

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Sunday, Oct. 2

Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 10:45 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.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion (St. John's 9:00 am, Zion 11:00 am)

UMC: Conde worship with communion, 8:30 p.m.; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton Worship with communion, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday school after children's sermon during worship.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Worship at Avantara, 3 p.m.; Choir, 7 p.m.

## Monday, Oct. 3

Senior Menu: Goulash, green beans, baked apples, whole wheat bread.

State Golf Meet at Moccasin Creek CC

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



4 p.m.: 7th/8th FB Combined game vs. Roncalli at Groton

4:30 p.m.: JV FB game vs. Dakota Hills at Waubay. Pantry at Community Center open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

UMC: The Walk Bible Study by Pastor Brandon, 7 p.m.

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

## Tuesday, Oct. 4

Senior Menu: Honey glazed chicken breast, parsley buttered potatoes, beets, fruit, whole wheat bread.

6 p.m.: Youth Football Equipment Hand In in wrestling room

State Golf Meet at Moccasin Creek CC

Volleyball at Moberg-Pollock

Pantry at Community Center open 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store Open 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 209 N Main.

UMC: Bible Study at 10 a.m.; The Walk Bible Study by Pastor Brandon in Conde, 7 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML, 1 p.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

## **OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

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## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. And the king gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his nobles and officials.*

ESTHER 2: 17-18

Detail of "Queen Esther" by Edwin Long (1879)



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## BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Abimelech in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From John 15:5, Jesus said, "I am the vine, ye are the ..." *Water, Wind, Tree, Branches*

3. According to Paul, what kind of giver does God love? *Loving, Generous, Cheerful, Reluctant*

4. What wicked queen wanted to kill the prophet Elijah? *Athaliah, Herodias, Maachah, Jezebel*

5. From Exodus 13, who was Moses' personal servant? *Joshua, Zilpah, Gehazi, Elisha*

6. Which of these describes Amos the prophet? *Priest, Herdsman, Carpenter, Fisherman*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Branches, 3) Cheerful, 4) Jezebel, 5) Joshua, 6) Herdsman

*Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit [www.TriviaGuy.com](http://www.TriviaGuy.com).*





## 24-Hour Refrigerator Vegetable Pickles

On a recent afternoon when my son texted me to check in, I nimbly replied with sticky fingers, "I'm preoccupied with taking pics of pints of pickled ...." While laughing at the preponderance of P's, I accidentally pressed "send." He immediately wrote back, "Pickled PEP-PERS? ... ha!"

OK, so I may have left the peppers out of this recipe, but keeping with the "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled ..." verse that took us back to his childhood, I simply replied, "perhaps." Wordplay and food play are interchangeable with kids, no matter their age.

Preparing pickled veggies this time of year is the perfect antidote for using and enjoying the abundance of fresh, tender and tasty produce in our gardens and markets. You and your kids can create jars full to stack in the refrigerator in less than an hour for a month of tasty sides. Discover, like my family, that the vegetables will be sweet like bread and butter pickles, but will pack more flavor than the traditional grocery-store fare.

Here's how to "pickle it" all:

### 24-HOUR PICKLES

Makes 6 pints

For the brine:

5 cups distilled white vinegar

5 cups sugar

2 tablespoons kosher salt  
1/4 cup mustard seed  
1 tablespoon celery seed  
1 tablespoon black peppercorns  
6 bay leaves  
Fresh dill (optional)

For the vegetables:

3 cucumbers, sliced in discs or quartered lengthwise  
6 medium carrots, peeled and quartered lengthwise  
2 big handfuls of green beans  
1 medium cauliflower, broken into pieces  
2 onions, halved and sliced

1. In a saucepan, combine the first six brine ingredients and bring to a boil, stirring until sugar is completely dissolved.

2. Place the vegetables in a large bowl.

3. An adult should pour the hot brine mixture over the vegetables. Cool. Transfer equally to six clean jars, tucking a bay leaf and dill (if you choose) in each one. Screw lids on tightly and place in the refrigerator.



4. Refrigerate for 24 hours before serving. Keep refrigerated and use within one month.

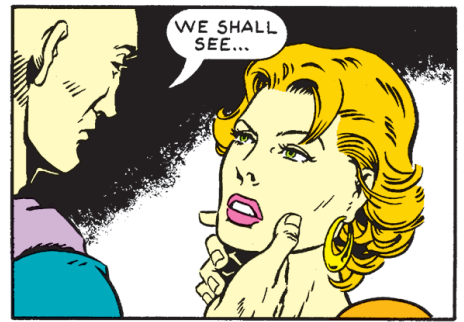
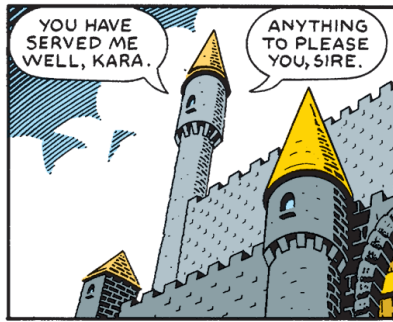
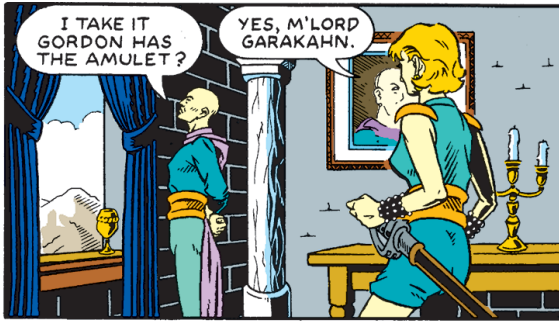
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*Donna Erickson creates relationships and community through food and fun. Find more to nourish and delight you at [www.donnaerickson.com](http://www.donnaerickson.com).*



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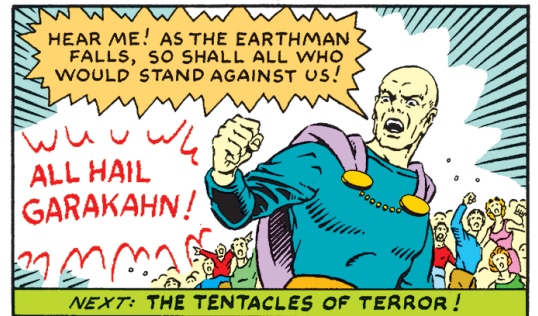
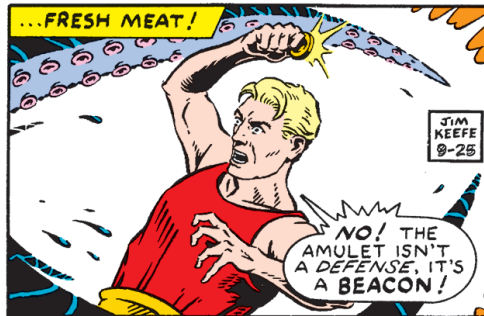
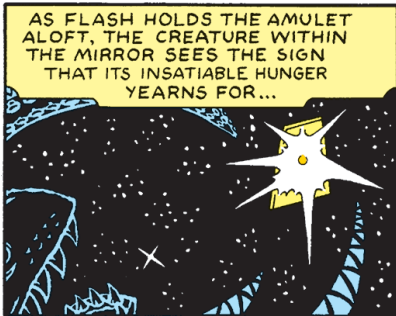
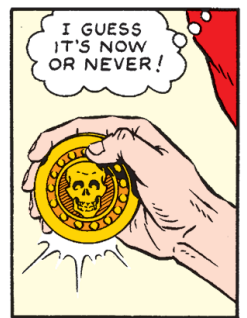
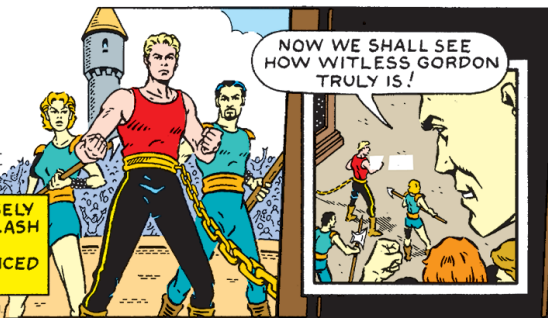
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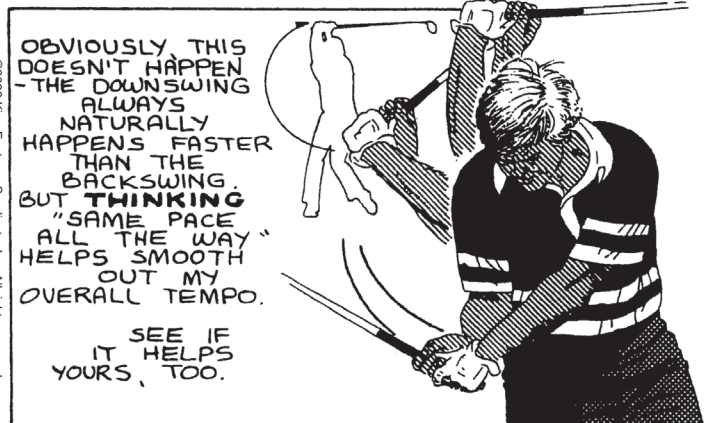
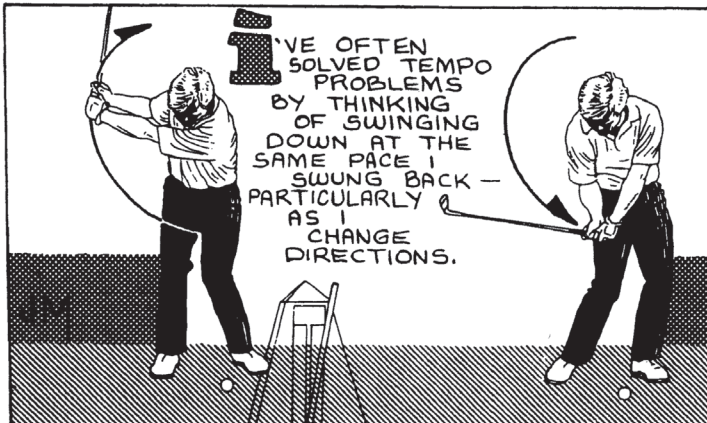
## FLASH GORDON

HOLDING THE AMULET HE FALSELY BELIEVES WILL PROTECT HIM, FLASH IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE MYSTICAL MIRROR TO BE SACRIFICED TO THE CREATURE WITHIN!

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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





## Cardiac Stent, While Helpful, Can Bring Risks

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I am a 71-year-old woman diagnosed with coronary artery disease. My latest calcium score was 801. My right coronary artery was 80% blocked, and the left artery was 25%. My cardiologist asked me to decide if I want to do angioplasty or not. I don't have any symptoms, only shortness of breath on exertion. I can't decide what to do. My cardiologist seemed against getting a stent, not that he said that exactly, but he stressed the risk of getting one. — *M.C.*

**ANSWER:** A cardiac stent is a device placed into an artery of the heart after it is re-opened, usually by a balloon in a procedure called an angioplasty. Stents help reduce the risk of the artery closing off after the procedure. In people with stable coronary artery disease, opening up a blood vessel can reduce symptoms, but has not been shown, despite many studies, to reduce risk of heart attack or death.

You said you were asymptomatic, but shortness of breath is one of the major symptoms of blocked coronary arteries, which are the blood vessels that provide oxygen-rich blood to the heart muscle. It can be very difficult at times to judge whether a person's shortness of breath is coming from blockages in the artery or not, and stress testing can help answer whether this is likely. People can have shortness of breath on exertion for many reasons, including lung problems, anemia, lack of exercise or persistent symptoms after a COVID infection.

While the decision is ultimately up to you — it's your body — it's best if

recommendation and the reasoning behind it. You can't make an informed decision without being informed. A stent might improve your shortness of breath, but there are risks of bleeding, infection and even heart damage from a stent placement. It's not to be undertaken lightly.

If your cardiologist doesn't feel that your shortness of breath stems from the blockages, then a stent is not likely to be helpful. Revisit with your cardiologist to get a clear idea of the potential benefit and harm specific for your case, and bring a friend or family member to assist you.

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**DEAR DR. ROACH:** I take Antabuse to help me quit drinking. Do I need to worry about the alcohol in hand sanitizers? — *L.W.*

**ANSWER:** Antabuse is a medication that makes people feel very sick even if they drink small amounts of alcohol. It is not frequently used anymore, but it is still an effective and time-tested option for medication treatment in people with problem drinking.

Hand sanitizers are made from either ethyl alcohol, which is the alcohol in alcoholic beverages, or from isopropyl or rubbing alcohol. There have been case reports of people developing a reaction to the alcohol from practicing hand hygiene, from aftershave, and even from inhaling fumes after practicing hand hygiene. According to a study during the pandemic, of 42 people on Antabuse who routinely used hand sanitizers, 20% had a reaction to the ethyl-alcohol-based sanitizer, and 10% had a reaction to the isopropyl-based sanitizer. Seven percent of people had severe reactions, but the rest were mild and self-limited.

There clearly is a risk for developing symptoms after even the smallest amount of alcohol that can be absorbed through the skin or inhaled through fumes. People on Antabuse with a reaction to skin sanitizers should wash their hands rather than use sanitizers.

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



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"Dahmer -- Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story" (TV-MA) -- The newest addition to creator Ryan Murphy's anthology of crime drama series ("The People v. O.J. Simpson" and "The Assassination of Gianni Versace") is streaming now. Starring as one of the most famous serial killers of all time, Jeffrey Dahmer, is none other than Evan Peters, who has experience playing murderers with his roles in Murphy's "American Horror Story." Hollywood long-timers Richard Jenkins and Molly Ringwald portray Dahmer's conflicted parents in the miniseries, while Niecy Nash takes on the role of Dahmer's neighbor, Glenda Cleveland, who helped bring Dahmer to justice. With Peters' intense acting capabilities focused in on becoming one of the most horrifying men of all time, it's no wonder viewers are finding this series uncomfortably terrifying. (Netflix)



**Evan Peters stars in "Dahmer -- Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story."** Courtesy of Netflix

"Catherine Called Birdy" (PG-13) -- Taking place in the year 1290, this film adaptation of a novel of the same name follows the young Lady Catherine (Bella Ramsey), nicknamed "Birdy," as she grapples with everyday life in the medieval age. Birdy despises the antiquated and sexist expectations placed upon her by her father and other men in her life, but she, unlike other women around her, bravely tries to speak her mind to fight these expectations every step of the way. This film lets viewers cry and laugh alongside her as Birdy experiences what it feels like to come of age. Out on Oct. 7. (Prime Video)

"Werewolf by Night" (TV-14) -- Want to get in the Halloween mood this October with just the right amount of spookiness that won't give you nightmares on end? This TV special presented by Marvel Studios might be for you and your family! Verusa, the leader of a group of monster hunters, suffers a sudden death, after she accuses one of her hunters of being a monster themselves. The remaining monster hunters, with the monster still hiding among them, compete at Bloodstone Castle to win the prize of a relic with special powers. Marvel comic book fans have sounded off about their excitement for the appearance of the Werewolf by Night, as well as the Man-Thing, in this special out on streaming Oct. 7. (Disney+)

"The Greatest Beer Run Ever" (R) -- Crack open a beer and put your feet up for this one! Out now, this new film directed by Peter Farrelly stars Zac Efron as Chickie Donohue, a Marine Corps veteran in New York during 1967. Chickie's out at his usual bar one night, where he hears a joke about bringing beer to the American soldiers fighting in Vietnam and completely runs with the idea. He books his travel plans to Vietnam with the intention of bringing each soldier a beer to boost their morale and let them know that the people at home haven't stopped thinking about them. Once Chickie's there, however, he realizes he's in way over his head and must now rely on the men he was trying to help to get him safely back home. (AppleTV+)



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1. Name the group that had a No. 1 R&B hit with "Just to Be Close to You" in 1976.
2. Who released "Sorry Seems to Be the Hardest Word"?
3. The title of which song was a phone number that prompted thousands of prank calls across the country?
4. Who released "Every Breath You Take"?
5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "I love every movement, And there's nothing I would change, She doesn't need improvement, She's much too nice to rearrange."

## Answers

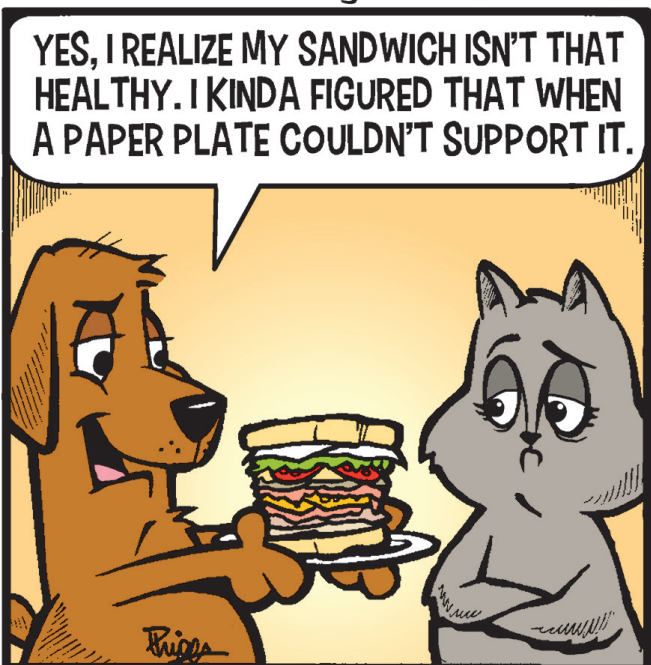
1. The Commodores. The song, written by Lionel Richie, topped the R&B charts and stayed there for two weeks.
  2. Elton John, in 1976. John and his writing partner Bernie Taupin wrote the song in minutes after John had fiddled briefly with a melody and lyrics.
  3. "867-5309/Jenny," by Tommy Tutone in 1981. Callers only needed to add in any area code to the number. Years later many people were still receiving prank calls.
  4. The Police, in 1983.
  5. "Poetry in Motion," by Johnny Tillotson in 1960. This chart topper has been covered widely around the globe, including releases by artists in Sweden, Germany, Finland, Chile and Czechoslovakia.
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## GRIN and BEAR IT <sup>by Wagner</sup>



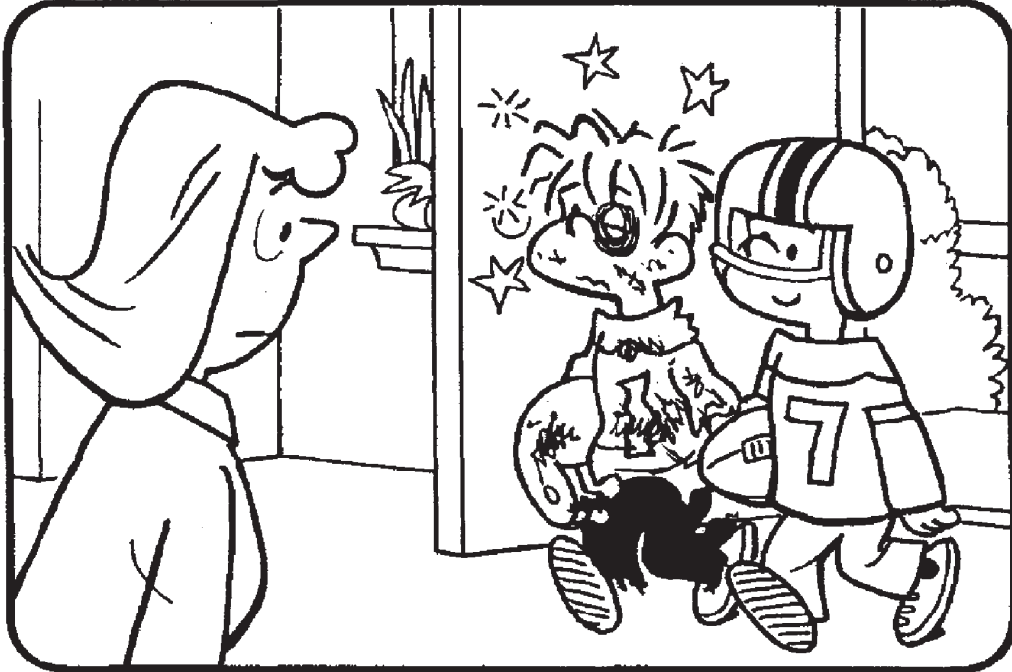
"The only thing left is a reality show about producing a reality show."

## Just Like Cats & Dogs <sup>by Dave T. Phipps</sup>

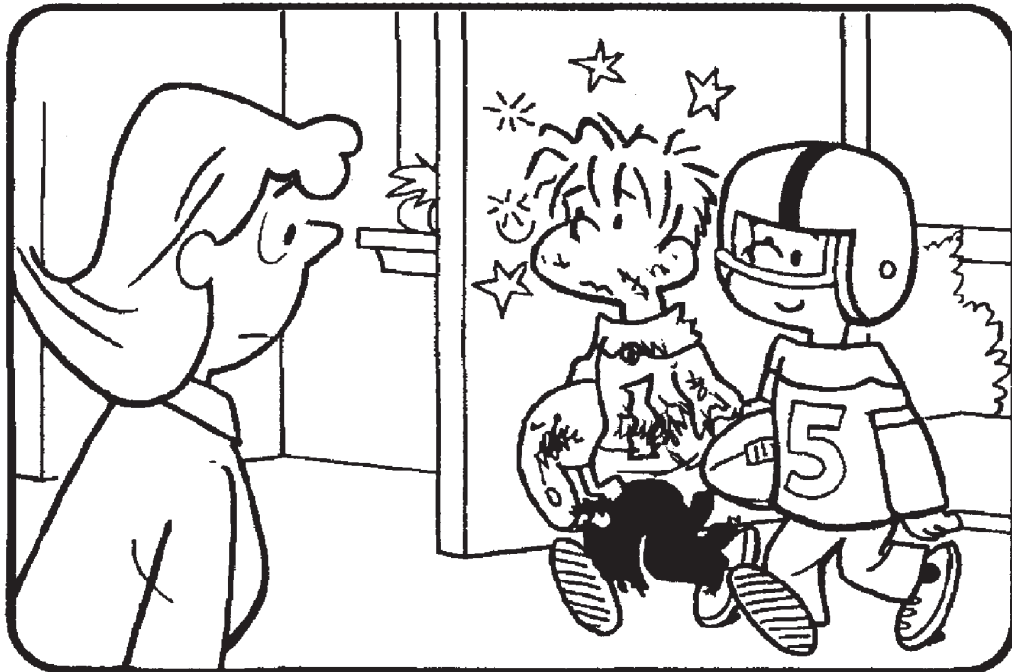


## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hair is different. 2. Plant is different. 3. Black eye is missing. 4. Stripes are missing. 5. Bush is different. 6. Number is different.

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\* A Tip From JoAnn: I like bottled water, but it's expensive and creates a lot of waste. I have plenty of reusable bottles, but bottled water always seemed more convenient and, frankly, better. I found that what I really like is to take a bottle of very cold water out of the fridge and drink it, so instead of storing those reusable bottles in the cabinet, I fill them straight from the dishwasher and put them in the fridge. Now I have the convenience of bottled water without spending the money, and I happily am not creating waste.

\* To remove stubborn contact paper from kitchen shelves, use a hair dryer set on low to loosen the adhesive. Peel away slowly.

\* Here's a trick for removing hard-water stains on windows or glass doors: Apply full-strength fabric softener to surface. Let dry, then use a wet cloth to remove, rinsing the cloth frequently.

\* "Hang a bag of clothespins near the laundry basket. Then if something has a stain that needs to be addressed, put a clip on it before adding it to the basket. This way, you'll know what to pretreat on wash day." -- D.W. in Washington

\* "To keep pants on a hanger from creasing, I slit a paper towel cardboard roll and slip it over the hanger. I tape it together and then put the pants over it. This has worked for me for many years." -- I.R. in Nebraska

\* Got a grease stain on your shirt? Cover it with baking soda right away. The baking soda will absorb oil. Repeat several times and launder as quickly as you can.

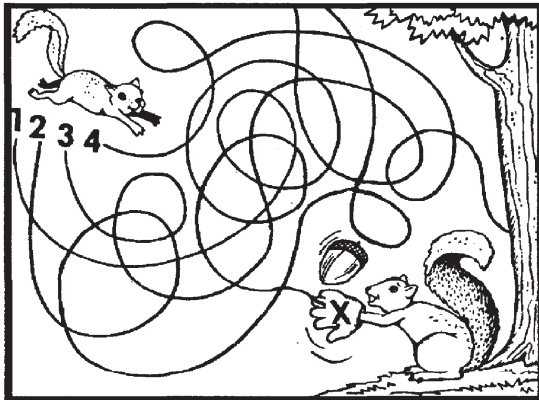
Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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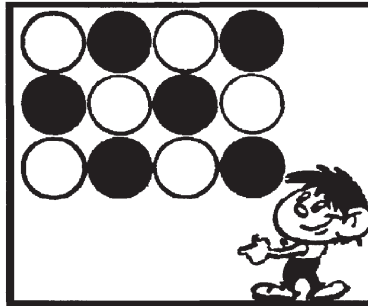
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## Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



### MAKE HEADS OR TAILS OF COIN SWITCH?

LIKE to switch things around? Try your hand at this old poser. P.S.: It has a catch to it, natch.

Arrange a group of 12 similar-size coins, as at left, alternating heads and tails.

Now then, see if you can rearrange the scheme of things so that each vertical row consists of all heads or all tails simply by touching and manipulating just one coin.

That is to say, rearrange the setup, for instance, so that the first and third rows are all heads, and the second and fourth row tails.

And all this by touching and manipulating one coin.

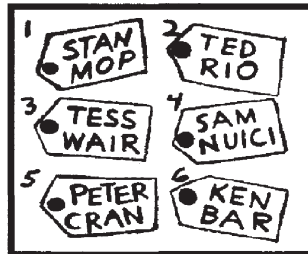
How is it done?

Move first coin in middle row to opposite side and push entire middle row one coin to the left.

**NICE CATCH!** Which path does the squirrel take to catch the falling acorn? Take a guess, then trace through line or lines.

**SHAPE UP!** There's a box turtle, a square meal, an angleworm, a conehead, arc welding, an archenemy, a round robin. Can you think of some more definitively shaped terms?

**TAG LINES!** What's in a name? Or, more specifically, what's in the six names that appear on tags in the diagram below? Well, if you are able to anagram the six names correctly, you can identify each individual's occupation. That is to say, letters can be rearranged to form names of jobs.



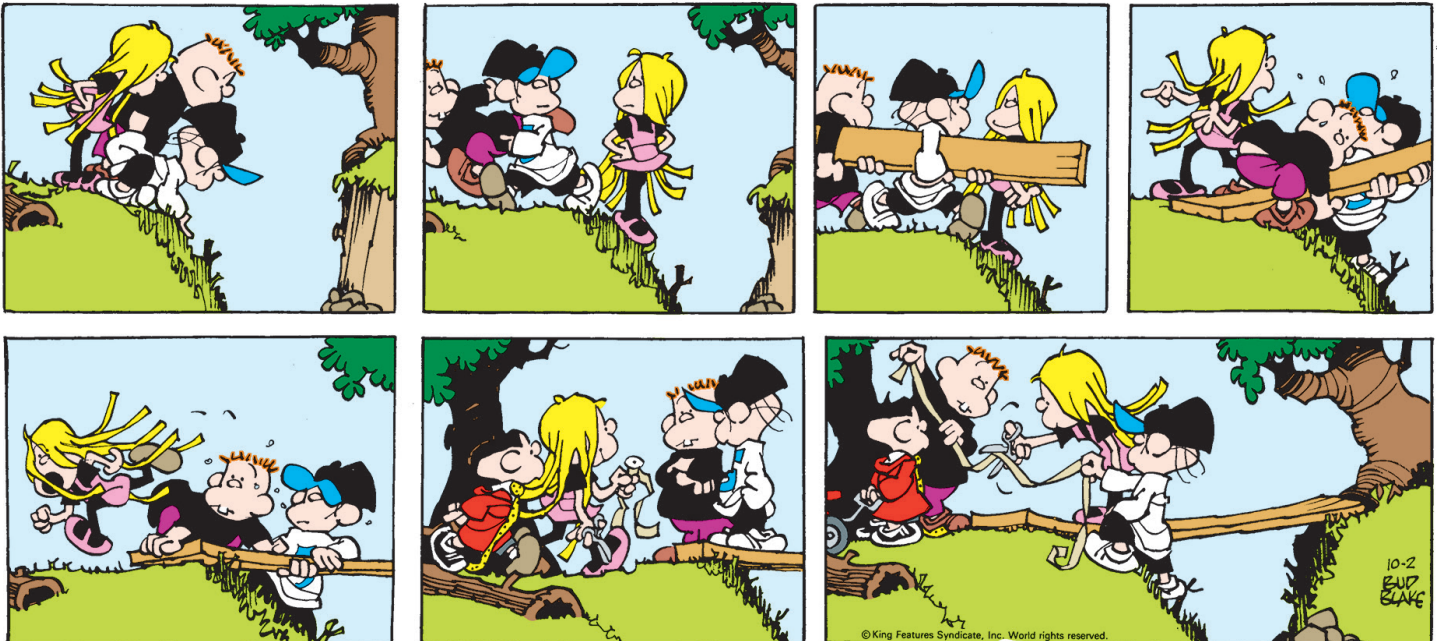
- Hints: 1. Delivers mail. 2. Handles copy.  
3. Serves food. 4. Plays in a band. 5. Uses a hammer. 6. Lends money.

What are the jobs?

1. Postman. 2. Editor. 3. Waitress. 4. Musician. 5. Carpenter. 6. Banker.

## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Black, in verse
- 5 Galoots
- 9 Stitch
- 12 Oompah band member
- 13 One
- 14 La-la lead-in
- 15 Post-WWII period
- 17 Texas tea
- 18 Hot and humid
- 19 "Haystacks" painter
- 21 Infinitive part
- 22 Follow
- 24 Merit badge holder
- 27 Chopper
- 28 Fury

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15				16						17		
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47				48	49	50						
51					52				53			
54				55					56			

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>31 Mom's mate</li> <li>32 Morsel</li> <li>33 "Gosh!"</li> <li>34 Dieter's target</li> <li>36 UFO fliers</li> <li>37 Phone inventor</li> <li>38 Small change</li> <li>40 Rocky Balboa's greeting</li> <li>41 Words to live by</li> <li>43 Sounded content</li> <li>47 Grazing land</li> <li>48 Period before one's golden years</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>51 "Life of Pi" director Lee</li> <li>52 "Dream on!"</li> <li>53 "East of Eden" son</li> <li>54 Born abroad?</li> <li>55 Feet, slangily</li> <li>56 Minus</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 Italian article</li> <li>7 Showbiz job</li> <li>8 Rose parts</li> <li>9 Prehistoric period</li> <li>10 Canal of song</li> <li>11 Poet Whitman</li> <li>16 "As I see it," in a text</li> <li>20 Owned by us</li> <li>22 Departs</li> <li>23 Tennis barriers</li> <li>24 Beach lotion letters</li> <li>25 MSN alternative</li> <li>26 Period that started with</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>42 Actress Russo</li> <li>43 Shareable PC files</li> <li>44 Exceptional</li> <li>45 Swelled heads</li> <li>46 Cozy rooms</li> <li>49 Equal (Pref.)</li> <li>50 Use a shovel</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sputnik</li> <li>27 Help a hood</li> <li>29 Solidify</li> <li>30 Slithery fish</li> <li>35 Foundation</li> <li>37 Northern</li> <li>39 Wanderer</li> <li>40 Actor Brynner</li> <li>41 Family</li> <li>42 Actress Russo</li> <li>43 Shareable PC files</li> <li>44 Exceptional</li> <li>45 Swelled heads</li> <li>46 Cozy rooms</li> <li>49 Equal (Pref.)</li> <li>50 Use a shovel</li> </ul> |  |

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## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

## LAFF - A - DAY



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"Our next speaker needs no introduction. He changed his mind and stayed home."

## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

**M**ETEOROLOGISTS HAVE NAMES THAT SOUND LIKE WEATHER. I.E. "HURRICANE SCHWARTZ" AND "STORM FIELD." WHAT IF PEOPLE WHO REPORT TRAFFIC HAD THEIR OWN UNIQUE NAMES?...



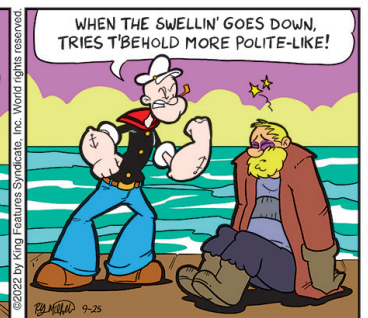
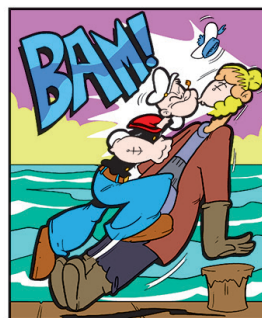
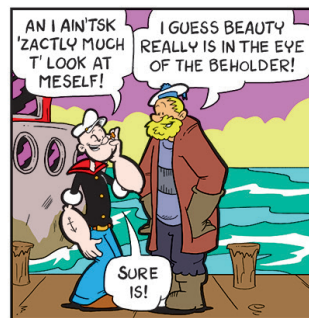
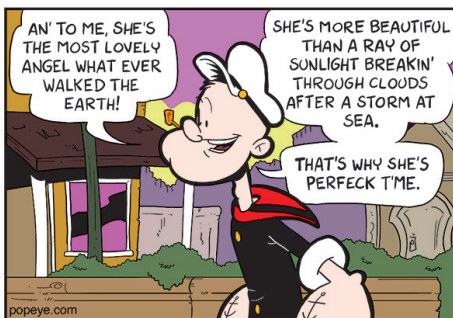
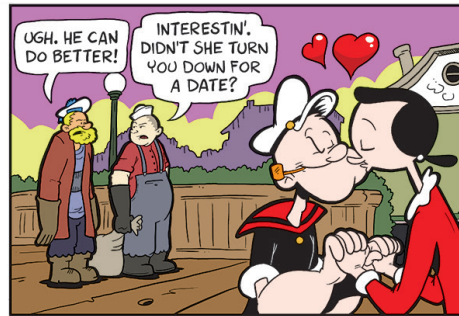
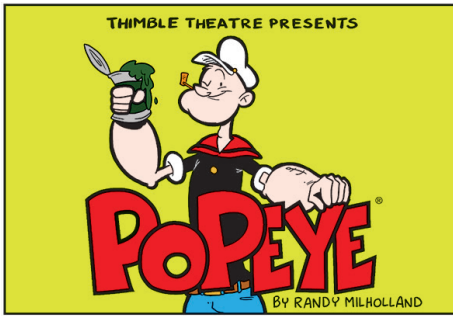
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KOPERVAS



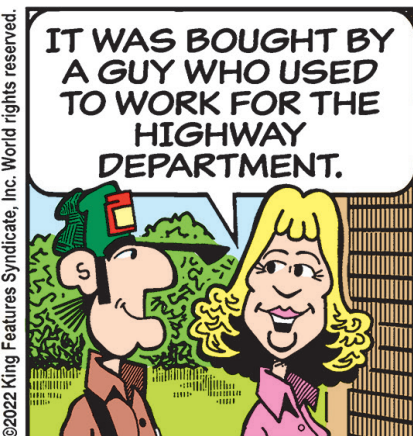
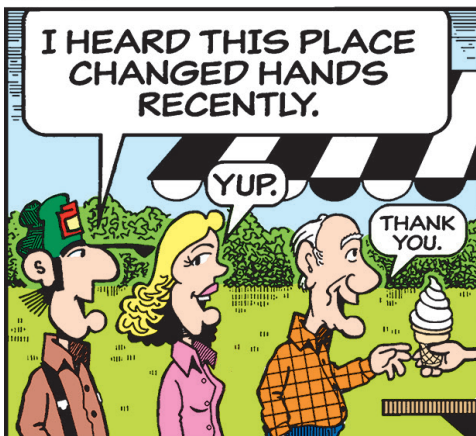
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## R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



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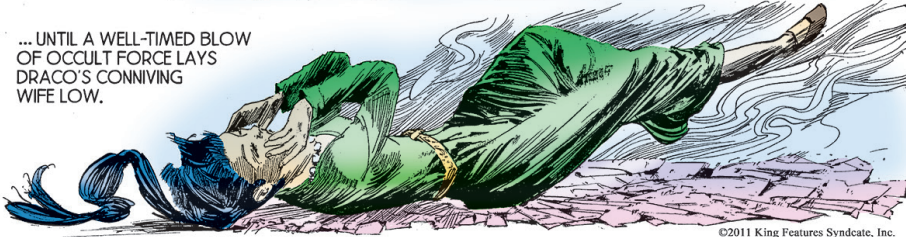
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Hal Foster's BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ  
**Prince Valiant**

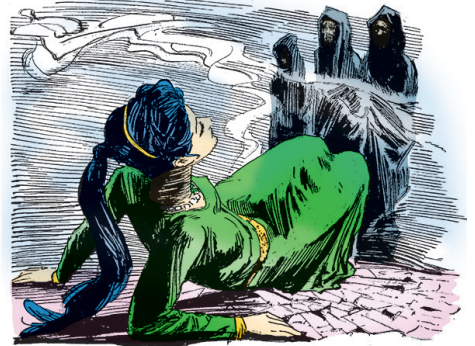
THE SPECTRAL BATTLE IS FIERCE, BUT SLOWLY THE MYSTERIOUS TRIO BEATS BACK MALDUBH'S DARK WITCHCRAFT...



... UNTIL A WELL-TIMED BLOW OF OCCULT FORCE LAYS DRACO'S CONNING WIFE LOW.

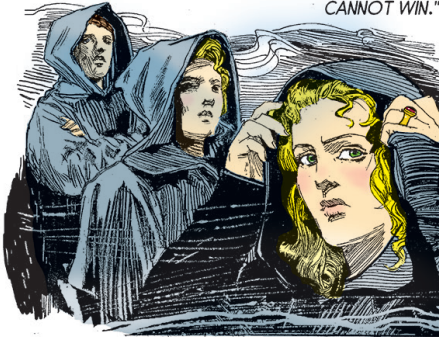


DAZED AND ENRAGED BY THIS REVERSAL OF FORTUNE, SHE GASPS: "WHO ARE YOU?" ONLY THEN DO THE TRIO DRAW BACK THEIR COWLS.



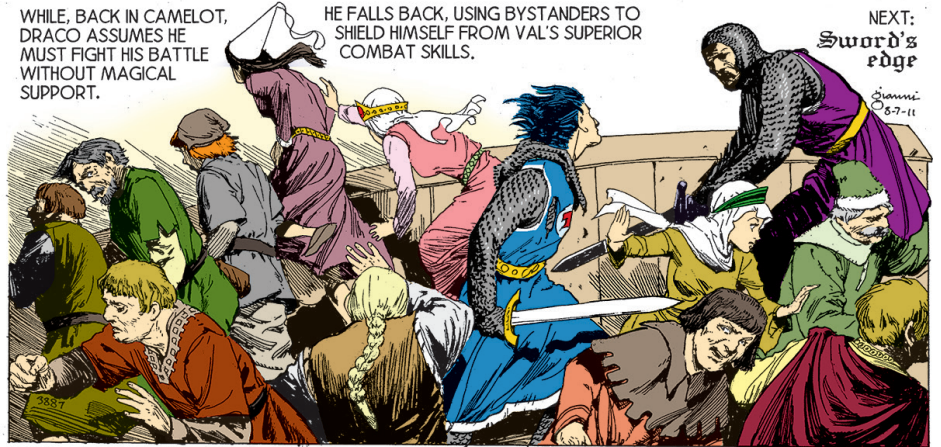
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MALDUBH RECOGNIZES MAEVE. THE OTHERS ARE STRANGERS, BUT LOOK UNNERVINGLY FAMILIAR: "WE ARE THE DAUGHTERS OF THE QUEEN OF THE MISTY ISLES AND THE PRINCE OF THULE. YOU CANNOT WIN."



WHILE, BACK IN CAMELOT, DRACO ASSUMES HE MUST FIGHT HIS BATTLE WITHOUT MAGICAL SUPPORT.

HE FALLS BACK, USING BYSTANDERS TO SHIELD HIMSELF FROM VAL'S SUPERIOR COMBAT SKILLS.



NEXT:  
**Sword's edge**

Gianni  
5-7-11

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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PICKERING

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Storing Food When There's No Space

During the past two years when I stocked up on grocery staples, I ended up with canned foods and dry goods stored in three different places around the house.

I'd have to check all three places to be sure I grabbed the green beans with the nearest expiration date. Pasta was the same. Worse was when I discovered that I wasn't having spaghetti for dinner after all because I'd used the last of the pasta and only thought I had one more tucked away somewhere.

Enter the internet and the wide selection of kitchen storage products available.

I wish I'd known of this two years ago: a metal stacking unit that holds 36 cans. I put it on the buffet in the dining room, all cans in easy reach around the corner from the kitchen.

Not having a pantry, I've pulled the hall coat closet into service, moving the hangar bar close to the ceiling and opening up the whole bottom half of the space for four rows of wire shelving and baskets for dry goods and envelopes.

And when all seems lost, when you have no pantry and no basement, when your coat closet can't be reconfigured, there are still handy places you can store food. A small bookcase will hold cans. Slide a few baskets under an end table. Cereal keepers are smaller than boxes. A row of clear canisters for envelopes will let you see what you have at a glance.

The immediate benefit of having alternate storage places is that it opens up space in your cupboards for currently used items. The box of instant rice and the jar of peanut butter will all be right in front of you.

For more ideas to organize your food, search online (especially Amazon and the big-box hardware store near you) for food storage for small spaces.

Remember to get a black marker to write expiration dates in big letters!

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1. Name the actor ("The Rifleman") and writer who played basketball for the Boston Celtics and baseball for the Brooklyn Dodgers and Chicago Cubs.

2. In January 2021, the University of South Carolina Gamecocks dedicated a statue of what women's basketball star on the school's campus?

3. At halftime of Super Bowl I, Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Len Dawson was photographed with a cigarette between his lips and a bottle of what soft drink at his feet?

4. Mark Philippoussis, a pro tennis player who reached the U.S. Open final in 1998 and the Wimbledon final in 2003, hailed from what country?

5. What TV sports reporter and personality was a member of the University of Florida Gators Dazzlers dance team from 1997-2000?

6. In boxing, which traditional weight class is heavier: bantamweight or welterweight?

7. Who invented the removable cleat for football shoes in 1922 and was founder of the company that created the first plastic football helmet in 1939?



by Ryan A. Berenz

## Answers

1. Chuck Connors.

2. A'ja Wilson.

3. Fresca.

4. Australia.

5. Erin Andrews.

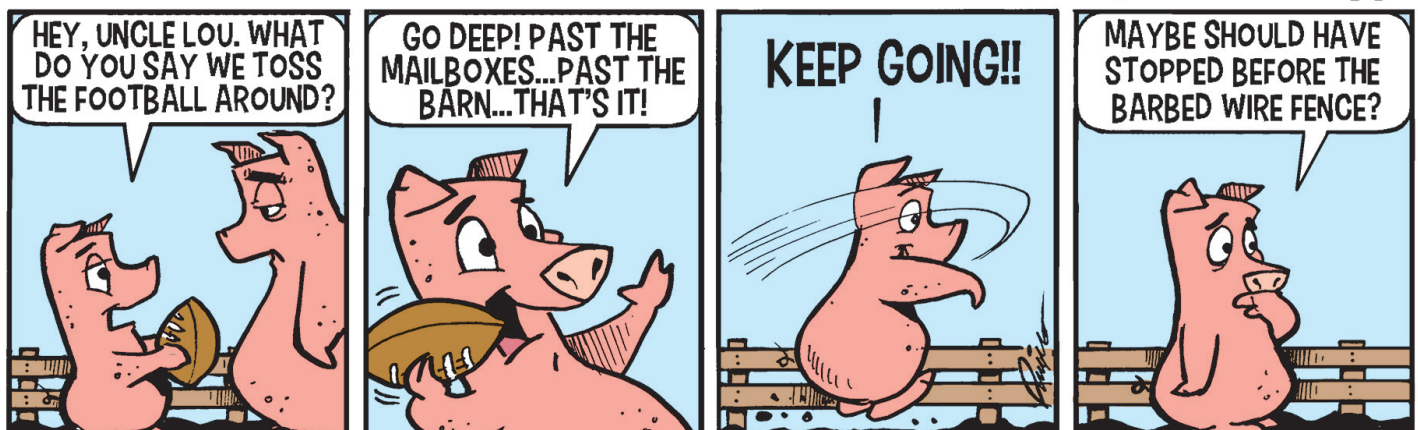
6. Welterweight, at 140-147 pounds (bantamweight is 115-118 pounds).

7. John T. Riddell.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





## Dog Balks at Eyedrops

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My dog is being prepared for corrective eye surgery, and has to be given special drops. However, Maisie won't hold still for me at all, and I can't get the drops in. What can I do?  
-- Lauren, via email

DEAR LAUREN: Pets don't like being given medicine, and they really, really don't like getting eyedrops. Approaching Maisie head-on or holding the eye dropper directly over her eye will freak her out. Instead, keep her comfortable and unaware of the dropper until the very last moment. Here's how:

-- Approach her from the side, and pet her into a sitting position, giving lots of praise. If she is a large dog, have a friend cradle her from the side or stand behind her, placing your legs behind her shoulders so she can't back up. If she is small, cradle her until she is calm.

- Cup one hand below Maisie's chin so you can gently lift her head upward.
- Quickly wipe the eyes clean using a damp cotton ball or cloth.
- Unscrew the eyedropper top or have a friend do it where Maisie can't see.
- Lift her head and gently tug down her lower eyelid.
- Bring the eye dropper up and hold it at an angle to the eye so it's close but not directly in her view.
- Gently tug her upper eyelid upward and quickly put a drop into the eye, being careful not to touch the eye.
- Repeat with the other eye.
- Wipe away excess medicine with a clean cotton ball.
- Give Maisie a treat right away -- she deserves it!

For visual details, watch this video by VideoJug/Battersea Dogs & Cats Home: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a8TtdwnPpzo>.

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

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## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

\* In 1962, former MLB catcher Harry Chiti was traded from the Cleveland Indians to the New York Mets for "a player to be named later." After a poor showing, Chiti became that very player, making him the first ever to be traded for himself.

\* The average person will grow 590 miles of hair (including nose hair) in their lifetime.

\* Speaking of hair, prior to L'Oreal's launch of the first mass market hairspray in 1960, women had to

choose between slicking their hair down with a greasy brilliantine or using a mechanical sprayer to coat it with shellac dissolved in a solution of water and alcohol. Thank you, L'Oreal.

\* When it comes to landing an effective punch, boxers have nothing on the mantis shrimp, the strike of which has been clocked at about 50 mph and described by Science as accelerating faster than a .22-caliber bullet. Take that, Mike Tyson!

\* Forks were once considered a sacrilegious tool by the church.

\* In 1898, nearly 75% of Alabama's entire annual state revenue came from convict leasing to private railways, mines and large plantations.

\* Brazilian doctor Heron Werner uses 3D printing to help blind parents feel their baby's ultrasound results.

\* David Wayne Oliver, "the Santa Claus Bank Robber," walked into a Colorado Springs bank claiming to be armed, stole an undisclosed amount of money, and took the bag out to the street, tossing cash into the air while shouting "Merry Christmas." He then proceeded to a Starbucks to watch the resulting commotion while waiting for his arrest.

\* In an effort to limit the Dalai Lama's power, China has banned Tibetan Buddhist monks from reincarnating without government permission.

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Thought for the Day: "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." -- Thomas Edison

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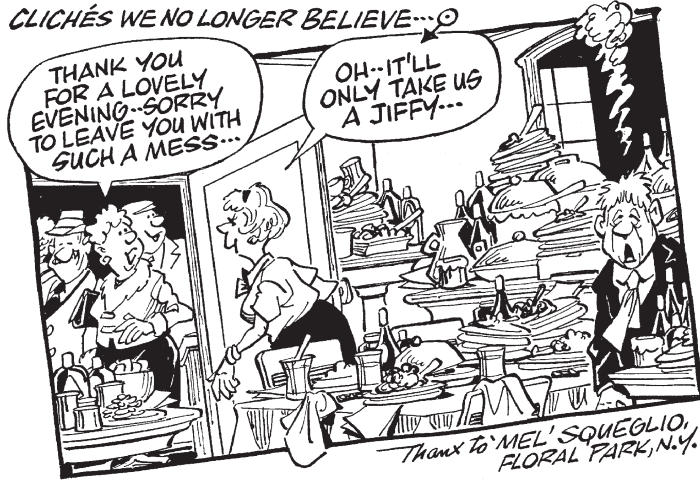


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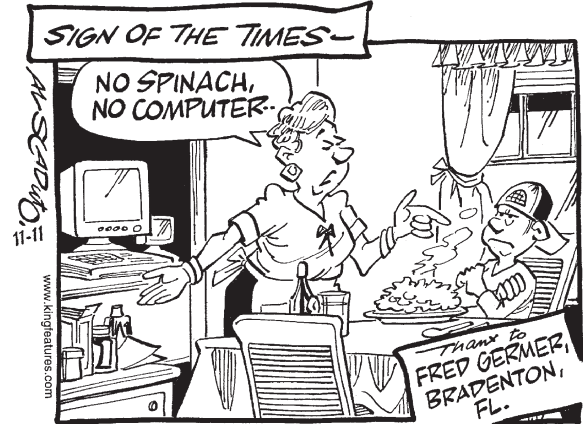
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## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

CLICHÉS WE NO LONGER BELIEVE...☹

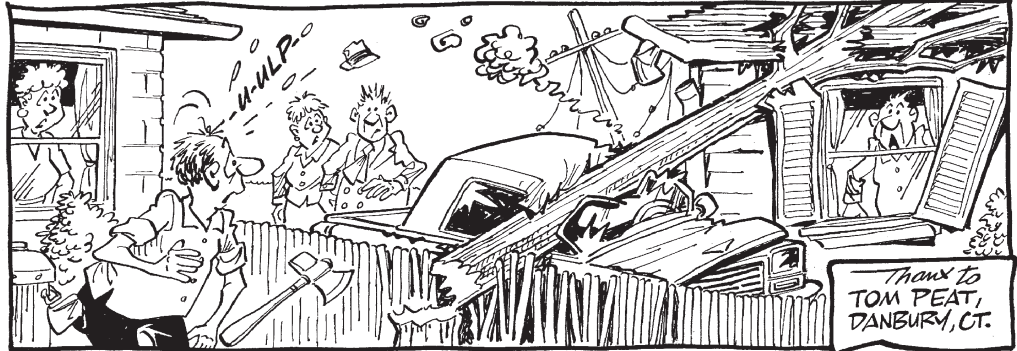


## BY AL SCADUTO



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HOCKMORE DIDN'T WANT TO SPEND THE FIFTY BUCKS THE LANDSCAPER WANTED TO CUT DOWN THE OLD TREE... SO HE DECIDED TO DO THE JOB HIMSELF AND SAVE MONEY... SOME SAVING, EH?



The Garden Bug

Goldenrod

Ragweed

**Ragweed** pollen is perhaps the worst single seasonal allergen in North America. Skin contact may even cause dermatitis. The much more colorful goldenrod plant is often mistaken for ragweed, as they are similar in appearance, come into flower about the same time (late summer through autumn) and share farm fields, urban landscapes and areas along roadways and riverbanks. Ragweed heights can range up to several feet; the “giant” variety grows up to 18 feet. - Brenda Weaver

Source: pollen.com



by Freddy Groves

## VA to Tackle Care for Long Covid

The Department of Veterans Affairs has just published "Whole Health System Approach to Long Covid," a holistic guidebook for the treatment of veterans suffering with long Covid. It's estimated that 2% of the U.S. population will develop long Covid, which equates to 24,000 to 42,000 veterans.

The VA was the first to realize that recovering from Covid didn't mean it was gone, that a long version was emerging, bringing with it extended illnesses. They opened 20 long Covid programs and dug into

research where they looked at those who still had vascular and heart disease a year after the original Covid.

The program is a multipronged whole-health approach, with an individual plan at the heart of each patient's treatment wherein medical staff can assess and manage the symptoms and direct treatment as the patient needs.

In the guidebook there are guides for each facet, from signs and symptoms to treatment recommendations ([tinyurl.com/3r8xvthf](https://tinyurl.com/3r8xvthf)). There is also an assessment with 31 questions.

To read more about the VA's approach, check their Covid page at [tinyurl.com/4kyrhv6y](https://tinyurl.com/4kyrhv6y). A factsheet can be found at [tinyurl.com/bdfm8ha2](https://tinyurl.com/bdfm8ha2).

In addition, the government has the National Research Action Plan on Long COVID ([www.covid.gov/longcovid](https://www.covid.gov/longcovid)). Scroll through the 85-page document to see what the government is doing and click on the study links to see what researchers are doing and have discovered.

You'll see that when it comes to an actual definition, the Food and Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization and the VA have differing opinions about just what constitutes long Covid. To make matters more complicated, not everyone calls it by the same name. Mostly it's patients, some researchers and Wikipedia that call it "long Covid." NIH, for example, calls it "Post-acute Sequelae of SARS CoV-2 infection."

Remember: It's not over yet. Keep up the hand-washing. Ignore the 20-second rule and scrub for a full minute or more.

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## Wishing Well®

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

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

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1. TELEVISION: Which TV cartoon show featured a Great Dane as part of the mystery-solving team?
2. MOVIES: Which 1970s movie's tagline is, "You'll never go in the water again"?
3. HISTORY: What was the nickname for American soldiers in WWI?
4. MEDICAL TERMS: What is dysphonia?
5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: How many state capitals are named after U.S. presidents?
6. ANATOMY: What part of the brain controls language and hearing?
7. PSYCHOLOGY: What is the fear represented in metathesiophobia?
8. GEOGRAPHY: How many countries are in the United Kingdom?
9. FOOD & DRINK: What are the two main ingredients in a meringue?
10. U.S. STATES: Which state is home to General Sherman, a sequoia more than 2,000 years old?

### Answers

1. "Scooby-Doo, Where Are You?"
2. "Jaws."
3. Doughboys.
4. Having a hoarse or raspy voice.
5. Four (Jackson, Mississippi; Lincoln, Nebraska, Madison, Wisconsin, and Jefferson City, Missouri).
6. Temporal lobe.
7. Fear of change
8. Four: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
9. Egg whites and sugar.
10. California.

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South Dakota Governor

**Kristi Noem**



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

## **Saving South Dakota Families**

South Dakotans don't ask much from their government. They just want the Freedom to live their lives and for the government to guarantee a level playing field with common sense rules for everyone to play by. As I travel our beautiful state, I hear from South Dakotans who are grateful for that Freedom. But many of them are struggling under the weight of inflation caused by President Biden's extremist policies. They ask me what can be done to give them relief.

This week, I announced my pledge to eliminate the sales tax on food in my next budget. This will be the largest tax cut in South Dakota's history, putting \$100 million back in the pockets of South Dakota taxpayers.

Everyone is feeling the pressures of Biden's inflation. And they're feeling it the most when they buy groceries. I was at a grocery store recently, and the store owner told me that his overall food costs have increased by 14% over the last year. Unfortunately, he's had to pass a lot of that to his customers. Since President Biden took office, the price of a gallon of milk is up by 20%. The price of a pound of ground beef is up by 25%. The price of a dozen eggs is up by 113% – that's shocking. But it's the reality that South Dakotans are facing.

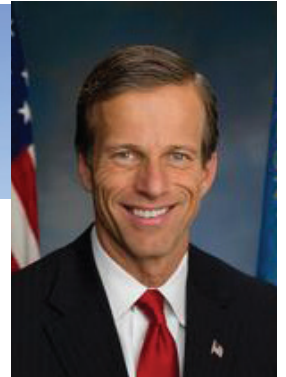
South Dakota has an incredible tax system – we have no state income tax or corporate tax. We don't levy a statewide property tax. I have always been in favor of finding ways to let taxpayers keep more of their hard-earned income. By eliminating this tax, we can help South Dakotans better afford their grocery bill, which will relieve some of the pressure on their family's budget.

The truth is South Dakota's finances are in incredible shape. We continue to break records for tax revenues thanks to our strongest economy in the nation. Our state's surplus is the largest in our history – 20.5% of our overall budget. And Fitch Ratings just reaffirmed our AAA credit rating.

But those tax dollars don't belong to the government. They belong to the taxpayers – the people of South Dakota. This is the right tax cut at the right time, and I look forward to getting it done.

Our people deserve a level playing field. They deserve Freedom. And they deserve to not have to worry about how they'll afford food. This tax cut will put hundreds of dollars back into the pockets of every South Dakota family. It will give them the relief that they so desperately need. The people of South Dakota deserve no less.

**John Thune**  
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



## Full Homes, Full Hearts

For me and Kimberley, raising two daughters has been the joy of our lives. Nothing compares to family dinners, cheering on your kids' teams, and watching them build families of their own. Anybody who's raised a family knows it's not easy. Along the way, there are sleepless nights, personal sacrifices, and hurdles with on-the-job training.

But for some families, the challenges are far greater. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there are 407,000 children in foster care – 117,000 of these children are waiting to be adopted. These kids are in the foster care system through no fault of their own and are in need of a secure and loving home. Foster and adoptive parents give the gift of family to thousands of children each year, providing the stability and support that many of us take for granted.

As a proud member of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, I have had the privilege to meet many of these families throughout my time in Congress. Each year, I have the opportunity to honor a South Dakota family who has chosen to adopt or foster children in need and who inspire and support other families to do so as well. Meeting these South Dakota families is always humbling and inspiring.

This year, I nominated Emily, Dan, and Brady Richardt from Aberdeen for the Angels in Adoption Award. For nearly a decade, since they first started the adoption process themselves, Emily and Dan have wanted to be involved in the foster care community. They put these plans on hold, though, when they welcomed their biological son, Brady, but their desire to be a foster family didn't go away. Once their son was old enough to understand the importance of fostering children, the Richardts opened their home and over the last five years have welcomed eight children into their family for as little as 10 days and for as long as a year. The Richardts are currently fostering a four-month-old baby boy, who I was lucky enough to meet at the Brown County Fair this year.

During times of uncertainty in foster children's lives, families like the Richardts provide stability, support, and love. There are few acts more worthy of our admiration than welcoming a child in need and providing them with a secure and loving home. I was proud to present Emily, Dan, and Brady with the 2022 Angels in Adoption Award when they visited Washington, D.C., recently. For all they've done, this recognition seems like the least we could do.

There are countless families just like the Richardts whose homes are a little fuller for having chosen to adopt or foster a child in need. I am so grateful for these families who welcome the challenges alongside the rewards of being adoptive or foster parents. I know these families will continue to inspire others to choose adoption and to open their homes to foster children.

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CONGRESSMAN  
**DUSTY JOHNSON**  
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



## Mad Dash to November

Congress had a pretty busy week in Washington, D.C. – here’s a recap.

Today, the House voted on the Continuing Resolution to fund the government for the next several weeks. While permitting restrictions and funding for monkeypox and COVID were stripped out – there was too much pork in this bill – I voted no.

My bill, the Gilt Edge Mine Conveyance Act passed the House 296-127. This bill would give South Dakota the opportunity to purchase the land at the Gilt Edge Mine so cleanup can continue. The current ownership consists of a patchwork of local, state, and federal governments, making it difficult to complete a cleanup. You can watch my floor remarks [here](#).

This week, I introduced a bill to improve safety and increase law enforcement resources on reservations across America. The Tribal Capital for Operations Promoting Safety (COPS) Act would increase capabilities of tribal law enforcement agencies through recruitment and retention incentives, additional trainings, and equipment procurement.

A shocking 77% of teen overdose deaths in 2021 were caused by fentanyl. On Wednesday, I cosponsored the Protecting Kids from Fentanyl Act, led by Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO), to allow schools flexibility to use remaining COVID relief dollars to purchase overdose prevention drugs and resources for life-saving trainings for faculty, staff, and students.

Additionally, I joined 50 of my colleagues in asking the Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen, and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to review how China’s purchase of land near the Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota could be a national security threat. I am leading legislation to prohibit China’s purchase of America’s agricultural land and ag businesses. Food security is national security.

In between all of this, I met with organizations, tribes, and constituents, led a capitol tour for guests, and voted on close to 50 bills in just three days. It is common for people to think we don’t do much in Washington, D.C., but it is usually busier than it seems, especially since House members are heading back to their districts until November.

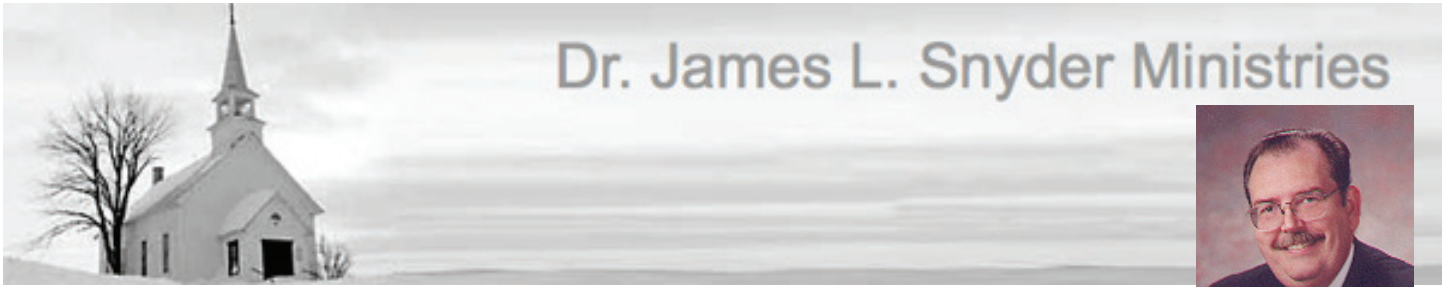
I was disappointed – but not surprised – when House leadership punted a vote on a congressional stock trading ban once again. Members have no business trading stocks and our constituents agree. If Democrat leadership can’t get this done, I’m dedicated to working with Republican leadership and members on both sides to pass the Trust in Congress Act in January.

###



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## Why God Gave Me a Tongue



One thing about getting older is that you begin to understand the old saying that you don't know what you don't know. It has been so true for me. When I think I know everything, something comes up that I never even thought about.

Sometimes The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage brings up something that I need to learn and she is a persuasive teacher.

Truth be told, I didn't really know what my tongue was all about. It's been in my mouth from before the time I was born. And yet recently, I discovered a new aspect of my tongue.

The other day I snuck out of the house and went down to a restaurant, which shall be undisclosed here, to get a senior coffee and an Apple Fritter.

Apple Fritters are not permitted in our home. For some reason, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage does not allow Apple Fritters to be part of my diet. She has explained this many times, and yet I still do not know the whole reason behind it.

And yet, sometimes I get a yearning for an Apple Fritter. I can only restrain that yearning for so long before I succumb to the desire to go and get one. I knew I could not bring it home, or I would be in some deep trouble, so I stayed at that unmentioned restaurant and enjoyed my coffee and Apple Fritter.

As I was enjoying my time with my coffee and Apple Fritter, I suddenly became aware of something.

It is amazing how often I come up with something that I've never come up with before. I had an idea that I never thought about before.

The idea had everything to do with my tongue. How many times have I ever thought about my tongue? It's in my mouth, I assume it's doing its job, and forget it's there.

As I was munching on my Apple Fritter, I began to understand the purpose of my tongue, which had nothing to do with wagging.

As I thought about it, the thought that dominated my mind was simply this, if it weren't for my tongue, I would not know how delicious this Apple Fritter really was.

For a moment, I was frozen in time, and for the first time in my life, I began to appreciate my tongue.

I laid my Apple Fritter down on a napkin and just admired it for a few moments. There it was in all of

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its magnificent glory and delicious taste. I don't know who invented the Apple Fritter, but they deserve a Nobel Peace Prize from my point of view.

I was going to savor this moment, and I slowly picked up the Apple Fritter, took a bite, and laid it back down on the napkin. I let that piece marinate in my mouth and let my tongue do its work.

My tongue was very busy at that moment, conveying to me a most delicious aspect of that Apple Fritter. I never would've guessed that my tongue was so important to me.

I mentally made a note that I would take better care of my tongue than I'd ever done before. My tongue has to become my favorite companion.

Sitting there, the waitress came up and said, "Is everything okay?"

I looked at her, tossed her a wonderful smile, and said, "Yes, everything is perfect."

She smiled at me and then went back to her job.

I thought of the word "perfect" and how it related to my tongue. I don't know about other days, but today my tongue was perfect in expressing the delicious nature of that Apple Fritter.

I was wrestling with a little temptation at the time. I was tempted to go up to the counter and order another Apple Fritter. I remembered that hymn that says, "Yield not to temptation for yielding is sin." Oh, how I wanted to sin at that moment. I did not yield, but I did enjoy the last bite of that marvelous Apple Fritter.

Glancing at my watch, I realized I needed to finish up here and get home. It was so hard to leave behind such a delicious experience.

Leaving the restaurant, I noticed my tongue wagging back and forth in my mouth, most of the Apple Fritter I just ate.

I got home, and walked in the front door. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage was there and looking at me, she said, "Where have you been? And, what's wrong with your tongue?"

Smiling at her, I simply said, "My tongue is wonderful. We had a wonderful time together."

Looking at me rather strangely she said, "Oh, yeah?"

I knew I could not tell her of my experience of the day, and I don't think she would've understood. Some things are better left to yourself. This was one of them. No way could she understand what I experienced with my tongue and my Apple Fritter.

In thinking about this I was reminded of a person Scripture. "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit" (Proverbs 15:4).

A tongue can either be a blessing or a curse. It just determines how you use it. I can use my tongue for good and bless people or, I can allow my tongue to be a curse. God gave me my tongue, now I need to use it for his honor and glory.

## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: I'd like to upgrade the energy efficiency of my condo but can't afford the up-front cost of new equipment and materials. Are there any federal or other programs designed to help working people afford to make such transitions? -- Paul B., Monroe, NY

As of now, residential and commercial buildings contribute up to 40 percent of the world's energy consumption. Increasing the energy efficiency of these structures can go a long way toward reducing that consumption and our carbon footprint while saving money along the way.

The biggest pitfall with investing in efficient energy sources is the upfront cost. Low-income households which could benefit most from such upgrades are the least likely to have the funds to do so. But now, utilities and local governments are working to implement these services prioritizing needy households.

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) uses U.S. Department of Energy funds to reduce the energy bills of low-income households by helping to pay for efficiency upgrades. The program has benefited over seven million American families so far. Every year, WAP funds such upgrades in 35,000 households, saving almost \$400 annually on each. To qualify for WAP, your household must have an annual income equal to or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Another place to look for help is the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Using U.S. Department of Health and Human Services funds, LIHEAP provides free energy upgrades that will decrease monthly energy bills while concurrently improving residents' health and safety. Household incomes must be at or below 60 percent of their state's median income to meet eligibility requirements.

Nonprofits, usually using WAP funds, also offer a range of incentives for upgrading energy efficiency. They also provide weatherization to households that can't afford it. By searching "weatherization nonprofits" and your state, you can find an array of organizations that can help upgrade your home. These weatherization programs usually offer a selection of efficiency upgrades including: improved insulation and heating systems, fixing leaks and gaps within pipes, and repairing windows and doors. To apply, you can often find directions on the organization's website. In general, the first step is determining your eligibility; you will usually need proof of annual income. Then, you can complete the application process online or contact a local administrator. If your application is accepted, you can move forward.

But what can you do if you aren't eligible for these programs? You can still weatherize your own home by fixing minor things around the house. One thing you can do is seal up leaks within air pipes. This can cut your energy consumption by 10 to 20 percent. In addition, by adding insulation, you can make your home less vulnerable to temperature change. You should also clean your filters regularly to make your system run more smoothly. Even simple things like switching to LEDs will increase your efficiency.

These small steps can add up and boost the energy efficiency of your home in surprising amounts. The sooner we implement such steps, the sooner we can tackle the problem of climate change making our world less hospitable.



**A range of federal & state programs can help defray the costs of upgrading the energy efficiency of your home.** Credit:

pexels.com.



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## South Dakota COVID-19 Report

New Confirmed and Probable Cases

732

Active Cases

540  
-169

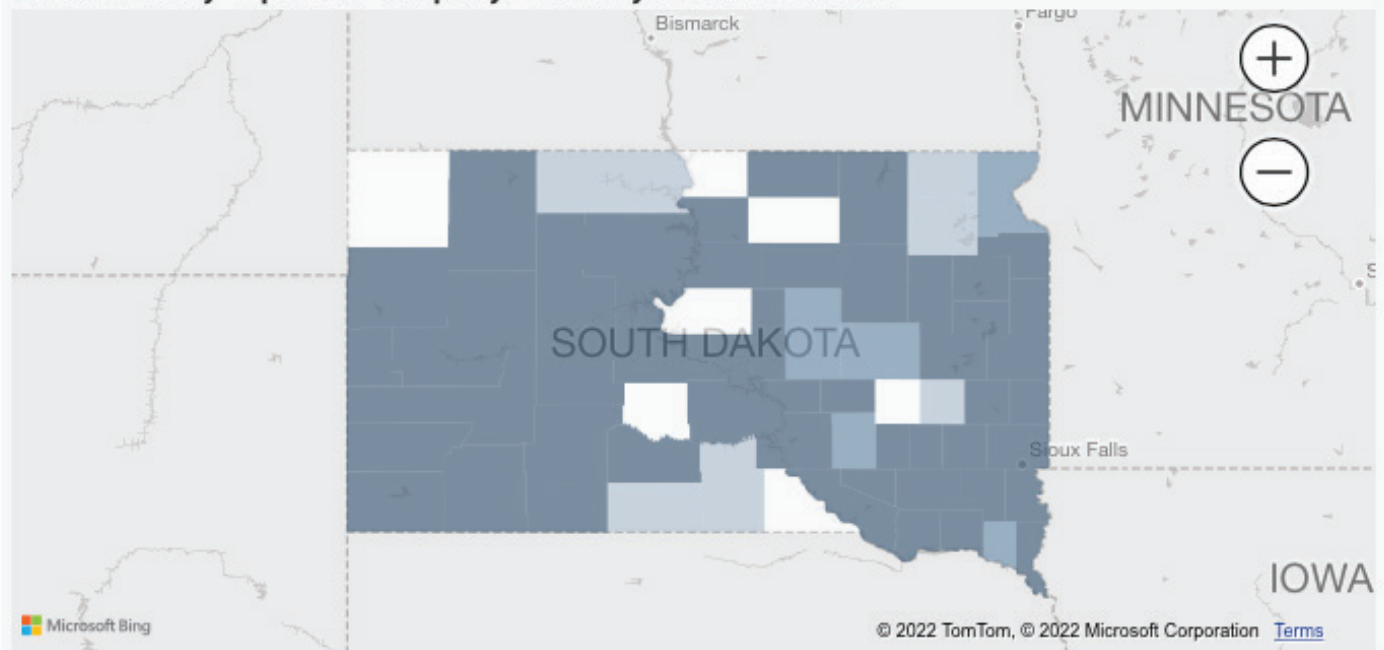
Recovered Cases

257,810

Currently Hospitalized

81

### Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread ● Low ● Moderate ● Substantial ● High

Hover over a county to see its details, or click county to update the orange boxes.

More information on U.S COVID-19 Community levels can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Total Confirmed and Probable Cases

261,371

Total Tests

2,331,003

Deaths Among Cases

3,021

Ever Hospitalized

11,768

Percent of State Population with at least 1 Dose\*\*

77%

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## Brown County COVID-19 Report

New Confirmed and Probable Cases

28

Active Cases

19  
-16

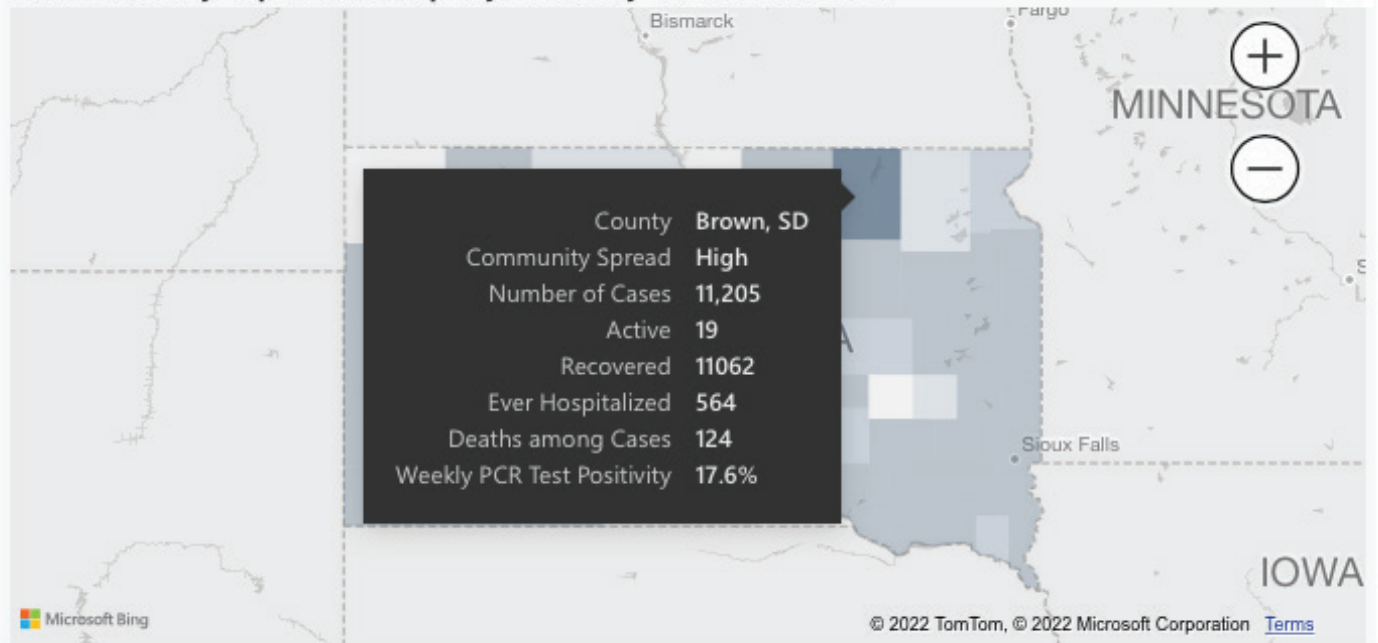
Recovered Cases

11,062

Currently Hospitalized

81

### Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Hover over a county to see its details, or click county to update the orange boxes.

More information on U.S COVID-19 Community levels can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Total Confirmed and Probable Cases

11,205

Total Tests

110,753

Deaths Among Cases

124

Ever Hospitalized

564

Percent of State Population with at least 1 Dose\*\*

77%

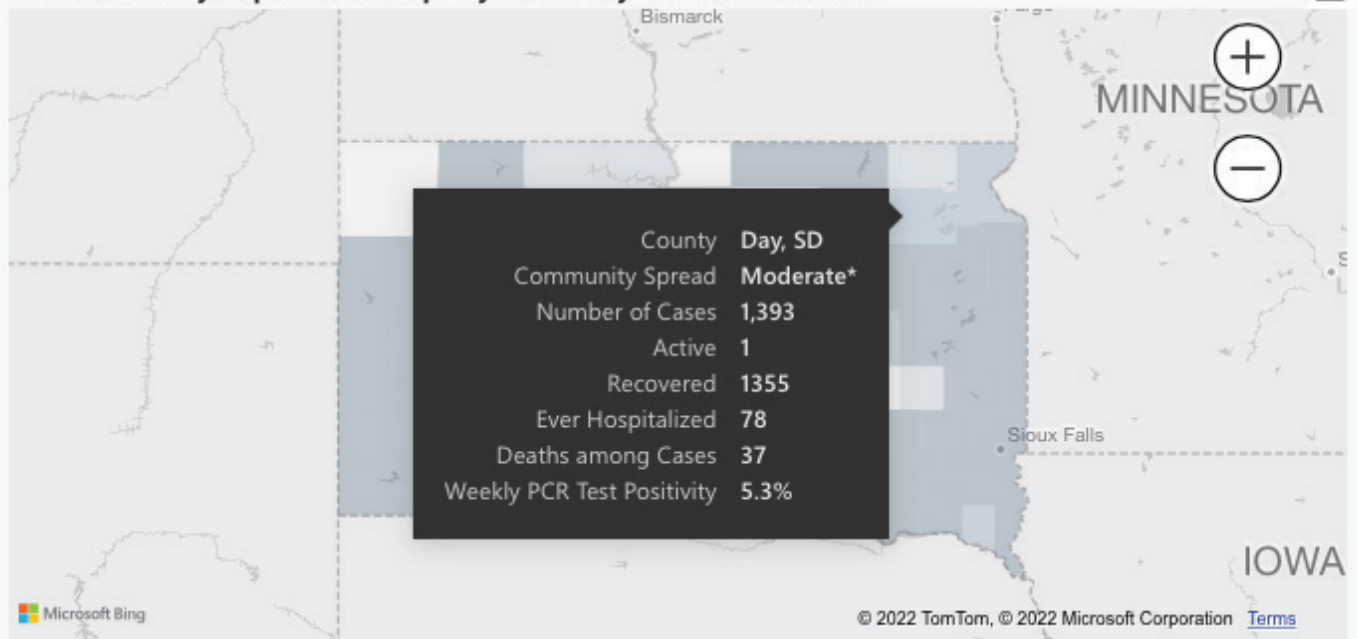
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## Day County COVID-19 Report



### Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread ● Low ● Moderate ● Substantial ● High

Hover over a county to see its details, or click county to update the orange boxes.

More information on U.S COVID-19 Community levels can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>



\*Includes aggregate federal data from IHS, VA, DoD, and BoE plus reports to...



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Ever Hospitalized

11,768

03/07/2020 - 09/26/2022

Currently Hospitalized

81

-13

## VARIANT CASES OF COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

COVID-19 Variant	# of Cases	# of Cases - Last 3 Months
Delta (B.1.617.2 & AY lineages)	1,720	151
Omicron (B.1.1.529 & BA lineages)	1,659	364
Alpha (B.1.1.7)	176	3
Omicron (BA.2)	164	31
Gamma (P.1)	4	1

## SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Hospitalizations	# of Deaths Among Cases
Male	122,217	6,121	1,643
Female	139,154	5,647	1,378

## AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range with Years	# of Cases	# of Hospitalizations	# of Deaths Among Cases
0-9 years	17,896	173	3
10-19 years	30,469	191	2
20-29 years	45,001	630	14
30-39 years	43,461	865	54
40-49 years	35,937	996	89
50-59 years	33,252	1,551	228
60-69 years	28,507	2,359	485
70-79 years	15,942	2,512	708

## RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	# of Hospitalizations	# of Deaths
Asian / Pacific Islander	3,627	114	20
Black	6,328	218	23
Hispanic	11,124	368	39
Native American	33,649	2,004	452
Other	2,290	65	14
Unknown	5,708	82	22
White	198,645	8,917	2,451

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## #556 in a series Covid-19 Update: by Marie Miller

At midday today, we're seeing continuing decrease in new-case reports and hospitalizations. The current seven-day, new-case average is down to 48,806, although there was some sort of worrisome strong upward blip in the data overnight. I'm hoping this was just a correction, something that occurs from time to time. By my next Update, we should have enough of a pattern to make a call on that; I'm not going to lose sleep over it until I see what develops. Hospitalizations are down to 28,765. I'm not thrilled to report we've crossed yet another million total cases for this pandemic with an overall total now at 96,027,122. Here's the recent history:

March 3 – 79 million – 15 days  
March 31 – 80 million – 28 days  
April 27 – 81 million – 27 days  
May 11 – 82 million – 14 days  
May 20 – 83 million – 9 days  
May 31 – 84 million – 11 days  
June 8 – 85 million – 8 days  
June 17 – 86 million – 9 days  
June 27 – 87 million – 10 days  
July 7 – 88 million – 10 days  
July 14 – 89 million – 7 days  
July 21 – 90 million – 7 days  
July 29 – 91 million – 8 days  
August 8 – 92 million – 10 days  
August 17 – 93 million – 9 days  
August 29 – 94 million – 12 days  
September 9 – 95 million – 11 days  
September 28 – 96 million – 19 days

Deaths are slightly decreased at a seven-day average of 404 and a pandemic total of 1,054,362. We just do not seem to be able to go below 400 deaths, but I am hoping we're approaching that now. We here in the US have four times the deaths from Covid-19 as our proportion of the world's population: 16 percent of the deaths, four percent of the population. This is not a great way to be a world leader.

I am incredibly tired of being the voice of doom—or at least gloom—yet here we are again. I am seeing some disquieting blips on the radar in the past few days. I want to be clear up front that it's too early to say whether what I'm seeing just a blip or a trend, but one thing I've learned during this pandemic is that undue optimism is more frequently punished than undue pessimism.

Another thing I've learned is to look eastward for indications of what our future could hold. I look quite a long ways east—say, to the UK—for farther-out indications. We've been marching behind them pretty much in lock-step since the earliest days of this pandemic, and I regret to report that there are signs there that they may be moving back into a fall surge in case numbers; typically, this would mean we'll be seeing something similar within a month or so. Please remember that typically does not mean certainly, yet this is cause for concern.

A professor of genetic epidemiology at Kings College London, Dr. Tim Spector, runs an ongoing study (since early days in 2020) called the Zoe Health Study, which gives people the opportunity to report daily symptoms and, more recently, any home Covid-19 test results via an app. He has around 500,000 people in the UK and the US logging symptoms daily, which has been highly beneficial in tracking trends; it has, in fact, so far captured the beginning of every wave in the pandemic and made accurate assessments

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that lead official government figures by a week or two. Unfortunately, he's seeing a recent increase in cases in England. So far, despite some new and potentially problematic subvariants having surfaced, there doesn't appear to be a new variant or subvariant which would explain this increase—and would also be a worst-case scenario. Official numbers are also starting to reflect this trend he spotted early. After a couple months of steady decreases, England's and Wales' seven-day, new-case averages rose 13 percent, and seven-day hospitalization averages rose 17 percent in the week that ended September 17. For the record, this conforms to what the modelers have been projecting as well, something that gives weight to these observations.

Since most of this increase appears to be driven by adolescents and younger adults, it is possible this is a back-to-school blip that levels out as the schools settle into a routine. It could also be influenced by the Queen's funeral events which brought huge numbers of people together in the past couple of weeks, a circumstance which would tend to promote transmission. Perhaps this is due to a combination of waning immunity and abandonment of mitigation strategies. Only eight percent of adults 50 and older in the UK have gotten the bivalent booster (which is a Omicron BA.1 or original Omicron/wildtype virus vaccine); and that, along with back-to-school and people moving indoors as the weather cools, could be what's driving this. The consensus among experts is that this is likely, if so, similar conditions here are likely to see us following along behind them once again.

I am also seeing some concerning increases in the Northeast and East Coast states and territories in the US, generally a harbinger of what's to come in the rest of the country. It is also too soon to know what all of this might mean to our future, but I'll keep watching.

We were told it wouldn't be long, and I guess it wasn't: Both Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna have applied for emergency use authorization (EUA) for pediatric use of their bivalent boosters. On Monday, Pfizer/BioNTech applied for EUA in children ages 5 through 11 and Moderna for EUA in adolescents 12 to 17 and children 5 to 11. They're all still working on dose for infants and the youngest children. I would not expect a decision to be far off; in the meantime, children of all ages qualify for booster doses with the earlier-approved vaccines. Word on the street is that a decision will be coming early next month—which is just a couple of days away now. The FDA told CNN they will "review the requests as expeditiously as possible." Since the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has already reviewed the available data, it is anticipated that they will make a call very quickly after the FDA does.

Data on human trials for the bivalent boosters are starting to come in, including a paper providing an interim report from a Moderna team published this week in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. This was, of course, a trial of Moderna's mRNA-1273.214 (the new bivalent) against mRNA-1273 (their original vaccine). The study involved patients who had already received two primary doses and a booster of mRNA-1273. Of these, 437 were given the new mRNA-1273.214 and 377 were given the original mRNA-1273 as a second booster; they were followed for 28 days.

This study was not to determine vaccine efficacy (which you may recall involves waiting for some set number of infections, hospitalizations, or deaths, depending which kind of efficacy is being evaluated), but simply safety, reactogenicity (number and kinds of reactions to the vaccination), and immunogenicity (whether neutralizing antibodies were produced). The aim was to show, in sciencey talk, "noninferiority" of the new bivalent, that is, that the new vaccine is no worse than the original one. The report says, "Safety and reactogenicity were similar with the two booster vaccines," which is pretty much what everyone expected. As for immunogenicity, the news is good: mRNA-1273.214 produced superior responses to Omicron BA.1, BA.4, and BA.5, as well as higher binding antibody responses against "multiple other variants (alpha, beta, gamma, and delta). That's good to hear.

Last week the CDC changed its guidance for mitigating infection risk in health care settings. A summary



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of the changes follows.

(1) Health care worker vaccination status is no longer considered a factor in determining whether to screen workers, quarantine them, or use source control measures like face masks. Screening is at the "discretion of the facility." Before we get too excited, we should recognize that the "high transmission" designation applies to 75 percent of US counties at this time; that means, in most of the country, masks are still recommended. It does not, however, mean that all of those places were complying in the first place; I know that in my local area one of the two big health care systems stopped requiring masks in May, and the other stopped a good month ago. We've been a high transmission area the entire time. I hear similar reports from across the country; as a result, I don't know that this change in guidance will actually represent real change in most places.

(2) Source control is no longer recommended as a general thing for health care workers. It is, however, still recommended in communities with high levels of community transmission, for workers with a suspected or confirmed respiratory infection, for workers who've had close contact with an infected person in the last 10 days, for those working in facilities with a Covid-19 outbreak, or in other settings where source control is normally required (think surgery or infectious disease units, for example).

(3) The period after infection for an exposed, asymptomatic health care worker during which testing is no longer recommended has been shortened from 90 days to 30 days in recognition of the shortened period during which a prior infection seems to be protective against reinfection. Those in the period from 31 to 90 days after infection should be antigen-tested if they've been exposed.

(4) Except for nursing homes, long-term care settings that provide non-skilled personal care can follow guidance for high-risk congregate care settings.

This newest set of recommendations is a response to the fact that new-case reports and hospitalizations have been decreasing for a couple of months now and deaths have been decreasing since last month. It will help in understanding these trends to remember that deaths are a lagging indicator

Best estimates these days are that some 60 percent of transmission is from people who have no symptoms of infection—either presymptomatic or truly asymptomatic; and although we don't have good data yet, there's some thinking that percentage is even higher for the Omicron subvariants, both because of higher baseline levels of immunity and (maybe) because of lower virulence of these subvariants. Either way, that means it's not enough to shy away from the cougher in line behind you in the grocery store; the guy next to you in the theater who's breathing just fine might be just as big a hazard. While we think asymptomatic people carry lower viral loads, any amount of virus is enough to infect other people, and people who do have even mild symptoms can carry high loads.

High risk settings continue to be, according to Helen Chu, MD, MPH, infectious diseases physician at the University of Washington School of Medicine, speaking with MedPage Today, "[s]paces that are not well ventilated, have large numbers of individuals, and places where people are speaking loudly or eating." These remain as a particular concern for children under the age of five and immunocompromised people, as well as for older people and those with medical conditions. She and Otto Yang, MD, infectious diseases physician at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, also speaking with MedPage Today, mentioned that continued mitigation measures are needed. Yang said, "We know what works, and I just find it puzzling that we aren't continuing to do the things that work when we know that there's long COVID, the under-fives are unvaccinated, and people can get repeatedly infected over time." And Yang mentioned the continued high mutation rate for the virus as long as transmission continues at the current pace, saying, "the next variant could be more deadly for all we know." Transmission remains a particular problem since the emergence of the Omicron variant of this virus; it is responsible for first infections in around a third of the US population and for reinfections in a whole lot more of us. That's well upward of 100 million people,

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which is a mind-boggling number.

So we all (or some of us anyhow) are getting the message that keeping ourselves safe is our job—no one's going to help much with that. What do we do? Here's a list of suggestions from the Health and Well-Being Editor of the Washington Post.

- (1) Get a booster. If you're not vaccinated, get vaccinated; then get a booster.
- (2) Mask judiciously. If you can't stand to wear a mask all day at work, assess the risks of each situation. Wear one in a crowded meeting, in the grocery store, when you commute on public transit. Something I've said approximately a zillion times here and to friends who inquire is that risk is cumulative. If you're concerned about becoming infected, decide which things are important to you, and do those; when you do, wear a mask when possible. When something is of less importance, consider giving it a pass.
- (3) Mask when you travel. Travel is high-risk, so mitigate with a mask, especially in terminals, especially when they're indoor and crowded. If you can't bear wearing a mask on a long flight, wear one during boarding and deplaning; during flight, turn the fan on and blow it directly at your face to push away viral particles that might be in the air.
- (4) Avoid crowds, especially if you're older or have an underlying health condition. When you're going to be indoors for prolonged periods, especially where you can't be sure of the quality of the ventilation (think movies or plays), wear a high-quality mask.
- (5) Keep an eye on community transmission levels, which are not at all the same as the CDC's Covid-19 Community Levels, which only deal with how overburdened the health care system is. You can access a map showing these data at [https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list\\_select\\_state=all\\_states&list\\_select\\_county=all\\_counties&data-type=Risk](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=all_states&list_select_county=all_counties&data-type=Risk). You will scroll down the page to find a transmission-level heat map for the US.
- (6) Keep Paxlovid in mind. If you're diagnosed, Paxlovid is very beneficial for reducing your chances of progressing to severe disease and hospitalization, but it must be started within five days of diagnosis. This means you need to be prepared to see your physician as soon as possible after symptoms develop or you test positive.
- (7) Think about ways to improve ventilation in your indoor spaces. Ask employers to provide portable air cleaners for office and meeting spaces; if they refuse, consider biting the bullet and providing your own, at least in your office or work area if that is permitted. Push at this if you can. Some buildings have upgraded ventilation; don't be afraid to ask about that.
- (8) Use home tests. If you're feeling sick, test, and if it is negative, repeat 24 to 48 hours later. A negative test means you're probably not contagious at the moment; but if you're in early stages of infection, that can change. If you've been exposed or potentially exposed in a high-risk situation, wear a mask until you're sure you're negative—twice.

(9) Stay home if you're sick. Period.

(10) Consider your close contacts. If you have someone older, chronically ill, or immunocompromised in your life, take more precautions and pay more attention to masking, testing, and avoiding high-risk situations.

Once again, risk is cumulative. Each risky thing you do adds to the chance you'll be infected and become a source of infection to others; so make your choices carefully. Once again, consider how important each

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high-risk activity is to you. Go ahead and participate in those that are of high importance, but recognize they increase your overall risk and the risk to your close contacts. If something doesn't matter that much to you, this may be a good time to skip it.

On long-Covid, there is evidence that risks of long-Covid increase with severity of disease. According to Dr. Christopher J.L. Murray, director and lead modeler at the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, "[t]he more severe a case of COVID is, the higher risk of developing Long COVID. Adults are at higher risk than children." You're not out of the woods if your case was mild, but your odds of a good outcome are better; I'd take the bet and do what I could to reduce acuity of my infection by being vaccinated and boosted.

In a study published last month in JAMA, researchers from Humanitas University in Milan looked at 2560 health care workers tested every one or two weeks over a two-year period between March 2020 and March 2022. All of them were required to receive three doses of Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine with first and second doses administered early in 2021 and the booster later in the year. Within the study period, 729 of them had been infected with SARS-CoV-2, 89 of them asymptotically. In this group, the researchers found 229 had long-Covid. Compared to a reference group of unvaccinated individuals, the risk of long-Covid was reduced by 84 percent in those who'd had at least one booster and 75 percent compared to those who had the primary series, but had not had a booster dose of vaccine.

I've also read a paper published a couple of weeks ago in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) from a team at Daping Hospital, Third Military Medical University in Chongqing, China, and at Wuhan Huoshenshan Hospital, who looked at health outcomes in hospitalized survivors of Covid-19. This was a longitudinal cohort study of 1864 patients from the initial outbreak in Wuhan, China, in 2020 and followed up at one-year and two-year intervals after discharge. The authors wrote, "At 2 years after hospital discharge, 370 patients (19.8%) still had symptoms, including 224 (12.0%) with persisting symptoms and 146 (7.8%) with new-onset or worsening of symptoms." That nearly 20 percent comports with reporting we've seen in the US as well, so it's looking like a pretty solid number. We could be a lot more sure if we could agree upon a consistently-applied definition for long-Covid; but that's still a matter for discussion. It takes time to sort all of these things out, and we haven't had a whole lot of time to do this work yet.

This group of scientists did note that there was a "progressive decrease in [patients'] symptom burden," which means the patients were getting better during that two years, except for those whose symptoms included dyspnea (difficulty breathing); their symptoms did not resolve with time. They also noted that those more severely ill, especially if they required ICU admission, had higher risks for persistent symptoms. We will want to remember that these people were all infected with the original strain of the virus, not with any of the more recent variants, so it's difficult to know how this translates to those currently being infected; but it's likely that, even without considering later variants, given the large numbers of US infections with that original variant, we probably have a high number of folks in this country with ongoing health care needs after the early infections. Unfortunately, a disproportionate number of those people in the US are members of minority and poor communities who have far worse access to our health care system than the less-burdened rest of the population, which is likely to result in ongoing problems without much access to help with those.

I have one more study of long-Covid for you today. Several times over the past few months, I have cited research conducted at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis and VA St. Louis Health Care System on long-term effects of Covid-19. This team draws from medical records of 154,000 veterans who tested positive for Covid-19 between March 2020 and January 2021 and survived at least 30 days following infection, following them up for a year and comparing them to 5.6 million patients who did not have Covid-19 during that same time period and 5.8 million more people from March 2018 to December 2019, just before SARS-CoV-2 was seen in the US; and they've contributed enormously to what we know about



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these effects. Typically, these people were not vaccinated because the data collection preceded wide availability of vaccines; this time, they're addressing brain and other neurological disorders in other work. This team has established a modest effect of vaccination (about 20 percent reduction) on the risk for these brain problems. The work also predates some of the notable variants like Alpha, Delta, and Omicron, so we have to take that into account. Their findings, according to an author, "show the devastating long-term effects of COVID-19. These are part and parcel of long COVID. The virus is not always as benign as some people think it is." Their paper was published last week in Nature Medicine.

They found that seven percent more people who'd been infected with SARS-CoV-2 were diagnosed with brain and other neurologic disorders than people who'd never been infected. They say that translates to about 6.6 million Americans who had such Covid-related brain impairments. This includes a 77 percent higher risk of memory problems including Alzheimer's disease, 50 percent higher risk of an ischemic stroke (the kind caused by blood clots) and their associated long-term disability, 80 percent higher risk of seizures, 43 percent higher risk of mental health issues (mostly depression and anxiety), 35 percent higher risk for headaches, 42 percent higher risk for movement disorders like tremors or involuntary muscle contractions, and 22 percent higher risk to develop hearing abnormalities. They are noting that these kinds of effects are occurring in previously-healthy people and in people who had only mild infections, in young and old, in women and men, and in all racial and ethnic groups. Some of the cases resolve, but many persist; it is not yet clear what proportions are in each category.

We should note that white males are overrepresented in this data set, so the findings must be generalized to the general population with caution. More research with a more representative data set is needed, but this is a frightening starting place. The issue the researchers cite is that we have zero infrastructure for dealing with these kinds of numbers of people with neurological problems, some of which are quite serious and disabling. That's a problem we really need to address as a society.

And that's it for tonight. I keep hoping this thing slows down so that I have no need to keep posting these Updates. It hasn't happened so far, whatever it looks like to the public; but I continue to wear my rose-colored glasses. One day soon. For now, I'll see you all in a few days.

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## Quinn Quacks

If the tough get going when the going gets tough, do the weak get going when the going gets easy?  
– Quinn Quacks

Rix Quinn – Goldilocks and the bears

### **What's the real meaning of the fairy tale about Goldilocks?**

To be frank (although Frank is not my name), "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" is more confusing than a stop sign on a roller coaster track.

First, you gotta accept that a bear family owns a fancy two-story deep in the woods. These beasts wake one morning, choose porridge instead of raw animal parts, then go for a walk while it cools.

Obviously, rich bears buy quality products like silver claw clips, and expensive fur shampoos. So, why would they leave an unlocked door to tempt intruders?

In walks Goldilocks, undoubtedly a destructive truant with great curiosity, a huge appetite, and narcolepsy.

First, she samples some mismatched chairs. She finds one too hard, one too soft, and the third just right...so she breaks it. What is that about?

Next, she tastes the first porridge, and finds it too hot. The second bowl's too cold. Why? Who cooked this stuff, anyway?

But the third bowl's just right, so she devours it faster than a hyperactive cannibal gulps ladyfingers at a tea party.

Bloated and sluggish, she wanders upstairs. She tries Mom's and Pop's twin beds (they sleep separately, like on old black-and-white TV shows), then passes out in Junior's bunk.

About this time, the bears return. They find her asleep, shake her awake, and scare heck out of her. She races out. The bears forget to get a name and address, so they can send a bill for the busted furniture.

This story is too scary for me, because I fear any beast that considers me part of a food group.

And one other thing: If three bears startled me from deep slumber, I'd need to change the sheets, too. Got a story idea for Rix? E-mail him at [rix@rixquinn.com](mailto:rix@rixquinn.com).

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The kid train is always popular at the Pumpkin Fest. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



The Grain Bin was used for the food serving at the Pumpkin Fest. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Topper Tastad and April Abeln keep things going at the Pumpkin Fest. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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**Many people showed up for the Seventh Annual Pumpkin Fest held Saturday at the City Park. It was estimated that over 2,000 people showed up for the event, making it the largest attendance.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Travis McGannon and Joel Bierman were busy grilling hotdogs and burgers.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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**Mike Nehls was the announcer at the Pumpkin Fest.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Brooklyn and Douglas Heinrich manned one of the tables at the Pumpkin Fest.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Hay rides were given to the pumpkin patch where people could get their pumpkin.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



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**Volunteers at the give away drawing.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**A couple of photos courtesy of Bruce Babcock.**



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**Terry and Lori Herron are pictured with their grandchildren.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Scenes from the Pumpkin Patch.** (Photos by Bruce Babcock)



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**Some of the many volunteers that helped make the Pumpkin Fest a success.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)



**Pumpkin Fest volunteer Dave McGannon helps load hay wagon to the pumpkin patch.** (Photo by Bruce Babcock)

## Stats for Pumpkin Fest 2022 by April Abeln

520 Hot Dogs  
800 Hot Dog Buns  
300 Brats  
1000 bags of chips  
440 Hamburgers  
440 Hamburger Buns  
27 bottles of condiments  
16 cans of beans  
1000 bottles of water  
17,055 steps  
Too many pumpkins, face tattoos/  
paintings to count  
Dozens of awesome volunteers  
And over \$3000 in donations!

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## Wolves Unable to Answer Marauders Second Half Charge

Bismarck, N.D. – In their first overtime contest of the 2022 season, the Northern State University football team lost to the University of Mary. Following a 20-6 first half lead, the Marauders out-scored the Wolves 14-0 in regulation and were able to hit a touchdown and PAT to seal the win in overtime.

### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 26, MARY 27

Records: NSU 2-3, MARY 1-4

Attendance: 1922

### HOW IT HAPPENED

Stanley Haskins Jr. put the Wolves on the board early in the contest, scoring the first touchdown of his career; a 54-yard run

Isaiah Cherrier added a rushing score of his own a 10-44 in the second quarter; an 11-yard run which gave Northern a 14-0 lead

The Marauders answered back with 6-points on a rushing touchdown of their own, while Cherrier closed out the second quarter with a 2-yard touchdown and his second of the game

The teams entered the half with Northern leading 20-6

It was all UMary in the third and fourth, as the Marauders notched a pair of receiving touchdowns

Neither team was able to seal the deal in regulation and the game headed to overtime, where Will Madler hit Greg Lux for six Northern State points

NSU was unable to record the extra point and Mary tallied a passing touchdown and made PAT of their own, earning their first win of the season

The Northern offense tallied a game high 20 first downs and 192 yards rushing, adding 115 yards passing, for 307 yards of total offense

NSU averaged 4.9 yards per rush and 7.2 yards per completion

The Wolves defense recorded five sacks for a total loss of 29 yards

Both teams completed 7-of-15 third down attempts and Northern went a perfect 2-of-2 on fourth down and 3-of-3 in the red-zone

Haskins Jr. rushed for nearly 100 yards to lead both the Wolves and Marauders

Greg Lux led the receiving front with 46 yards, while Brennan Kutterer, Luke Gunderson, Ian Marshall, and William Berry recorded sacks

### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Will Madler: 16-of-28, 115 yards passing, 1 touchdown, 53 yards rushing

Stanley Haskins Jr.: 98 yards rushing, 1 touchdown

Jackson Martens: 7 tackles, 2.0 tackles for a loss

Brennan Kutterer: 5 tackles, 2.0 sacks

### UP NEXT

The Wolves return home next Saturday for the annual Gypsy Days game versus Winona State. For a full list of game day promotions [CLICK HERE](#). Fans are also reminded that all game day information and



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## Northern State Offense Unable to Find Spark in Loss to Winona State

Winona, Minn. – The Northern State University volleyball team suffered a 3-set loss to Winona State on Saturday afternoon. The Wolves dropped to 4-4 in league play and are currently in a 3-way tie for seventh in the NSIC standings.

### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 0, WSU 3

Records: NSU 9-7 (4-4 NSIC), WSU 8-7 (4-4 NSIC)

Attendance: 400

### HOW IT HAPPENED

The Warriors took down the Wolves with set scores of 25-16, 25-21, and 26-24

Northern hit just .043 in the match, suffering 21 attack errors with just 26 kills

NSU added 46 digs, 24 assists, three aces, and a match high 13 blocks in the contest

The defense held Winona State to a .133 attack percentage, forcing 25 hitting errors

Two Wolves tallied double digit digs in the contest, while four hitters notched five kills a piece

Abby Brooks and Cara Cyr led the net defense with six blocks each, while Keri Walker, Sally Gaul and Taylor Buckley recorded three or more

### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Madison Langlie: 16 digs

Laura Ochsner: 10 digs

### UP NEXT

Northern State returns to Wachs Arena for three matches next week versus MSU Moorhead at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Wayne State at 6 p.m. on Friday, and Augustana at 6 p.m. on Saturday.

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**McKenna Tietz collides with the Garretson goalie but it the kick was enough for the ball to “dribble” into the net for the first score for the Tigers.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**The Groton girls soccer match was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM sponsored by Rutgear605.com. And special thanks to Jan Hoffman for allowing us to use her wifi. With all of the people in town, it would have been impossible to livestream via a celltower. Jeslyn Kosel is pictured running the camera.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Jerica Locke looks for an open teammate as she gets ready to kick the ball.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

## **Tigers beat Blue Dragons; fall short in playoff berth**

The Groton Area girls soccer team finished its season Saturday with a 5-1 win over Garretson. Despite the win, the Tigers fell just .038 of a point short of making the playoffs, finishing in seventh place in the standings. The top six teams advance to the first round of the playoffs.

McKenna Tietz scored two goals with one being an assist by Sydney Locke. Jerica Locke scored a goal with an assist by Laila Roberts. Brenna Imrie scored with an assist by Faith Traphagen and Kennedy Hansen scored on a penalty kick. Garretson's lone goal was scored by Kylie Christensen.



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**Emerlee Jones uses some foot action to get control of the ball.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



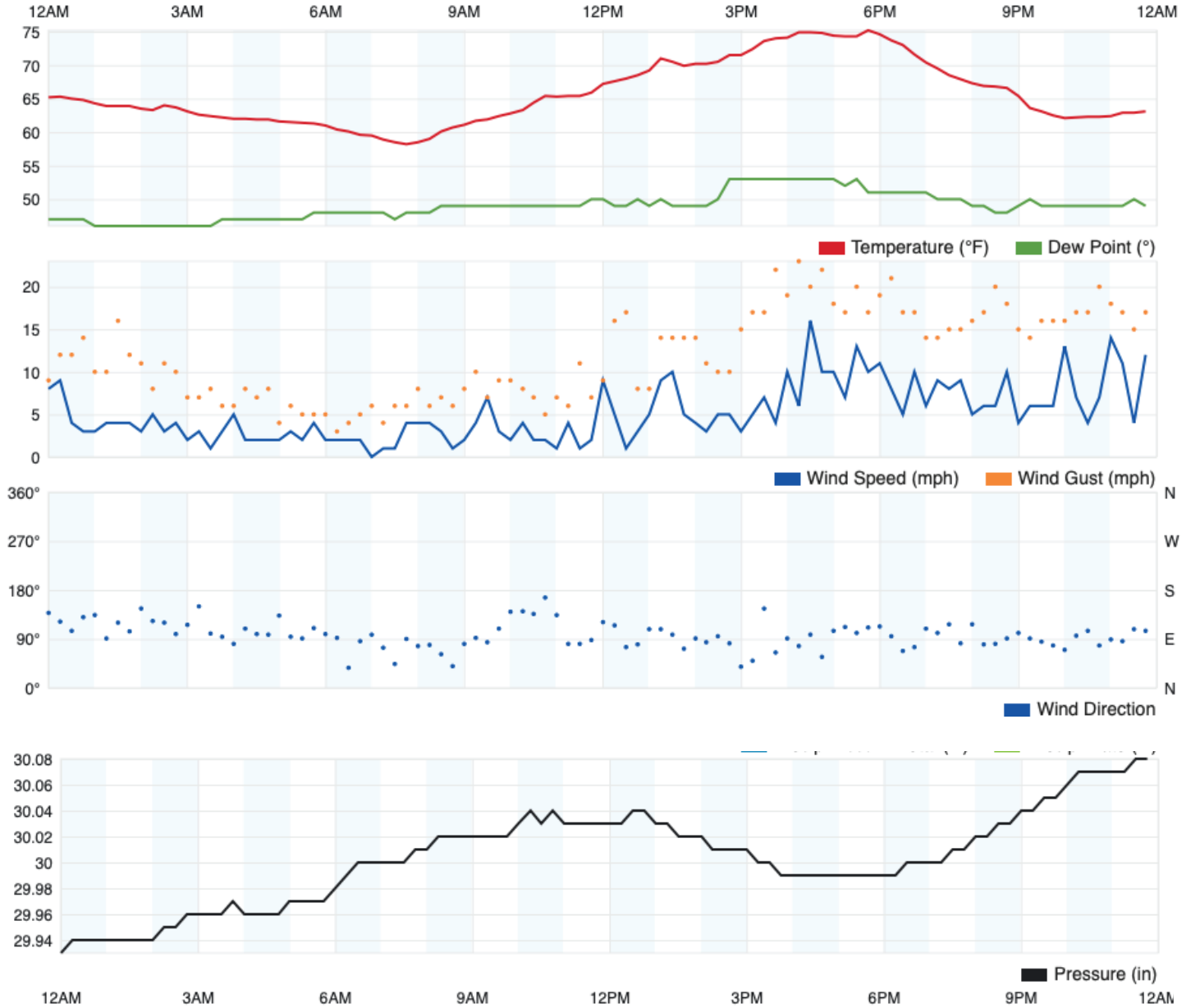
**Kennedy Hansen gives the ball a swift kick in Groton's game with Garretson.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



# Groton Daily Independent


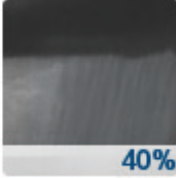

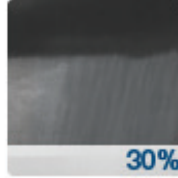

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs








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Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
Slight Chance Showers	Chance Showers	Chance Showers	Chance Showers	Chance Showers
High: 77 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 75 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 69 °F

Low chances of Showers through Tuesday  
highest chance over central South Dakota

Today	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
75 to 82°	70s	67 to 72°	70 to 75°
			
Mainly Dry. A few Showers, increasing in coverage (20 to 60%) tonight.	(30-50%) chance Showers & Storms, except mainly dry in MN	30-40% chance Showers & Storms, ending Tuesday evening	Dry
 National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD	<a href="http://www.weather.gov/abr">www.weather.gov/abr</a>		Created: 10/2/2022 4:28 AM

High temperatures through midweek will be in the upper 60s and 70s for most across our area. Showers and a few thunderstorms will remain possible through Tuesday evening, although widespread accumulating rain is not expected. Our pattern of warm weather will be coming to an end Wednesday through the end of the work week.

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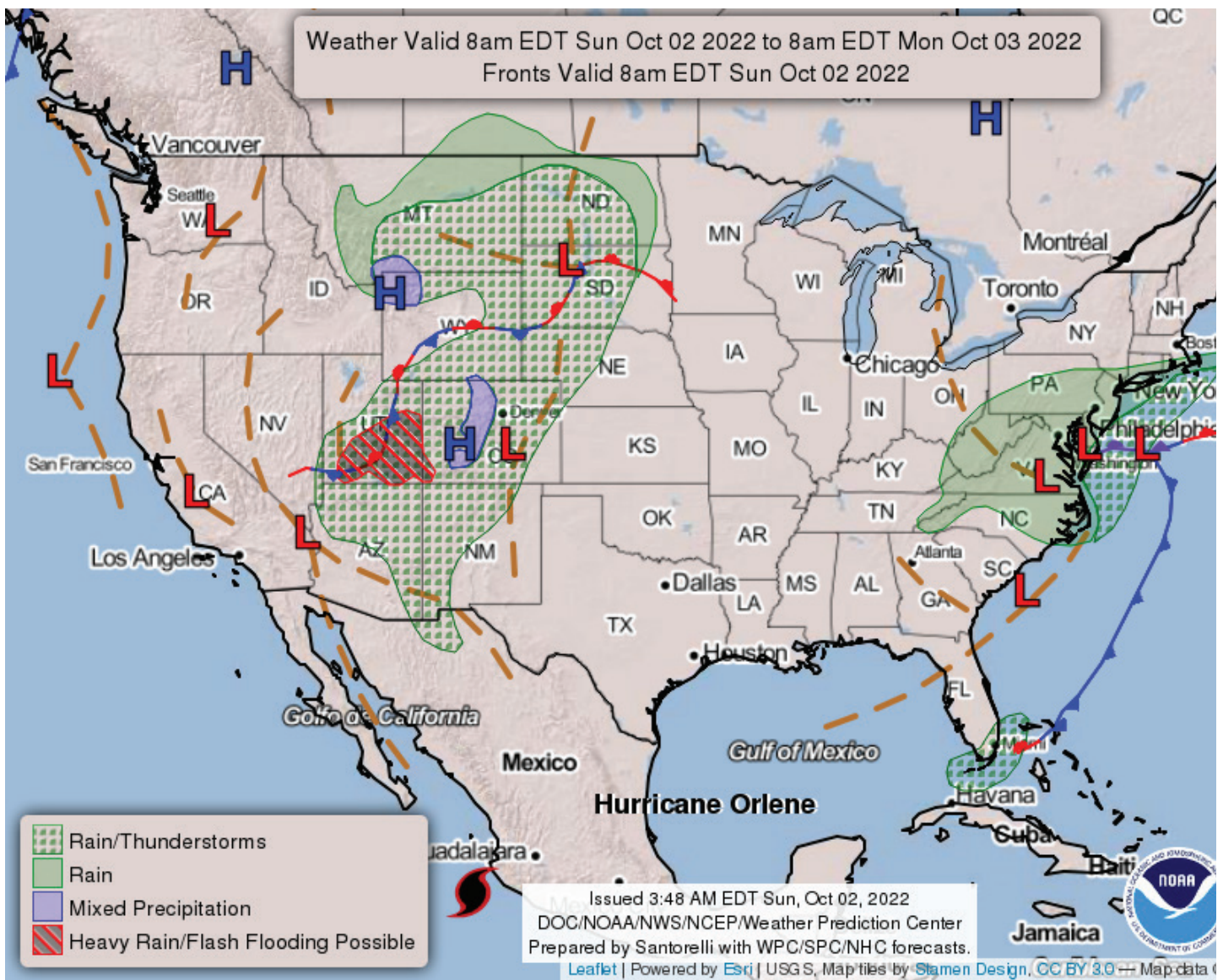
## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 75 °F at 5:39 PM**  
**Low Temp: 58 °F at 7:44 AM**  
**Wind: 26 mph at 3:49 PM**  
**Precip: : 0.00 (This morning: 0.10)**

Day length: 11 hours, 41 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 91 in 1897  
Record Low: 17 in 1974  
Average High: 67°F  
Average Low: 40°F  
Average Precip in Oct.: .16  
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.00  
Average Precip to date: 18.49  
Precip Year to Date: 16.05  
Sunset Tonight: 7:12:31 PM  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:32:01 AM





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## Today in Weather History

October 2, 1971: Heavy wet snow of over a foot fell in the northern Black Hills. The heavy snow was accompanied by high winds which caused extensive damage to trees and utility lines. The power company said it was one of the worst storms they had experienced.

1858: The only hurricane to impact California struck San Diego on this day. Two researchers with NOAA Michael Chenoweth and Christopher Landsea reconstructed the path of the storm using accounts from newspapers of the high winds. They estimated that if a similar storm were to have hit in 2004, it would have caused around \$500 million in damage.

1882 - An early season windstorm over Oregon and northern California blew down thousands of trees and caused great crop damage in the Sacramento Valley. (David Ludlum)

1898: A Category 4 hurricane made landfall in Georgia on this day. This is the most recent major (Cat 3 or stronger) hurricane to make landfall in Georgia.

1894: A tornado passed over the Little Rock, Arkansas Weather Bureau office on this day.

1959 - A tornado struck the town of Ivy, VA (located near Charlottesville). Eleven persons were killed, including ten from one family. (The Weather Channel)

1980 - The temperature at Blue Canyon, CA, soared to 88 degrees, an October record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1981 - Severe thunderstorms raked Phoenix, AZ, with heavy rain, high winds, and hail up to an inch and a half in diameter, for the second day in a row. Thunderstorms on the 1st deluged Phoenix with .68 inch of rain in five minutes, equalling their all-time record. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A fast moving cold front produced snow flurries from Minnesota to the Appalachian Mountains, and gale force winds behind the front ushered cold air into the Great Lakes Region. Valentine NE reported a record low of 25 degrees. Temperatures recovered rapidly in the Northern High Plains Region, reaching the lower 80s by afternoon. Jackson, WY, warmed from a morning low of 21 degrees to an afternoon high of 76 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Early morning thunderstorms in Georgia produced three inches of rain at Canton and Woodstock. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Flooding due to thunderstorm rains in the southeastern U.S. on the last day of September and the first day of October caused the Etowah River to rise seven feet above flood stage at Canton GA. Thunderstorms produced up to ten inches of rain in northeastern Georgia, with six inches reported at Athens GA in 24 hours. One man was killed, and another man was injured, when sucked by floodwaters into drainage lines. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### RIGHT WAY OR DEAD END?

"I wish I could buy him for what he's worth and sell him for what he thinks he's worth. We could both retire!" said a colleague to me after interviewing a potential employee.

Many people lead "presumptuous" lives and never get in touch with who they are and what their strengths or weaknesses might be. They refuse to see themselves as others see them, and will not admit the fact that they may have done something wrong or harmful. "It's not my fault. It's theirs. They just wouldn't admit what they did."

In the final analysis, we all have the freedom to choose what path we will take - even though, as Solomon warns, "... in the end that path leads to death." We may choose a path, even claim that it was a "path from God and was His will for my life," not admitting that our decision was ours alone, ill-conceived, and even ill advised. "I certainly prayed about it!"

"Seems right" is a frightening combination of words. It simply means that "I (or someone else) did not know what was right" and went off in the wrong direction and it ended in disaster - perhaps death. "Seems right" is full of presumptions, beginning with sincerity. Although we may be very sincere about most anything we choose to do, sincerity does not lead to fulfilling God's plan for our lives. "Seems right" can be "surely wrong!"

Those who truly want to live the "right way" will find it in God's Word. The "right way" is living a life that agrees with the Word of God, choosing to be obedient to His commands, waiting for His guidance, and putting His will before my wants.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, may we avoid doing what "seems right" by surrendering our lives and will to You. Help us to do right and live right by following You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death. Proverbs 14:12



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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## 2022-23 Community Events

- 07/21/2022: Pro Am Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course  
07/22/2022: Ferney Open Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Start  
07/24/2022: Moonlight Swim at the Swimming Pool 9-11pm for 9th grade to age 20  
07/27/2022: Golf Fundraiser Lunch at Olive Grove Golf Course 11a-1pm  
08/05/2022: Wine on Nine at Olive Grove Golf Course 6pm  
08/12/2022: GHS Basketball Golf Tournament  
No Date Set: Groton Firemen Summer Splash Day 4-5pm GHS Parking Lot  
09/10/2022: Lions Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday after Labor Day)  
09/11/2022: 6th Annual Doggie Day at the Swimming Pool 3-5pm  
09/11/2022: Couples Sunflower Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10 a.m.  
09/02-04: Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport  
10/01/2022: Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm  
10/07/2022: Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am  
10/31/2022: Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm (working day on or closest to Halloween)  
10/31/2022: United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm  
11/12/2022: Legion Post #39 Turkey Party 6:30pm (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)  
11/24/2022 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm (Thanksgiving)  
12/03/2022 Tour of Homes & Holiday Party at Olive Grove Golf Course  
12/10/2022: Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9am-12pm  
01/29/2023 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed, 10am-1pm, Community Center  
01/29/2023 85th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)  
04/01/2023 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter)  
04/22/2023 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)  
04/23/2023 Princess Prom 4:30-8pm (Sunday after GHS Prom)  
05/06/2023 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday in May)  
05/29/2023 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)  
07/04/2023 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Registration, 10am Start (4th of July)  
07/09/2023 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)  
09/09/2023 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday after Labor Day)  
10/31/2023 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm (working day on or closest to Halloween)  
10/31/2023 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm  
11/23/2023 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm (Thanksgiving)



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News from the  Associated Press

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) \_ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Saturday:

Dakota Cash

05-09-21-26-32

(five, nine, twenty-one, twenty-six, thirty-two)

Estimated jackpot: \$82,000

Lotto America

05-07-13-16-38, Star Ball: 10, ASB: 3

(five, seven, thirteen, sixteen, thirty-eight; Star Ball: ten; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$24,690,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: 380,000,000

Powerball

08-21-22-65-69, Powerball: 26, Power Play: 2

(eight, twenty-one, twenty-two, sixty-five, sixty-nine; Powerball: twenty-six; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$336,000,000

## Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL=

Aberdeen Roncalli 21, St. Thomas More 6

Florence/Henry 40, Great Plains Lutheran 12

Todd County 16, Tiospa Zina Tribal 14

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Jones County def. Bennett County, 25-14, 25-11, 25-10

Marshall, Minn. def. Brookings, 25-5, 25-6, 25-11

Mobridge-Pollock def. Winner, 20-25, 25-21, 22-25, 25-12, 18-16

Pierre def. Brandon Valley, 25-16, 27-25, 25-22

Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Sioux Falls Christian, 25-23, 24-26, 25-16, 16-25, 15-10

Wagner def. Tri-Valley, 25-8, 25-17, 25-17

281 Conference Tourney=

Highmore-Harrold def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 25-23, 25-18

Iroquois/ Lake Preston Co-op def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-19, 16-25, 26-24

Wessington Springs def. Highmore-Harrold, 29-27, 25-11

Wolsey-Wessington def. James Valley Christian, 25-17, 26-24

Wolsey-Wessington def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-11, 25-12

Wolsey-Wessington def. Wessington Springs, 25-13, 25-13

Great Plains Tournament=

Burke def. Centerville, 25-10, 25-18

Burke def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-5, 25-6

Burke def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 25-14, 25-17

Colome def. Corsica/Stickney, 15-25, 25-22, 27-25

Corsica/Stickney def. Avon, 21-25, 25-23, 26-24

Corsica/Stickney def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-17, 25-16

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Tripp-Delmont/Armour def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-17, 25-18  
Lakota Nation Invitational=  
Championship=  
Lakota Tech def. White River, 25-20, 25-23  
Pool A=  
Lower Brule def. Takini, 25-11, 26-24  
St. Francis Indian def. Takini, 25-18, 25-21  
Tiospa Zina Tribal def. St. Francis Indian, 25-11, 25-17  
White River def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-19, 20-25, 26-24  
Pool B=  
Crow Creek def. Santee, Neb., 25-13, 20-25, 25-19  
Custer def. Oelrichs, 25-1, 25-19  
Oelrichs def. Crow Creek, 25-23, 25-19  
Red Cloud def. Santee, Neb., 29-27, 25-20  
Pool C=  
Lakota Tech def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 29-31, 25-14, 25-18  
Lakota Tech def. Todd County, 25-14, 25-11  
McLaughlin def. Todd County, 25-19, 25-15  
Pine Ridge def. McLaughlin, 25-10, 25-9  
Pine Ridge def. Todd County, 25-23, 25-7  
Pool D=  
Little Wound def. Crazy Horse, 25-11, 25-12  
Little Wound def. Marty Indian, 25-20, 25-17  
Little Wound def. Tiospaye Topa, 25-10, 25-11  
Wakpala def. Tiospaye Topa, 25-14, 14-25, 25-17  
Wyoming Indian, Wyo. def. Crazy Horse, 25-13, 25-7  
Semifinal=  
Lakota Tech def. Custer, 26-24, 25-18  
White River def. Wyoming Indian, Wyo., 25-21, 25-18  
Third Place=  
Custer def. Wyoming Indian, Wyo., 25-19, 25-19  
Lead-Deadwood Invitational=  
Pool A=  
Gordon/Rushville, Neb. def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-12, 25-10  
Gordon/Rushville, Neb. def. New Underwood, 25-17, 24-26, 25-15  
Redfield Pheasant Classic Tournament=  
Bronze Pool=  
Potter County def. Waverly-South Shore, 26-24, 25-13  
Timber Lake def. Potter County, 25-15, 25-21  
Timber Lake def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-10, 25-15  
Gold Pool=  
Miller def. Redfield, 25-20, 25-14  
Warner def. Miller, 20-25, 25-19, 25-19  
Warner def. Redfield, 25-11, 25-10  
Pool Play=  
Belle Fourche def. Timber Lake, 27-25, 25-16  
Florence/Henry def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-9, 25-1  
Miller def. Florence/Henry, 17-25, 27-25, 25-15  
Miller def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-4, 25-10  
Redfield def. Belle Fourche, 25-20, 23-25, 26-24



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Redfield def. Timber Lake, 25-20, 25-14  
Warner def. Potter County, 25-8, 25-14  
Warner def. Webster, 25-12, 25-8  
Webster def. Potter County, 27-25, 25-15  
Silver Pool=  
Belle Fourche def. Florence/Henry, 25-14, 24-26, 25-16  
Belle Fourche def. Webster, 25-8, 25-17  
Florence/Henry def. Webster, 25-8, 25-13  
Twin City Tournament=  
Gold Bracket=  
Rapid City Stevens def. North Platte, Neb., 25-23, 25-18  
Championship=  
Rapid City Stevens def. Grand Island Northwest, Neb., 25-19, 25-21  
Semifinal=  
Rapid City Stevens def. Sidney, Neb., 25-22, 25-20  
Silver Bracket=  
Burns, Wyo. def. St. Thomas More, 25-18, 25-18  
Chadron, Neb. def. Rapid City Central, 25-9, 26-24  
Consolation Semifinal=  
McCook, Neb. def. St. Thomas More, 25-21, 25-23  
Rapid City Central def. Torrington, Wyo., 25-22, 25-14  
Fifth Place=  
McCook, Neb. def. Rapid City Central, 25-17, 25-14  
Seventh Place=  
St. Thomas More def. Torrington, Wyo., 25-17, 25-16

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

## Davis rushes for 199 yards, SDSU beats Western Illinois

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Isaiah Davis rushed for 199 yards, including his first two touchdowns of the season, Mark Gronowski passed for 188 yards and a score, and South Dakota State beat winless Western Illinois 34-10 on Saturday.

Davis scored on a 2-yard run on South Dakota State's opening drive of the game and he added a 12-yarder with 7:27 left in the fourth for a 31-point lead.

SDSU rushed for a season-high 263 yards, while the Jackrabbits defense held WIU to 220 total yards.

Jaxon Janke caught nine passes for 94 yards and a touchdown for South Dakota State (4-1, 2-0 Missouri Valley), which has won four straight. Six other SDSU receivers had one catch apiece.

Clay Bruno was 10 of 20 for 129 yards and a touchdown, and Naseim Brantley had 107 yards receiving for Western Illinois (0-5, 0-2).

SDSU will host rival South Dakota next week in the first meeting between the teams in Brookings since 2018.

## Brazil holds historic election with Lula against Bolsonaro

By DIANE JEANTET Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazilians were voting on Sunday in an election that could signal a sharp turn to the left in the world's fourth largest democracy after four years of far-right leadership.

Incumbent President Jair Bolsonaro's administration has been marked by incendiary speech, his testing of democratic institutions and his handling of the disastrous COVID-19 pandemic — though many Brazilians admire his defense of conservative social values and him presenting himself as protecting the nation

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from leftist policies.

Polls opened at 8 a.m. (1100 GMT; 7 a.m. EDT). Because the vote is conducted electronically, preliminary results are usually out within minutes after voting stations close at 5 p.m. (2000 GMT; 4 p.m. EDT), with the final result available a few hours later.

Recent opinion polls have shown da Silva with a commanding lead. The last Datafolha survey published Saturday found that 50% of respondents who intend to vote for a candidate said they would vote for da Silva, against 36% for Bolsonaro. The polling institute interviewed 12,800 people, with a margin of error of plus or minus two percentage points.

Like several of their Latin American neighbors, also dealing with high inflation and an oversized informal economy, polls suggest Brazilians were poised to vote for a leftist candidate.

There was a chance da Silva, a former metalworker who ran the country between 2003-2010, could win in the first round, without need for a runoff. For that to happen, he would need more than 50% of so-called valid votes, which exclude spoiled and blank ballots.

More than 150 million Brazilians were eligible to vote, though abstention rates can reach as high as 20%.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. AP's earlier story follows below.

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — More than 120 million Brazilians will vote Sunday in a highly polarized election that could determine if the country returns a leftist to the helm of the world's fourth-largest democracy or keeps the far-right incumbent in office for another four years.

With polls opening at 8 a.m. Brasilia time, the race pits incumbent President Jair Bolsonaro against his political nemesis, former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. There are nine other candidates, but their support pales to that for Bolsonaro and da Silva.

Recent opinion polls have given da Silva a commanding lead — the last Datafolha survey published Saturday found that 50% of respondents who intend to vote for a candidate said they would vote for da Silva, against 36% for Bolsonaro. The polling institute interviewed 12,800 people, with a margin of error of plus or minus two percentage points.

Bolsonaro's administration has been marked by incendiary speech, his testing of democratic institutions, his widely criticized handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and the worst deforestation in the Amazon rainforest in 15 years.

But he has built a devoted base by defending traditional family values, rebuffing political correctness and presenting himself as protecting the nation from leftist policies that infringe on personal liberties and produce economic turmoil.

A slow economic recovery has yet to reach the poor, with 33 million Brazilians going hungry despite higher welfare payments. Like several of its Latin American neighbors coping with high inflation and a vast number of people excluded from formal employment, Brazil is considering a shift to the political left.

Gustavo Petro in Colombia, Gabriel Boric in Chile and Pedro Castillo in Peru are among the left-leaning leaders in the region who have recently assumed power.

There is a chance da Silva could win in the first round, without need for a run-off on Oct. 30. For that to happen, he would need more than 50% of valid votes, which exclude spoiled and blank ballots. Brazil has more than 150 million eligible voters, and voting is mandatory, but abstention rates can reach as high as 20%.

An outright win would sharpen focus on the president's reaction to the count given he has repeatedly questioned the reliability not just of opinion polls, but also of the electronic voting machines. Analysts fear he has laid the groundwork to reject results. At one point, Bolsonaro claimed to possess evidence of fraud, but never presented any, even after the electoral authority set a deadline to do so. He said as recently as Sept. 18 that if he doesn't win in the first round, something must be "abnormal."

The two frontrunners have key bases of support: evangelicals and white men for Bolsonaro, and women, minorities and the poor for da Silva.

Da Silva, 76, will vote in Sao Paulo state, where he was once a metalworker and union leader. He rose from poverty to the presidency and is credited with building an extensive social welfare program during

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his 2003-2010 tenure that helped lift tens of millions into the middle class.

But he is also remembered for his administration's involvement in vast corruption scandals that entangled politicians and business executives.

Da Silva's own convictions for corruption and money laundering led to 19 months imprisonment, sidelining him from the 2018 presidential race that polls indicated he had been leading against Bolsonaro. The Supreme Court later annulled da Silva's convictions on the grounds that the judge was biased and colluded with prosecutors.

Bolsonaro, who will vote in Rio de Janeiro, grew up in a modest family before joining the army. He eventually turned to politics after being forced out of the military for openly pushing to raise servicemen's pays. During his seven terms as a fringe lawmaker in Congress' lower house, he regularly expressed nostalgia for the country's two-decade military dictatorship.

His overtures to the armed forces have raised concern that his possible rejection of election results could be backed by top brass.

Traditionally, the armed forces' involvement in elections has been limited to carrying voting machines to isolated communities and beefing up security in violent regions. But this year, Bolsonaro suggested the military should conduct a parallel count of the ballots.

While that didn't materialize, the Defense Ministry said it will cross check results in over 380 polling stations across Brazil. Any citizen or entity is able to do the same, consulting a vote tally available at each station after ballot closure and online.

Because the vote is conducted electronically, preliminary results are usually out within minutes, with the final result available a few hours later. This year, all polls will close at 5 p.m. Brasilia time, regardless of areas that are in later time zones.

## 174 die as tear gas triggers crush at Indonesia soccer match

By AGOES BASOEKI and NINIEK KARMINI Associated Press

MALANG, Indonesia (AP) — Panic and a chaotic run for exits after police fired tear gas at an Indonesian soccer match to drive away rioting fans left at least 174 dead, most of whom were trampled upon or suffocated, making it one of the deadliest sports events in the world.

Attention immediately focused on the police use of tear gas, which is banned at soccer stadiums by FIFA. The president of the world soccer body called the deaths at the stadium "a dark day for all involved in football and a tragedy beyond comprehension," while President Joko Widodo ordered an investigation of security procedures.

Riots broke out after the game ended Saturday evening with host Arema FC of East Java's Malang city losing to Persebaya of Surabaya 3-2.

Disappointed with their team's loss, thousands of supporters of Arema, known as "Aremania," reacted by throwing bottles and other objects at players and soccer officials. Witnesses said fans flooded the Kanjuruhan Stadium pitch and demanded that Arema management explain why, after 23 years of undefeated home matches against rival Persebaya, this one ended in a loss.

The violence spread outside the stadium where at least five police vehicles were toppled and set ablaze. Riot police responded by firing tear gas, including toward the stadium's stands, causing panic among the crowd.

Some suffocated and others were trampled as hundreds of people ran to the exit to avoid the tear gas. In the chaos, 34 died at the stadium, including two officers, and some reports include children among the casualties.

"We have already done a preventive action before finally firing the tear gas as (fans) began to attack the police, acting anarchically and burning vehicles," East Java police chief Nico Afinta said in a news conference early Sunday.

More than 300 were rushed to hospitals but many died on the way and during a treatment, Afinta said. East Java's Vice Gov. Emil Dardak told Kompas TV the death toll had climbed to 174, while more than



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100 injured people are receiving intensive treatment in eight hospitals, 11 of them in critical condition.

Indonesia's soccer association, known as PSSI, suspended the premier soccer league Liga 1 indefinitely in light of the tragedy and banned Arema from hosting soccer matches for the remainder of the season.

Television reports showed police and rescuers evacuating the injured and carrying the dead to ambulances.

Grieving relatives waited for information about their loved ones at Malang's Saiful Anwar General Hospital. Others tried to identify the bodies laid at a morgue while medical workers put identification tag on the bodies of the victims.

"I deeply regret this tragedy and I hope this is the last soccer tragedy in this country, don't let another human tragedy like this happen in the future," Widodo said in a televised speech. "We must continue to maintain sportsmanship, humanity and a sense of brotherhood of the Indonesian nation."

He ordered the youth and sports minister, the national police chief and the PSSI chair to conduct a thorough evaluation of the country's soccer and its security procedure.

Youth and Sports Minister Zainudin Amali also expressed his regrets that "this tragedy happened when we were preparing for soccer game activities, both national and international level."

Indonesia is due to host the 2023 FIFA U-20 World Cup from May 20 to June 11, with 24 participating teams. As the host, the country automatically qualifies for the cup.

"Unfortunately, this incident has certainly injured our soccer image," Amali said.

In a statement, FIFA President Gianni Infantino expressed condolences on behalf of the global football community, saying "the football world is in a state of shock." The statement did not mention the use of tear gas.

Ferli Hidayat, local police chief of Malang, said there were some 42,000 spectators at the game Saturday, all of whom were Arema supporters because the organizer had banned Persebaya fans from entering the stadium in an effort to avoid brawls.

The restriction was imposed after clashes between supporters of the two rival teams in East Java's Blitar stadium in February 2020 caused 250 million rupiah (\$18,000) in damage. Brawls were reported outside the stadium during and after the semifinals of the East Java Governor's Cup, which ended with Persebaya beating Arema 4-2.

Rights groups responded to the tragedy by blaming the use of tear gas in the stadium by police.

Citing FIFA's stadium safety guidelines that prohibit the carrying or use of "crowd control gas" by pitch side stewards or police, Amnesty International called on Indonesian authorities to conduct a swift, thorough and independent investigation into the use of tear gas at Kanjuruhan stadium.

"Those who are found to have committed violations are tried in open court and do not merely receive internal or administrative sanctions," said Usman Hamid, executive director of Amnesty International Indonesia.

He said tear gas should only be used to disperse crowds when widespread violence has occurred and when other methods have failed. People must be warned that tear gas will be used and allowed to disperse. "No one should lose their lives at a football match," Hamid said.

Despite Indonesia's lack of international accolades in the sport, hooliganism is rife in the soccer-obsessed country where fanaticism often ends in violence, as in the 2018 death of a Persija Jakarta supporter who was killed by a mob of hardcore fans of rival club Persib Bandung in 2018.

Saturday's game is already among the world's worst crowd disasters, including the 1996 World Cup qualifier between Guatemala and Costa Rica in Guatemala City where over 80 died and over 100 more were injured. In April 2001, more than 40 people are crushed to death during a soccer match at Ellis Park in Johannesburg, South Africa.

## Pope appeals to Putin to end 'spiral of violence' in Ukraine

By FRANCES D'EMILIO Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis on Sunday appealed to Russian President Vladimir Putin, imploring him to "stop this spiral of violence and death" in Ukraine and denounced the "absurd" risk to humanity of

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catastrophic nuclear war as tensions escalate.

Francis uttered his strongest plea yet on the seventh-month war as he addressed the public in St. Peter's Square. It was the first time in public that he cited Putin's leadership.

The pontiff also called on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to "be open" to serious peace proposals. He exhorted the international community to "use all diplomatic instruments" to end this "huge tragedy" and "horror" of war.

"This terrible, inconceivable wound of humanity, instead of shrinking, continues to bleed even more, threatening to spread," Francis said.

"That humanity again finds itself before the threat of atomic war is absurd," the pontiff said. "What more has to happen, how much more blood has to flow" before the war ends? asked Francis.

The pope implored "the Russian Federation president, also for the love of his people, to stop this spiral of violence and death."

He then urged Zelenskyy to "be open to serious proposals to peace," and called upon "all protagonists of international life and political leaders with insistence to do all they can to put an end to the war," avoiding "dangerous escalation."

Francis called for the "recourse to all diplomatic instruments to end this huge tragedy." In his address he called war "a horror" and "madness."

He expressed anguish that "the world is learning about the geography of Ukraine" through the names of its cities and towns, now associated with the death of civilians, including Bucha and Mariupol.

Throughout the war, Francis has denounced the recourse to arms and urged dialogue. But recently, he stressed Ukraine's right to defend itself from aggression.

Follow the AP's coverage of the war at <https://apnews.com/hub/russia-ukraine>

## Ukraine presses counteroffensive after Russian setback

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia attacked the Ukrainian president's hometown and other targets with suicide drones on Sunday, and Ukraine took back full control of a strategic eastern city in a counteroffensive that has reshaped the war.

Russia's loss of Lyman, which it had been using as a transport and logistics hub, is a new blow to the Kremlin as it seeks to escalate the war by illegally annexing four regions of Ukraine and heightening its threats to use nuclear force. Ukraine's recent gains have embarrassed Russian President Vladimir Putin and prompted rare domestic criticism.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday his forces now control Lyman, after Russia's military announced Saturday its retreat.

"As of 12:30 p.m. (0930 GMT) Lyman is cleared fully. Thank you to our militaries, our warriors," Zelenskyy said in a video address.

In southern Ukraine, Zelenskyy's hometown Krivyi Rih came under Russian attack by a suicide drone that struck a school early Sunday and destroyed two stories of it, said Valentyn Reznichenko, the governor of Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region.

Russia in recent weeks has begun using Iranian-made suicide drones to attack targets in Ukraine. In southern Ukraine, the Ukrainian air force said Sunday it shot down five Iranian-made drones overnight, while two others made it through air defenses.

Meanwhile, Russian attacks also targeted the city of Zaporizhzhia, Ukrainian authorities said Sunday. And Ukraine's military said Sunday it carried out strikes on multiple Russian command posts, ammunition depots and two S-300 anti-aircraft batteries.

The reports of military activity couldn't be immediately verified.

Ukrainian forces have retaken swaths of territory, notably in the northeast around Kharkiv, in a counteroffensive in recent weeks.

In the latest major development, Ukrainian forces encircled Russian troops holding the hub of Lyman in

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the east, forcing the Russians to withdraw in what the British military described as a "significant political setback" for Moscow. Taking the city paves the way for Ukrainian troops to potentially push farther into territory Russia has occupied.

Lyman had been an important link in the Russian front line for ground communications and logistics. Lyman is in the Donetsk region near the border with Luhansk, two of the four regions that Russia illegally annexed Friday after forcing the population to vote in referendums at gunpoint.

Russia's Defense Ministry claimed to have inflicted damage on Ukrainian forces in battling to hold Lyman, but said outnumbered Russian troops were withdrawn to more favorable positions.

In his nightly address Saturday, Zelenskyy said: "Over the past week, there have been more Ukrainian flags in the Donbas. In a week there will be even more."

In a daily intelligence briefing, the British Defense Ministry called Lyman crucial because it has "a key road crossing over the Siverskyi Donets River, behind which Russia has been attempting to consolidate its defenses."

The British said they believed that the city had been held by "undermanned elements" prior to the Russian withdrawal, which prompted immediate criticism from some Russian officials.

"Further losses of territory in illegally occupied territories will almost certainly lead to an intensification of this public criticism and increase the pressure on senior commanders," the British military briefing said.

The Russian retreat from northeast Ukraine in recent weeks has revealed evidence of widespread, routine torture of both civilians and soldiers, notably in the strategic city of Iziium, an Associated Press investigation has found.

AP journalists located 10 torture sites in the Ukrainian town, including a deep sunless pit in a residential compound, a clammy underground jail that reeked of urine, a medical clinic and a kindergarten.

Russian officials release limited information about military activity in what the Kremlin still refuses to call a war. Putin frames the Ukrainian gains as a U.S.-orchestrated effort to destroy Russia, and last week he heightened threats of nuclear force in some of his toughest, most anti-Western rhetoric to date.

Pope Francis on Sunday decried the nuclear threats, and appealed to Putin to stop "this spiral of violence and death."

Meanwhile, international concerns are mounting about the fate of Europe's largest nuclear plant after Russian forces detained its director.

The International Atomic Energy Agency announced Sunday that its director-general, Rafael Grossi would visit Kyiv and Moscow in the coming days to discuss the situation around the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. Grossi is continuing to push for "a nuclear safety and security zone" around the site.

The plant is in an area of Ukraine controlled by Russia and within one of the four regions that Moscow illegally annexed on Friday, and repeatedly has been caught in the crossfire of the war. Ukrainian technicians continued running the power station after Russian troops seized it, and its last reactor was shut down in September as a precautionary measure.

## 10 torture sites in 1 town: Russia sowed pain, fear in Iziium

By LORI HINNANT, EVGENIY MALOLETKA and VASILISA STEPANENKO Associated Press

IZIUM, Ukraine (AP) — The first time the Russian soldiers caught him, they tossed him bound and blindfolded into a trench covered with wooden boards for days on end.

Then they beat him, over and over: Legs, arms, a hammer to the knees, all accompanied by furious diatribes against Ukraine. Before they let him go, they took away his passport and Ukrainian military ID — all he had to prove his existence — and made sure he knew exactly how worthless his life was.

"No one needs you," the commander taunted. "We can shoot you any time, bury you a half-meter underground and that's it."

The brutal encounter at the end of March was just the start. Andriy Kotsar would be captured and tortured twice more by Russian forces in Iziium, and the pain would be even worse.

Russian torture in Iziium was arbitrary, widespread and absolutely routine for both civilians and soldiers



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throughout the city, an Associated Press investigation has found. While torture was also evident in Bucha, that devastated Kyiv suburb was only occupied for a month. Iziurm served as a hub for Russian soldiers for nearly seven months, during which they established torture sites everywhere.

Based on accounts of survivors and police, AP journalists located 10 torture sites in the town and gained access to five of them. They included a deep sunless pit in a residential compound with dates carved in the brick wall, a clammy underground jail that reeked of urine and rotting food, a medical clinic, a police station and a kindergarten.

The AP spoke to 15 survivors of Russian torture in the Kharkiv region, as well as two families whose loved ones disappeared into Russian hands. Two of the men were taken repeatedly and abused. One battered, unconscious Ukrainian soldier was displayed to his wife to force her to provide information she simply didn't have.

The AP also confirmed eight men were killed under torture in Russian custody, according to survivors and families. All but one were civilians.

At a mass grave site created by the Russians and discovered in the woods of Iziurm, at least 30 of the 447 bodies recently excavated bore visible marks of torture — bound hands, close gunshot wounds, knife wounds and broken limbs, according to the Kharkiv regional prosecutor's office. Those injuries corresponded to the descriptions of the pain inflicted upon the survivors.

AP journalists also saw bodies with bound wrists at the mass grave. Amid the trees were hundreds of simple wooden crosses, most marked only with numbers. One said it contained the bodies of 17 Ukrainian soldiers. At least two more mass graves have been found in the town, all heavily mined, authorities said.

A physician who treated hundreds of Iziurm's injured during the Russian occupation said people regularly arrived at his emergency room with injuries consistent with torture, including gunshots to their hands and feet, broken bones and severe bruising, and burns. None would explain their wounds, he said.

"Even if people came to the hospital, silence was the norm," chief Dr. Yuriy Kuznetsov said. He added that one soldier came in for treatment for hand injuries, clearly from being cuffed, but the man refused to say what happened.

Men with links to Ukrainian forces were singled out repeatedly for torture, but any adult man risked getting caught up. Matilda Bogner, the head of the U.N. human rights mission in Ukraine, told the AP they had documented "widespread practices of torture or ill-treatment of civilian detainees" by Russian forces and affiliates. Torture of soldiers was also systemic, she said.

Torture in any form during an armed conflict is a war crime under the Geneva Conventions, whether of prisoners of war or civilians.

"It serves three purposes," said Rachel Denber of Human Rights Watch. "Torture came with questions to coerce information, but it is also to punish and to sow fear. It is to send a chilling message to everyone else."

## NO SAFE HAVEN

AP journalists found Kotsar, 26, hiding in a monastery in Iziurm, his blond hair tied back neatly in the Orthodox fashion and his beard curling beneath his chin. He had no way to safely contact his loved ones, who thought he was dead.

Back in March, after his first round of torture, Kotsar fled to the gold-domed Pishchanskyi church. Russian soldiers were everywhere, and nowhere in Iziurm was safe.

Hiding amid the icons, Kotsar listened to the rumble of Russian armored vehicles outside and contemplated suicide. He had been a soldier for just under a month and had no idea if anyone in his little unit had survived the Russian onslaught.

When he emerged from the church a few days later, a Russian patrol caught him. They kept him a week. His captors' idea of a joke was to shave his legs with a knife, and then debate aloud whether to slice off the limb entirely.

"They took, I don't know what exactly, some iron, maybe glass rods, and burned the skin little by little," he said.

He knew nothing that could help them. So they set him free again, and again he sought refuge with the

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monks. He had nowhere else to go.

By then, the church and monastery compound had become a shelter for around 100 people, including 40 children. Kotsar took up a version of the monastic life, living with the black-robed brothers, helping them care for the refugees and spending his free hours standing before the gilt icons in contemplation.

In the meantime, Iziium was transforming into a Russian logistical hub. The town was swarming with troops, and its electricity, gas, water and phone networks were severed. Iziium was effectively cut off from the rest of Ukraine.

## SCREAMS IN THE NIGHT

It was also in the spring that the Russians first sought out Mykola Mosyakyn, driving down the rutted dirt roads until they reached the Ukrainian soldier's fenced cottage. Mosyakyn, 38, had enlisted after the war began, though not in the same unit as Kotsar.

They tossed him into a pit with standing water, handcuffed him and hung him by the restraints until his skin went numb. They waited in vain for him to talk, and tried again.

"They beat me with sticks. They hit me with their hands, they kicked me, they put out cigarettes on me, they pressed matches on me," he recounted. "They said, 'Dance,' but I did not dance. So they shot my feet."

After three days they dropped him near the hospital with the command: "Tell them you had an accident."

At least two other men from Mosyakyn's neighborhood, a father and son who are both civilians, were taken at the same time. The father speaks about his two weeks in the basement cell in a whisper, staring at the ground. His adult son refuses to speak about it at all.

That family, along with another man who was also tortured in the basement cell on Iziium's east bank, spoke on condition of anonymity. They are terrified the Russians will return.

Mosyakyn was captured again by a different Russian unit just a few days later. This time, he found himself in School No. 2, subject to routine beatings along with other Ukrainians. AP journalists found a discarded Ukrainian soldier's jacket in the same blue cell he described in detail. The school also served as a base and field hospital for Russian soldiers, and at least two Ukrainian civilians held there died.

But the soldiers again freed Mosyakyn. To this day, he doesn't know why.

Nor does he understand why they'd release him just to recapture him a few days later and haul him to a crowded garage of a medical clinic near the railroad tracks. More than a dozen other Ukrainians were jailed with him, soldiers and civilians. Two garages were for men, one for women and a bigger one — the only one with a window — for Russian soldiers.

Women were held in the garage closest to the soldiers' quarters. Their screams came at night, according to Mosyakyn and Kotsar, who were both held at the clinic at different times. Ukrainian intelligence officials said they were raped regularly.

For the men, Room 6 was for electrocution. Room 9 was for waterboarding, Mosyakyn said. He described how they covered his face with a cloth bag and poured water from a kettle onto him to mimic the sensation of drowning. They also hooked up his toes to electricity and shocked him with electrodes on his ears.

It was here that Mosyakyn watched Russian soldiers drag out the lifeless bodies of two civilians they'd tortured to death, both from Iziium's Gonkharovka neighborhood.

Kotsar was taken to the clinic in July and received a slightly different treatment, involving a Soviet-era gas mask and electrodes on his legs. AP journalists also found gas masks at two schools.

By the time Kotsar arrived, people had already been there for 12 to 16 days. They told him arms and legs were broken, and people taken out to be shot. He vowed that if he survived, he would never allow himself to be captured again.

They released him after a couple of weeks. He craved familiar faces and people who meant him no harm. He returned to the monks.

"When I came out, everything was green. It was very, very strange, because there had been absolutely no color," he said. "Everything was wonderful, so vivid."

## SHALLOW GRAVE

In mid-August, the bodies of three men were found in a shallow forested pit on the town's outskirts.

Ivan Shabelnyk left home with a friend on March 23 to collect pine cones so the family could light the

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samovar and have tea. They never came back.

Another man taken with them reluctantly told Shabelnyk's family about the torture they'd all endured together, first in the basement of a nearby house and then in School No. 2. Then he left town.

Their bodies were found in mid-August, in the last days of the occupation, by a man scavenging for firewood. He followed the smell of death to a shallow grave in the forest.

Shabelnyk's hands were shot, his ribs broken, his face unrecognizable. They identified him by the jacket he wore, from the local grain factory where he worked. His grieving mother showed the AP a photo.

"He kept this photo with him, of us together when he was a small boy," said Ludmila Shabelnyk, in tears. "Why did they destroy people like him? I don't understand. Why has this happened to our country?"

His sister, Olha Zaparozhchenko, walked with journalists through the cemetery and looked at his grave.

"They tortured civilians at will, like bullies," she said. "I have only one word: genocide."

The Kharkiv region's chief prosecutor, Oleksandr Filchakov, told the AP it was too soon to determine how many people were tortured in Iziium, but said it easily numbered into the dozens.

"Every day, many people call us with information, people who were in the occupied territories," he said. "Every day, relatives come to us and say their friends, their family, were tortured by Russian soldiers."

MISSING NO MORE

After his final escape, Kotsar hid in the monastery for more than a month. Without documents and a phone connection to prove his identity, he was too afraid to leave.

Kotsar's family had no idea what happened to him. They had simply reported him missing, like so many other Ukrainian soldiers caught on the wrong side of the frontline.

He spoke with effort to AP journalists, and at one point asked them to turn off the camera so he could compose himself. The AP contacted the Commissioner for Issues of Missing Persons Under Special Circumstances, which confirmed the missing person report and his identity through a photo on file. Then Kotsar's own unit, which had left Iziium in disarray, returned and tracked him down.

Kotsar doesn't know what comes next. Ukrainian officials are still in the process of restoring his identity documents, and without them he can't go anywhere. He would like psychological treatment to deal with the trauma from repeated torture, and for now he's staying with the monks.

"If it weren't for them, I probably wouldn't have survived at all," he said. "They saved me."

Kotsar's first call was to the sister of his best friend — the only person in his entire circle of loved ones he was certain was in a safe place. He grinned as the connection went through.

"Tell him I'm alive," he said. "Tell him I'm alive and in one piece."

## UK's Truss sticks by economic plan as her party worries

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Liz Truss said Sunday that she could have done a better job "laying the ground" for her package of unfunded tax cuts, but insisted she would push on with an economic plan that has caused turmoil on financial markets and weakened the country's public finances.

Truss acknowledged that the U.K. faces "a very turbulent and stormy time," but said her policies would lead to a "high-growth, low-tax economy" in the longer term.

The comments are unlikely to calm Truss' Conservative Party, which opens its four-day annual conference on Sunday in the central England city of Birmingham amid plunging poll ratings and growing public discontent.

Truss took office less than a month ago, promising to radically reshape Britain's economy to end years of sluggish growth. But the government's Sept. 23 announcement of a stimulus package that includes 45 billion pounds (\$50 billion) in tax cuts, to be paid for by government borrowing, sent the pound tumbling to a record low against the dollar.

The Bank of England was forced to intervene to prop up the bond market, and fears that the bank will soon hike interest rates caused mortgage lenders to withdraw their cheapest deals, causing turmoil for homebuyers.



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"I have learned from that," Truss told the BBC. "I will make sure in future we do a better job of laying the ground."

Truss stuck to her insistence that Britain's economic problems were part of a global spike in inflation and energy prices spurred by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

In a bid to calm the market turmoil, Truss and her finance minister, Kwasi Kwarteng, have said they will set out a medium-term fiscal plan on Nov. 23, alongside an economic forecast from the independent Office for Budget Responsibility.

Many economists, and many Conservatives, say that means weeks more economic turmoil are ahead. Michael Gove, who served as a senior minister in previous Conservative governments, said the announcement "will have to be brought forward" and some parts of the economic package will have to be dropped.

Gove said there was "an inadequate realization at the top of government about the scale of change required."

Many Conservative lawmakers are worried that a leader chosen to replace Prime Minister Boris Johnson for her boosterish promises of economic growth has set the party on course for defeat in the next general election, due by 2024. Opinion polls suggest the opposition Labour Party is opening up a substantial lead.

"I will do what I can to win the hearts and minds of my colleagues across the Conservative Party," Truss said – but that doesn't appear to include changing course.

Truss said she wouldn't ditch the most unpopular part of her economic package, a decision to scrap the top 45% rate of income tax paid on earnings above 150,000 pounds (\$167,000) a year. And she wouldn't say whether there will have to be cuts to welfare and public services to pay for lower taxes.

"I think there has been too much focus in politics on the optics or how things look," Truss said. She said she was confident her policies would get the economy growing by 2.5% a year — a target the U.K. hasn't hit for years.

Labour Party economy spokeswoman Rachel Reeves accused the Conservative government of "doing some sort of mad experiment with the U.K. economy" and ignoring "the anxiety and fear" felt by millions of ordinary people.

"The idea that trickle-down economics is somehow going to deliver the 2.5% growth we all want to see is for the birds," Reeves told the BBC.

## Rebel violence in eastern Congo causes hunger to soar

By SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

NYIRAGONGO, Congo (AP) — The last thing Pasika Bagerimana remembers before her sons died were their cries of hunger. But the 25-year-old mother had nothing to feed them.

"Mom, I need to eat. Can you give me food?" they pleaded with her. Daniel, 2, and Bonane, 5, died just weeks apart in July after fleeing violence in their village in eastern Congo between M23 rebels and government forces.

Bagerimana worries her remaining two children might be next. "Hunger is killing people," she says, seated in a cramped room she now shares with dozens of other displaced people.

Hunger is soaring across parts of Congo's war-torn North Kivu province where the fighting between M23 rebels and government soldiers has been raging since November, according to aid workers, civilians and health workers.

Despite being the most fertile region in eastern Congo, nearly 260,000 people are facing extreme food insecurity in Nyiragongo and Rutshuru territories, according to an internal draft assessment by aid groups seen by The Associated Press.

Nyiragongo has the highest prevalence of hunger in the province and Rutshuru, where the fighting is concentrated also "remains a concern," the report said.

Congo is the No. 1 country in the world in need of food assistance, according to an unpublished draft food security report by aid agencies and the government seen by the AP. At least 26 million people — more than a quarter of the population — acutely face food insecurity in large part because of violence.

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Economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine are also making things worse.

Only 10% of those targeted by aid groups this year received the full recommended food assistance because of a lack of funds and security concerns restricting access. Humanitarians warn that if the fighting continues, millions of people could face severe hunger.

"The situation was already dire and this conflict is just adding another layer and making everything worse," said Marc Sekpon, head of Congo's food security coordination body, a group of international aid agencies focused on food security strategy and intervention.

"The majority of people in these territories either grow what they eat or get their food from the market," he said. "The increase of food prices in the province and their reduced access to agricultural production seriously jeopardizes their ability to get food."

During trips to three towns in Rutshuru and Nyiragongo in September, where nearly 200,000 people have been displaced, people told the AP how violence had forced them from their farms, leaving recently harvested food behind to rot.

Civilians said they had no land to cultivate, and they couldn't earn enough money in town to buy food. Out of nearly 3,000 displaced families in Nyiragongo, 450 had received help, said Florence Biyoyiki the deputy president of a makeshift displacement site.

Health staff at the main hospital in Nyiragongo said the number of severely malnourished children nearly tripled between April to July — 17 to 49. A 2-year-old boy died from malnutrition in July, said Marc Lukando, a nurse at the clinic.

The hospital has nothing to feed malnourished children, he says. And when it is able to provide families with nutritional supplements, parents sometimes sell it and use the money to feed the whole family instead of giving it to their children, he said.

While the M23 rebels had been largely dormant for nearly a decade, they've resurfaced demonstrating increased firepower and seizing chunks of territory and have been accused by rights groups and communities of killing civilians. One person living under M23 who didn't want to be named for fear of his safety, told the AP that the group forces residents to pay a \$5 tax each time they want to access their fields. M23 fighters recently told villagers they needed to bring the group bags of beans or be evicted, he said.

Still, some people are so desperate for food they are risking their lives to return to towns under rebel control.

Chantale Dusabe fled her village in June after husband was killed by a bomb that exploded in their compound. She returned days later in spite of the risk, but has been too terrified to go back.

"I knew M23 was there, but the children were hungry," said Dusabe, who managed to retrieve some bananas.

In a written statement to the AP, the M23 political spokesman, Lawrence Kanyuka, said people are allowed to move freely and that the accusations of human rights abuses were baseless.

The government is planning a counteroffensive to retake approximately 30% of territory that's been captured by M23, said Luc Albert Bakole, the territorial administrator for Rutshuru.

"We must do our best to take back all the territory under the enemy's control, so that our people can return home and resume their lives normally," he said.

But while the government struggles to regain ground, people are starving. Doctors Without Borders said it's seen a 50% increase in the admission of severely malnourished children in the hospital in Rutshuru town between January and July this year compared with the same period last year.

In August, Rahabu Maombi brought her malnourished daughter to Rutshuru hospital after the 22-year-old mother fled fighting in a nearby village. Since being displaced, the family eats only once a day, she said.

Cradling her 18-month-old as she feeds from a tube in her nose, Maombi says she can't stop worrying that her daughter might die.

"If there was no war, my baby wouldn't be in this situation," she said. "This war has destroyed so many things in our lives."

## S. Korean activists clash with police over anti-Kim balloons

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean activists say they clashed with police while launching balloons carrying anti-Pyongyang propaganda materials across the North Korean border, ignoring their government's plea to stop such activities since the North has threatened to respond with "deadly" retaliation.

Park Sang-hak, a North Korean defector-turned-activist, said he his group had launched about eight balloons from an area in the South Korean border town of Paju Saturday night when police officers arrived at the scene and prevented them from sending their 12 remaining balloons. Park said police confiscated some of their materials and detained him and three other members of his group over mild scuffles with officers before releasing them after questioning.

Officials at the Paju police and the northern Gyeonggi provincial police agencies didn't immediately respond to requests for comment Sunday.

The balloons flown toward North Korea carried masks, Tylenol and Vitamin C tablets along with propaganda materials, including booklets praising South Korea's economic wealth and democratic society and hundreds of USB sticks containing videos of U.S. Congress members denouncing the North's human rights record, Park said.

One of the balloons carried a placard that read, "Entire humanity denounces Kim Jong Un who threatens to preemptively strike (South Korea) with nuclear missiles," referring to the North Korean leader's escalatory nuclear doctrine that's raising tensions with neighbors.

Saturday's launch came weeks after South Korea's government pleaded for activists to stop their balloon launches, citing concerns related to the safety of border area residents. Lee Hyo-jung, spokesperson of Seoul's Unification Ministry, then said that the South would also "sternly respond" to any North Korean retaliation over the balloons.

Animosity between the Koreas has worsened this year as North Korea ramped up its missile testing activity to record pace and punctuated those tests with warnings that it would preemptively use its nukes in a broad range of scenarios where it perceives its leadership has come under threat.

North Korea is extremely sensitive to outside criticism about the Kim family's authoritarian rule of its people, most of whom have little access to foreign news. It has berated South Korea's current conservative government for letting South Korean civilian activists fly anti-Pyongyang propaganda leaflets and other "dirty waste" across the border by balloon, even dubiously claiming the items caused its COVID-19 outbreak.

For years, Park has floated helium-filled balloons with leaflets and other propaganda material harshly criticizing the Kim family. He also began sending masks, medicine and vitamins following the emergence of COVID-19.

Last year, South Korea, under its previous liberal government that sought to improve inter-Korean ties, enforced a contentious new law criminalizing civilian leafleting campaigns. Park still kept launching balloons, becoming the first person to be indicted over that law, but his trial has basically been put on hold since he filed a petition requesting the Constitutional Court to rule whether the new law is unconstitutional, according to his lawyer, Lee Hun.

Opponents of the law say it's sacrificing South Korea's freedom of speech in attempting to improve ties with North Korea. Supporters say the law is aimed at avoiding unnecessarily provoking North Korea and promoting the safety of frontline South Korean residents.

In 2014, North Korea fired at balloons flying toward its territory, and in 2020 it destroyed an empty South Korean-built liaison office in the North to express its anger over leafleting. In a failed assassination attempt in 2011, South Korean authorities captured a North Korean agent who tried to kill Park with a pen equipped with a poison needle.

## Florida deaths rise to 47 amid struggle to recover from Ian

By REBECCA SANTANA and MEG KINNARD Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — Rescuers evacuated stunned survivors on a large barrier island cut off by



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Hurricane Ian and Florida's death toll climbed sharply, as hundreds of thousands of people were still sweltering without power days after the monster storm rampaged from the state's southwestern coast up to the Carolinas.

Florida, with nearly four dozen reported dead, was hit hardest by the Category 4 hurricane, one of the strongest to make landfall in the United States. Flooded roadways and washed-out bridges to barrier islands left many people isolated, amid limited cellphone service and a lack of basic amenities such as water, electricity and the internet.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said Saturday that multibillionaire businessman Elon Musk was providing some 120 Starlink satellites to "help bridge some of the communication issues." Starlink, a satellite-based internet system created by Musk's SpaceX, will provide high-speed connectivity.

Florida utilities were working to restore power. As of Saturday night, nearly 1 million homes and businesses were still without electricity, down from a peak of 2.67 million.

At least 54 people were confirmed dead: 47 in Florida, four in North Carolina and three in Cuba.

More than 1,000 people were rescued from flooded areas along Florida's southwestern coast alone, Daniel Hokanson, a four-star general and head of the National Guard, told The Associated Press while airborne to Florida.

In Washington, the White House announced that President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden would travel to Florida on Wednesday. But a brief statement did not release any details of the planned visit to the state.

The bridge to Pine Island, the largest barrier island off Florida's Gulf Coast, was destroyed by the storm, leaving it accessible only by boat or air. The volunteer group Medic Corps, which responds to natural disasters worldwide with pilots, paramedics and doctors, went door-to-door asking residents if they wanted to be evacuated.

Some flew out by helicopter, and people described the horror of being trapped in their homes as water kept rising.

"The water just kept pounding the house and we watched, boats, houses — we watched everything just go flying by," Joe Conforti said, fighting back tears. He said if it wasn't for his wife, who suggested they get up on a table to avoid the rising water, he wouldn't have made it: "I started to lose sensibility, because when the water's at your door and it's splashing on the door and you're seeing how fast it's moving, there's no way you're going to survive that."

River flooding posed a major challenge at times to rescue and supply delivery efforts. The Myakka River washed over a stretch of Interstate 75, forcing a traffic-snarling highway closure for a while before officials said later Saturday that it could be reopened.

While swollen rivers have crested or are near cresting, the levels aren't expected to drop significantly for days, National Weather Service meteorologist Tyler Fleming said.

Elsewhere, South Carolina's Pawleys Island, a beach community roughly 75 miles (115 kilometers) up the coast from Charleston, was also hit hard. Power remained knocked out to at least half the island Saturday.

Eddie Wilder, who has been coming to Pawleys Island for more than six decades, said it was "insane" to see waves as high as 25 feet (7.6 meters) wash away a landmark pier near his home.

"We watched it hit the pier and saw the pier disappear," he said. "We watched it crumble and watched it float by with an American flag."

Wilder's house, located 30 feet (9 meters) above the shoreline, stayed dry inside.

In North Carolina, the storm downed trees and power lines. Two of the four deaths in the state were from storm-related vehicle crashes, and the others involved a man who drowned when his truck plunged into a swamp and another killed by carbon monoxide poisoning from a generator in a garage.

At Port Sanibel Marina in Fort Myers, Florida, the storm surge pushed several boats and a dock onshore. Charter captain Ryan Kane said his vessel was so badly damaged that he was unable to use it to help rescue people, and now it will be a long time before he can take clients fishing again.

"There's a hole in the hull. It took water in the motors. It took water in everything," he said, adding: "You know, boats are supposed to be in the water, not in parking lots."

## Chinese billionaire Richard Liu settles US rape allegation

By AMY FORLITI Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Chinese billionaire and JD.com founder Richard Liu agreed to settle a lawsuit filed by a former University of Minnesota student who alleged he raped her in her Minneapolis apartment after a night of dinner and drinks with wealthy Chinese executives in 2018, attorneys for both sides announced late Saturday.

A settlement amount was not disclosed.

Richard Liu, who stepped down as the CEO of Beijing-based e-commerce company JD.com this year amid increased government scrutiny of China's technology industry, has denied raping the woman, Jingyao Liu, and prosecutors never filed criminal charges. A joint statement from attorneys for both sides called the encounter "a misunderstanding."

"The incident between Ms. Jingyao Liu and Mr. Richard Liu in Minnesota in 2018 resulted in a misunderstanding that has consumed substantial public attention and brought profound suffering to the parties and their families," the joint statement said. "Today, the parties agreed to set aside their differences, and settle their legal dispute in order to avoid further pain and suffering caused by the lawsuit."

The settlement was announced just two days before the civil trial was set to begin Monday in a Minneapolis courtroom. On Friday, a jury of seven men and five women were picked to hear the case.

Richard Liu is a celebrity in China, part of a generation of entrepreneurs who created the country's internet, e-commerce, mobile phone and other technology industries since the late 1990s. Forbes estimated his wealth at \$10.9 billion on Saturday.

Jingyao Liu alleges the attack happened in 2018 while Richard Liu was in Minneapolis for a weeklong residency in the University of Minnesota's doctor of business administration China program, geared toward high-level executives in China.

Jingyao Liu, a Chinese citizen, was at the university on a student visa and was a volunteer in the program at the time. The Associated Press does not generally name people alleging sexual assault, but Jingyao Liu has agreed to be identified publicly.

Jingyao Liu was 21 and Richard Liu was in his mid-40s at the time, the lawsuit said. They are not related.

Richard Liu, also known as Liu Qiangdong, was arrested on suspicion of felony rape in August 2018, but prosecutors said the case had "profound evidentiary problems" and declined to file criminal charges.

Jingyao Liu sued Richard Liu and JD.com in 2019, alleging sexual assault and battery, along with false imprisonment.

The case drew widespread attention at a time when the #MeToo movement was gaining traction in China. Richard Liu's supporters and opponents waged an aggressive public relations campaigns on Chinese social media; censors shut down some accounts that supported Jingyao Liu for "violating regulations."

Jingyao Liu said in her lawsuit that she had to withdraw from classes in fall 2018 and seek counseling and treatment. Her attorney said she has since graduated but has post-traumatic stress disorder. She sought compensatory as well as punitive damages from Richard Liu.

Her lawsuit said she was seeking more than \$50,000, a standard figure that must be listed in Minnesota if a plaintiff intends to seek any larger amount. She was expected to ask a jury to award much more.

On the night of the alleged attack, according to the lawsuit, Richard Liu and other executives went to a Japanese restaurant in Minneapolis and one of the men invited Jingyao Liu at Richard Liu's request.

She felt coerced to drink as the powerful men toasted her, and Richard Liu said she would dishonor him if she did not join in, her lawsuit claimed.

According to text messages reviewed by The Associated Press and Jingyao Liu's interviews with police, she said that after the dinner Richard Liu pulled her into a limousine and groped her despite her protests. She said he raped her at her apartment. At one point, she texted a friend: "I begged him don't. But he didn't listen."

Her friend notified police, who went to her apartment. Jingyao Liu told one officer, "I was raped but not

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that kind of rape," according to police. When asked to explain, she changed the subject and said Richard Liu was famous and she was afraid. She told the officer that the sex was "spontaneous" and she did not want police to get involved.

Police said they released Richard Liu because "it was unclear if a crime had actually taken place." In a later interview with an investigator, Richard Liu said the sex was consensual and the woman "enjoyed the whole process very much."

Jingyao Liu told a police sergeant that she wanted to talk with Richard Liu's attorney and threatened to go to the media if she did not, according to police. Richard Liu's former attorney recorded the phone call, in which Jingyao Liu said she didn't want the case to be in the newspaper and "I just need payment money and apologize and that's all."

A recording of the phone call was expected to be played as evidence at trial. Surveillance videos from the restaurant, the restaurant's exterior and the halls of the woman's apartment complex were also expected to be played for jurors.

## Allies aim for risky Russian oil price cap as winter nears

By FATIMA HUSSEIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials celebrated in early September when top allies agreed to back an audacious, never-before-tried plan to clamp down on Vladimir Putin's access to cash as he wages war on Ukraine.

The idea sounded simple enough: The countries would pay only cut-rate prices for Russian oil. That would deprive Putin of money to keep prosecuting his war in Ukraine, but also ensure that oil continued to flow out of Russia and helped to keep global prices low.

A month later, the Group of Seven, representing some of the world's leading economies, is still figuring out how to execute the plan — a far more complex task than it might seem at first blush — and the Dec. 5 deadline to marshal participants is fast approaching.

In the meantime, the war grinds on. The Kremlin is mobilizing 300,000 more troops to join the invasion of Ukraine and Putin has annexed four Ukrainian regions after Kremlin-orchestrated referendums that the West denounced as shams.

And while the U.S. and European countries have levied thousands of financial and diplomatic sanctions on Russia, including recently announced penalties, Treasury leaders say a price cap on oil could deliver the most effective blow to Russia's economy, undermining its greatest revenue source.

Pushed by Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, the price cap plan is testing the bounds of statecraft and capitalism. Yellen made her reputation as a Federal Reserve chair who helped steer the U.S. into the longest expansion in its history. Now she's trying to use global energy markets as a vise to stop a war and keep oil prices from rushing upward this winter.

Yellen and her team at Treasury have been lobbying their international counterparts on the price cap since at least May. The U.S. has already blocked Russian oil imports, which were small to begin with.

"This is an entirely new way to use financial measures against a global bully," Elizabeth Rosenberg, Treasury's head of Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes, said at a recent congressional hearing.

"A price cap coalition requires unprecedented coordination with international partners, as well as close partnership with global maritime industries, and exceptional resolve in the face of hostile Russian bluster and threats, including the risk that Russia may seek to retaliate," Rosenberg said.

The risks of this new form of economic warfare are immense to the global oil supply. If it fails or Russia retaliates by stopping the export of oil, then energy prices worldwide could skyrocket. U.S. consumers could feel the ramifications in another spike in gasoline prices.

"I don't have a crystal ball. I don't know exactly what Russia will do here. There are a lot of different options," Ben Harris, Treasury's assistant secretary for economic policy, said during a recent Brookings Institution presentation. He added: "The price cap provides an opportunity for a bit of a release valve and the hope that these Russian barrels will find the market, but at a reduced price."



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The Dec. 5 deadline for setting the price for discounted oil comes just before a year-end wider European embargo on seaborne Russian crude oil and a complete ban on shipping insurance designed to prevent Russian oil from reaching non-European buyers. The embargo and insurance ban could eliminate up to 4 million barrels a day from the world's daily supply of petroleum, a loss of roughly 4%.

Treasury's hope is that the price cap kicks in first and allows some of that oil to keep flowing via exceptions to the embargo and the insurance ban, albeit at prices lower than market rates.

While Treasury officials and leading economists express confidence that the plan will work — and already is working — some oil analysts are wary of trying to implement it before winter, in a global economy already scarred by supply shocks, and a Europe facing fast-rising inflation.

The unknowns are too many, they say.

"The wildcard factor to me is what the Russians do, because the Russians have made abundantly clear that they do not want to play along with price caps," said Helima Croft, global head of commodity strategy at RBC Capital Markets.

"We should prepare ourselves at least," she said, "that they may withhold oil."

Ed Morse, head of commodities research at Citi Group, said at the Brookings Institution recently: "It's an experiment that's never been done in world history. I think it is a poor judgment call to do this at this time."

Oil is the Kremlin's main pillar of financial revenue and has kept the Russian economy afloat so far in the war despite export bans, sanctions and the freezing of central bank assets that began with the February invasion.

Before the war, Russia exported roughly 5 million barrels of oil per day as one of the world's biggest oil exporters. That figure — accounting for roughly 9% of the world's crude exports — has largely been unchanged despite all the sanctions.

Russia has vowed to take retaliatory measures to offset the impact of the price cap. Last week, *Kommersant*, a Russian business newspaper, reported that the Kremlin is considering raising \$50 billion in additional revenue from taxes on exported energy, in response to the plan.

Analysts are hopeful the Russians are bluffing. Deutsche Bank recently assigned a "low probability" to Russia stopping its exports and cut its forecast for the price of crude by 10%. The German bank cited the U.S. Treasury's announcement that India could have flexibility to buy from non-EU providers if it doesn't join the price cap coalition, among other factors.

And while it's assumed China and India won't be part of an official coalition on the price cap, lower prices paid to Russia by these nations would help accomplish the coalition's goal, Treasury officials say, getting more oil on the market with less revenue for the Kremlin. Already, Russia is locking in long-term contracts to limit the loss of potential oil revenues.

Raoul LeBlanc, vice president of energy at S&P Global Commodity Insights, said in some ways the discounts Russia is already providing countries show that a price cap could work.

LeBlanc said the complete loss of Russian oil on the global marketplace "would be catastrophic to the world economy" and losses would most heavily affect Latin America and much of South Asia.

Many European countries are already seeing major impacts of the war on their economies without a price cap in effect. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development last week said the global economy is set to lose \$2.8 trillion in output in 2023 because of the war.

On other energy matters, European Union energy ministers on Friday levied a tax on fossil fuel companies' windfall profits, but could not agree on a natural gas price cap.

Treasury is navigating a host of tricky questions as it works to implement the oil price cap plan. Among them: figuring out the size of the discount the G-7 and others would force on Russian oil, how the price cap would interact with the coming embargo and insurance ban, how companies would conduct their business as they try to avoid sanctions and how to stop Putin from getting around any cap.

Ben Cahill, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said he believes the price cap is "better than the status quo" — the expected European embargo on oil and ban on maritime insurance. But, Cahill adds, it will create complexities in the market that could drive up the cost of doing business.

"It's a big gamble," he said.

## Ian leaves dozens dead as focus turns to rescue, recovery

By REBECCA SANTANA and MEG KINNARD Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — Dozens of Florida residents left their flooded and splintered homes by boat and by air on Saturday as rescuers continued to search for survivors in the wake of Hurricane Ian, while authorities in South Carolina and North Carolina began taking stock of their losses.

The death toll from the storm, one of the strongest hurricanes by wind speed to ever hit the U.S., grew to more than four dozen, with 47 deaths confirmed in Florida, four in North Carolina and three in Cuba. The storm weakened Saturday as it rolled into the mid-Atlantic, but not before it washed out bridges and piers, hurdled massive boats into buildings onshore and sheared roofs off homes, leaving hundreds of thousands without power.

The bulk of the deaths confirmed in Florida were from drowning in storm waters, but others from Ian's tragic aftereffects. An older couple died when they lost power and their oxygen machines shut off, authorities said.

As of Saturday, more than 1,000 people had been rescued from flooded areas along Florida's southwestern coast alone, Daniel Hokanson, a four-star general and head of the National Guard, told The Associated Press while airborne to Florida.

Later in the evening, the White House announced that President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden would travel to Florida on Wednesday. No other details of Biden's visit were immediately released.

Chris Schnapp was at the Port Sanibel Marina in Fort Myers on Saturday, waiting to see whether her 83-year-old mother-in-law had been evacuated from Sanibel Island. A pontoon boat arrived carrying a load of passengers from the island — with suitcases and animals in tow — but Schnapp's mother-in-law was not among them.

"She stayed on the island. My brother-in-law and sister-in-law own two businesses over there. They evacuated. She did not want to go," Schnapp said. Now, she said, she wasn't sure if her mother-in-law was still on the island or had been taken to a shelter somewhere.

On Pine Island, the largest barrier island off Florida's Gulf Coast, houses were reduced to splinters and boats littered roadways as a volunteer rescue group went door-to-door, asking residents if they wanted to be evacuated. People described the horror of being trapped in their homes as water kept rising.

"The water just kept pounding the house and we watched, boats, houses — we watched everything just go flying by," Joe Conforti said as he fought back tears. He said if it wasn't for his wife, who suggested they get up on a table to avoid the rising water, he wouldn't have made it: "I started to lose sensibility, because when the water's at your door and it's splashing on the door and you're seeing how fast it's moving, there's no way you're going to survive that."

River flooding posed a major challenge at times to rescue and supply delivery efforts. The Myakka River washed over a stretch of Interstate 75, forcing a traffic-snarling highway closure for a while. The key corridor links Tampa to the north with the hard-hit southwest Florida region that straddles Port Charlotte and Fort Myers. Later Saturday, state officials said, water levels had receded enough that I-75 could be fully reopened.

While rising waters in Florida's southwest rivers have crested or are near cresting, the levels aren't expected to drop significantly for days, said National Weather Service meteorologist Tyler Fleming in Tampa.

Elsewhere, South Carolina's Pawleys Island — a beach community roughly 75 miles (115 kilometers) up the coast from Charleston — was among the places hardest hit. Power remained knocked out to at least half of the island Saturday.

Eddie Wilder, who has been coming to Pawleys Island for more than six decades, said Friday's storm was "insane." He said waves as high as 25 feet (7.6 meters) washed away the local pier, an iconic landmark.

"We watched it hit the pier and saw the pier disappear," said Wilder, whose house 30 feet (9 meters) above the ocean stayed dry inside. "We watched it crumble and and watched it float by with an American flag."

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The Pawleys pier was one of at least four along South Carolina's coast destroyed by battering winds and rain. Meanwhile, the intracoastal waterway was strewn with the remnants of several boat houses knocked off their pilings.

John Joseph, whose father built the family's beige beach house in 1962, said Saturday he was elated to return from Georgetown — which took a direct hit. He found his Pawleys Island home entirely intact.

"Thank God these walls are still here, and we feel very blessed that this is the worst thing," he said of sand that had swept under his home. "What happened in Florida — gosh, God bless us. If we'd had a Category 4, I wouldn't be here."

In North Carolina, the storm claimed four lives and mostly downed trees and power lines, leaving over 280,000 people statewide without power at one point Saturday morning, officials said. The outages were down sharply hours later, after crews worked to restore power.

Two of the North Carolina deaths were from storm-related vehicle crashes, while officials said a man drowned when his truck plunged into a swamp and another was killed by carbon monoxide poisoning from a generator in a garage.

At Port Sanibel Marina in Fort Myers, charter boat captain Ryan Kane inspected damage to two boats Saturday. The storm surge pushed several boats and a dock onshore. He said the boat he owns was totaled so he couldn't use it to help rescue people. Now, he said, it would be a long time before he'd be chartering fishing clients again.

"There's a hole in the hull. It took water in the motors. It took water in everything," he said, adding: "You know boats are supposed to be in the water, not in parking lots."

## Pine Island residents recount horror, fear as Ian bore down

By GERALD HERBERT and AMY FORLITI Associated Press

PINE ISLAND, Fla. (AP) — Paramedics and volunteers with a group that rescues people after natural disasters went door to door Saturday on Florida's devastated Pine Island, offering to evacuate residents who spoke of the terror of riding out Hurricane Ian in flooded homes and howling winds.

The largest barrier island off Florida's Gulf Coast, Pine Island has been largely cut off from the outside world. Ian heavily damaged the only bridge to the island, leaving it only reachable by boat or air. For many, the volunteers from the non-profit Medic Corps were the first people they have seen from outside the island in days.

Residents described the horror of being trapped in their homes as water kept rising. Joe Conforti became emotional as he recounted what happened, saying the water rose at least 8 to 10 feet (2.4-3 meters), and there were 4-foot (1.2-meter) waves in the streets.

"The water just kept pounding the house and we watched, boats, houses — we watched everything just go flying by," he said, as he fought back tears. "We've lost so much at this point."

Conforti said if it wasn't for his wife, Dawn Conforti, he wouldn't have made it. He said: "I started to lose sensibility, because when the water's at your door and it's splashing on the door and you're seeing how fast it's moving, there's no way you're going to survive that."

He said his wife had them get on top of a table to keep from getting swept away by the water. The next day, he said, they brought food to an older gentleman who lived on the next block, and they made sure to get him off the island on the first available boat.

"He lost everything," Joe Conforti said of the man. "He said that if we didn't bring him the food, he was going to take his life that night because it was so bad."

Some residents shed tears as Medic Corps volunteers came to their doors and asked if they wanted to be evacuated on Saturday. Some declined the offer for now and asked for another day to pack their belongings. But others were anxious to get away immediately.

Helen Koch blew her husband a kiss and mouthed the words "I love you" as she sat inside the Medic Corps helicopter that lifted her and seven of the couple's 17 dogs to safety from the decimated island. The dogs were in cages, strapped to the outside of the helicopter as it took off.



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Her husband, Paul Koch, stayed behind with the other dogs, and planned to leave the isolated island on a second trip. He told The Associated Press that days earlier, he didn't think they would make it, as the major hurricane raged and the house began taking on water.

Pine Island has long been known for its quiet, small-town atmosphere and mangrove trees. It's a popular destination for fishing, kayaking and canoeing. Now, bleak scenes of destruction are everywhere in this shattered paradise.

Houses have been reduced to splinters and boats have been tossed onto roadways. The island has no power, and no running water – save for a few hours on Friday when one resident said they were able to take a shower. A community of mobile homes was destroyed.

The Medic Corps volunteers went to one house to search for a woman who was known to have stayed behind during the storm and has had no contact with her friends since. Inside the woman's house, heavy furniture had been toppled over and her belongings were tossed about. There was no sign of the woman, raising fears she had been sucked out of her home by the storm surge.

Linda Hanshaw said the tight-knit island community is amazing and "everyone I know who hasn't left is trying to leave."

But that wasn't true for everyone. Kathleen Russell was trying to persuade her elderly husband to leave, but he didn't want to budge just yet. The couple kept declining offers to evacuate. The couple said they were not ready, but might be willing to leave on Sunday.

Claire St. Leger said she had nine people in her house, including neighbors, as the storm came in.

"I thought for sure we were all dying," she said. "I just sat in an inside room with pillows, I crossed myself so many times, I thought for sure we were dying. Water kept rising."

Medic Corps is a nonprofit group of pilots, paramedics, doctors, a Navy SEAL and other volunteers that responds to natural disasters and gets people to safety. According to the organization's website, it began in 2013 in response to Super Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines and in 2017 it began deploying aircraft and responders to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

## Venezuela swaps 7 jailed Americans for Maduro relatives

By ERIC TUCKER and JOSHUA GOODMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a rare softening of hostile relations, Venezuela freed on Saturday seven imprisoned Americans in exchange for the United States releasing two nephews of President Nicolás Maduro's wife who had been jailed for years on narcotics convictions.

The swap of the Americans, including five oil executives held for nearly five years, follows months of back channel diplomacy by senior U.S. officials — secretive talks with a major oil producer that took on greater urgency after sanctions on Russia put pressure on global energy prices.

The deal amounts to an unusual gesture of goodwill by Maduro as the socialist leader looks to rebuild relations with the U.S. after vanquishing most of his domestic opponents. While the White House denied any change in policy toward Venezuela is afoot, the freeing of Americans could create political space for the Biden administration to ease crippling oil sanctions on Venezuela if Maduro shows progress in on-again, off-again talks with his opponents.

"I can't believe it," Cristina Vadell, the daughter of Tomeu Vadell, one of the freed Americans, told The Associated Press on Saturday.

Holding back tears of joy on her 31st birthday, she said: "This is the best birthday present ever. I'm just so happy."

The transfer took place Saturday in the Caribbean island of St. Vincent and Grenadines, which is ruled by an ally of Maduro, three people in Venezuela briefed on the matter told the AP on the condition of anonymity. The prisoners arrived from their respective locations in separate planes, the Biden administration said.

"These individuals will soon be reunited with their families and back in the arms of their loved ones where they belong," President Joe Biden said in a statement.

Those freed include five employees of Houston-based Citgo — Vadell, Jose Luis Zambrano, Alirio Zam-

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brano, Jorge Toledo and Jose Pereira — who were lured to Venezuela right before Thanksgiving in 2017 to attend a meeting at the headquarters of the company's parent, state-run-oil giant PDVSA. Once there, they were hauled away by masked security agents who busted into a Caracas conference room.

The men were convicted of embezzlement in 2020 in a trial marred by delays and irregularities and sentenced to between eight years and 13 years in prison for a never-executed proposal to refinance billions in the oil company's bonds.

Also released was Matthew Heath, a former U.S. Marine corporal from Tennessee who was arrested in 2020 at a roadblock in Venezuela, and a Florida man, Osman Khan, who was arrested in January.

The State Department had regarded all the men as wrongfully detained.

To facilitate a deal, Biden granted clemency for Franqui Flores and his cousin Efrain Campo, nephews of "First Combatant" Cilia Flores, as Maduro calls his wife. The men were arrested in Haiti in a Drug Enforcement Administration sting in 2015 and convicted the following year in New York in a highly charged case that cast a hard look at U.S. accusations of drug trafficking at the highest levels of Maduro's administration.

Referring to the men only as Venezuelans "unjustly imprisoned" in the U.S., the Maduro government in a statement said it "welcomes the outcome of these talks and hopes for the preservation of peace and harmony with all the nations of our region and the world."

The Biden administration has been under pressure to do more to bring home the roughly 60 Americans it believes are held hostage abroad or wrongfully detained by hostile foreign governments. While much of the focus is on Russia, where the U.S. has so far tried unsuccessfully to secure the release of WNBA star Brittney Griner and another American, Paul Whelan, Venezuela has been holding the largest contingent of Americans suspected of being used as bargaining chips.

At least four other Americans remain detained in Venezuela, including two former Green Berets — Luke Denman and Airan Berry — involved in a slapdash attempt to oust Maduro in 2019, and two other men — Eyvin Hernandez and Jerrel Kenemore — who, like Khan, were detained for allegedly entering the country illegally from neighboring Colombia.

"To all the families who are still suffering and separated from their loved ones who are wrongfully detained — know that we remain dedicated to securing their release," Biden said in his statement.

Saturday's swap came together quietly over several months of backchannel talks. Roger Carstens, the special presidential envoy for hostage affairs, has made multiple visits to Venezuela over the last year to discuss potential deals and to meet with the detained Americans.

In July, Maduro officials upped the ante in meetings in Caracas with Carstens and Ambassador James Story, who heads the Venezuela Affairs Unit in neighboring Colombia. It substitutes for the U.S. Embassy the Trump administration shuttered in 2019 to protest Maduro's reelection in what was widely seen as a sham election.

In exchange for freeing the nephews and insider businessman Alex Saab, Maduro was willing to release all Americans, a U.S. official briefed on the outreach told the AP.

In the end, Saab — Venezuela considers him a diplomat and U.S. prosecutors a corrupt regime enabler — was never seriously considered, according to the U.S. official, who insisted on anonymity to discuss the talks.

Unlike the nephews, who were arrested as a result of a drug sting and are about halfway through 18-year sentences, Saab bitterly fought his extradition to the U.S. from Cape Verde, where he was arrested in 2020 during a stopover en route to Iran. He is now awaiting trial in Miami federal court on charges of siphoning off millions in state contracts.

Still, it's unclear if the prisoner release will lead to a broader thaw in relations.

The Biden administration is constrained in its engagement with Maduro, especially in the battleground state of Florida, where Latino voters whose families fled authoritarian rule in Cuba and Venezuela hold major sway.

"Another Biden appeasement that will result in more anti-U.S. dictators taking more innocent Americans hostage in the future," Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., said on Twitter about Saturday's exchange.

Although the U.S. in the last six months has struck similar deals with Russia, and more recently with the

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Taliban, a senior Biden administration official downplayed any suggestion that it was caving to hostage-takers, saying such exchanges remain "extraordinarily rare." The official, who spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the administration, also pointed to an executive order from this summer that sought to impose new costs on countries that jail Americans without cause.

Meanwhile, many Maduro supporters remain distrustful of the U.S. "Empire," recalling the Trump administration's decision to impose sanctions on a Venezuelan governor who brokered the release of another American, Joshua Holt, in 2018.

However, some longtime Venezuela watchers say they're hopeful this time will be different.

A visit to Caracas in March by Juan Gonzalez, the top National Security Council adviser on Latin America, was itself a remarkable gesture toward a leader whom the U.S. considers illegitimate and has indicted on narco-terrorism charges. The Biden administration has also promised to review sanctions if Maduro can point to progress in talks with opponents that had been taking place in Mexico that are aimed at creating fairer conditions for 2024 presidential elections

"President Biden did the right thing," said Caleb McCarry, a former Republican staffer who met recently with Maduro in a bid to free Americans and improve bilateral relations. "This is serious diplomacy and can only help put the Mexico negotiations back on track. It's a win for the families, the American people and the Venezuelan people."

## Despite Ian's punch, wedding day saved on wet Pawleys Island

By MEG KINNARD and ALLEN G. BREED Associated Press

PAWLEYS ISLAND, S.C. (AP) — Saturday turned out to be a sparkingly beautiful fall day in Pawleys Island, an idyllic place to hold a wedding sandwiched between the Atlantic oceanfront and expansive marshland that typify South Carolina's coastal beauty.

For two visiting families, the perfect wedding almost got derailed by Hurricane Ian's landfall and aftermath.

Mary Lord and her family traveled to the island from Fort Worth, Texas, for the Saturday wedding of her son, Eric.

AJ McCullough's family came from Sunset Beach, North Carolina, to see her daughter, Monroe, walk down the aisle as the bride.

The families had been staying in rental houses across the street from one another on the island, about 72 miles (116 kilometers) up South Carolina's coast from Charleston.

Then the storm hit.

Ian was a Category 1 hurricane when it came ashore near Georgetown, about 13 miles (8 kilometers) from Pawleys. Hours of wind and rain battered the beach town, whipping surf reportedly as high as 25 feet (7.6 meters) that washed over the town's iconic pier, strewing its pylons along the shoreline and pushing them up to beachfront properties. Feet of soggy sand piled up under the elevated homes, stranding and waterlogging some vehicles.

In the mad rush to get off the island to the Friday night rehearsal dinner — which went off without a hitch, relatively speaking, the nearby country club venue not even losing power during the storm — the participants left behind the attire and decor they'd need for Saturday's wedding. Feeling more secure hunkering down further inland, Lord said the families settled into other rental properties, figuring they would deal with Saturday's details after the storm passed.

"We got off, when the storm was coming, but some of the bridesmaids dresses, tuxedos, decorations, we left there, thinking we could get back on this morning," Lord told The Associated Press on Saturday morning, standing on the northern causeway that connects Pawleys to the mainland. "But they said no, we cannot, not yet."

As crews assessed safety on the island, Lord and McCullough were told to wait, with barricades shutting down access to the strip of homes.

"If anyone is on the island who wants to bring us our things, we'd sure appreciate it," McCullough said with a smile.



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For the next hour, Lord and McCullough methodically asked everyone they came across, on the inland side of one of the two causeway bridges, if they had a contact who could retrieve their wedding gear.

One man, Eddie Wilder, said he'd be happy to help out. As a property owner, he would be allowed across the causeway. So Lord and McCullough gave him the rental property access code and, via FaceTime, walked him through the place, encouraging him to "grab you a bottle or two" of celebratory beverages, including champagne they had stockpiled for the weekend.

Lord and McCullough were ecstatic to hear the gear was on its way.

"We just had a wedding, so I understand," said Renee Wilder, Eddie's wife, hugging McCullough as she handed over bags of gowns and tuxes.

"Everybody has been very optimistic, and look at this beautiful day," McCullough said, with a smile.

## Migrant-death suspect ran detention center accused of abuse

By ACACIA CORONADO Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — One of two Texas brothers who authorities say opened fire on a group of migrants getting water near the U.S.-Mexico border, killing one and injuring another, was warden at a detention facility with a history of abuse allegations.

The shooting happened Tuesday in rural Hudspeth County about 90 miles (145 kilometers) from El Paso, according to court documents filed Thursday. One man was killed; a woman was taken to a hospital in El Paso where she was recovering from a gunshot wound in her stomach, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

DPS said the victims were among a group of migrants standing alongside the road drinking water out of a reservoir when a truck with two men inside pulled over. According to court documents, the group had taken cover as the truck first passed to avoid being detected, but the truck then backed up. The driver then exited the vehicle and fired two shots at the group.

Witnesses from the group told federal agents that just before hearing the gunshots, they heard one of the two men in the vehicle yell derogatory terms to them and rev the engine, according to court documents.

Authorities located the truck by checking cameras and finding a vehicle matching the description given by the migrants, according to court records.

Michael Sheppard and Mark Sheppard, both 60, were charged with manslaughter, according to court documents. Court records did not list attorneys for either man. Contact information for them or for their representatives could not be found and attempts to reach them for comment since their arrest have been unsuccessful.

Records show that Michael Sheppard was warden at the West Texas Detention Facility, a privately owned center that has housed migrant detainees. A spokeswoman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement told The Associated Press that no ICE detainees had been held at that detention facility since October 2019, following the opening of a larger detention facility nearby.

Scott Sutterfield, a spokesman for facility operator Lasalle Corrections, responded to an AP email asking whether Sheppard had been fired as warden. Sutterfield said the warden had been fired "due to an off-duty incident unrelated to his employment." Sutterfield declined further comment, citing the "ongoing criminal investigation."

A 2018 report by The University of Texas and Texas A&M immigration law clinics and immigration advocacy group RAICES cited multiple allegations of physical and verbal abuse against African migrants at the facility. According to the report, the warden "was involved in three of the detainees' reports of verbal threats, as well as in incidents of physical assault." The warden cited in the report was not named.

However, Texas Congressman Lloyd Doggett, a Democrat, said in a press conference Saturday that Sheppard was in fact the warden at the facility at the time of the allegations and when the report was published. According to information provided by Doggett's office, the webpage for Louisiana-based LaSalle Corrections listed Sheppard as an employee at West Texas since 2015.

Doggett, along with other Texas Democratic congressmen, called on Saturday for a federal investigation into the shooting.

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"The dehumanizing, the demeaning of people who seek refuge in this country, many of whom are people of color, is what contributed to the violence we see here," Doggett said.

In one account detailed in the report, a migrant told the lawyers that the warden hit him in the face while at the nurse's station and when he turned to the medical officers he was told they "didn't see anything."

"I was then placed in solitary confinement, where I was forced to lie face down on the floor with my hands handcuffed behind my back while I was kicked repeatedly in the ribs by the Warden," a migrant referred to as Dalmar said in the report.

The attorneys submitted a civil rights complaint over the allegations that year but according to response letter sent to the lawyers in 2021, the Department of Homeland Security Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties conducted an onsite investigation, made multiple recommendations to ICE, but did not find evidence of "any excessive use of force incidents" or "incidents of wrongful segregation" and found some uses of force to have been appropriate.

Fatma Marouf, a co-author of the report and director of the Immigrant Rights Clinic at Texas A&M, said it was difficult for authorities to follow up on the allegations because many of the people interviewed for the report were deported shortly after.

Marouf said current views on immigration enforcement based in deterring people at all costs have "spiralized out of control."

"We don't even see people as humans anymore," Marouf said.

The number of Venezuelans taken into custody at the U.S.- Mexico soared in August, while fewer migrants from Mexico and some Central American countries were stopped, officials said earlier this month. Overall, U.S. authorities stopped migrants 203,598 times in August, up 1.8% from 199,976 times in July but down 4.7% from 213,593 times in August 2021.

Silky Shah, executive director of advocacy organization Detention Watch Network, said this is both a problem of the current rhetoric around immigration, including the use of terms like "invasion" by GOP leaders including Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and inaction from federal officials to move away from the previous administration's immigration policies that added to this sentiment.

"I think there is no question that there is a discourse that is stoking actions like this," Shah said.

## What the war in Ukraine means for Asia's climate goals

ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL and SIBI ARASU Associated Press

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — The queues outside petrol pumps in Sri Lanka have lessened, but not the anxiety.

Asanka Sampath, a 43-year-old factory clerk, is forever vigilant. He checks his phone for messages, walks past the pump, and browses social media to see if fuel has arrived. Delays could mean being left stranded for days.

"I am really fed up with this," he said.

His frustrations echo that of the 22-million inhabitants of the island nation, facing its worst ever economic crisis because of heavy debts, lost tourism revenue during the pandemic, and surging costs. The consequent political turmoil culminated with the formation of a new government, but recovery has been complicated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the consequent upending of global energy markets.

Europe's need for gas means that they're competing with Asian countries, driving up prices of fossil fuels and resulting in what Tim Buckley, the director of the thinktank Climate Energy Finance, refers to as "hyper-inflation ... and I use that word as an understatement."

Most Asian countries are prioritizing energy security, sometimes over their climate goals. For rich countries like South Korea or Japan, this means forays into nuclear energy. For the enormous energy needs of China and India it implies relying on dirty coal power in the short term. But for developing countries with already-strained finances, the war is having a disproportionate impact, said Kanika Chawla, of the United Nations' sustainable energy unit.

How Asian countries choose to go ahead would have cascading consequences: They could either double down on clean energy or decide to not phase out fossil fuels immediately.

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"We are at a really important crossroads," said Chawla.

## SRI LANKA: "SLOW GRIND"

Sri Lanka is an extreme example of the predicament facing poor nations. Enormous debts prevent it from buying energy on credit, forcing it to ration fuel for key sectors with shortages anticipated for the next year.

Sri Lanka set itself a target of getting 70% of all its energy from renewable energy by 2030 and aims to reach net zero — balancing the amount of greenhouse gas they emit with how much they take out of the atmosphere — by 2050.

Its twin needs of securing energy while reducing costs means it has "no other option" than to wean itself off fossil fuels, said Aruna Kulatunga, who authored a government report for Sri Lanka's clean energy goals. But others, like Murtaza Jafferjee, director of the think tank Advocata Institute say these targets are more "aspirational than realistic" because the current electrical grid can't handle renewable energy.

"It will be a slow grind," said Jafferjee.

Grids that run on renewable energy need to be nimbler because, unlike fossil fuels, energy from wind or the sun fluctuates, potentially stressing transmission grids.

The economic crisis has decreased demand for energy in Sri Lanka. So while there are still power cuts, the country's existing sources — coal and oil-fired plants, hydropower, and some solar — are coping.

## CHINA, INDIA: HOME-GROWN ENERGY

How these two nations meet this demand will have global ramifications.

And the answer, at least in the short-term, appears to be a reliance on dirty-coal power — a key source of heat-trapping carbon dioxide emissions.

China, currently the top emitter of greenhouse gases in the world, aims to reach net zero by 2060, requiring significant slashing of emissions.

But since the war, China has not only imported more fossil fuels from Russia but also boosted its own coal output. The war, combined with a severe drought and a domestic energy crisis, means the country is prioritizing keeping the lights on over cutting dirty fuel sources.

India aims to reach net zero a decade later than China and is third on the list of current global emitters, although their historical emissions are very low. No other country will see a bigger increase in energy demand than India in the coming years, and it is estimated that the nation will need \$223 billion to meet its 2030 clean energy targets. Like China, India's looking to ramp up coal production to reduce dependence on expensive imports and is still in the market for Russian oil despite calls for sanctions.

But the size of future demand also means that neither country has a choice but to also boost their clean energy.

China is leading the way on renewable energy and moving away from fossil fuel dependence, said Buckley, who tracks the country's energy policy.

"It might be because they are paranoid about climate change or because they want to absolutely dominate industries of the future," said Buckley. "At the end of the day, the reason doesn't really matter."

India is also investing heavily in renewable energy and has committed to producing 50% of its power from clean energy sources by 2030.

"The invasion has made India rethink its energy security concerns," said Swati D'Souza, of the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

More domestic production doesn't mean that the two countries are burning more coal, but instead substituting expensive imported coal with cheap homegrown energy, said Christoph Bertram at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. What was "crucial" for global climate goals was where future investments were directed.

"The flipside of investing into coal means you invest less into renewables," he said.

## JAPAN, SOUTH KOREA: THE NUCLEAR OPTION

Both Japan and South Korea, two of Asia's most developed countries, are pushing for nuclear energy after the Russian invasion of Ukraine.



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Sanctions against Russian coal and gas imports resulted in Japan looking for alternative energy sources despite anti-nuclear sentiments dating back to the 2011 Fukushima disaster. An earlier-than-expected summer resulted in power shortages, and the government announced plans to speed up regulatory safety checks to get more reactors running.

Japan aims to limit nuclear energy to less than a quarter of its energy mix, a goal seen as overly optimistic, but the recent push indicates that nuclear may play a larger role in the country.

Neighboring South Korea hasn't seen short-term impacts on energy supplies since it gets gas from countries like Qatar and Australia and its oil from the Middle East. But there may be an indirect hit from European efforts to secure energy from those same sources, driving up prices.

Like Japan, South Korea's new government has promoted nuclear-generated electricity and has indicated reluctance to sharply reduce the country's coal and gas dependence since it wants to boost the economy.

"If this war continues ... we will obviously face a question on what should be done about the rising costs," said Ahn Jaehun, from the Korean Federation for Environmental Movement.

## INDONESIA: DAMAGE CONTROL

The war, and consequent rising gas prices, forced Indonesia to reduce ballooning subsidies aimed at keeping fuel prices and some power tariffs in check.

But this was a very "hurried reform" and doesn't address the challenge of weaning the world's largest coal exporter off fossil fuels and reaching its 2060 net zero goal, said Anissa. R. Suharsono, of the International Institute for Sustainable Development.

"We're sliding back, into just firefighting," she said.

Coal exports have increased nearly 1.5 times between April and June, compared to 2021, in response to European demand and Indonesia has already produced over 80% of the total coal it produced last year, according to government data.

The country needs to nearly triple its clean energy investment by 2030 to achieve net zero by 2060, according to the International Energy Agency, but Suharsono said it wasn't clear how it was going to meet those targets.

"There are currently no overarching regulations or a clear roadmap," she said.

## Protesters attack French Embassy in Burkina Faso after coup

By SAM MEDNICK and ARSENE KABORE Associated Press

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP) — Angry protesters attacked the French Embassy in Burkina Faso's capital Saturday after supporters of the West African nation's new coup leader accused France of harboring the ousted interim president, a charge French authorities vehemently denied.

A group of soldiers appearing on state television late Friday had announced that Lt. Col. Paul Henri Sandaogo Damiba had been overthrown less than nine months after he'd mounted a coup himself in Burkina Faso.

While his whereabouts remained unknown late Saturday, a new statement attributed to Damiba was posted on the Burkina Faso presidency's Facebook page directed at the newly declared leader, Capt. Ibrahim Traore.

"I call on Captain Traoré and company to come to their senses to avoid a fratricidal war that Burkina Faso does not need," said the statement attributed to Damiba, who unlike other ousted West African leaders has yet to tender a resignation.

Earlier Saturday, comments by a junta spokesman had set into motion an outburst of anger in Ouagadougou, the capital.

"Damiba has tried to retreat to the Kamboinsin French military base to prepare a counteroffensive in order to sow divide amongst our defense and security forces," said Lt. Jean Baptiste Kabre, reading a statement on behalf of the new junta leadership.

Video on social media showed residents with lit torches outside the perimeter of the French embassy and other images showed part of the compound ablaze.

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In Burkina Faso's second-largest city, Bobo-Dioulasso, angry crowds also vandalized the French institute. France has denied any role in the events unfolding in its former colony, and warned its citizens to stay at home amid a "confusing" situation in Ouagadougou.

"We condemn in the strongest terms the violence against our diplomatic presence in Burkina Faso," the French Foreign Ministry said in a statement late Saturday. "Any attack on our diplomatic facilities is unacceptable."

In an earlier statement Saturday, the ministry said that "the camp where the French forces are based has never hosted Paul Henri Sandaogo Damiba nor has our embassy."

Traore, the 34-year-old army captain who was named in charge after the Friday evening coup was announced on state television, said in interviews Saturday that he and his men did not seek to harm Damiba.

"If we wanted, we would take him within five minutes of fighting and maybe he would be dead, the president. But we don't want this catastrophe," Traore told the Voice of America. "We don't want to harm him, because we don't have any personal problem with him. We're fighting for Burkina Faso."

He later told Radio Omega: "We have no intention to bring Damiba to justice. We only wish that he would go rest because he is tired, and as for us we are going to continue to do the work."

As uncertainty prevailed, the international community widely condemned the ouster of Damiba, who himself overthrew the country's democratically elected president in January.

U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price said Saturday that the United States "is deeply concerned by events in Burkina Faso."

"We call on those responsible to de-escalate the situation, prevent harm to citizens and soldiers, and return to a constitutional order," he said.

The African Union and the West African region bloc known as ECOWAS also sharply criticized the developments.

"ECOWAS finds this new power grab inappropriate at a time when progress has been made," the bloc said, citing Damiba's recent agreement to return to constitutional order by July 2024.

After taking power in January, Damiba promised to end the Islamic extremist violence that has forced 2 million people to flee their homes in Burkina Faso. But the group of officers led by Traore said Friday that Damiba had failed and was being removed.

The new junta leadership said it would commit "all fighting forces to refocus on the security issue and the restoration of the integrity of our territory."

But it remains to be seen whether the junta can turn around the crisis. Concerns already were mounting Saturday that the latest political volatility would further distract the military and allow the jihadis to strengthen their grip on the once-peaceful country.

Still, some in Burkina Faso's military, Damiba was seen as too cozy with former colonizer France, which maintains a military presence in Africa's Sahel region to help countries fight Islamic extremists. Some who support the new coup leader, Traore, have called on Burkina Faso's government to seek Russian support instead.

"One point of contention that has divided the MPSR (junta), the army and indeed the population for months is the choice of international partners," said Constantin Gouvy, Burkina Faso researcher at Clingendael, the Netherlands Institute of International Relations.

"Damiba was leaning toward France, but we might see the MPSR more actively exploring alternative from now on, with Turkey or Russia for example," Gouvy added.

In neighboring Mali, the coup leader has invited Russian mercenaries from the Wagner Group to help with security, a move that has drawn global condemnation and accusations of human rights abuses.

Mali also saw a second coup nine months after the August 2020 overthrow of its president, when the junta's leader sidelined his civilian transition counterparts and put himself alone in charge.

Chrysogone Zougmore, president of the Burkina Faso Movement for Human Rights, called the latest overthrow "very regrettable," saying the political instability would not help in the fight against Islamic extremist violence.

"How can we hope to unite people and the army if the latter is characterized by such serious divisions?" Zougmore said.

## Vegas survivors signal hope even as mass shootings persist

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and KEN RITTER Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — It's been five years since carnage and death sent his family running into the night, leaving them separated and terrified as a gunman rained bullets into an outdoor country music festival crowd on the Las Vegas Strip.

The memories don't fade, they sharpen, William "Bill" Henning said as he prepared for ceremonies in Las Vegas marking the date of the Oct. 1, 2017, massacre.

"Chaotic and unreal," he recalled. "A human stampede. People were bleeding and screaming and running. We all got separated. We didn't know who was alive. That was the most difficult."

He's now part of a survivor community thousands strong, one that's helped him sort through the horror of what happened during the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. Fifty-eight people were killed and more than 850 were injured among a crowd of 22,000.

In the years since, the grim drumbeat of mass shootings has continued: schools in Uvalde, Texas, and Parkland, Florida; grocery stores in Buffalo, New York, and Boulder, Colorado; bars in Dayton, Ohio, and Thousand Oaks, California; a city building in Virginia Beach, Virginia; a Walmart in El Paso, Texas. Meanwhile, the debate over gun laws in the U.S. rages on, including a renewed challenge to the federal regulation sparked by the Las Vegas shooting.

Nevada U.S. Rep. Dina Titus on Saturday called again for a federal law banning bump stocks, the devices used by the Las Vegas shooter that allow a semi-automatic rifle to fire repeatedly with just one pull of the trigger. They were outlawed by rule by the Trump Administration but face court challenges.

And President Joe Biden also called for renewed efforts to tighten firearms laws Saturday while mourning the victims and praising residents who came together in the aftermath of the shooting.

The president noted executive action he's taken to crack down on ghost guns and rogue gun dealers and the passage of the first significant firearms legislation in 30 years. That bipartisan law signed by Biden in June in part boosts protections for domestic violence victims, funnels cash to states for firearms crime prevention and has money for mental health services.

"But, we're not stopping there," Biden said in a statement. "I am determined to seize this momentum and work with Congress to enact further commonsense gun violence prevention legislation, including banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, which have enabled shooters to slaughter so many innocents."

The Las Vegas massacre is part of a horrifying uptick of shootings with especially high numbers of people killed, said James Alan Fox, a professor of criminology, law and public policy at Northeastern University in Boston. Five of the nine mass shootings in modern U.S. history with more than 20 people killed have taken place since 2016, starting with the Pulse nightclub in Orlando and continuing through the elementary school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

"The severity of public mass shootings has increased in the past few years. That's clear," Fox said. "And worrisome."

Fox oversees a database maintained by The Associated Press, USA Today and Northeastern University that tracks mass killings involving four or more people slain, not including the perpetrator. The information is drawn from media reports, FBI data, arrest records, medical examiners' reports, prison records and other court documents.

Watching the steady stream of shootings in the U.S. is tough for survivors, said Tennille Pereira, director of a Clark County recovery and support program called the Vegas Strong Resiliency Center.

"I know when it keeps happening, people often express feelings of hopelessness," Pereira said. "I think the big thing for Las Vegas is to be able to share with those other communities that healing does occur, and that there is hope."



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For people like Henning, part of that hope has been the bond formed with other survivors. The retired computer technician was celebrating his 71st birthday at the Route 91 Harvest Festival with friends, his wife, daughter and three teenage grandchildren when the gunfire began. He suffered a knee injury while escaping that required surgery, but his group made it out without being struck by gunfire.

"At first, the first few years, it's not really sinking in," he said. "The more we organize ourselves, the more that we see each other, it actually brings us back to how serious this situation was."

Many in Las Vegas who won't name the man who police said fired 1,057 bullets from 32nd floor windows of the Mandalay Bay resort during a span of time now memorialized in a Paramount+ streaming service documentary called "11 Minutes."

"We don't want to give him any more power, credibility, infamy," Pereira said. "In this survivor population, words matter. We don't use the word 'anniversary.' We use 'remembrance.' We try not to use the word 'victims.' We try to use the word 'survivor.'"

Police and the FBI spent months investigating and concluded that gunman Stephen Paddock acted alone, meticulously planned the attack and intentionally concealed his actions. He amassed an arsenal of 23 assault-style rifles in his hotel room, including 14 fitted with bump stock devices that help the weapons fire rapidly.

Caches of weapons also were found at Paddock's homes in Reno and Mesquite, Nevada. But he killed himself before police reached him, and local and federal officials said they never identified a clear motive for the attack.

Shortly after the shooting, the administration of then-President Donald Trump banned bump stocks under the same federal laws that prohibit machine guns. Gun-rights advocates sued, saying the weapons didn't qualify as machine guns and it would take an act of Congress to ban them.

The ban has survived several court challenges. But a federal appeals court in New Orleans revived a case there in June, the same day the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a ruling expanding gun rights. That case marked the high court's first major gun decision in more than a decade and has sparked a wave of court challenges to gun laws around the country.

Meanwhile, in Las Vegas, survivors are working toward a permanent memorial on a corner of the former Las Vegas Strip festival ground.

A sunrise remembrance ceremony is scheduled Saturday at the Clark County Government Center, and the names of those killed will be read 10:05 p.m. — the time the shooting started — at a downtown Las Vegas Community Healing Garden.

Survivor Sue Nelson, 67, said she fled from her front-row seat and hid for hours on the Las Vegas Strip, forming deep bonds with others who escaped. She declared she has "survivor sorrow, not survivor guilt" because she didn't do anything wrong.

Nelson drives two hours to Las Vegas from her home in Lake Havasu, Arizona, for memorial events and gives out lapel pins shaped like little guitars and rubber wrist bands stamped with: "We Remember 10.1.17 #Honors58."

"I'm not afraid anymore," she said. "It makes a big difference in healing when you're not afraid anymore."

## Fortunes reverse for ex-judge and Brazil president he jailed

By DANIEL POLITI and MAURICIO SAVARESE Associated Press

CURITIBA, Brazil (AP) — When federal judge Sergio Moro resigned to enter politics, many in Brazil believed the anti-corruption crusader who jailed a popular former president could someday occupy the nation's most powerful office.

But on the eve of Brazil's general election Sunday, the once-revered magistrate was fighting what polls showed was a losing battle for a Senate seat. And the leftist leader he jailed, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, wasn't just walking free — he was expected to waltz back into the presidential palace.

Their reversal of fortunes underscores Brazilians' shifting priorities since Moro oversaw a massive graft investigation from Curitiba, the capital of the country's southern Parana state. Moro and President Jair

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Bolsonaro insistently point to da Silva's jail time, though the former president has always maintained his innocence and said he was railroaded. But voters are more focused on bread-and-butter worries — jobs, income, inflation — after eight years of recession or rickety growth, said Bruno Brandão, executive director of anti-corruption organization Transparency International in Brazil.

"In 2018, corruption was without a doubt the most important issue in the electoral process," said Brandão. "Today, the issue doesn't have the same prominence among voters' concerns."

And Curitiba lost the limelight. Before the so-called Car Wash investigation that landed da Silva and other powerful figures behind bars, the relatively young city largely populated by transplants offered little in the way of identity, according to Nelson Rosário de Souza, a sociologist at the Federal University of Parana. Car Wash put Curitiba on the map. The multiyear probe, and Moro, struck fear into wayward politicians and executives previously thought to be untouchable.

"It shook up the collective imagination, like: 'We're finally the center of attention and, apparently, for something positive. We're going to clean up Brazil,'" said de Souza.

Brazilians relished Car Wash's countless phases as if they were episodes of a juicy telenovela. Movies were made. Moro's face featured on magazines and he was feted at Curitiba's restaurants; people clapped when he entered and sent over champagne. A bona fide hero.

"You drove through Curitiba and five or six of every 10 cars had bumper stickers supporting Car Wash. Very few people in Curitiba dared criticize it," said Luis Carlos Rocha, da Silva's lawyer at the time.

After Moro sentenced da Silva to almost 10 years' imprisonment, Rocha visited him every weekday on the fourth floor of Curitiba's Federal Police headquarters. For 580 days, he was confined to a 160-square-foot (roughly 15-square-meter) room. Outside, hundreds of supporters held a permanent vigil demanding his release.

Moro's cheerleaders, meanwhile, set up shop outside his offices. A towering inflatable Superman with Moro's head joined demonstrators whose T-shirts read "Republic of Curitiba" — a motto adopted from da Silva's complaint that the city appeared to observe its own laws.

Da Silva's convictions enabled far-right Bolsonaro to win the 2018 race. In Parana, a traditional bastion for the right, his corruption-fighting pitch resonated and he received twice as many votes as his opponent. Then he named Moro justice minister.

But Moro overestimated how far his anti-corruption clout could carry him, said Emerson Cervi, a political scientist at the Federal University of Parana. Moro quit in 2020 before implementing his much-touted plan, alleging Bolsonaro was seeking to interfere in the Federal Police. And Bolsonaro's social media warriors trained their fire on the apostate.

"He thought he was going to be revered, as if he were again a judge in court, but other politicians understood he was just a beginner," Cervi said.

Then the Supreme Court ruled that Moro had been biased against da Silva by colluding with prosecutors to secure a conviction, based on a trove of messages obtained by The Intercept Brasil. Moro pursued a "project of power, which required politically delegitimizing the Workers' Party and, especially, former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva," Justice Gilmar Mendes said last year.

With his convictions annulled, Da Silva, known universally as Lula, was cleared for a presidential run, and Moro prepared his own. Moro's was a damp squib, so he put out feelers for a Senate bid in powerful Sao Paulo, which also foundered. He opted to run in his home state — extolling Car Wash's virtues with an anti-Lula platform — and polls last month showed him trailing well behind.

In a short interview in Curitiba, Moro downplayed lessened concern about corruption as "circumstantial."

"Corruption will always be an issue in elections, maybe in some moments it won't be the main issue," he told The Associated Press. "The entrenched corruption inside Brazilian democracy, inside the public sector, is something that ends up breaking our democracy."

"Lula is a symbol of impunity," he added.

Local polls showed some late gains for Moro, said Arilton Freres, director of Curitiba-based Instituto Opinião. That could stem from reanimated sentiment against da Silva, fueled by polls showing he may

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win outright Sunday, without a runoff against Bolsonaro.

People may also care less about corruption given investigations into Bolsonaro's family members, he added. "Voters now think, 'If I need to vote for someone who is corrupt anyway, then I'm going to focus on what's affecting me the most, and that's the economy,'" said Freres.

Curitiba's largest rally this year was for da Silva. His supporters worried about turnout given pro-Bolsonaro, pro-Moro inclinations, but police estimated that 12,000 people attended. The lively event became a campaign video entitled "Lula in the arms of Curitiba's people," with people shown reaching for any part of his body they could grab.

Da Silva, who has cited his jail time to draw comparisons to Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King Jr., told the crowd there had been a bonus: his romance with Parana native Rosângela Silva, nicknamed Janja. He has attributed his first wife's death in 2017 to pressure from Car Wash.

"There are people who think I hate Curitiba because I was imprisoned here," he said. "Jail made me learn to love Curitiba, because it was here, in jail, that I met Janja, and it was here that we decided to marry."

And he recognized those who sustained the 580-day vigil: "Thank you, Curitiba, for everything you did for me and for Brazil."

On Twitter, Moro called the rally "unbelievable," adding it reflected a legal system that allows the corrupt to walk. Two weeks later, he addressed a crowd of about 100 at a private club in Curitiba, assuring them "many lies have been told about Car Wash." Afterward, dozens eagerly snapped photos with the famous former judge.

One of his voters, Juliane Morvan, said Curitiba still feels wronged by da Silva's release, though she criticized Moro for "going around certain laws to force Lula's imprisonment."

"I agree with his (Moro's) morals and ethics and, on balance, he did more good things than bad," Morvan, 28, said near the Federal Police building. "I want to give him a chance to see what he wants to do."

That isn't the resounding adulation Moro once enjoyed.

Beto Simonetti, the president of Brazil's bar association, said if Moro fails to win his Senate seat, with the special legal treatment the position affords, he will become "an even easier target" for lawsuits from those he sentenced accusing him of bias.

Nothing would please Maite Ritz more.

She is the director of the Car Wash Museum, a virtual space presenting a highly critical look at the probe's legality. Da Silva's rally celebrated the community that local leftists created, Ritz said. His victory — and Moro's downfall — would be vindication.

"In 2018, I didn't have the courage to go out in the streets with a Lula T-shirt," she said. "Now I wear it proudly."

## Russia withdraws troops after Ukraine encircles key city

By JON GAMBRELL and ADAM SCHRECK Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — After being encircled by Ukrainian forces, Russia pulled troops out Saturday from an eastern Ukrainian city that it had been using as a front-line hub. It was the latest victory for the Ukrainian counteroffensive that has humiliated and angered the Kremlin.

Russia's withdrawal from Lyman complicates its internationally vilified declaration just a day earlier that it had annexed four regions of Ukraine — an area that includes Lyman. Taking the city paves the way for Ukrainian troops to potentially push further into land that Moscow now illegally claims as its own.

"The Ukrainian flag is already in Lyman, Donetsk region. Fighting is still going on there. But there is no trace of any pseudo-referendum there," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly address Saturday.

He was referring to "referendums" that Russia held at gunpoint in the four regions before annexing them — Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson.

The fighting comes at a pivotal moment in Russian President Vladimir Putin's war. Facing Ukrainian gains on the battlefield — which he frames as a U.S.-orchestrated effort to destroy Russia — Putin this week



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heightened threats of nuclear force and used his most aggressive, anti-Western rhetoric to date.

Russia's Defense Ministry claimed to have inflicted damage on Ukrainian forces in battling to hold Lyman, but said outnumbered Russian troops were withdrawn to more favorable positions. Ukrainian forces moved into the city, and Zelenskyy's chief of staff posted photos of a Ukrainian flag being hoisted on the town's outskirts.

Lyman had been an important link in the Russian front line for ground communications and logistics. Located 160 kilometers (100 miles) southeast of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, it's in the Donetsk region near the border with Luhansk, two regions that Russia annexed Friday.

Ukrainian forces have retaken vast swaths of territory in a counteroffensive that started in September. They have pushed Russian forces out of the Kharkiv area and moved east across the Oskil River.

Moscow's withdrawal from Lyman prompted immediate criticism from some Russian officials. The leader of Chechnya, Ramzan Kadyrov, blamed the retreat, without evidence, on one Russian general being "covered up for by higher-up leaders in the General Staff." He called for "more drastic measures."

Meanwhile, on the Russian-annexed Crimean Peninsula, the governor of the city of Sevastopol announced an emergency situation at an airfield there. Explosions and huge billows of smoke could be seen by beachgoers in the Russian-held resort. Authorities said a plane rolled off the runway at the Belbek airfield, and said ammunition on board had caught fire.

Russia annexed the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 in violation of international law.

Russian bombardment has intensified in recent days as Moscow moved swiftly with its latest annexation and ordered a mass mobilization at home to bolster its forces. The Russian call-up has proven unpopular at home, prompting tens of thousands of Russian men to flee the country.

Zelenskyy and his military have vowed to keep fighting to liberate the regions that Putin claimed to have annexed Friday, and other Russian-occupied areas.

Ukrainian authorities accused Russian forces of targeting two humanitarian convoys in recent days, killing dozens of civilians.

The governor of the Kharkiv region, Oleh Syniehubov, said 24 civilians were killed in an attack this week on a convoy trying to flee the Kupiansk district. He called it "cruelty that can't be justified." He said 13 children and a pregnant woman were among the dead.

"The Russians fired at civilians almost at point-blank range," Syniehubov wrote on Telegram.

The Security Service of Ukraine, the secret police force known by the acronym SBU, posted photographs of the attacked convoy. At least one truck appeared to have been blown up, with burned corpses in what remained of its truck bed. Another vehicle at the front of the convoy was torched. Bodies lay on the side of the road or still inside vehicles that were pockmarked with bullet holes.

Russia's Defense Ministry said its rockets destroyed Ukrainian military targets in the area but has not commented on accusations that it targeted fleeing civilians. Russian troops have retreated from much of the Kharkiv region but continue to shell the area.

And a Russian strike in the Zaporizhzhia region's capital killed 31 people and wounded 88, Ukrainian officials said. The British Defense Ministry said the Russians "almost certainly" struck a humanitarian convoy there with S-300 anti-aircraft missiles. Russian-installed officials in Zaporizhzhia blamed Ukrainian forces but gave no evidence.

In other developments, in an apparent attempt to secure Moscow's hold on the newly annexed territory, Russian forces seized the director-general of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, Ihor Murashov, on Friday, according to the Ukrainian state nuclear company Energoatom.

Energoatom said Russian troops stopped Murashov's car, blindfolded him and took him to an undisclosed location.

Russia did not comment on the report. The International Atomic Energy Agency said Russia told it that "the director-general of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant was temporarily detained to answer questions."

The Vienna-based IAEA said it "has been actively seeking clarifications and hopes for a prompt and satisfactory resolution of this matter."

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The power plant has been caught in the crossfire of the war. Ukrainian technicians continued running it after Russian troops seized the power station, and its last reactor was shut down in September as a precautionary measure amid ongoing shelling nearby.

In other fighting reported Saturday, four people were killed by Russian shelling Friday in the Donetsk region, governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said. The Russian army struck the southern Ukrainian city of Mykolaiv twice overnight, once with drones and the second time with missiles, according to the regional governor.

Russia now claims sovereignty over 15% of Ukraine in what NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg called "the largest attempted annexation of European territory by force since the Second World War."

Zelenskyy on Friday formally applied for NATO membership, upping the pressure on Western allies to defend Ukraine.

In Washington, President Joe Biden signed a bill that provides another infusion — more than \$12.3 billion — in military and economic aid linked to the war in Ukraine.

## Annual hot air balloon festival draws global audience to US

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Hundreds of hot air balloons lifted off Saturday morning, marking the start of an annual fiesta that has drawn pilots and spectators from across the globe to New Mexico's high desert for 50 years now.

As one of the most photographed events in the world, the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta has become an economic driver for the state's largest city and a rare — and colorful — opportunity for enthusiasts to be within arm's reach as the giant balloons are unpacked and inflated.

Three of the original pilots who participated in the first fiesta in 1972 and the family members of others are among this year's attendees. That year, 13 balloons launched from an open lot near a shopping center on what was then the edge of Albuquerque. It has since grown into a multimillion-dollar production.

Pilot Gene Dennis, 78, remembers the snow storm that almost caused him to miss that first fiesta. He had to rearrange his flight plans from Michigan so he could make it to Albuquerque in time.

The weather was perfect when he got to New Mexico, said Dennis, who flew under the alias "Captain Phairweather." He was quoted at the time as saying he had brought good weather with him.

He was on the hook again, as pilots hope predictions for the rest of opening weekend are fair.

"Ballooning is infectious," Dennis said, describing being aloft like drifting in a dream, quietly observing the countryside below.

This year will mark Roman Müller's first time flying in the fiesta. He's piloting a special-shaped balloon that was modeled after a chalet at the top of a famous Swiss bobsled run. One of his goals will be flying over the Rio Grande and getting low enough to dip the gondola into the river.

"This is my plan," he said, with a wide smile while acknowledging that it's not always easy to fly a balloon.

One thing that helps, he said, is the phenomenon known as the Albuquerque box — when the wind blows in opposite directions at different elevations, allowing skillful pilots to bring a balloon back to near the point of takeoff.

Dennis said it took a few years of holding the fiesta to realize the predictability of the wind patterns allowed for balloons to remain close to the launch field, giving spectators quite a show.

Tens of thousands of people packed the field Saturday, wide-eyed with necks craned as they tried to soak in the spectacle.

Denise Wiederkehr McDonald was a passenger in her father's balloon during the first fiesta. She made the trip from Colorado to participate in a re-enactment of that 1972 flight on Friday. Her father, Matt Wiederkehr, was one of the first 10 hot air balloon pilots in the U.S. and held numerous world records for distance and duration and built a successful advertising business with his fleet of balloons.

Wiederkehr McDonald, who went on to set her own ballooning records before becoming a commercial airline pilot, was wearing one of her father's faded ballooning jackets and held a cardboard cutout of him as the balloon she was riding in lifted off.

She recalled a childhood full of experiences centered on ballooning.

"I remember the first time being down in the balloons with them all standing up and inflating and not being able to see the sky because it was all colored fabric. And then the other thing was the first balloon glow at night. Oh, my gosh," she said. "There were a lot of firsts that I took for granted back then but really look back and appreciate so much now."

The fiesta has grown to include a cadre of European ballooning professionals. More than 20 countries are represented this year, including Switzerland, Australia, Brazil, Croatia, Mexico, Taiwan and Ukraine.

It also serves as the launching venue for the America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race, one of the world's premier distance races for gas balloons.

## **GOP attacks Georgia's Abrams on voting as judge rejects suit**

By JEFF AMY Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — When Democrat Stacey Abrams narrowly lost the Georgia governor's race to Republican Brian Kemp four years ago, she didn't go quietly.

She ended her campaign with a nonconcession that acknowledged she wouldn't be governor, while spotlighting her claims that Kemp had used his post as secretary of state to improperly purge likely Democratic voters. Abrams founded Fair Fight Action, a group focused on fair elections, which within weeks filed a wide-ranging federal lawsuit alleging "gross mismanagement" of Georgia's elections.

That lawsuit sputtered out Friday with Fair Fight losing its last remaining arguments, more than a year after the judge had tossed most earlier claims.

People are already voting by mail in a Georgia governor's race that again pits Abrams and Kemp against each other, with fewer than 40 days remaining before voting ends on Nov. 8.

And Republicans are now using the loss to attack what they see as the "big lie" that underlies Abrams' career. They label her claims that Georgia's election system has been discriminatory as a fraud she used to enrich herself and aggrandize her political career after her 2018 loss.

"This is existential to who Stacey Abrams has become as a public and political figure," Georgia Attorney General Chris Carr, a Republican who defended the case, told The Associated Press on Saturday. "She put herself in the political spotlight nationally, potentially globally, all over the narrative that she lost the governor's race because of voter suppression. And here you have a federal judge saying, it's all untrue. It didn't happen."

Carr and Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger are among a faction of Georgia Republicans who say that Democratic President Joe Biden beat Donald Trump fair and square in 2020 for Georgia's 16 electoral votes and that Kemp also beat Abrams fairly in 2018. They argue that Trump's claims about voter fraud in 2020 and Abrams' claims about voter suppression in 2018 both corrode faith in democracy.

"Stolen election and voter suppression claims by Stacey Abrams were nothing but poll-tested rhetoric not supported by facts and evidence," Raffensperger said Friday in a statement.

Abrams, though, has said from the dawn of her current campaign that her actions in 2018 are not equivalent to what Trump did.

"I will never ever say that it is OK to claim fraudulent outcomes as a way to give yourself power," Abrams told news outlet The 19th last month. "That is wrong. I reject it and will never engage in it. But I do believe that it is imperative, especially those who have the platform and the microphone, to talk about the access."

She is far from backing down from her position, and says she won a number of victories that made elections fairer.

In 2019, less than six months after the Fair Fight lawsuit was filed, legislators passed a law that addressed some of the issues. The law's biggest change was to replace the state's antiquated, paperless touchscreen voting machines with a new system that uses touchscreen machines to print paper ballots that are scanned.

The plaintiffs also count as wins the reinstatement of 22,000 voters who were removed from the rolls in 2019, an end to people being excluded from voting rolls if their records didn't exactly match their driver's



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license, an audit that identified people wrongly excluded because of incorrect citizenship information, and improvements to a voter's ability to cancel a mailed ballot and vote in person.

"As the judge says in his first sentence, 'This is a voting rights case that resulted in wins and losses for all parties,'" Abrams said in a Friday statement. "However, the battle for voter empowerment over voter suppression persists, and the cause of voter access endures. I will not stop fighting to ensure every vote can be cast, every ballot is counted and every voice is heard."

And despite the loss, the idea that Republicans are trying to restrict voting is a powerful current running through the most bitter disputes in Georgia politics — not only Abrams' 2018 loss, but also a 2021 Republican election law that shortened the period to request an absentee ballot and limited ballot drop boxes, and harsh clashes over redrawing election districts this year that led one Democrat to accuse Republicans of seeking to preserve "white power."

Jermaine House, director of communications for political research firm HIT Strategies, said that "because there's been so much energy and excitement and conversation" around voting rights in Georgia, it's an issue that drives Democrats, especially African Americans, to the polls. His firm has done work for liberal voter mobilization group New Georgia Project, the NAACP and Democratic efforts to reelect Sen. Raphael Warnock.

"If you look at polls across the country about voter suppression, you may find that voter suppression may not reach the top 10 issues among Black voters," House said. "But one exception that is the case is definitely Georgia. Georgia voters are well aware of voter suppression efforts, very attuned to it, and Black voters are really mobilized by the issue."

## Two prophets, century-old prayer duel inspire Zion mosque

By DEEPA BHARATH Associated Press

ZION, Illinois (AP) — A holy miracle happened in Zion 115 years ago. Or so millions of Ahmadi Muslims around the world believe.

The Ahmadis view this small-sized city, 40 miles north of Chicago on the shores of Lake Michigan, as a place of special religious significance for their global messianic faith. Their reverence for the community began more than a century ago -- with fighting words, a prayer duel and a prophecy.

Zion was founded in 1900 as a Christian theocracy by John Alexander Dowie, an evangelical and early Pentecostal preacher who drew thousands to the city with his faith healing ministry. The Ahmadis believe their founder, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, defended the faith from Dowie's verbal attacks against Islam, and defeated him in a sensational face-off armed only with prayers.

Most current residents may not have an inkling of that high-stakes holy fight of a bygone era. But, for the Ahmadis, it is one that has created an eternal bond with the city of Zion.

This weekend, thousands of Ahmadi Muslims from around the world have congregated in the city to celebrate that century-old miracle and a significant milestone in the life of Zion and of their faith: The building of the city's first mosque.

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Dowie was born in Scotland in 1847. His family immigrated in 1860 to Australia, where he was ordained and became pastor of a Congregational church.

Dowie left Australia in 1888 for the United States where he grew in popularity with his healing ministry. Stories of Dowie's miracles abound, including one about Sadie Cody, a niece of Buffalo Bill Cody, a celebrity known for his Wild West Show, who said her spinal tumor was healed by Dowie's prayers.

With money accumulated from the faithful, Dowie bought 6,000 acres of land in Lake County, Illinois, hoping to establish a Christian utopia. Dowie's laws forbade gambling, theaters, circuses, alcohol and tobacco. He also banned swearing, spitting, dancing, pork, oysters and tan-colored shoes. Whistling on Sunday was punishable by jail time.

The massive 8,000-seat Shiloh Tabernacle, built in 1900, became Zion's religious center. It was there that Dowie appeared with his flowing white beard, robed in the brightly embroidered garments of an Old

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Testament high priest, and declared himself "Elijah the Restorer."

While he welcomed Black people and immigrants into Zion, Dowie had harsh words for politicians, medical doctors and Muslims, which he expressed in his journal.

In 1902, Dowie wrote: "This is my job to gather people from the East and West, North and South and inhabit Christians in this Zion City as well as other cities until the day comes when the Mohammedan religion is totally wiped out of this world. Oh God show us the day."

In his palms on a recent September day, Tahir Ahmed Soofi cradled a crumbling, yellow newspaper from the 1900s bearing Dowie's image.

"Dowie is a part of our history, too," said Soofi, president of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's Zion chapter, as he arranged these relics in glass displays that will become part of the new mosque's museum. The community has named this mosque Fath-e-Azeem, which means "a great victory" in Arabic.

The \$4 million building, with a large prayer hall and plush carpeting, will replace their older, retrofitted center less than two miles away, which has been the community's home since 1983.

As he got the new space ready for the Oct. 1 inauguration, Soofi recounted the tale passed down to generations of Ahmadis. When Ahmad, the religion's founder who lived in Qadian, India, heard about Dowie's angry proclamations against Muslims, he urged him to stop, Soofi said.

Ahmadis believe that their founder, who was born in 1835, was the promised reformer the Prophet Muhammed predicted and the metaphorical second coming of Jesus Christ.

Soofi said when Dowie ignored Ahmad's pleas, in 1902, he challenged Zion's founder to a "prayer duel."

In The New York Times and other U.S. publications at the time, this challenge was built up as a battle between two messiahs – to ascertain who was the true prophet and which was the true religion. Ahmad asserted in writing that, "whoever is the liar may perish first."

Dowie refused to acknowledge Ahmad's challenge and scoffed at his statements that Jesus was human, survived the crucifixion and lived out the rest of his life in Kashmir. He shot back writing: "Do you think that I should answer such gnats and flies?"

In the following years, Dowie's fortunes began to fade. In 1905, one of his top lieutenants, Wilbur Voliva, took over leadership of the church after Dowie was accused of extravagance and misusing investments. Dowie's health suffered thereafter. He died in 1907 after a paralytic stroke, at age 60.

While Ahmad died a year after Dowie passed, at age 73, his followers saw Dowie's downfall and death as a great victory for their founder and faith.

For Ahmadis worldwide, the result of this prayer duel reaffirmed the truth of their messiah's claims, said Amjad Mahmood Khan, U.S. spokesperson for the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. It's a story Ahmadi children grow up hearing at home and in their mosques worldwide.

"Whether you talk to an Ahmadi in Miami, Maine, South Dakota or Seattle, they will know this story and what a great victory it was," Khan said, adding that it doesn't mean they exult in Dowie's demise. "It's the triumph of what Islam stands for in the face of false allegations, and it's about the victory of prayer over prejudice."

"Welcome to Shiloh House."

Kathy Goodwin, who volunteers every week at the 1902 Swiss-inspired chalet that Dowie built at 1300 Shiloh Boulevard, greets visitors with these words before she takes them around the 25-room mansion. Dowie spent \$90,000 (about \$3 million in today's dollars) to build it and \$50,000 more to furnish it.

He brought fixtures from Europe, including a porcelain bath. The house had running water, electricity and phones, a rarity in that time.

Goodwin tells visitors about her family's connection to Dowie. Her grandfather, a master carpenter from Switzerland, and his German wife went to hear Dowie speak in Chicago. Then and there, they decided to follow the preacher to Zion. Goodwin's grandfather was chief carpenter for Shiloh House and her father, the last of 15 children, ran around the mansion as a child while his dad helped build it.

The house has numerous images of Dowie — painted, photographed and woven with lace. Dowie, who was 5-foot-2, had carpenters craft custom wooden step stools so he could reach the top shelves of his

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bookcases. The house even has on one wall, two framed pieces crafted with Dowie's hair by his barber. One shows the Dowie's greeting "Peace to thee" and another is a depiction of the Bible.

Goodwin is proud of Dowie's legacy and wants it preserved.

"He believed in love, kindness, helping people," she said. "I honestly believe people were healed here."

She also believes Dowie, in his later years, "got carried away" and "did things with money he shouldn't have."

"But he paid for it," she said. "I'm here because I want his story to stay alive."

Goodwin also yearns to go back to a time when she was a little girl and the city played chimes at 9 in the morning and 9 at night.

"People stopped wherever they were and prayed," she said. "I'm sorry it's not like that any more."

Mike McDowell's great grandparents moved to Zion in 1905 from North Dakota because his great grandmother believed Dowie cured her whooping cough. McDowell sits on the board of the Zion Historical Society, which maintains Shiloh House. He is also a city commissioner and pastor at Christ Community Church, the remnant of Dowie's original congregation.

McDowell says his congregation now identifies as evangelical and doesn't adhere to Dowie's teachings. But he credits the founder for innovative municipal planning.

"He came up with the idea of subdividing the community and making it self-sufficient," McDowell said.

"He created the city's park system requiring every housing subdivision to have green spaces."

McDowell said Dowie's downfall began when "he started believing his own press and thought of himself more highly than he ought to have."

He agrees what Dowie said about Muslims and Ahmed was "inflammatory," but doesn't believe the founder accepted Ahmad's prayer duel.

"Both men had visions of grandeur about themselves," McDowell said, "which probably weren't appropriate."

McDowell is happy to see the new mosque and lauds the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community for their many service projects in town, particularly food giveaways that were valuable to many during the pandemic.

Just as McDowell's and Goodwin's ancestors moved to Zion following Dowie's healing powers, Tayyib Rashid moved with his family to the area last year from Seattle when plans for the new mosque came to fruition.

"You can't have a Zion mosque anywhere else," he said, adding that he feels a deep connection to the prayer duel and prophecy. "Dowie had all the means and resources. (Ahmad) had God on his side."

For community member Suriyya Latif, the new mosque reflects the Ahmadi community's motto, which is painted in giant letters on the wall of their community center: "Love for all, hatred for none."

"People pull up to the parking lot and take selfies with that sign," she said.

The prayer duel, she said, is not an archaic tale, but a current manifestation of the community's motto. Latif, who has toured the Shiloh House, wishes Dowie could have seen what his faith had in common with Islam.

Dowie banned pork and alcohol in Zion, which are also commands in Islam. Even Dowie's greeting "Peace to thee" is synonymous with the Muslim greeting "Salam alaikum."

The Ahmadis have struggled to gain acceptance even among mainstream Muslims, adding to the significance of establishing the mosque in Zion, said national spokesperson Khan. Pakistan's parliament declared Ahmadis non-Muslims in 1974.

Khan said the global Ahmadiyya community's current leader and caliph, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, is in Zion to inaugurate the new mosque this weekend — a momentous occasion for U.S. Ahmadis. Ahmad was forced into exile from Pakistan after his election in 2003 and resides in London.

Over the years, Zion's Ahmadiyya community has been buttressed by women who have assumed leadership roles, as well as African Americans who have accepted the faith in large numbers. About half of the



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community in Zion is African American.

Ahmadi women raised nearly half of the \$4 million needed for the new mosque, said Dhiya Tahira Bakr, national president of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's women's auxiliary. Bakr, who is African American, converted to Islam nearly four decades ago. Transcending culture and language barriers has not been difficult because their faith has bound Ahmadi of all backgrounds together, she said.

"I didn't grow up drinking chai or eating spicy food, but I enjoy it now," Bakr said. "When you talk to one another, you forget about all that because you are bonding with the heart."

The prayer duel and Dowie's demise opened up a path in Zion for the Ahmadiyya Muslims to build on that foundation by serving the community, she said.

"We knock on doors and let people know that they don't have to be afraid of us because we are Muslim or Black or Asian or whatever," Bakr said. "It's important we do this work for our children so we can dispel all these stereotypes."

Mayor Billy McKinney's family moved to Zion in 1962, as the civil rights movement was gathering momentum. For Black families, racially integrated Zion was an oasis in a nation where segregation was the norm, he said. The mayor believes a community partnership has emerged from this century-old feud.

Like many Zion residents, McKinney had not heard about the prayer duel and was initially surprised to learn about Dowie's hostility toward Muslims.

He says now is the time to move forward in unity.

"History is history and I could take issue with anyone from the past if I wanted to," McKinney said. "I'm about looking forward."

The mayor will present Ahmad, the fifth successor to the sect's founder who challenged Dowie, with a key to the city as a symbol of trust and friendship.

The Ahmadi are moving forward with the construction of their minaret, which they expect will be completed next year. The minaret is a global symbol of Islam and the faith's call to prayer five times a day.

It would be a stark contrast from Dowie's vision of a Christian utopia.

"The founding fathers of Zion are probably rolling in their graves," said David Padfield, minister of Church of Christ, a non-denominational congregation around the corner from the mosque. "They didn't even want our church here."

Padfield, who supports the Ahmadiyya community, says it was the founders' intolerance and exclusion of other faiths that "made it difficult for them to function."

Soon, towering 70 feet above the ground, the mosque's minaret will be the tallest structure in the city that Dowie built.

## Trump at center of Oath Keepers novel defense in Jan. 6 case

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The defense team in the Capitol riot trial of the Oath Keepers leader is relying on an unusual strategy with Donald Trump at the center.

Lawyers for Stewart Rhodes, founder of the extremist group, are poised to argue that jurors cannot find him guilty of seditious conspiracy because all the actions he took before the siege on Jan. 6, 2021, were in preparation for orders he anticipated from the then-president — orders that never came.

Rhodes and four associates are accused of plotting for weeks to stop the transfer of presidential power from the Republican incumbent to Democrat Joe Biden, culminating with Oath Keepers in battle gear storming the Capitol alongside hundreds of other Trump supporters.

Opening statements in the trial are set to begin Monday.

Rhodes intends to take the stand to argue he believed Trump was going to invoke the Insurrection Act to call up a militia to support him, his lawyers have said. Trump didn't do that, but Rhodes' team says that what prosecutors allege was an illegal conspiracy was "actually lobbying and preparation for the President to utilize" the law.

It's a novel legal argument in a trial that's one of the most serious cases coming out of the Capitol attack.

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"This is an incredibly complicated defense of theory and I don't think that it's ever played out in this fashion in American jurisprudence," one of Rhodes' lawyers, James Lee Bright, told The Associated Press.

The Insurrection Act gives a president broad authority to call up the military and decide what shape that force will take. Trump did float that kind of action at other points in his presidency.

To succeed with this line of defense, Bright would have to convince a jury that Rhodes was waiting on the go-ahead from the president, which could be a major hurdle.

Rhodes' lawyers have argued Trump could have called up a militia in response to "what he perceived as a conspiracy to deprive a class of persons in several states of their voting rights." Rhodes published an open letter on the Oath Keepers' website in December 2020 urging Trump to use the Insurrection Act to "stop the steal' and defeat the coup."

If Rhodes testifies, he could face intense questioning from prosecutors, who say his own words show the Oath Keepers would act no matter what Trump did.

Bright said Rhodes, a Yale Law School graduate, understands the risks of testifying but has insisted since the first day they met that he be able to "speak his piece."

Rhodes and his associates — Kelly Meggs, Thomas Caldwell, Jessica Watkins and Kenneth Harrelson — are the first Jan. 6 defendants to be tried on seditious conspiracy, a rarely used Civil War-era charge that can be difficult to prove.

The defense would have to convince the jury that the Oath Keepers really intended to defend the government, not use force against it, said David Alan Sklansky, a former federal prosecutor who's now a professor at Stanford Law School.

"If you think you are plotting to help protect the government, there is an argument that that means you don't have the required guilty mindset that's necessary in order to be guilty of seditious conspiracy," he said.

Court records show the Oath Keepers repeatedly warning of the prospect of violence if Biden were to become president. The Oath Keepers amassed weapons and stationed armed "quick reaction force" teams at a Virginia hotel in case they were needed, prosecutors say.

Among those likely to testify against Rhodes are three of his former followers, including one who has said Rhodes instructed them to be ready to use lethal force if necessary to keep Trump in the White House.

Defense lawyers say the quick reaction force teams were defensive forces only to be used if Trump invoked the Insurrection Act. If Rhodes really wanted to lead a revolution, his lawyers say there was no better opportunity to deploy the quick reaction force than when hundreds of people were storming the Capitol. But the Oath Keepers never did.

"The conditions would never be better. Yet, Rhodes and the others left the Capitol grounds and went to Olive Garden for dinner," they've written in court papers. Rhodes never went into the Capitol and has said that the Oath Keepers who did acted on their own.

The Insurrection Act is shorthand for a series of statutes that Congress passed between 1792 and 1871 defining when military force can be used in the United States by the federal government, said University of Texas law professor Stephen Vladeck. The Act does give the president wide discretion to decide when military force is necessary, and what qualifies as military force, Vladeck said.

The last time the Insurrection Act was used was in May of 1992, by President George H.W. Bush to call out the military to respond to Los Angeles riots after the acquittal of white police officers accused in the beating of Black motorist Rodney King.

Even if Trump had acted, prosecutors would still have a strong case that the Oath Keepers tried to keep Congress from carrying out its responsibilities as part of the transfer of presidential power, Vladeck said. Even if the president could authorize their actions, the Oath Keepers could still have been — as the law puts it — forcibly opposing other elements of the government, he said.

"The government of the United States is more than just the president," Vladeck said.

Michael Weinstein, a former Justice Department prosecutor, agreed that Rhodes' argument is not likely to win over a jury. But that may not be his only goal.

"I think it's going to be a little bit of a show trial for him," said Weinstein, now a criminal defense lawyer in New Jersey. "This is his opportunity to really promote himself and his philosophy and make himself out

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to be a bit of a martyr.”

Trump did talk about sending in U.S. troops to American cities in summer 2020 as protesters filled the streets in the wake of George Floyd’s death at the hands of a police officer, an action that would have come under the Insurrection Act. He never did.

Los Angeles-based defense lawyer Nina Marino said the Insurrection Act defense could work.

“I think it’s a great defense from the 1800s resurrected into 2022,” she said. But she added: “If there’s evidence that they would have done it anyway, then I think that really, really damages the defense.”

Prosecutors have already pointed to a message from December 2020 that Rhodes wrote, saying Trump “needs to know that if he fails to act, then we will.” Days before the riot, Rhodes warned that the “final nail” would be put in the “coffin of this Republic,” unless they fought their way out.

“With Trump (preferably) or without him, we have no choice,” Rhodes wrote in a chat, according to court papers. He added: “Be prepared for a major let down on the 6-8th. And get ready to do it OURSELVES.”

## Ole Miss honors James Meredith 60 years after integration

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — The University of Mississippi is paying tribute to 89-year-old James Meredith 60 years after white protesters erupted into violence as he became the first Black student to enroll in what was then a bastion of Deep South segregation.

As it has done on other 10-year anniversaries of integration, the university is hosting celebrations and academic events. Meredith was honored Saturday during the Ole Miss-Kentucky football game, receiving a framed Ole Miss jersey with the number 62 — the year he integrated the university. The ceremony happened two days after he attended the Rebels’ practice to speak to players.

“He came and revolutionized our thinking. He came to open our closed society,” Donald Cole, who retired in 2018 as the university’s assistant provost and head of multicultural affairs, said during a celebration Wednesday night.

The enigmatic Meredith, who lives in Jackson, has long resisted the label of civil rights leader, as if civil rights are separate from other human rights. He says his effort to enter Ole Miss was his own battle to conquer white supremacy.

Meredith’s being honored at the Ole Miss-Kentucky game was an ironic echo of history.

Two days before Meredith enrolled on the Oxford campus in 1962, race-baiting Gov. Ross Barnett worked a white crowd into a frenzy at a football stadium in Jackson. Ole Miss fans waved Confederate flags to support their Rebels over the Kentucky Wildcats — and to defy any move toward racial integration.

“I love Mississippi,” Barnett declared. “I love her people! Our customs! I love and I respect our heritage!”

The next evening, Barnett quietly reached an agreement with U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy to let Meredith enter Mississippi’s oldest public university. Meredith already had a federal court order.

White mobs of students and outsiders erupted when he arrived on the leafy campus with the protection of more than 500 federal law enforcement officers. The attorney general’s brother, President John F. Kennedy, deployed National Guard troops to quell the violence, and Meredith enrolled on Oct. 1.

During the event Wednesday at the university, Meredith told an audience: “In my opinion, this is the best day I ever lived. But there’s some more truth. Celebration is good. I don’t think there’s anybody in this house or in the state of Mississippi that think the problem has been solved.”

Meredith has said for the past several years that he’s on a mission from God, to persuade people to abide by the Ten Commandments. He said Wednesday that he sees a special role for Black women to lead the way in restoring moral order to American society.

“There’s nothing in Mississippi that God, Jesus Christ and the Black woman cannot fix,” Meredith said.

Meredith grew up in segregated Mississippi before finishing high school in Florida. He served in the Air Force and attended Jackson State College, a historically Black school in the state capital, before suing to gain admission to Ole Miss.

A local resident and a French journalist were killed in the violence as Meredith enrolled. More than 200



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officers and soldiers were wounded and 200 people were arrested.

Federal marshals provided Meredith with round-the-clock protection until he graduated with a political science degree in 1963. Meredith said Wednesday that most of his knowledge about what was happening on campus came from the marshals.

"Most of them were scared to death of the Mississippi people with rifles and shotguns," he said.

U.S. Marshals Service Director Ronald L. Davis named Meredith an honorary deputy marshal during the ceremony Wednesday. Davis, who is Black, said Meredith brought widespread change to American society.

"You chose a path that was not traveled — one with much resistance, one with fear and threats and violence, and you went there anyway," Davis said.

The University of Mississippi had about 21,850 students on all of its campuses in the 2021 fall semester, with about 12.7% Black enrollment. About 38% of Mississippi residents are Black.

Ethel Scurlock, the first Black dean of the university's honors college, said during the keynote speech Wednesday that she had not yet been born when Meredith integrated Ole Miss in 1962 or when he was shot soon after setting out on his March Against Fear in 1966.

"But Mr. Meredith, I am here today," Scurlock said. "I am the unborn baby that you were willing to go to war for."

## Ian shows the risks and costs of living on barrier islands

By BEN FINLEY and STEVE HELBER Associated Press

SANIBEL ISLAND, Fla. (AP) — When Hurricane Ian struck Florida's Gulf Coast, it washed out the bottom level of David Muench's home on the barrier island of Sanibel along with several cars, a Harley-Davidson and a boat.

His parents' house was among those destroyed by the storm that killed at least two people there, and the lone bridge to the crescent-shaped island collapsed, cutting off access by car to the mainland for its 6,300 residents.

Hurricane Ian underscores the vulnerability of the nation's barrier islands and the increasing costs of people living on the thin strips of land that parallel the coast. As hurricanes become more destructive, experts question whether such exposed communities can keep rebuilding in the face of climate change.

"This is a Hurricane Katrina-scale event, where you're having to rebuild everything, including the infrastructure," said Jesse M. Keenan, a real estate professor at Tulane University's School of Architecture. "We can't build back everything to what it was — we can't afford that."

Ian slammed into southwest Florida as a Category 4 hurricane Wednesday with among the highest windspeeds in U.S. history — in nearly the same spot where Hurricane Charley, also a Category 4, caused major damage in 2004.

Of the 50 tropical cyclones that have come within 100 nautical miles of the Fort Myers area since 1873, 23 have been hurricanes that passed within 75 miles (120 kilometers) of Sanibel Island, according to the city's website. Each posed "a significant threat to property and lives on the island at some point in its life cycle."

In 1921, a massive hurricane wiped out half of neighboring Captiva's landmass and cut that island in two, according to the Sanibel Historical Museum & Village.

The latest storm has initiated a new cycle of damage and repair on Sanibel that's played out on many other barrier islands, from the New Jersey shore and North Carolina's Outer Banks to a ribbon of land along the Louisiana coast.

Barrier islands were never an ideal place for development, experts say. They typically form as waves deposit sediment off the mainland. And they move based on weather patterns and other ocean forces. Some even disappear.

Building on the islands and holding them in place with beach replenishment programs just makes them more vulnerable to destruction because they can no longer move, according to experts.

"They move at the whims of the storms," said Anna Linhoss, a professor of biosystems engineering at Auburn University. "And if you build on them, you're just waiting for a storm to take them away."

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After devastating parts Florida, Ian made landfall again in South Carolina, where Pawleys Island was among the hardest hit places. Friday's winds and rains broke apart the barrier island's main pier, one of several in the state to crumble and wash away.

On Saturday, homeowners in the beach community about 73 miles (120 kilometers) up the coast from Charleston struggled to assess damage from storm. The causeways connecting the island to the mainland were strewn with palm fronds, pine needles and even a kayak retrieved from a nearby shoreline.

Like Pawleys Island, many barrier island communities anchor long-entrenched tourist economies, which are often the source of crucial tax dollars. At the same time, the cost of rebuilding them is often high because they're home to many expensive properties, such as vacation homes.

"When there's a disaster like this, we will pour tens of billions of public dollars into these communities to help them rebuild," said Robert S. Young, director of the Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines, which is a joint venture between Duke University and Western Carolina University.

"And we will ask very little for that money in return in terms of taking a step back from places that are incredibly exposed to hazards and making sure that we never have this kind of a disaster again," Young said.

But any big changes to the standard disaster response will be complicated, said Dawn Shirreffs, Florida director of the Environmental Defense Fund.

Challenges could include decisions on who participates in programs that elevate flood-prone homes or programs that buy those homes and tear them down. Planting mangroves to prevent erosion could end up blocking someone's view.

Many homeowners bought their properties before people were fully aware of climate change and the risks of sea-level rise, Shirreffs said.

Keenan, the Tulane professor, said Sanibel will undoubtedly be changed by Hurricane Ian, based on the research he's done. There will be fewer government resources to help people rebuild. Those with fewer means and who are underinsured will likely move. People with financial means will stay.

"Sanibel will just be an enclave for the ultrawealthy," Keenan said.

But Muench, the Sanibel resident, said homeowners and business owners are sure to rebuild their properties.

His family has owned and operated a campground on the island for three generations. The island, he said, is "paradise — we live in the most beautiful place on Earth."

"We are going to continue to exist on Sanibel," Muench, 52, said from Fort Myers on Friday after evacuating Sanibel. "Give us five years, and you might not even notice if you didn't know."

## Women protesters demand more security after Afghan bombing

By SIDDIQUILLA ALIZAI Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A group of Afghan women Saturday protested a suicide bombing that killed or wounded dozens of students in a Shiite education center in the capital Kabul a day earlier, demanding better security from the Taliban-run government.

The demonstration was quickly broken up by Taliban police.

The bomber struck an education center Friday packed with hundreds of students in a Shiite neighborhood, killing 19 people and wounding 27. Among the casualties were teenagers taking practice university entrance exams, a Taliban spokesman said.

The morning explosion at the center took place in Kabul's Dashti Barchi neighborhood, an area populated mostly by ethnic Hazaras, who belong to Afghanistan's minority Shiite community. The Islamic State group has carried out repeated, horrific attacks on schools, hospitals and mosques in Dashti Barchi and other Shiite areas in recent years.

About 20 protesters Saturday gathered in the Dashti Barchi area for about 45 minutes before their rally was broken up by Taliban security. They carried banners in English and Dari reading "Stop Hazar Genocide."

"We are asking the Taliban government, when they claim that they have brought security, how they cannot stop an attacker from entering an educational center to target female students. In this incident,

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one family has lost four members, why is it still happening,” said demonstrator Fatima Mohammadi.

Staff at the Kaaj education center spent Saturday cleaning up the wreckage caused by the attack, while victims’ family members searched through items covered with blood belonging to their loved ones.

Hussain, who goes by one name, witnessed the attack. He said he believed the death toll was significantly higher, based on the large number of bodies he saw.

“First the attacker just over there, where a huge crowd of students was standing, opened fire. At least 40 people were killed there,” he said.

Zahra, a student who survived the attack, was unharmed because she went out just minutes before to buy a pen. She said she lost her friends in the attack and also her hope for a better future.

“I am not even sure if there is a future for us anymore or not,” she said.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for the attack. The Islamic State group — the chief rival of the Taliban since their takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021 — has in the past targeted the Hazara community, including in Dashti Barchi, in a brutal campaign of violence.

Militants have carried out several deadly attacks in Dashti Barchi, including a horrific 2020 attack on a maternity hospital claimed by IS that killed 24 people, including newborn babies and mothers.

## Russia blindfolds, detains Ukraine nuclear plant chief

By JON GAMBRELL and YURAS KARMANAU Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian forces blindfolded and detained the head of Europe’s largest nuclear plant, Ukraine’s nuclear power provider said Saturday, reigniting long-simmering fears over the plant’s security.

The alleged kidnapping on Friday apparently took place shortly after Russian President Vladimir Putin escalated his war in Ukraine and pushed it into a new, dangerous phase by annexing four Ukrainian regions that Moscow fully or partially controls and heightening threats of nuclear force.

In a possible attempt to secure Moscow’s hold on the newly annexed territory, Russian forces seized the director-general of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, Ihor Murashov, around 4 p.m. Friday, the Ukrainian state nuclear company Energoatom said.

Putin on Friday signed treaties to absorb the Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions of Ukraine, including the area around the nuclear plant.

Energoatom said Russian troops stopped Murashov’s car, blindfolded him and then took him to an undisclosed location.

“His detention by (Russia) jeopardizes the safety of Ukraine and Europe’s largest nuclear power plant,” said Energoatom President Petro Kotin, demanding the director’s immediate release.

Russia did not immediately acknowledge seizing the plant director.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said Saturday that Russia told it that “the director-general of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant was temporarily detained to answer questions.”

The Vienna-based IAEA said, “in line with its nuclear safety mandate,” it “has been actively seeking clarifications and hopes for a prompt and satisfactory resolution of this matter.”

The power plant repeatedly has been caught in the crossfire of the war in Ukraine. Ukrainian technicians continued running the power station after Russian troops seized it. Its last reactor was shut down in September as a precautionary measure as constant shelling nearby damaged electric transmission lines to the plant.

The plant is a strategic trophy for Russia and has triggered worldwide concern as the only nuclear plant caught up in modern warfare. Active fighting nearby means it’s unlikely to start producing electricity again soon even if Russia installs its own management.

It is like a town unto itself, with some 11,000 workers before the war. While many have fled amid the fighting, others have stayed to ensure the safety of its radioactive material and structures.

Energoatom spokespeople told The Associated Press on Saturday that employees of the Zaporizhzhia power plant are being forced to submit applications to report to Rosatom, Russia’s state-run nuclear energy giant that operates Russian nuclear plants.



Murashov was against handing the Zaporizhzhia plant over to Rosatom, but Energoatom's spokespeople couldn't confirm that this was the reason for his kidnapping.

Murashov had access to security codes, coordinated all the work at the plant, made sure protocols were being followed and reported to Kyiv, according to Energoatom's spokespeople. Ukrainian authorities appointed him to run the plant several days before Russian troops rolled into Ukraine.

Nevertheless, Energoatom said it hasn't lost connections with the plant and all important parameters of its work are still being reported to Kyiv.

## Shying from Trump, ex-Maine Gov. Paul LePage seeks job back

By DAVID SHARP Associated Press

YARMOUTH, Maine (AP) — When then-Maine Gov. Paul LePage endorsed Donald Trump in 2016, he credited himself as a prototype for the insurgent presidential candidate.

"I was Donald Trump before Donald Trump became popular, so I think I should support him since we are one of the same cloth," said LePage, whose two terms in office were punctuated by brash behavior and frequently offensive comments.

Now, as LePage is running for a third term after a brief retirement to Florida, he rarely talks about Trump in public, and his advisers say LePage's hiatus from politics changed him. He's eager to show he's smoothed over some of his own rough edges, though flashes of his fiery personality broke through recently at an event at a riverfront boatyard in Yarmouth, where he pledged to take on Democratic "elitists."

"I came from the streets. I was a fighter all my life," LePage told workers. "I had to scrimp and save to eat and survive. I am a fighter."

As LePage seeks to unseat Democratic Gov. Janet Mills and become the longest-serving governor in Maine history, he is banking on an approach familiar to other Republican candidates in liberal- and moderate-leaning states who are trying not to alienate swing voters they would need to win a general election. LePage's efforts at putting distancing from Trump are particularly notable given LePage once invited comparisons to Trump — and made them himself.

Democrats aren't going to let voters forget LePage's tumultuous time in office, when he occasionally acted and sounded a lot like Trump. LePage attracted national headlines when he told the Portland chapter of the NAACP to "kiss my butt," made racist remarks about drug dealers who impregnate "white" girls and accused a lawmaker of screwing over state taxpayers "without providing Vaseline."

His critics point to a recent campaign event in which LePage threatened to "deck" a Democratic staffer who got too close to him — an incident, they say, that illustrates LePage hasn't changed at all.

The race is shaping up to be among a dozen or so competitive contests for governor this election year. The way in which the campaign plays out with voters weary of political ugliness may be a harbinger for Trump's White House aspirations in 2024.

LePage and Mills' adversarial relationship goes back years.

Mills, a 74-year-old moderate and the first woman elected governor of Maine, is a former two-term attorney general whose stint as the state's top prosecutor coincided with LePage's time as governor. The two clashed publicly, with Mills declining to represent LePage's administration on some matters, forcing LePage to seek outside counsel to represent his interests in litigation.

Her supporters portray her as a steady leader whose cautious COVID-19 policies helped guide the state through the worst pandemic in a century, with fewer coronavirus deaths per capita than most others. She expanded Medicaid — something LePage had blocked — and presided over the largest budget surplus in Maine history, which allowed the state to send \$850 relief checks to most residents.

Raised in poverty and homeless for a time as a boy, LePage, 73, is an unabashed conservative whose past controversies often overshadowed his political achievements, such as lowering the tax burden, shrinking welfare rolls, overhauling the pension system and paying back millions of dollars of hospital debt.

He attacked Mills' executive orders during the pandemic, including mandatory vaccines for health care workers, calling it a "reign of terror." He's called for a parental bill of rights in education, claimed Mill has allowed crime and drugs to proliferate and accused her of budgetary gimmicks that will cause problems

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in the future. He has promised to try again to eliminate the state's income tax.

When LePage left office in 2019, prevented from seeking a third consecutive term by the Maine Constitution, he declared he was decamping for Florida, where the taxes were lower, and leaving politics behind.

He didn't stay away long. Soon, he was headed back to Maine for what supporters described as "LePage 2.0."

LePage's senior adviser Brent Littlefield said LePage was astounded when Trump's supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, and that LePage fears the country is in danger of tearing itself apart. LePage issued a statement amid the violence supporting law enforcement and telling those involved in the riot "to leave and go home."

LePage served as Trump's honorary state chairman and once sought a job in his administration, but he now won't say whether he would vote for Trump for president if Trump runs again in 2024. Despite any private misgivings, however, LePage hasn't condemned Trump. He declined an Associated Press interview request.

The former governor made no reference to Trump while touring Yankee Marina & Boatyard, even though Trump remains popular in rural Maine, where he twice won an electoral vote while losing the statewide vote.

Boatyard president Deborah Delp said LePage is needed at a time when her workers are suffering from high inflation and worried about the future.

She said she can "handle some rough language" from LePage if he puts the economy on track. "Politicians are politicians. And he's not a politician. He's a businessman. He says what he thinks," Delp said.

Maria Testa, a Democrat from Portland, disagrees. "He's bombastic and has a cruel temper. He's such a big no for me," Testa said.

While campaigning, LePage largely tries to steer clear of Trump's lies of a rigged 2020 election. LePage acknowledges that Biden is president but declines to address whether he thinks the election was legitimate. LePage also avoids the issue of abortion after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the constitutional right to an abortion.

Mills has pledged to fight to ensure women continue to have a right to a legal abortion in Maine.

A third candidate for governor, independent Sam Hunkler, isn't expected to play much of a role in the race, unlike deep-pocketed independent Eliot Cutler, who did in 2010 and 2014, when LePage won each election without a majority.

Maine's ranked-choice voting system won't be a factor. It is used in federal congressional races but not in the governor's contest because it runs afoul of the Maine Constitution.

Betsy Martin, a retired health care administrator from Biddeford, said residents are feeling drained by the corrosive partisanship in a rural state with a tradition of moderate politics and independent voters. Some are tuning out altogether, she said.

"They're exhausted. They're extremely fatigued. We're worn out," she said.

## Today in History: October 2, Warsaw Uprising is crushed

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Oct. 2, the 275th day of 2022. There are 90 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 2, 1944, German troops crushed the two-month-old Warsaw Uprising, during which a quarter of a million people had been killed.

On this date:

In 1869, political and spiritual leader Mohandas K. Gandhi was born in Porbandar, India.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson suffered a serious stroke at the White House that left him paralyzed on his left side.

In 1941, during World War II, German armies launched an all-out drive against Moscow; Soviet forces succeeded in holding onto their capital.

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In 1959, Rod Serling's "The Twilight Zone" made its debut on CBS-TV with the episode "Where Is Everybody?" starring Earl Holliman.

In 1967, Thurgood Marshall was sworn as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court as the court opened its new term.

In 1970, one of two chartered twin-engine planes flying the Wichita State University football team to Utah crashed into a mountain near Silver Plume, Colorado, killing 31 of the 40 people on board.

In 1984, Richard W. Miller became the first FBI agent to be arrested and charged with espionage. (Miller was tried three times; he was sentenced to 20 years in prison, but was released after nine years.)

In 1986, the Senate joined the House in voting to override President Reagan's veto of stiff economic sanctions against South Africa.

In 2006, an armed milk truck driver took a group of girls hostage in an Amish schoolhouse in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania, killing five of them and wounding five others before taking his own life.

In 2016, Colombians rejected a peace deal with leftist rebels by a razor-thin margin in a national referendum, scuttling years of painstaking negotiations and delivering a stunning setback to President Juan Manuel Santos. Hall of Fame broadcaster Vin Scully signed off for the last time, ending 67 years behind the mic for the Dodgers, as he called the team's 7-1 loss to the Giants in San Francisco.

In 2019, House Democrats threatened to make White House defiance of a congressional request for testimony and documents potential grounds for an article of impeachment against President Donald Trump. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo acknowledged for the first time that he had been on the phone call in which Trump pressed Ukraine's president to investigate Democrat Joe Biden.

In 2020, stricken by COVID-19, President Donald Trump was injected with an experimental drug combination at the White House before being flown to a military hospital, where he was given Remdesivir, an antiviral drug.

Ten years ago: On the eve of the first presidential debate of the 2012 campaign, Vice President Joe Biden said the middle class had been "buried" during the last four years, a statement Republicans immediately seized upon as an unwitting indictment of the Obama administration.

Five years ago: Hours after the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history, President Donald Trump condemned the Las Vegas shooting that left 58 dead as an "act of pure evil." Rock superstar Tom Petty died at a Los Angeles hospital at the age of 66, a day after suffering cardiac arrest at his home. The trial of Ahmed Abu Khattala, described as the mastermind of the 2012 attacks on a U.S. outpost in Benghazi, Libya, that left four Americans dead, began in Washington. (Khattala would be convicted of terrorism-related charges and sentenced to 22 years in prison.) Three Americans were awarded the Nobel Prize in medicine for discovering key genetic "gears" of the body's 24-hour biological clock.

One year ago: Alaska activated emergency crisis protocols that allowed 20 health care facilities to ration care if needed as the state recorded the nation's worst COVID-19 diagnosis rates. Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte announced he was retiring from politics and dropping plans to run for vice president in elections in 2022, when his term would end.

Today's Birthdays: Movie critic Rex Reed is 84. Singer-songwriter Don McLean is 77. Cajun/country singer Jo-el Sonnier (sahn-YAY') is 76. Actor Avery Brooks is 74. Fashion designer Donna Karan (KA'-ruhn) is 74. Photographer Annie Leibovitz is 73. Rock musician Mike Rutherford (Genesis, Mike & the Mechanics) is 72. Singer-actor Sting is 71. Actor Robin Riker is 70. Actor Lorraine Bracco is 68. Country musician Greg Jennings (Restless Heart) is 68. Rock singer Phil Oakey (The Human League) is 67. R&B singer Freddie Jackson is 66. Singer-producer Robbie Nevil is 64. Retro-soul singer James Hunter is 60. Rock musician Bud Gaugh (Sublime, Eyes Adrift) is 55. Folk-country singer Gillian Welch is 55. Country singer Kelly Willis is 54. Actor Joey Slotnick is 54. R&B singer Dion Allen (Az Yet) is 52. Actor-talk show host Kelly Ripa (TV: "Live with Kelly and Ryan") is 52. Rock musician Jim Root (AKA #4 Slipknot) is 51. Singer Tiffany is 51. Rock singer Lene Nystrom is 49. Actor Efren Ramirez is 49. R&B singer LaTocha Scott (Xscape) is 50. Gospel singer Mandisa (TV: "American Idol") is 46. Actor Brianna Brown is 43. Rock musician Mike Rodden (Hinder) is 40. Former tennis player Marion Bartoli is 38. Actor Christopher Larkin is 35. Rock singer Brittany Howard (Alabama Shakes) is 34. Actor Samantha Barks is 32. Actor Elizabeth McLaughlin is 29.