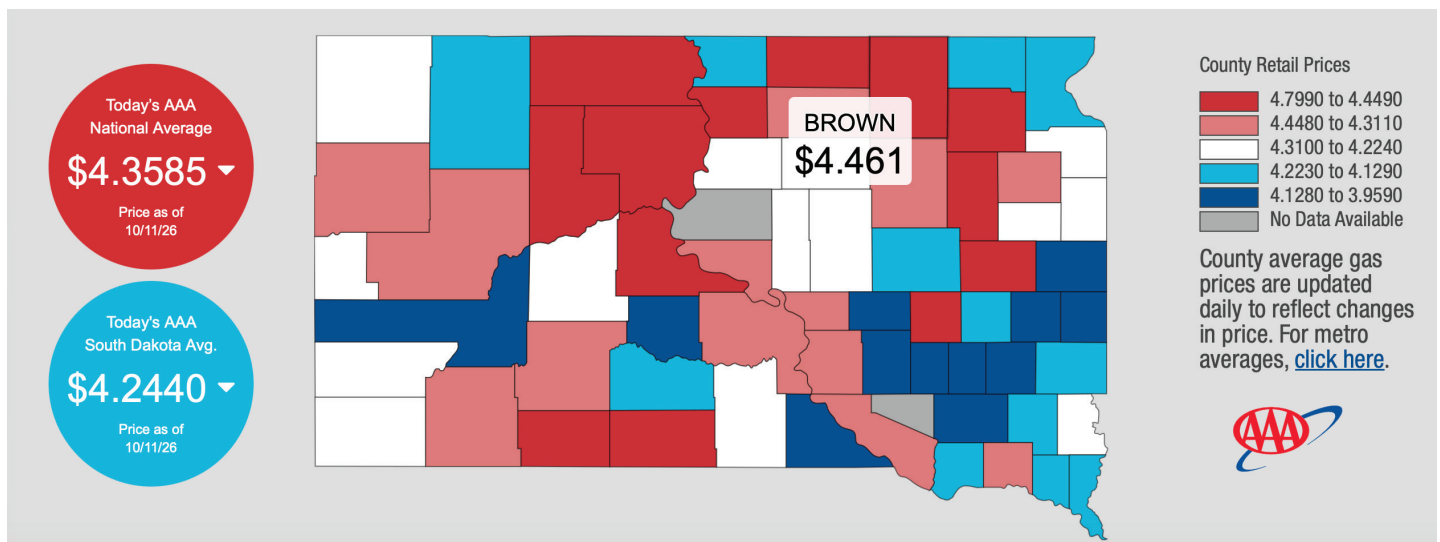
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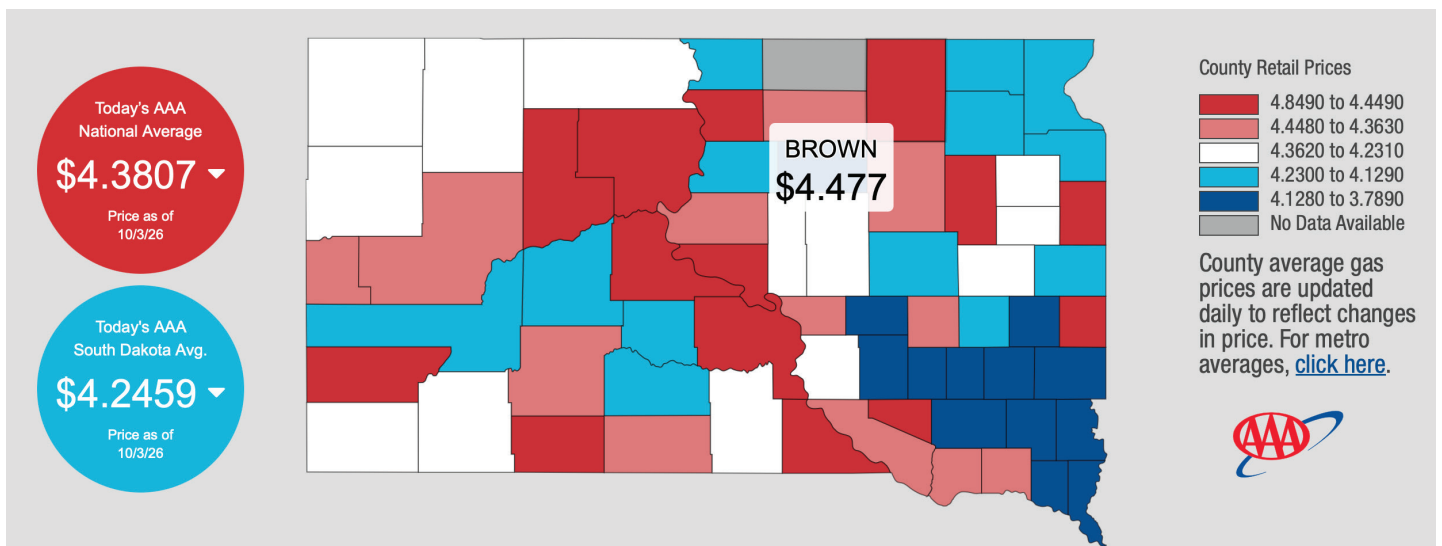
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$4.2440	\$4.4487	\$5.0930	\$5.9824
Yesterday Avg.	\$4.2653	\$4.4761	\$5.0778	\$5.9714
Week Ago Avg.	\$4.2233	\$4.4282	\$5.0639	\$5.9982
Month Ago Avg.	\$4.1432	\$4.3493	\$4.8700	\$5.7674
Year Ago Avg.	\$2.8913	\$3.0725	\$3.5493	\$3.3233

This Week



Last Week



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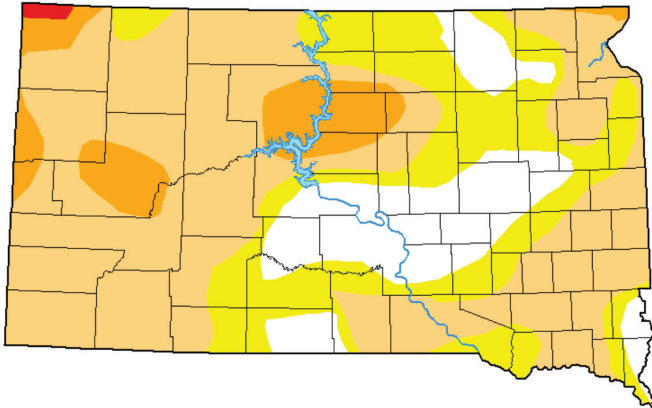
Drought Classification

None
D0 (Abnormally Dry)
D1 (Moderate Drought)

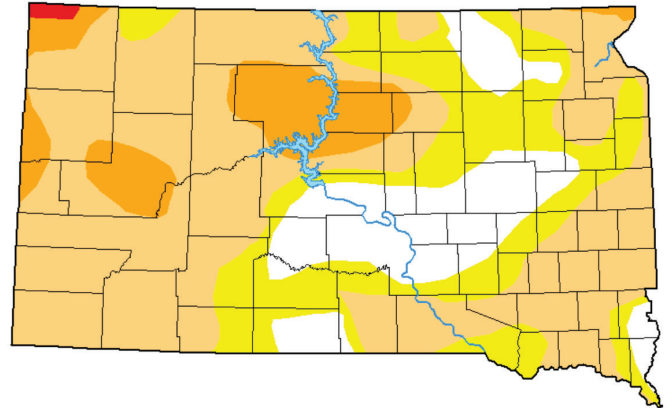
D2 (Severe Drought)
D3 (Extreme Drought)

D4 (Exceptional Drought)
No Data

Drought Monitor



Oct. 6



Sept. 29

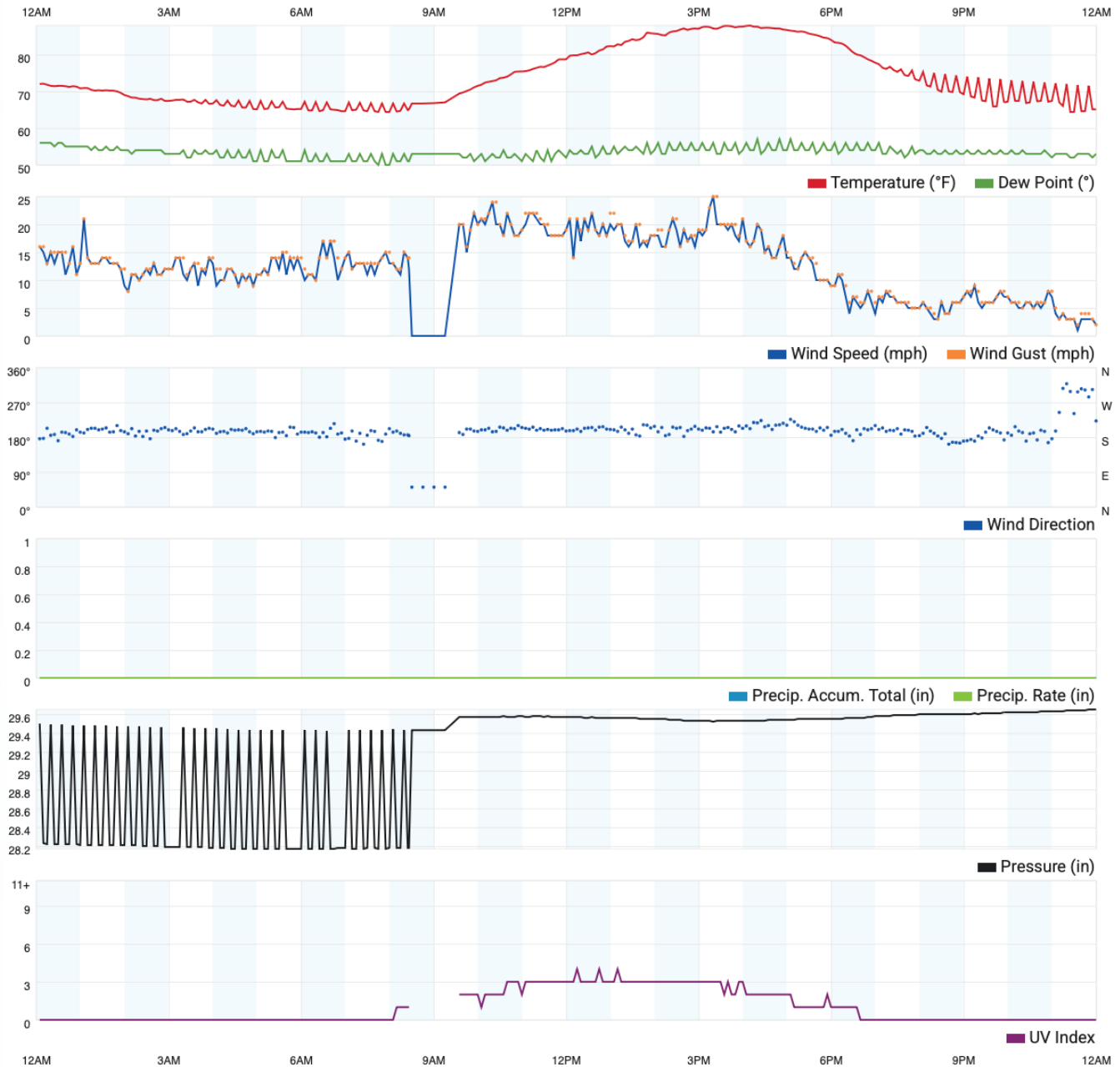
Widespread heavy precipitation abetted robust improvement across eastern Colorado, central and western Kansas, and parts of southern Nebraska. Numerous locations reported 3 to locally over 6 inches of rain, which was sufficient to support 2-category improvements in portions of southeastern Colorado and the western half of Kansas. Precipitation amounts declined abruptly north of a line from central Colorado through northeastern Nebraska, and only a few tenths of an inch at best was observed beyond this delineation. Still, improvements were introduced in parts of the central and northern Dakotas where earlier precipitation may have been more beneficial than initially assessed. The only areas of deterioration noted were in northeastern Colorado and part of north-central Wyoming, which consistently have been north and/or west of the heaviest precipitation. Elsewhere, dryness and drought intensities did not markedly change from last week.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

October 10, 2026



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Today



High: 67 °F

Chance
Sprinkles

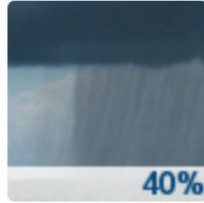
Tonight



Low: 45 °F

Cloudy

Columbus Day



High: 62 °F

Chance
Showers

Monday Night



Low: 41 °F

Chance
Sprinkles

Tuesday



High: 59 °F

Mostly Cloudy



Cooling trend begins
today, with rain chances
by Monday



Monday

Scattered showers (20-50% chance)
with north breezes.

Highs: 50s north central SD, 60s
elsewhere.



North-northeast
winds gusting from
20-30 mph with cold
front passage

Today

Cooler for most areas with north
breezes and increasing clouds.

Highs: Upper 50s to low 60s north
central SD. 60s and 70s further
east.

Tuesday

Mostly cloudy and cool. Northwest
breeze 10 to 20 mph.

Highs: Upper 50s to around 60
degrees.



October 11, 2026 3:12 AM

A cold front moving through the region will bring cooler temperatures today, along with north breezes from 20 to 30 mph. Highs will generally range from the upper 50s and low 60s across north central SD, to the 70s over east central SD. Rain chances increase on Monday as a weak system moves east across the area.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 87.9 °F at 4:09 PM

Low Temp: 50 °F at 11:29 PM

Wind: 25 mph at 10:24 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 93 in 2015

Record Low: 16 in 1935

Average High: 62

Average Low: 36

Average Precip in Oct.: 0.83

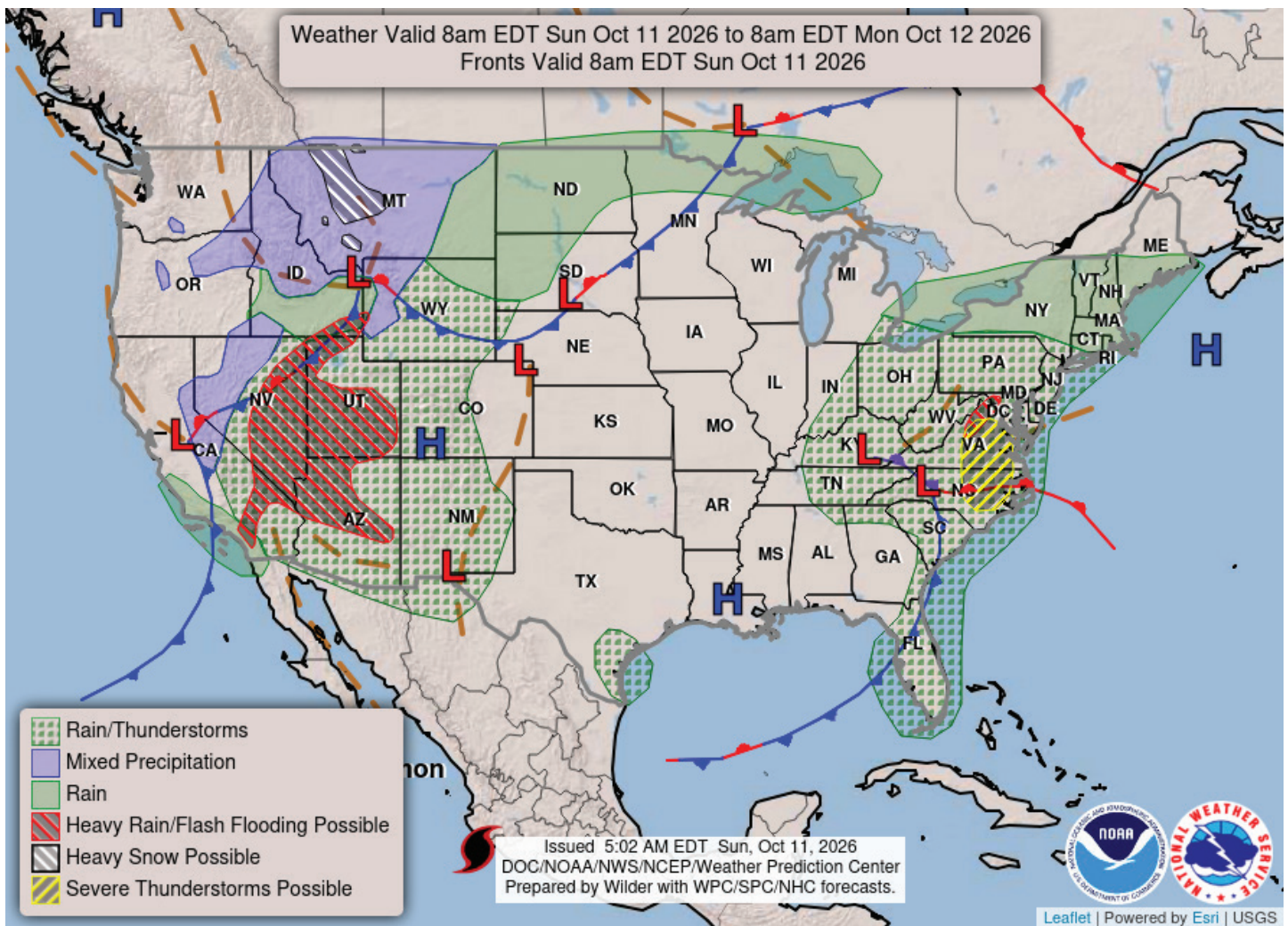
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 19.16

Precip Year to Date: 22.08

Sunset Tonight: 6:54 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:44 am



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Today in Weather History

October 11, 1997: High winds and hail caused nearly \$20,000 in damage to rural Meade County homes.

1846: A major hurricane, possibly a Category 5, moved through the Caribbean Sea. This Great Havana Hurricane struck western Cuba on 10 October. It hit the Florida Keys on 11 October, destroying the old Key West Lighthouse and Fort Zachary Taylor.

1906: Games 1 and 2 of all Chicago World Series were played amid snow flurries. Snow would not happen again in a World Series until 1997. The high temperature for game 3 played on this day was 43 degrees.

1925 — Widespread early season snows fell in the northeastern U.S., with as much as two feet in New Hampshire and Vermont. The heavy snow blocked roads and cancelled football games. (David Ludlum)

1954 — A deluge of 6.72 inches of rain in 48 hours flooded the Chicago River, causing ten million dollars damage in the Chicago area. (9th-11th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 — More than thirty cities in the Upper Midwest reported record low temperatures for the date, including Waterloo IA and Scottsbluff NE where the mercury dipped to 16 degrees. Tropical Storm Floyd brought heavy rain to southern Florida, moisture from Hurricane Ramon produced heavy rain in southern California, and heavy snow blanketed the mountains of New York State and Vermont. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 — Low pressure brought gale force winds to the Great Lakes Region, with snow and sleet reported in some areas. Unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the north central U.S. The mercury hit 84 degrees at Cutbank MT and Worland WY. The temperature at Gunnison CO soared from a morning low of 12 degrees to a high of 66 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 — Much of the nation enjoyed "Indian Summer" type weather. Nine cities in the central U.S. reported record highs for the date as temperatures warmed into the 80s and 90s. Record highs included 90 degrees at Grand Island NE and 97 degrees at Waco TX. Strong winds along a cold front crossing the Northern High Plains Region gusted to 80 mph at Ames Monument WY during the early morning. (The National Weather Summary)

2005: A tropical depression, formerly Hurricane Vince, became the first tropical cyclone to make landfall in Spain since 1842.



Making Disciples

Discipleship is an opportunity to encourage and invest in new believers.

2 Timothy 2:1-2: 1 You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2 The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

Scripture teaches us to tell others about Jesus. And while sharing the gospel brings great blessing, our responsibility doesn't stop there. We should continue to encourage new believers. Think about those who have invested in you over the years—the people who helped you meet Jesus and grow in your faith (Proverbs 27:17). Where would you be without their love and influence?

This kind of investment is called discipleship, and it is both an honor and a privilege. As Christians, we each have an opportunity to spread the good news and then invest in the lives of other believers. The way we do this is by sharing our understanding and experience. What helps is to ...

Spend time with God. That puts us in tune with His Spirit.

Be prepared with a plan. New believers need to understand the basics, such as how to read the Bible, ways to develop a habit of prayer, and where to find fellowship and encouragement.

Share with others about the Christian journey. Knowing what to expect will build confidence as they mature spiritually.

Most of us learned (and struggled) as we became familiar with the basics of life in Christ. That's why godly mentors are so important. We all need advice and encouragement from those further along in their walk of faith (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

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

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WINNING NUMBERS

MILLIONAIRE FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.10.26

3 16 26 38 41 5

TOP PRIZE:

\$1,000,000/year

NEXT DRAW: 17 Hrs 2 Mins 41 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.09.26

2 7 16 63 70 8

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$385,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.10.26

1 9 16 21 23 2

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,150,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.10.26

3 8 10 31 34

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$87,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.10.26

1 29 34 39 62 14

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

10.10.26

1 4 19 33 51 15

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$538,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

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News from the  Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Brandon Valley def. Riggs, 25-11, 25-18, 25-15
Clark-Willow Lake def. Hamlin, 21-25, 25-12, 25-20, 25-23
Huron def. Rapid City Central, 25-17, 25-14, 25-10
Rapid City Stevens def. Mitchell, 25-16, 25-13, 25-17
Sioux Falls Christian def. Rapid City Christian, 25-20, 25-14, 25-15
Stanley County def. Crow Creek Tribal School, 25-9, 25-11, 25-15
Todd County def. Crow Creek Tribal School, 25-8, 25-9, 25-11
Todd County def. Stanley County, 25-18, 21-25, 25-10, 25-16
Fargo North Tournament=
Aberdeen Central def. Kindred, N.D., 25-10, 25-16
Bismarck Century, N.D. def. Aberdeen Central, 25-22, 25-15
Fargo Davies, N.D. def. Aberdeen Central, 25-22, 25-23
Jamestown, N.D. def. Aberdeen Central, 25-22, 19-25, 15-12
Gettysburg Tournament=
Faulkton def. Faith, 25-18, 25-23
Faulkton def. Philip, 25-22, 25-21
Gettysburg def. McIntosh High School, 25-23, 25-23
Ipswich def. Faith, 25-15, 25-18
Ipswich def. Faulkton, 25-17, 28-26
Ipswich def. Philip, 29-27, 25-20
Ipswich def. Wolsey-Wessington, 25-21, 11-25, 25-20
Lyman def. Gettysburg, 25-23, 25-20
Wolsey-Wessington def. Gettysburg, 25-14, 25-20
Wolsey-Wessington def. Lyman, 23-25, 25-15, 25-14
Wolsey-Wessington def. McIntosh High School, 25-11, 25-12
New Underwood Triangular=
Harding County def. Kadoka, 25-18, 21-25, 25-17, 25-19
Harding County def. New Underwood, 25-14, 25-16, 25-19
Northwestern Tournament=
Aberdeen Roncalli def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-27, 25-16, 25-17
Aberdeen Roncalli def. Herried-Selby, 25-13, 25-19
Aberdeen Roncalli def. Waubay/Summit, 25-18, 25-11
Colman-Egan def. Aberdeen Roncalli, 25-23, 25-22
Colman-Egan def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-23, 25-14
Colman-Egan def. Northwestern, 25-27, 29-27, 25-21
Corsica/Stickney def. Herried-Selby, 25-20, 25-15
Corsica/Stickney def. Waubay/Summit, 25-21, 23-25, 25-13
Lemmon High School def. Kimball-White Lake, 25-7, 25-16
Northwestern def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 25-12, 25-7
Northwestern def. Kimball-White Lake, 25-8, 25-5
Northwestern def. Lemmon High School, 25-11, 25-9
Northwestern def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-19, 25-14
Northwestern Tournament=
Championship=
Colman-Egan def. Northwestern, 25-27, 29-27, 25-21

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Omaha Skutt Invitational=

Pool A=

Harrisburg def. Olathe West, Kan., 25-17, 25-17

Harrisburg def. Papillion-LaVista South, Neb., 25-23, 25-21

Olathe West, Kan. def. Lennox, 25-21, 25-17

Papillion-LaVista South, Neb. def. Lennox, 25-17, 25-17

Gold Bracket=

Harrisburg def. Lafayette (St. Joseph), Mo., 25-20, 26-24

Harrisburg def. Omaha Skutt, Neb., 25-21, 25-14

Silver Bracket=

Lennox def. Omaha Westview, Neb., 18-25, 25-18, 25-16

Olathe West, Kan. def. Lennox, 25-20, 25-16

Western Christian Tournament=

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Central Lyon, Iowa, 2-0

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. MOC-Floyd Valley, Iowa, 16-21, 21-18, 15-11

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. S.C. East, Iowa, 21-17, 21-12

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

PREP FOOTBALL

Lakota Tech 42, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte/Tiospaye Topa 26

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

Pierre and Bryant each score in the 4th to help South Dakota beat Southern Illinois 31-10

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Charles Pierre Jr. ran for 138 yards and scored one of South Dakota's two fourth-quarter touchdowns as the Coyotes pulled away to beat Southern Illinois 31-10 on Saturday.

Wide receiver Tennel Bryant broke loose on a 44-yard touchdown run inside the first minute of the fourth quarter to stretch the South Dakota lead to 24-10. Pierre's 12-yard touchdown run capped the scoring with 8:31 to play.

Austyn Modrzewski completed 16 of 20 passes for 268 yards that included a 56-yard touchdown pass to Bryant in the second quarter. Quarterback Jackson Proctor also ran for a touchdown for South Dakota (5-2, 2-1 Missouri Valley Football Conference), ranked tenth in the Stats Perform poll.

DJ Williams was 18-of-29 passing for 179 yards and threw a touchdown pass for No. 25 Southern Illinois (3-4, 1-2). Chandler Chapman had 21 carries for 86 yards rushing for the Salukis.

Up next

Southern Illinois: Hosts Illinois State on Saturday.

South Dakota: At Murray State on Saturday.

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

Poland's police warn of a possible plot to attack Prime Minister Donald Tusk

By CLAUDIA CIOBANU Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Poland's police said Sunday they received information about a possible attack on Prime Minister Donald Tusk and Defense Minister Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz.

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Security services, police and representatives of the Interior Ministry were scheduled to hold an emergency meeting starting at 11 a.m. (0900 GMT) Sunday to discuss the situation, Karolina Galecka, a spokesperson for the Interior Ministry, said.

In September, Tusk had warned about likely intensified hybrid attacks by Russia on NATO's eastern flank. No more information about the reported plot was immediately available.

Polish authorities were on high alert this week after three school attacks within four days in Mazovia province in central Poland, where capital Warsaw is located.

Cubans turn to free community pharmacies as medicines grow scarce

By ANDREA RODRÍGUEZ Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Every Thursday and Sunday at noon, dozens of people gather outside an apartment building in Havana's Vedado neighborhood. Laura Mendoza comes downstairs, checks their names against a list and hands out medicine they requested through WhatsApp.

Antihistamines, diuretics, eye drops and antibiotics are among the drugs she distributes. She charges nothing.

Projects like Mendoza's, called "Medicine Is Not for Sale," have become a lifeline for Cubans struggling to find increasingly scarce medications as the country's economic crisis deepens, compounded by U.S. energy and financial restrictions imposed since January.

Online sellers, street vendors and WhatsApp and Telegram groups have also stepped in to fill gaps left by state pharmacies, which for decades were the main source of subsidized medicines.

The shortages have become so severe that Cuban authorities issued regulations in July allowing private pharmacies to operate — a historic change to the country's state-run health system and part of broader economic reforms.

Until those pharmacies open, projects like Mendoza's provide a lifeline.

"We have five WhatsApp groups in Havana and recently added one in Guanabo," said Mendoza, who estimates that about 100 similar community projects operate in Havana.

Working with the Catholic charity Caritas, her initiative receives more than 13 kilograms (29 pounds) of medicine each week from humanitarian groups in Canada and the United States, travelers carrying donations and local residents.

"People don't just rely on this main pharmacy. They help each other," Mendoza said, standing beside shelves of medicine in her apartment.

Volunteers sometimes deliver medicine to patients who cannot collect it themselves. But drugs requiring refrigeration, including some diabetes medications, and cancer treatments are particularly difficult to obtain. Patients also seek gauze, syringes and anesthetics for use in poorly supplied hospitals.

Shipping companies fear US penalties for calling at Cuban ports

"Six or seven years ago, it was relatively easy to find medicines at state pharmacies," said Cristina Díaz, a 27-year-old physics teacher who came to Mendoza's project seeking clonazepam for a relative.

As shortages worsened, "medicines became much harder to find," she said.

Cuba's Health Ministry lists 603 medicines in its basic drug program, but only slightly more than one-third are currently available. About 400 are produced by Cuban laboratories using imported raw materials.

Mayda Mauri Pérez, president of the state pharmaceutical company BioCubaFarma, said in June that about 300 of the 395 medicines the company was expected to supply had not been produced because of shortages of imported materials.

The situation is particularly acute in the central province of Ciego de Ávila, where authorities recently acknowledged that state pharmacies had only about 10% of the medicines on the basic list. Officials blamed supply and logistical problems, including fuel shortages.

"Cuba has a medical-pharmaceutical industry that we consider strong," María Fernández Martínez, head of the province's pharmacy company, told the official newspaper Granma. But without supplies, "not even

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the most capable factory can complete the cycle.”

The government also struggles to obtain packaging such as blister packs and bottles and says U.S. financial sanctions complicate payments for imports. Cuban authorities say shipments of medical supplies have also been stranded in third countries because shipping companies fear U.S. penalties for calling at Cuban ports.

The government will regulate private pharmacies

Allowing private pharmacies is part of a package of 176 economic measures approved by Cuba’s Parliament in June to expand private enterprise and help address the country’s economic crisis.

The government hopes entrepreneurs can import medicines, as private businesses already do with food and fuel. Authorities say they are reviewing about 36 proposals to open private pharmacies, while state pharmacies will continue to operate.

Private pharmacies will be regulated by the government and barred from selling hospital-only drugs and certain controlled substances. Imports will have to go through state companies, while medicines will require regulatory approval and proper storage.

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

For many Cubans, however, another question remains unanswered: Will they be able to afford the medicine?

Sara Márquez, 69, takes medication to control her blood pressure. She said a blister pack once cost 0.30 Cuban pesos at state-run pharmacies. In recent months, informal sellers have charged as much as 1,000 pesos (\$1.50) for the same amount — more than 30% of her monthly pension.

“At what price will they sell the medicine? ... It will depend on people’s purchasing power. I can’t afford it.”

Pakistan’s president suspends provincial government led by Khan’s party ahead of march

By MUNIR AHMED Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday declared a state of emergency in northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan and suspended its government, which is led by imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan’s party, ahead of a planned march on Islamabad by supporters demanding his release.

Zardari acted on the recommendation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s Cabinet, according to a statement from the president’s office. The measures place the province under the authority of the governor, who represents the federal government.

The announcement came hours after Sharif’s office said that the federal Cabinet had recommended emergency rule, accusing the provincial government of “deliberate disengagement from the fight against terrorism.”

No protests were reported against the suspension of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa’s government, where police detained several supporters of Khan’s PTI party overnight. Authorities deployed additional police and security forces in the province and Islamabad to prevent unrest.

Shipping containers placed by police along key routes in Islamabad since last month to block potential rallies have disrupted traffic and forced residents in the capital and neighboring Rawalpindi to take lengthy detours.

Khan’s spokesperson, Zulfiqar Bukhari, condemned the suspension of the provincial government, calling it a disguised coup. He said the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government was the only one with a genuine popular mandate following the February 2024 parliamentary elections, which Khan’s party says were rigged.

“Now that little bit of democracy is also gone,” Bukhari said in a statement.

Referring to recent talks between Khan’s party and the federal government, Bukhari accused officials of having no intention of reaching an agreement. He said government representatives had focused on counterterrorism, while Khan’s representatives had come to discuss the imprisoned leader’s basic human rights.

Khan is Sharif’s main political rival and has been imprisoned since 2023 on corruption and other charges

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that he and his party say are politically motivated. Despite his imprisonment, he retains a substantial and passionate support base, keeping him at the center of Pakistan's turbulent political landscape.

Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, or PTI, and the federal government last week held talks to postpone the march but failed to reach a resolution. Gohar Khan, the party's chairman, said days ago that negotiations remained deadlocked after two rounds.

Beside Khan's release, Khan's party demanded his transfer to a hospital and permission for his family to visit him. Sharif's government has said Khan is in good health and receives regular family visits but maintains that meetings with the imprisoned former leader cannot be used for political purposes.

The province's chief minister, Sohail Afridi, on Saturday urged supporters to prepare to march on Islamabad. Afridi launched the protest campaign last week, leading marches through several districts in the province.

Sharif's government has been urging Afridi since last month to postpone the march, citing a surge in attacks by the Pakistani Taliban in the northwest. It has also accused Khan's party of sympathizing with the militant group, also known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan.

Khan's party said Afridi and his former Cabinet members had been detained.

Political analyst Azeem Chaudhry said the emergency measures gave Gov. Faisal Karim Kundi the powers of the provincial chief executive, removing Khan's party from power in the only province it governed. He said the provincial assembly and Afridi's Cabinet were also suspended.

Pakistan has witnessed a surge in militant violence in recent years, much of it blamed on the TTP, a separate group but a close ally of the Afghan Taliban, who returned to power in neighboring Afghanistan in 2021. Islamabad has repeatedly accused Afghanistan's Taliban government of providing sanctuary to TTP militants, an allegation Kabul denies.

Saudi Arabia extends closure of airport after 12 killed in suspected Houthi missile attack

By SAMY MAGDY and JULIA FRANKEL Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Saudi Arabia on Sunday extended the closure of its main international airport as Houthi rebels threatened airstrikes across the kingdom, a day after a missile attack killed 12 people and wounded more than 300.

Saturday's strike on the Riyadh airport marked a major escalation of the war between Yemen's Iran's-backed Houthis and the kingdom. President Donald Trump said he was considering whether to join Saudi strikes against the rebels, a scenario that could prompt the Houthis to halt shipping through a crucial waterway and further restrict the flow of oil out of the Persian Gulf.

As international leaders spoke out condemning the attack Sunday, the Houthis reported that two airstrikes hit Yemen's capital, Sanaa, blaming Saudi Arabia. There was no immediate comment from Saudi authorities or reports of casualties.

The Houthi-run Health Ministry says 91 Yemenis have been killed and 168 injured by the Saudi-led coalition in five weeks. It said that 60% of those killed were women and children.

Houthis renew threats to Saudi Arabia

As Saudi authorities extended Saturday's airport closure until at least 9 p.m. Sunday, according to Flight-radar24, the Houthis said the kingdom's airports were attack targets.

Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, the group's military spokesman, urged "everyone to take our warnings seriously."

The latest attack on the Saudi airport drew condemnations from Arab countries, including Iraq, Lebanon and Syria, as well as U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

"Attacks by Iran's proxies are pushing the region into a spiral of violence," Von der Leyen wrote Sunday on X. "They are destabilizing crucial global transport and energy nodes."

Attack killed people of different nationalities

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The attack struck an airport complex housing terminals 3 and 4 for domestic flights, a regional official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak to the media.

The Saudi statement said the dead included four Saudi citizens, two Bangladeshi nationals, a Palestinian, a U.S. citizen, an Egyptian, a Jordanian, a Syrian and a Sudanese. It said several hospitals were treating the injured.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio acknowledged in a social media post that an American citizen had been killed in the attack, which he condemned.

The Egyptian woman was a flight attendant identified as Azza Ramzy, 28, who worked for the Saudi airline Flybas, according to the Egyptian state-run Al-Qahera New television.

Trump said he would consider joining strikes against rebels

The attack is expected to increase Saudi pressure on allies, including the United States, to provide military support for the kingdom.

Shortly after the attack, Trump said he was evaluating whether the U.S. should join Saudi strikes against the rebels. "We may. We're going to look at it," he said. "We just found out about the recent attack. So we'll make a decision. We move very quickly."

Trump said later Saturday he planned to speak with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Asked if the U.S. might get involved, Trump responded, "We'll find out."

The Houthis claimed attacks earlier in the week on King Khalid International Airport that killed three Saudis, including a pilot. The airport has no military facilities.

The surge in attacks, including against other Saudi airports, military facilities and oil infrastructure, has come in the week since a Saudi-led coalition launched a major military offensive against the Houthis.

Iran can use Houthis to pressure key US ally

Until recently, the Houthis had been largely on the sidelines of the Iran war. Now, the rebels are a way for Tehran to pressure a key U.S. ally. Houthi attacks, along with their control of the Bab el-Mandeb waterway, also threaten to add new disruptions to the flow of oil from the region.

The Saudis and the Houthis began fighting in 2015 when the kingdom entered Yemen's civil war on behalf of the internationally recognized government.

Relative calm after a 2022 ceasefire ended in July when the Houthis resumed attacks, saying the Saudis fired on the Sanaa airport as a plane from Iran was trying to land. That revived anger over the Saudi-led blockade that has largely isolated Houthi-run areas.

Now fighting has escalated, with the Saudi-led coalition providing air support for Yemeni government forces attempting to reverse recent Houthi gains along the Red Sea. Those gains gave the rebels better surveillance of shipping on the Bab el-Mandeb, a corridor that is a crucial alternative to the Strait of Hormuz, where Iran has been attacking ships.

Saudi Arabia is running low on missile interceptors and has asked France, Britain, Pakistan and Egypt to deploy air defense support to the region, regional officials told The Associated Press last month, with one noting that the U.S. has seen its own stock dwindle during the war with Iran.

Villages evacuated as flash flood from Budhi Gandaki river hits northern Nepal

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Residents along the Budhi Gandaki river in north central Nepal evacuated on Sunday as flash flooding destroyed homes and other structures in the area.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority evacuated villagers and warned others to move to safer areas while remaining on alert until late Sunday.

The agency said at least five people are reported missing so far. The flash flood also damaged or destroyed four bridges, swept away about three dozen houses and damaged the construction site of a hydropower plant.

Several power and communication towers were also damaged along the riverside.

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Nepal's army said in a statement that it was continuing to rescue stranded people using helicopters and ground troops. They had rescued 49 people by Sunday afternoon.

The agency said the flash flood was caused by a landslide that initially blocked the Budhi Gangaki river near the village of Chumchure. The dam formed by the landslide breached, triggering the flood.

The Budhi Gandaki river merges into the Trishuli river and is a key waterway near the capital Kathmandu. Videos on social media show houses and sheds being swept away by the swollen river flowing between tall mountains. It was not immediately clear how many of the small villages in the mountainous area were impacted. Social media posts indicate the government warning prompted an evacuation in Arughat, a riverside town on the highway connecting Kathmandu to other parts of the country.

Nepal is still recovering from a devastating flood in August along the mountainous Nepal-China border that left more than 1,400 people dead and thousands more missing.

The office of Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah on Monday announced an end to search and rescue operations for additional victims. Authorities will instead concentrate on recovery, including restoration of roads and bridges cut off by floods, particularly in remote areas where damaged infrastructure has made aid deliveries difficult.

The government estimates the rebuilding effort will cost \$4.77 billion. Nearly 33,000 people have been affected and about 7,500 homes were damaged or destroyed.

Czech opposition outpaced the ruling party in first round of Senate election

PRAGUE (AP) — A political group led by Prime Minister Andrej Babiš faced a strong challenge from the opposition in the Czech Republic's first round of voting to fill one-third of the seats in Parliament's upper house, the Senate, according to the final results released on Sunday.

With all the votes counted by the Statistics Office, the centrist ANO (YES) movement led by the populist billionaire has the most, 13, candidates advancing to next week's runoffs.

But the parties and groups of parliamentary pro-Western opposition that joined forces in many districts in broad coalitions, have altogether 26 candidates making the next round.

Also, of the five candidates who reached the 50% threshold to win seats outright, none of them was from ANO, while four represent opposition parties.

ANO hopes to make gains in the 81-seat Senate, which is controlled by the opposition. Twenty-seven Senate seats are up for grabs with 22 left to be decided in the runoffs between the top two finishers in each race.

Parliament's lower house dominates the legislative process, but the Senate plays an important role in passing constitutional amendments and approving Constitutional Court judges.

In separate local elections, various independent candidates and groupings appeared to be winning most seats nationwide, a traditional result. ANO won in six regional capitals, two fewer than at the previous 2022 vote, and not in Prague.

The elections are the first test for Babiš since he returned to power after a decisive victory in parliamentary elections in October 2025.

Babiš has formed a governing coalition with two small political groups whose agenda includes reducing support for Ukraine and rejecting some key European Union policies.

His coalition partners have no candidate in the Senate runoffs.

A ferocious Hurricane Simon nears Mexico with 155 mph winds and flooding fears

PUERTO VALLARTA, Mexico (AP) — The eye of Hurricane Simon was just off the Pacific coast of Mexico early Sunday and was expected to move inland later in the day as an extremely powerful storm.

Simon has strengthened to 155 mph (250 kph), only just below the threshold for becoming a Category

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5 storm, the highest on the Saffir Simpson scale. It was about 60 miles (100 kilometers) west-southwest of Manzanilla and moving north-northwest at 6 mph (9 kph).

The hurricane could bring 10 to 20 inches (25-50 cm) of rain over parts of southwestern Mexico, with some areas in the states of Michoacan, Colima and Jalisco receiving up to 30 inches (76 centimeters).

"This rainfall will produce life-threatening flooding and mudslides, especially in areas of steep terrain," the center warned.

Jalisco state suspended classes on Friday and Monday in 22 coastal municipalities and began evacuating dozens of people from at-risk areas. It also asked the tourism sector in Puerto Vallarta, a popular destination for U.S. tourists, to ensure that both workers and visitors were fully accommodated in shelters or safe zones.

Convenience stores, hotels and other businesses in Puerto Vallarta were boarding up their windows Saturday, and few were walking the streets under overcast skies.

"Let's hope it doesn't hit us, right? That it doesn't affect us," Jesús Gómez said as he stood outside a shop and handed out free samples of candied peanuts to passersby. "We'll be working as usual throughout the day, but when Civil Protection officials come and tell us we need to close, then we'll close and take shelter until the storm passes."

The hurricane center expected a dangerous storm surge along the immediate coast near and to the east of where the center makes landfall. The agency warned that near the coast, large and destructive waves will accompany the surge.

Canadian tourist Ed Currie, who along with his wife still has five more days to enjoy Puerto Vallarta, said the hurricane had not yet affected his plans.

"Just stay in the hotel and look out the window hopefully," he said of what the couple would do. "I just don't know what to expect."

India's 'Cockroach' protest movement leaders freed from detention

NEW DELHI (AP) — Leaders of the Cockroach Janata Party, an Indian youth movement, were released Sunday, a day after they were detained ahead of protests against a contentious revision of voter lists. The movement is demanding the resignation of the country's election chief.

The three leaders — Abhijeet Dipke, Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka — were freed on condition that they commit "no breach of peace for one year," Ratna Singh, the movement's legal director, said in a social media post. It was unclear what the condition meant or whether it would restrict their participation in protests.

Police had boarded the leaders' flight from Mumbai after it landed in New Delhi on Saturday and took them into custody as they prepared to lead a demonstration in New Delhi.

Authorities have launched a sweeping security crackdown in the capital, detaining more than 2,000 protesters, including several opposition lawmakers. Train services to the capital were canceled, metro stations closed and mobile internet suspended in parts of the city.

Most of those detained were released late Saturday, police said.

After his release, Dipke called Prime Minister Narendra Modi "an embarrassment to India."

"Never has this country seen a bigger coward and bully," he wrote on X.

The protests center on the voter list revision that critics say is politically motivated. The revision, which began last summer, has removed more than 130 million names from the lists.

Protesters are demanding the resignation of Gyanesh Kumar, the chief election commissioner. Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and the Election Commission deny allegations of manipulation.

The Cockroach movement began as an online satirical campaign this summer after India's chief justice compared unemployed young people to parasites. Many young Indians embraced the remark, adopting the cockroach as a symbol of resilience.

Protests led by the group forced the resignation of Modi's education minister in July, a rare setback for the prime minister, who has been in power for more than 12 years.

Ukraine steps up strikes on Russia's tech infrastructure, damaging third data center in 4 days

By The Associated Press undefined

A Ukrainian drone attack shut down a data center run by Russian technology giant Yandex, the company said Sunday, the third strike on its facilities in four days as Kyiv widens its campaign against infrastructure deep inside Russia.

The attack on the data center in the city of Vladimir, east of Moscow, caused outages across Yandex's services, leaving users in dozens of Russian cities and in Kazakhstan, Belarus and Armenia unable to order taxis or access banking services, according to Russian independent news outlet Astra.

Russia and Ukraine are locked in a long-range aerial war while their armies remain largely deadlocked on the front line, more than 4 1/2 years since Moscow's full-scale invasion. Ukraine's strikes on data centers follow Russian attacks on data hubs in Ukraine.

"As a result of the drone attack, the infrastructure of Yandex's data center in Vladimir was damaged. Operations at the data center have been completely halted. There were no injuries," said the Yandex Cloud Telegram channel, which provides operational updates on service availability.

On Thursday, a drone attack took a Yandex data center offline in the Ryazan region, southeast of Moscow. A day later, Ukrainian drones hit the company's major data center in the Kaluga region, southwest of Moscow, partly putting it out of action, Yandex said.

Yandex, often described as Russia's Google, runs the country's most popular search engine and a wide range of digital services, and is heavily involved in Russia's artificial intelligence development.

The strike came a day after President Donald Trump said it was time for Ukraine to get a new president, suggesting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has not done enough to end the war and blaming him for high diesel prices in the U.S.

"I suggest they get a new leader who can make a deal because he could have made many deals and for some reason he never does," Trump said Saturday.

Trump, who on Friday struck a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin to buy diesel from Russia in an attempt to address high fuel prices ahead of the U.S. midterm elections, has been urging Zelenskyy for weeks to stop strikes on Russian energy infrastructure.

He has sought to blame record U.S. diesel prices on Ukraine rather than the U.S.-led war in Iran, which has driven up world energy prices. Ukrainian and European officials reacted to the diesel deal with dismay, saying it will help pay for Russia's war effort.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha pushed back, writing on X Saturday night that Zelenskyy was leading the country through a war for its independence and had the backing of Ukrainians.

"He has the support of the Ukrainian people, and they have the right to decide. Statements from abroad only confirm that he is doing his job well," Sybiha wrote.

Elsewhere, search and rescue operations ended in the southern city of Zaporizhzhia after a Russian bombing on Saturday, Ivan Fedorov, the former regional head and co-chair of the regional defense council, said Sunday. The death toll from Saturday's attack stood at 20, including four children, he said. More than 30 people were wounded, he said, eight of whom remain hospitalized.

A man was killed and two women wounded in a Ukrainian drone strike on Russia's Bryansk border region, local officials said Sunday.

Polish leader says school attacks were fueled by online glorification of violence

BY CLAUDIA CIOBANU Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — The attacks at Polish schools over the past week were "spontaneous acts"

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driven by the online "glorification of violence," Prime Minister Donald Tusk said on Sunday.

Three attacks at schools in the Mazovian province in central Poland took place within four days this week, leaving one dead and many wounded, including children.

By Sunday morning, police had detained 117 people across Poland for carrying knives or other dangerous weapons, or for threatening to attack schools or fellow students. Some 64,000 schools were checked.

"We are not dealing with any group organized on a big scale," Tusk said on Sunday morning, during a crisis meeting with government and security services. "These are very often spontaneous actions inspired by online activity."

"In the past years and months, we have noted — globally and in Poland — a rise in the fascination with violence."

Tusk said the acts could be associated with "nihilistic violence," a term used by authorities to describe acts of violence driven by a nihilistic worldview and misanthropy rather than specific political goals.

In the case of Poland, he said "some of the people detained are active in the ultraright environment." He said authorities have observed intensified online searches of Nazi content as well as of "mass killers who have become idols online."

Tusk said Poland was facing a "civilizational phenomenon" where kids playing video games, even banal ones, or those interested in crime stories, were getting exposed to more and more violence.

"This is essentially a copycat scenario, something of a long trail of attackers going back to at least 2019, if not decades earlier," Kacper Rekawek, senior researcher at the International Center for Counterterrorism in The Hague, told the AP. He was referring to Brenton Tarrant, the white supremacist who shot and killed 51 Muslims at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 2019.

Rekawek said that one of the suspects in the latest Polish attacks used the same imagery and esthetics as Tarrant, which means the Polish incidents should be "placed within the confines of essentially terrorist behavior."

Tusk said police checks at schools across Poland would continue into next week in case kids exposed to the stories of the past attacks might "get stupid and unsafe thoughts" to imitate them.

He said Poland had lots of work to do as a society, with parents and teachers having an especially important role to play in communicating with kids about their experiences online and explaining that "fascination and membership in these online practices can lead to very negative consequences."

On Wednesday, a 19-year-old student at a vocational school in the Mazovian province attacked fellow students, teachers and passersby with a sharp object, wounding nine people. He was arrested nearby. The following day, a 15-year-old killed a school custodian and wounded two other people in a knife attack at his former school in the same province. On Saturday, a 21-year old woman wounded three at a post-secondary school in Warsaw.

Rumors that the attacks were coordinated and that there would be more on "bloody Friday" were shared in parents' online groups and by mainstream media. It led to 59 schools preemptively suspending classes on Friday across Poland, the majority in Mazovian province.

Those detained on Friday by the police include a 14-year-old boy from Warsaw who was found in possession of a knife with a concealed blade and 11 firecrackers, and a 16-year old who came to school with a butterfly knife in his backpack, police said.

Panama declares a state of emergency as powerful quake aftershocks rattle communities

By ARIS MARIOTA and ALMA SOLÍS Associated Press

LA VILLA DE LOS SANTOS, Panama (AP) — The government of Panama declared a state of emergency Saturday as the aftershocks of two powerful earthquakes that roiled the country shook communities for hours. Officials did not attribute any deaths to the quakes but reported damages in all 10 of Panama's provinces and two Indigenous territories.

The 7.7- and 6.6-magnitude earthquakes on Friday toppled buildings near the epicenter and prompted

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evacuations across the Central American country. Seismologists recorded more than 100 aftershocks, including ones measuring magnitude 5.8, 5.5 and 5.2.

The earlier quake, also felt in neighboring Colombia, was centered about 10 kilometers (6 miles) southwest of the remote community of Pitaloza Arriba, in the central province of Herrera, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It struck at a depth of 10 kilometers (6 miles).

Presidential Minister Juan Carlos Orillac announced the emergency during a news conference in the capital, Panama City. He said homes, schools, healthcare facilities, roads and hotels were among the damaged facilities.

Malitzie Rivera, deputy director of the National Civil Protection System, told reporters the state had reports of 27 people with injuries, ranging from minor to moderate.

Hundreds of homes were damaged

Most of the damage was concentrated in the central provinces of Veraguas, Herrera, Coclé and Los Santos.

The Civil Protection agency tallied roughly 420 homes and about the same number of public schools damaged. It also reported that seven hotels, at least 13 churches and nine bridges were affected by the earthquakes.

In La Villa de Los Santos, a colonial-era community about 40 miles (64 kilometers) northeast of the epicenter, homes and a historical Catholic church collapsed. People who spent the night on the streets were waiting for the government's guidance on what to do next.

"We've been here since 1 p.m. yesterday; we haven't moved," Tony Jiménez, whose home partially collapsed, said while sitting with relatives under a tent. "It was a terrible thing. I can tell you with absolute certainty that in my 90 years, I had never experienced anything like it. It was intense — truly intense."

The collapsed Church of San Atanasio was declared a National Historic Heritage Site in 1938.

Images of crumbling buildings and deep fissures slicing through roads added to fears across a Latin American region battered by a series of devastating earthquakes in recent months.

Two back-to-back 7.2 and 7.5 magnitude earthquakes roiled Venezuela's La Guaira state in June, killing more than 6,500 people and leaving 17,000 homeless. In August, a 7.4 magnitude earthquake in Colombia killed at least 289 people.

The notably lower toll in nearby Panama may have been due to the country's strict building codes, especially governing construction of skyscrapers in the capital, said Carlos Valdés, head of the Seismology Department at the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

Rising sea levels prompt evacuations

Officials did not report any missing people on Saturday but said some communities remained cut off due to landslides and road damage.

On Isla Caña, off the Pacific coast of Los Santos, approximately 300 people were evacuated because of rising sea levels and rough surf. Meanwhile, in the city of Penonomé, around 150 kilometers (93 miles) from the capital, a shelter was housing 13 people, including five children. The earthquakes caused a partial collapse and cracks at the cathedral in the district's main square, as well as damage to the governor's office building and the Dos Continentes hotel.

In Panama City, one of the water treatment plants supplying the area operated at 20% capacity on Saturday, and tent facilities with cots were set up at six hospitals.

Tocumen International Airport in Panama City, one of the region's busiest airports with more than 20 million passengers in 2025, temporarily suspended operations after the first quake but said Friday but reopened hours later.

But hundreds of travelers on major Panama-based airlines like Copa Airlines were left stranded in airports around the region. Their connections through Tocumen — one of the biggest travel hubs in the region — were canceled or delayed. In Mexico City's airport, airline employees scrambled as families with babies were sleeping on the floor Saturday while one woman from Venezuela shouted in panic that the flight through Panama was one of the only ways she could return home to Caracas.

The Panama Canal Authority said operations were continuing normally along the global trade route. It

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said its priority was the safety of employees, vessels and crews and that specialized technical teams were inspecting facilities for possible damage.

The last major earthquake to cause widespread damage in Panama struck in 1991. A magnitude 7.4 quake, centered in nearby Costa Rica, killed 23 people, injured 559 and left thousands of people homeless in the border Bocas del Toro region.

Earthquakes are common, especially along Panama's border with Costa Rica and its Pacific coast, because of the interaction of several tectonic plates, including the Cocos, Nazca and Caribbean plates.

Panama lies along the "Ring of Fire," a 40,000-kilometer (25,000-mile) arc of volcanoes and fault lines around the Pacific Basin, where most of the world's earthquakes occur.

Countries offer help

Messages of support and offers of assistance flooded in from across the region shortly after the earthquakes. Mulino on Friday thanked fellow Latin American leaders for their support, saying he had spoken with the presidents of Chile, Uruguay and Guatemala, among others.

The U.S. Department of State on Saturday said it mobilized a disaster response team to help local authorities with search and rescue expertise as well as aerial and on-the-ground assessments. The U.S. government also pledged \$5 million for humanitarian assistance.

U.S. Southern Command also said two helicopters supported by the State Department's drug-control bureau had delivered 2,000 pounds (907 kilograms) of food to Panamanian communities affected by the earthquakes.

Dwight Phillips Jr. and No. 2 Georgia run past No. 6 Alabama 20-17 in an SEC clash

By HENRY SKLAR Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — If Georgia lands the No. 1 ranking, it should probably come with an asterisk. The second-ranked Bulldogs benefitted from what appeared to be a blown call in a 20-17 victory at No. 2 Alabama on Saturday night.

Dwight Phillips Jr. ran for 120 yards, Bo Walker added 69 more and Georgia staked its claim to a top spot in the AP Top 25 poll with its first victory in Tuscaloosa since 2014. But most of the talk afterward was about Southeastern Conference officials declining to throw a flag on Georgia safety KJ Bolden after what appeared to be a clear pass-interference penalty in the end zone.

It would have moved the Crimson Tide safely into field-goal range. Instead, Bolden sacked Keelon Russell on the next play and forced Alabama to punt.

"We can't put the game in that situation where the officials come into play," Alabama coach Kalen DeBoer said. "We just got to control the things we can control."

After the no-call, Georgia iced away the final three minutes — with some help from Alabama cornerback Dijon Lee Jr., who pushed receiver to the ground after the whistle and drew a personal-foul penalty that allowed the Bulldogs to run out the clock.

Lee also was flagged for pass interference earlier in the second half, which helped set up Gunner Stockton's 14-yard touchdown run. Stockton played well, completing 18 of 22 passes for 249 yards, with a touchdown and an interception.

The Bulldogs finished with 206 yards on the ground despite playing without leading rusher Nate Frazier and won the latest showdown between the two SEC heavyweights. It was Georgia's third win over Alabama in their last 13 meetings, first in the regular season since 2007 and Kirby Smart's first win in Tuscaloosa.

"I didn't come here to lose," Smart said.

The game was played despite Hurricanes Isaias coming ashore Friday night. Bryant-Denny Stadium was packed — President Trump decided not to attend — and the result should vault Georgia to the top spot in the Top 25 after No. 1 Texas lost to Oklahoma in the Red River Rivalry.

Russell completed 16 of 30 passes for 185 yards, with a touchdown. He also ran for 41 yards.

Alabama's Ryan Coleman-Williams leaves the game twice

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Alabama star receiver Ryan Coleman-Williams was knocked out of the game twice, first with an apparent left leg injury and then to be evaluated for a concussion.

Quarterback Keelon Russell targeted Coleman-Williams in the end zone from Georgia's 16-yard line late in the second quarter. The pass was broken up, and when Coleman-Williams tried to stand up, he could not put any weight on his leg. Alabama's training staff helped him off the field.

Coleman-Williams returned after the break, spent time on an exercise bike and was back on the field to start the third quarter.

But he was injured again when his head appeared to hit the ground late in the game while trying to make a catch. Team trainers took his helmet and escorted him to the locker room. He finished with three receptions for 39 yards.

The takeaway

Georgia found success on the ground without Frazier and backup Chauncey Bowens. The Bulldogs also benefited from recovering all five of their fumbles. Stockton was 9-of-10 passing for 104 yards on third down.

Alabama had its moments offensively but missed opportunities on the ground and with scoring chances on the brink of field-goal range.

Up next

Georgia hosts Auburn in the rivalry dubbed "The Deep South's Oldest Rivalry" next Saturday.

Alabama plays at No. 15 Tennessee in the rivalry known as "The Third Saturday in October" next Saturday.

DOJ says it's investigating whether White House TV pool's coverage halt violated antitrust law

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and AMY TAXIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Department of Justice is investigating whether the decision of the White House television press pool to halt coverage of President Donald Trump last month violated antitrust law, an agency spokesperson said Saturday.

Emily Covington, a spokesperson for the department, said group boycotts among business competitors might violate U.S. law. "The Antitrust Division is simply investigating to determine whether these news organizations have violated the antitrust laws," she said.

The announcement came after the television pool of five broadcasters last month ceased presidential coverage after the administration barred CNN, MS NOW and Politico from the White House.

Messages were sent late Saturday to the five outlets seeking comment: ABC, CBS, CNN, FOX and NBC.

The White House press pool, which is a rotating cast of news outlets that covers the president, has become a proxy for the wider fight over whether the president, or anyone, can control the content of news reports — a type of free speech, pillar of American democracy.

Last month's developments marked an extraordinary escalation in Trump's efforts to restrict news reporters and outlets that he finds insufficiently supportive.

CNN, MS NOW and Politico sued over the days-long ban. It was lifted after a judge handed the three news organizations a reprieve, which is in place until Tuesday.

Television pool coverage of the White House has also resumed.

Jose Zamora, the Committee to Protect Journalists' regional director of the Americas, on Saturday criticized the administration's decision to investigate.

"The government should not use antitrust investigations to intimidate news outlets defending press access," Zamora said on X. "The public's right to know depends on that access."

Shooting leaves 9 dead including suspect in Erie, Pennsylvania, police say

By HOLLY RAMER and JACQUELINE GANUN Associated Press/Report for America

A man killed eight people including a pregnant woman, children and other relatives at his home in Erie,

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Pennsylvania, before taking his own life as well, authorities said Saturday.

Erie Police Chief Rick Lorah said the 45-year-old man was related to seven of the victims in the previous day's shooting, while the eighth was a friend of the pregnant woman.

Video and audio evidence recovered by investigators included muffled gunshot sounds coming from inside the home just before two "distressed" women arrived and began pounding on the door shortly before 5 p.m. Friday, he said. The gunman then came out and shot them as they ran toward him, before returning inside.

Police arrived to find the two women dead outside. After deploying a drone and robot, they went inside and found the bodies of a 5-year-old boy; a 1-year-old girl on the first floor; two more women and two young men in a stairwell; and the shooter on the second floor.

"Out of respect for the victims and the families, I will not discuss the details of what our officers encountered inside that home," the chief said at a news conference. "But I want our community to understand the gravity of what happened and the profound impact this tragedy has had on those involved and on our community as a whole."

Lorah declined to discuss motive but said investigators would talk to other relatives and examine the cellphones of the women who were killed outside the home.

"They knew something was going on at that house," he said. "We have to figure out what that is."

Lorah said officers arrived within minutes of receiving an alert via ShotSpotter, a controversial gunshot detection system that relies on artificial intelligence and a network of microphones to identify gunshots. No additional shots were fired after that.

"Sounds that may have been mistaken for gunfire came from flashbang devices — chemical munitions — used by SWAT officers," he said.

Gov. Josh Shapiro said he offered his administration's "full support" to Erie Mayor Daria Devlin, who spoke directly to the victims' families during the news conference.

"I am so deeply sorry. What happened to you was horrific, and there is nothing that any of us can say today that will make this any easier," she said. "But you do need to know that our entire community is with you, we're grieving with you. And we are here to support you."

District Attorney Elizabeth Hirz urged the public to refrain from speculation as the investigation continues.

"Please do not allow rumors, speculation or unverified information to add to the pain that these families are already experiencing," she said.

Erie is about 120 miles (190 kilometers) north of Pittsburgh.

Speaking at a campaign rally outside Philadelphia, Shapiro mentioned both the Erie killings and the shooting of two Philadelphia police officers early Saturday.

"Today has been a dark day across this commonwealth," he said.

Park service could remove more than 500 trees at historic golf course Trump wants to redesign

By MATTHEW DALY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Park Service has begun a new round of tree-cutting at a historic golf course near the National Mall as the Trump administration proceeds with a plan to renovate the East Potomac Golf Links into a championship-level course.

More than 500 trees "that do not contribute to the historic landscape will be removed" as part of the rehabilitation project, the National Park Service said in a court filing Friday. "No healthy trees that are contributing features of the historical golf course" — including historic cherry trees — will be removed as part of the project, the park service said.

A total of 169 trees will be removed starting Saturday, with another 90 trees slated for removal later, the agency said.

The tree removals come as President Donald Trump has moved to turn the course into a world-class

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golf venue — part of his grand vision for Washington, D.C., where he has torn down storied structures, remade or renamed others and deployed the National Guard for more than a year.

Some residents fear the planned changes to the golf course — where Trump has visited with a cabinet member, a well-known golf course architect and blueprints — risk altering the character of a place that has served Washingtonians of all income levels for more than a century. Turning the park into an upscale golf course will mean costlier fees and a likely loss of public space.

"The National Park Service is finally implementing a 7-year-old plan to address tree overgrowth at East Potomac Golf Course," the Interior Department said in a statement Saturday. The department oversees the park service and other agencies that manage federal lands.

The renovation work will include selective tree and vegetation work to restore the course, the Interior Department said, adding that the work is intended to "help restore the course's historic character and reopen views toward landmarks, including the Washington Monument, National War College, Potomac River and Washington Channel."

The park service "recognizes the importance of trees to the park and its visitors. This carefully planned work is part of our required stewardship of the park," the statement said.

The golf course will remain open to the public throughout the renovation effort, although individual holes may temporarily close while work is underway, the agency said.

The 106-year-old public course has been embroiled in a lawsuit since February. Plaintiffs including the DC Preservation League say the Trump administration's reconstruction would violate the congressional act that created the park in 1897. The group sought an emergency stop-work order this spring because of concerns that work was expected to begin immediately on the course.

Charles Birnbaum, president of the Cultural Landscape Foundation, a nonprofit that is suing the Trump administration over renovations at the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, said the tree removal at the golf course should be subject to review under the National Historic Preservation Act.

"The work is not routine maintenance, and therefore, for a designated property, they need to undertake Section 106," Birnbaum said Saturday, referring to the section of the preservation law that requires federal agencies to consider a project's effects on historic and cultural properties.

Trump, an avid golfer, has posted about the course on social media: "When completed, this Course will have the ability to host Major Golf Tournaments, including The U.S. Open, The Ryder Cup, The PGA Championship, and other top PGA Tour events," he wrote in late June.

It's unclear when the course could host any major tournaments, as locations are chosen several years ahead of the events.

Mystery surrounds young worker's death at Russia lab studying severe diseases

GENEVA (AP) — The World Health Organization said Saturday it still doesn't know what caused the death of a young worker at a lab in Russia that focuses on plague and other illnesses.

The U.N. health agency has cited initial, unconfirmed reports suggesting pneumonic plague, a severe disease less common than the better-known bubonic plague linked to the Black Death in the Middle Ages. Pneumonic plague spreads from person to person, causing a severe form of pneumonia, but recovery rates are high if it is detected and treated in time.

WHO, in its first full Disease Outbreak News since the case emerged earlier this month, called for a continued investigation.

Russian health officials, it said, had conducted more than 5,500 tests and found no evidence of any dangerous pathogenic microorganisms.

"Additional clinical, epidemiological and laboratory information, including confirmation of the diagnosis in the deceased laboratory worker, is required to improve confidence in the assessment," WHO said.

WHO continued to refer to "a purported second case" that, in emailed explanations to The Associated Press, it previously attributed to two tabloid news outlets in Britain and Serbia that cited unspecified re-

ports in Russia.

Russia has denied any such second case.

India cracks down on youth protests as anger grows against Modi and election chief

By SHEIKH SAALIQ Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — Indian authorities deployed a sweeping security crackdown across New Delhi and detained thousands of protesters Saturday as India's youth "Cockroach" movement sought to intensify a nationwide campaign against a contentious voter list revision that has fueled anger at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government and election authorities.

Police moved to break up the demonstration before it could begin, intercepting demonstrators on their way to Jantar Mantar, the designated protest site in the heart of India's capital, chasing off some and detaining many others. Some were dragged away before being bundled into police vehicles and taken to temporary detention centers. Several "Cockroach" movement leaders, opposition lawmakers and student activists were detained before arriving, effectively crippling the protest ahead of its start.

The crackdown extended beyond the protest venue, with police stopping buses, cars and other vehicles at checkpoints on routes into the capital and searching for demonstrators. Jantar Mantar was barricaded, while anti-riot vehicles equipped with tear gas launchers were stationed along key routes. Restrictions on mobile internet and access to parts of the city added to the hurdles facing protesters.

Police said Friday they had denied permission for the protest because the request was submitted late.

Sambit Patra, a spokesperson for Modi's party, dismissed the demonstrators as "anarchic elements."

"Their flop show has been completely demolished," Patra said.

The scale of the crackdown underscored the authorities' determination to disrupt a fast-growing protest campaign that has mobilized thousands of young people, drawn opposition support and intensified scrutiny of Modi. The protests also come at a politically sensitive time, months after demonstrations led by the "Cockroach" movement over exam paper leaks forced Modi's education minister to resign in July.

Police detain leaders and tighten grip around protest site

Leaders of the "Cockroach" movement Abhijeet Dipke, Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka, who were expected to be at the forefront of the protest, were detained after arriving at Delhi airport from Mumbai on Saturday. A video shared by the "Cockroach Janta Party" on X showed police boarding the aircraft and detaining the three men.

"The pre-planned interception by Delhi Police aims to cripple the leadership of today's peaceful demonstrations before they even reach the protest site," the movement said in a statement.

Loudspeakers around the protest site warned that gatherings of five or more people were banned in parts of New Delhi, as authorities imposed sweeping security restrictions rarely seen in the capital. Journalists also faced restrictions in some areas, with police briefly detaining some of them.

Some protesters nevertheless broke through police cordons, chanting slogans against Modi and election authorities before being detained.

"We are a democracy, yet peaceful protests are being crushed by force. Shouldn't we fight for our rights," said Tanya Negi, a college student who traveled from Mumbai with two friends and arrived early Saturday. "Why is Modi afraid of India's young people?"

The police response marked an extraordinary show of force in a capital where Modi's government has repeatedly sought to contain public dissent in the past. Under Modi, authorities have often used arrests and restrictions on public gatherings to contain demonstrations, raising questions about the space for protests in the world's largest democracy.

The latest crackdown renewed criticism from opposition leaders, who accused the government of curbing dissent.

"Is there a democracy in this country? A total siege over the city. Citizens are being driven out," opposition lawmaker John Brittas told The Associated Press. Brittas was later detained by police.

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India's voter list dispute raises election fairness concerns

The protests center on India's Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision, which the opposition says has disenfranchised millions of eligible voters. Protesters demand the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and an end to the change, which has removed more than 130 million names from voter lists so far.

The Election Commission and the government reject allegations of voter manipulation, saying the revision is intended to eliminate duplicate and ineligible entries.

The dispute has become a rallying point for opposition parties seeking to challenge Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

Saturday's planned demonstration follows days of protests in the Indian capital where opposition lawmakers also stepped up their campaign, with Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi being briefly detained by police.

Gandhi and other opposition leaders have accused the commission of conducting the voter revision in a way that benefits Modi's party. The opposition says voters more likely to support its parties have been disproportionately affected by the removals, while supporters of the BJP have been spared or added to the lists.

The commission and the government deny the allegations.

India's youth movement broadens campaign against Modi

For the "Cockroach" movement, the voter list dispute offers an opportunity to broaden its campaign.

The movement began online in May and gained prominence through demonstrations, sit-ins and hunger strikes over alleged exam paper leaks. Those protests culminated in the resignation of Modi's education minister in July, a rare political setback for a prime minister who has maintained a firm hold on national power for more than 12 years.

For Modi, the protests pose a challenge midway through his third term, though their political impact remains unclear. National elections are not due until 2029, but state elections next year in BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, and Gujarat, Modi's home state, will test the party's standing.

Mahmoud Abbas postpones Palestinian legislative elections another year

By SAM METZ Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — President Mahmoud Abbas postponed what would have been the first Palestinian elections in nearly 20 years, issuing a decree on Friday to further delay voting for the Palestinian Legislative Council almost another year.

Rather than take place as scheduled next month, the decree pushes the elections back to Sept. 11, 2027, according to WAFA, the official Palestinian news agency. Presidential elections, which have not taken place for more than two decades, are scheduled for the same day.

The postponement leaves entrenched Palestinian leaders unchallenged and threatens to further erode the Palestinian Authority's credibility among ordinary Palestinians and donor countries who fund it.

The internationally backed body is dominated by Abbas' party, Fatah, and has administered semiautonomous parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank since agreements reached in the 1990s. It has grown increasingly unpopular throughout Abbas' presidency. Many Palestinians view it as corrupt and criticize its security cooperation with Israel.

The decree came after a committee of top Palestinian officials met Saturday morning to discuss postponing the vote. The Palestine Liberation Organization's Executive Committee, which Abbas heads, said in a statement that conditions in east Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were not conducive to holding elections, noting that Israel had not allowed election materials or international observers to enter Gaza.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar on X said that Abbas' "attempt to drag Israel into this, falsely claiming that Israel imposed obstacles to holding elections, is yet another ridiculous lie designed to evade responsibility and accountability."

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The move was expected after Palestinian factions across the political spectrum met in Cairo for discussions on delaying the vote, Islamic Jihad deputy secretary-general Mohammed al-Hindi told The Associated Press earlier this week.

Hamas called the postponement "a step in the right direction" and said further talks should focus on rebuilding Palestinian institutions and holding elections at a later date.

Palestinians have not held a legislative election since 2006, when Hamas won a majority of seats. Israel and Western countries then boycotted its government, fueling months of unrest that led to the Hamas takeover of Gaza the following year. Power has been divided between Gaza and the West Bank in the two decades since, with Hamas in control of Gaza and Abbas' Palestinian Authority in power in the West Bank.

The West Bank has grown increasingly violent in recent years as Israel has expanded settlements and outposts. Settler attacks on Palestinians and Israeli army raids on cities under the authority's control are both regularly reported.

Though the U.S.-brokered ceasefire plan reached last year outlined a future role for the authority in Gaza, its immediate role was left mostly undefined as Hamas has continued to govern the territory and the technocrats under the Board of Peace remain in Cairo awaiting permission to enter the territory to oversee a transition of power.

Before the postponement, leading factions had not registered slates to contest the election. But behind the scenes, veteran officials had been in talks to join forces and take aim at Abbas. An unlikely alliance had emerged between Hamas, Islamic Jihad and a bloc led by former Fatah security chief Mohammed Dahlan. Dahlan had previously been driven from Gaza by Hamas and was exiled in 2010 after a falling-out with Abbas.

"Abbas is terrified by the electoral alliance bringing our faction together with opposition factions and forces within Fatah that reject his leadership," Dimitri Dilliani, a spokesperson for Dahlan's faction, said in a statement.

Abbas has served as president since 2005 and delayed several presidential and legislative elections throughout his tenure.

Pope Leo declares death penalty 'inadmissible' as his native US plans to livestream execution

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Pope Leo XIV on Saturday declared capital punishment "inadmissible" as he marked the World Day Against the Death Penalty and his native United States announced plans to livestream an execution by firing squad.

In a post on X, the American pope quoted the revised Catholic teaching on capital punishment ushered in by Pope Francis that the death penalty attacks the inherent dignity of a human being.

"The common good can be safeguarded and the requirements of justice can be met without recourse to capital punishment," read the post under Leo's official handle, @Pontifex. "Effective systems of detention have been developed that protect citizens while at the same time do not completely deprive those who are guilty of the possibility of redemption."

The post ended with the hashtag #NoDeathPenalty.

The U.S. Defense Department announced Thursday that the firing squad execution of Nidal Malik Hasan, convicted of a 2009 shooting at the Fort Hood military base, will be livestreamed. Hasan, scheduled to be executed at Fort Hood on Dec. 3, was convicted of killing 13 people and wounding 32 others.

U.S. President Donald Trump said Saturday he would be making a decision ultimately on whether the execution would be livestreamed.

Leo didn't refer specifically to the planned execution, or the botched lethal injection in Tennessee earlier that has revived debate over the death penalty in the United States. Saturday is World Day Against the Death Penalty, and it is common for the pope's official social media accounts to post messages marking such commemorations.

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But Leo's post came just hours after his top deputy, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican secretary of state, said explicitly that the planned U.S. public execution was "unacceptable."

Pope Francis declared capital punishment 'inadmissible'

Pope Francis in 2018 amended official Catholic teaching to declare capital punishment "inadmissible" in all circumstances.

Previously, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the official compendium of church teaching, said the church didn't exclude recourse to capital punishment "if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor."

Past popes had upheld that position, though St. John Paul II began urging an end to the practice and stressed that guilty people were just as deserving of dignity as innocent ones.

Like Francis before him, Leo has made visiting prisons a key part of his papal travel in a bid to give a message of hope to inmates and underscore their inherent dignity, that God loves them and that there is always a chance for redemption.

"If any of you fear being abandoned by everyone, know that God will never abandon you, and that the church will stand by your side," Leo told inmates at the notorious Bata prison in Equatorial Guinea during his visit in April. Leo is to visit a prison in Buenos Aires during his upcoming tour through Latin America.

Speaking specifically about the United States, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican secretary of state, said the planned livestreamed execution was "truly incomprehensible" and "unacceptable to turn death into a spectacle."

"The Church's position is one of total opposition to the death penalty; it is incompatible with human dignity and serves as no deterrent..." Parolin said in comments carried by Vatican News. "It is truly incomprehensible that anyone would want to use this system today — I don't know for what purpose. It is certainly unacceptable to turn death into a spectacle; even if the person is guilty, of course, there are other methods."

The head of the U.S. bishops conference, Archbishop Paul Coakley, expressed "shock" and "great sorrow" at the Pentagon's plans.

"In no way can Hasan's actions be condoned but this decision is a barbaric promotion of a culture of death and must be reconsidered," he said in a statement Friday. "The public execution even of one who has done grave harm will only further undermine the moral fabric of our nation and be a blight on the conscience of its people."

Christa Pike is discharged from a hospital after surviving execution attempt, her attorneys say

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Christa Pike, who survived Tennessee's attempt to execute her by lethal injection, has been moved back to prison, her attorneys said Saturday.

Pike, 50, was discharged from the hospital and is back at the Debra K. Johnson Rehabilitation Center, the women's prison where she was housed for 30 years, her attorneys said in a written statement.

"She is grateful to the first responders and her medical team for their care in these extraordinary circumstances. She is continuing to receive medical care at the prison, and we will continue to track her recovery," the statement said.

Pike had been hospitalized since surviving two doses of pentobarbital as the state attempted to execute her on Sept. 30 for the 1995 beating and stabbing death of classmate Colleen Slemmer. At one point she was on a ventilator and her attorneys did not expect her to survive. However, they said Pike woke up and began talking and walking with assistance.

The Death Penalty Information Center says Pike is the first person to survive after receiving lethal injection drugs during an execution.

The Tennessee Department of Correction has not said what went wrong in the execution. Medical and lethal injection experts have focused on whether a problem with the IV line caused the drug to pool in her tissue instead of entering her bloodstream. Pike's attorneys wrote in a court filing that "apparently at

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no point did any member of the execution team realize that the IV lines were not correctly placed."

The failed execution brought renewed scrutiny to how Tennessee carries out death sentences.

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee has since postponed the state's only other scheduled execution this year and ordered a review of what went wrong. The state's prison chief resigned in the wake of the failed execution.

As the process got underway, Pike was asked if she had a final statement and she spoke of being at peace. About five minutes later, she raised her head and said her arm hurt. Later, she appeared to lose consciousness but could be heard breathing heavily until media witnesses were escorted from the witness room nearly 90 minutes into the execution. An ambulance took her to a hospital.

Today in History: October 11, Anita Hill testifies at Clarence Thomas hearings

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Oct. 11, the 284th day of 2026. There are 81 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Oct. 11, 1991, Anita Hill accused Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of sexual harassment in testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee; Thomas denounced the proceedings as a "high-tech lynching" and was confirmed on Oct. 15 by a 52-48 vote.

Also on this date:

In 1776, the Battle of Valcour Island was fought on Lake Champlain off present-day New York State; British forces captured or destroyed most of an American fleet under the command of Benedict Arnold but were stalled in their attempts to seize control of the lake and Fort Ticonderoga.

In 1906, the San Francisco Board of Education ordered the city's Asian students to be assigned to their own, segregated school. (The order was later rescinded at the behest of President Theodore Roosevelt, who in exchange promised to curb Japanese immigration to the U.S.)

In 1968, Apollo 7, the first crewed flight of the Apollo program, was launched with astronauts Walter Schirra Jr., Donn F. Eisele and R. Walter Cunningham aboard.

In 1984, Challenger astronaut Kathryn D. Sullivan became the first American woman to walk in space as she and fellow Mission Specialist David C. Leestma spent 3 1/2 hours outside the shuttle.

In 1986, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev opened two days of talks in Reykjavik, Iceland, concerning arms control and human rights.

In 1987, the AIDS Memorial Quilt was first displayed during the Second National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights on the National Mall.

In 2002, former President Jimmy Carter won the Nobel Peace Prize for decades of work to resolve international conflicts and advocate for human rights through The Carter Center and other means.

In 2017, the Boy Scouts of America announced that it would admit girls into the Cub Scouts starting the following year and establish a new program for older girls based on the Boy Scout curriculum.

In 2022, NASA announced that the Dart spacecraft had plowed into a small asteroid millions of miles away and succeeded in shifting its orbit. The space agency conducted the test two weeks earlier to see if in the future a killer rock could be nudged out of Earth's way.

In 2024, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Nihon Hidankyo, a Japanese organization of survivors of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II, for its efforts to free the world of nuclear weapons.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry is 99. Actor Amitabh Bachchan is 84. Singer Daryl Hall (Hall and Oates) is 80. Democratic Sen. Patty Murray, of Washington state, is 76. Actor David Morse is 73. Football Hall of Famer Steve Young is 65. Actor Joan Cusack is 64. Actor Jane Krakowski is 58. Rapper MC Lyte is 56. Actor Emily Deschanel is 50. Actor Matt Bomer is 49. Four-time NBA All-Star Mike Conley Jr. is 39. Golfer Michelle Wie West is 37. Rapper Cardi B is 34. NFL Pro Bowl linebacker T.J. Watt is 32. NBA forward and Olympic gold medalist Keldon Johnson is 27.