

# Groton Daily Independent

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Chicken Soup  
for the Soul

“  
To ease  
another's  
heartache is  
to forget  
one's own.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

”

## Groton Community Calendar

### Sunday, Oct. 16

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

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Confirmation retreat for freshmen, 1 p.m.; Choir, 7 p.m.

UMC: Conde Worship, 8:30 a.m.; coffee hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School after children's sermon during worship.

### Monday, Oct. 17

Senior Menu: Beef tips with gravy over noodles, lettuce salad with dressing, peaches, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.

School Lunch: Pot sickers, rice.

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

1 p.m.: Senior Citizens Meet at the Groton Community Center.

Volleyball hosting Langford Area. Parent's Night. Also wear Pink night. Old gym has 8th grade match at 5 p.m. and 7th grade match at 6 p.m. In the Arena: JV match at 6 p.m. followed by varsity match.

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

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

The Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.



**Part time cashier wanted at Ken's Food Fair of Groton. Must be available any hours including weekends. Stop at the store and see Lionel or Matt.**

## **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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## Groton Area takes fifth at Milbank Tournament

Groton Area's volleyball team spent Saturday at the Milbank Tournament. The Tigers placed fifth by beating Great Plains Lutheran, losing to Sioux Valley and Hamlin and then beating Beresford.

### Groton Area 2, Great Plains Lutheran 0

The Groton Area Tigers opened the Milbank Tournament Saturday with a 2-0 win over Great Plains Lutheran.

The first set was tied five times with the last tie at 15. Sydney Leicht then had six consecutive ace serves as the Tigers scored eight straight points to take a 23-15 win. The game finished on an ace serve by Jerica Locke and the Tigers won, 25-20.

Sydney Leicht led the Tigers with six ace serves and two kills. Lydia Meier had three kills while Aspen Johnson added two kills, Anna Fjeldheim and Laila Roberts each had a kill and Elizabeth Flihs and Jerica Locke each had an ace serve.

Esta Cameron led the Panthers with three kills while Kylie Roberts had two kills, Olivia Holden had two kills and an ace serve, Kim Goens and Emma Dornbusch each had a kill and Paige Engels had a block.

Groton Area earned 17 of its 25 points for 68 percent while the Panthers earned 11 of its 20 points for 55 percent.

The Panthers had the early lead in the second set as it was tied five times before the Tigers took control of the set. Sydney Leicht had five kills and had the game winning kill as the Tigers won the second set, 25-16. Anna Fjeldheim added two kills and an ace, Lydia Meier, Hollie Frost and Aspen Johnson each had two kills, Carly Guthmiller had two ace serves, Elizabeth Flihs had an ace and a kill and Laila Roberts had an ace serve.

Great Plains Lutheran was led by Holmen with two kills and a block while Abby Kjenstad, Lanaya Hayes and Dornbusch each had a kill and Roberts had an ace serve.

Groton Area earned 19 of its 25 points for 76 percent and Great Plains Lutheran earned seven of its 16 points for 44 percent.

For the match, Leicht had nine digs and Fjeldheim had six. Flihs had 20 assists.

### Sioux Valley 2, Groton Area 0

The Sioux Valley Cossacks posted a pair of wins over Groton Area in the next match, 25-16 and 25-17.

The first set was tied three times before the Cossacks got the upper hand to go on for the win. Anna Fjeldheim and Sydney Leicht each had two kills and an ace serve, Aspen Johnson had a kill and a block, Lydia Meier had a kill and Laila Roberts had an ace. Sioux Valley was led by Landree Wilson with four kills and a block, Adison Renkly had three kills and two blocks, Ashley Bjerke had two kills and Kaedyn Sapp, Keyra Kruse and Jada Knutson each had a kill.

Groton Area earned 10 of its 16 points for 63 percent. Sioux Valley earned 15 of its 25 points for 60 percent.

The second game was tied twice after Groton Area had a 2-0 lead before Sioux Valley pulled away for the win. Johnson had three kills, Meier and Fjeldheim each had two kills, Leicht, Guthmiller and Jaedyn Penning each had one kill, Hollie Frost had a block and Elizabeth Flihs had an ace serve. Wilson led Sioux Valley with four kills and an ace, Renkly had three kills and a block, Allie Hofer had two kills, Bjerke had two blocks, Talya Vincent had an ace and Knutson had a kill.

Groton Area earned 13 of its 17 points for 76 percent while Sioux Valley earned 15 of its 25 points for 60 percent.

### Hamlin 2, Groton Area 1

Hamlin needed three sets to shake off Groton Area in the third match.

The first set was tied three times before Hamlin would eventually score 14 straight points to win, 25-7. Jaedyn Penning had two kills, Carly Guthmiller and Elizabeth Flihs each had an ace serve and Faith

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Traphagen had a kill. Addison Neudendorf led Hamlin with four ace serves and a kill, Kami Wadsworth and Gracelyn Leiseth each had two kills and a block and Emily Everson and Ally Abraham each had a kill.

Groton Area earned five of its seven points for 71 percent. Hamlin earned 13 of its 25 points for 52 percent.

Groton Area came out in a vengeance in the second set, taking an 11-1 lead and would never trail to take a 25-19 win.

Aspen Johnson had three kills and two blocks, Anna Fjeldheim had three kills and a block, Fliehs had two ace serves and a kill, Penning had two kills and Guthmiller had an ace serve. Abraham led Hamlin with four kills while Wadsworth had a kill and an ace and Leiseth had a kill.

Groton Area earned 15 of its 25 points for 60 percent while Hamlin earned seven of its 19 points for 37 percent.

The third set was tied three times and there were three lead changes in the early part. Hamlin would get a seven point lead and Groton Area tried to play catch-up at the end, but the Chargers would get the win, 25-22.

Johnson led the Tigers with five kills and two blocks, Penning and Sydney Leicht each had two kills and an ace, Fjeldheim had a kill and Laila Roberts and Guthmiller each had an ace. Leiseth and Abraham each had five kills for Hamlin while Neudendorf had three kills and Wadsworth had one kill.

Groton Area earned 16 of its 22 points for 73 percent and Hamlin earned 14 of its 25 points for 56 percent.

## **Groton Area 2, Beresford 1**

Groton Area took fifth place with a 2-1 win over Beresford.

The first set was tied seven times and there were four lead changes in the first part before the Tigers took a 12-8 lead. Beresford battled back and tied the game at 17, but then Groton Area scored five straight points and went on for the 25-19 win. Aspen Johnson led Groton Area with four kills and an ace serve, Laila Roberts had three kills and an ace, Anna Fjeldheim and Hollie Frost each had two kills and Carly Guthmiller had the game winning ace serve.

Larissa Tiedeman led the Watchmen with two kills.

Groton Area made 17 of 25 points for 68 percent. Beresford made eight of 19 points for 42 percent.

Beresford jumped out to an 18-11 lead in the second set, but Groton Area came back and tied the game at 21. A couple of miscues and Beresford took the set, 25-22.

Johnson had four kills, Fjeldheim and Fliehs each had two kills, Jaedyn Penning had two ace serves, Leicht had a block and Frost had a kill. Megan Delay led Beresford with four kills and Haleigh Stene had two kills and a block.

Groton Area earned 12 of 25 points for 48 percent while Beresford made 15 of 25 for 60 percent.

Beresford again had the early lead in the third set with a 3-0 and a 5-2 lead. The Tigers scored five straight to take a 7-5 lead. Beresford reclaimed the lead at 9-7 before the Tigers scored five straight to take the lead for good, 12-9. Hollie Frost had the game winning kill as the Tigers won the third West, 25-18.

Leicht led the Tigers with six kills, Frost had three kills, Fjeldheim had two kills, Penning had a kill and an ace serve, Roberts and Fliehs each had a kill, Johnson had a kill and a block and Jerica Locke had an ace serve.

Irelyn Fickbohm and Megan DeLay each had two ace serves.

Groton Area earned 18 of 25 points for 72 percent while Beresford earned 12 of 18 for 67 percent.

For the match, Penning had 18 digs, Roberts 13 and Guthmiller 12. Fliehs had 28 assists.

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## Northern State Defense Seals the Deal in Win over Minot

Minot, N.D. – The Northern State University football team tallied their first North Division win of the 2022 season, defeating Minot State 38-10. The Wolves downed the Beavers scoring five touchdowns, including two on returns, and one field goal.

### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 38, MINOT 10

Records: NSU 4-3, MINOT 0-7

Attendance: 1845

### HOW IT HAPPENED

Will Madler tallied his first touchdown pass of the afternoon at 4:07 in the first quarter, connecting with Greg Lux for a 10-yard reception

The pair later met up again in the third for a 20-yard touchdown reception

Northern held a 7-0 lead through the first and Minot State cut that to four with a 30-yard field goal in the second

NSU quickly answered as the clock ticked down in the half on a 30-yard receiving touchdown by Ben Noland

Luke Gunderson opened the second half for the Wolves with a 13-yard kick return for a touchdown; it was the first of two return touchdowns in the game

Lux's second touchdown followed and the Wolves continued their offensive onslaught in the fourth on a 37-yard field goal by Payton Eue

Northern notched their final touchdown of the contest with 6:43 left in regulation, this time on a 5-yard punt return by Payton Hughes

Minot State added a rushing score to close out the contest, however they were unable to overcome the Wolves 31-0 run

NSU recorded 150 yards rushing and 115 yards passing for 265 yards of total offense in the win, scoring all three times they entered the red-zone

The Wolves defense added 8.0 sacks for a total loss of 50 yards and held the Beavers to 3-of-17 on third down and 2-of-4 in the red-zone

The Northern returners shined with two touchdowns in the game, averaging 22.0 yards per punt return and 13.0 yards per kick return

Madler threw for 115 yards and three touchdowns, adding two yards rushing

Wyatt Block led the rushing attack with 76 total yards, averaging 8.4 yards per carry, while Noland led the receivers with 62 total yards and one touchdown

Brennan Kutterer and Charlie Larson led the defense with nine tackles each, while Ian Marshall broke the single game school record with 4.0 sacks

Eue recorded the 32nd field goal of his career and hit all five PATs in the win

### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Ben Noland: 62 yards receiving, 1 touchdown, 10 return yards

Greg Lux: 39 yards receiving, 2 touchdowns

Brennan Kutterer: 9 tackles, 1.0 sack, 1 forced fumble

Daniel Sedlacek Jr.: 8 tackles, 1.0 sack

Jack Meyers: 7 tackles, 2.0 tackles for a loss, 1 break-up

Ian Marshall: 5 tackles, 4.0 sacks for a loss of 23 yards

Nate Robinson: 5 tackles, 1.0 sack

### UP NEXT

The Wolves return home next Saturday, October 22, versus Concordia-St. Paul. Kickoff is set for 6 p.m. from Dacotah Bank Stadium. For a full list of game day promotions [CLICK HERE](#). Fans are also reminded that all game day information and protocols are posted on the Dacotah Bank Stadium homepage.

## Wolves Drop 3-Set Match to Mustangs in Marshall

Marshall, Minn. – The Northern State University volleyball team fell to No. 7 Southwest Minnesota State on Saturday afternoon. The Wolves battled, coming within three points in two of the three sets, however were unable to take one from the Mustangs.

### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 0, SMSU 3

Records: NSU 12-9 (7-6 NSIC), SMSU 19-2 (11-2 NSIC)

Attendance: 683

### HOW IT HAPPENED

The Mustangs took the match with set scores of 25-22, 25-17, and 25-22

Northern hit .134 in the match with 35 kills, 31 assists, 43 digs, seven blocks, and three aces

Southwest Minnesota State notched a .229 hitting percentage with 42 kills, 37 assists, 49 digs, ten blocks, and three aces

Sally Gaul led the team's offense with 12 kills, while Madison Langlie led the defense with 13 digs

### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Sally Gaul: 12 kills, 7 digs, 2 blocks, 1 ace

Taylor Buckley: 11 kills, 7 digs, 2 blocks, 1 ace

Keri Walker: 30 assists, 9 digs

Madison Langlie 13 digs

### UP NEXT

Northern State will play a split schedule next week versus UMary and Minot State. The Wolves travel for a 6 p.m. contest on Thursday versus the Marauders. They will then host the Beavers at 1 p.m. on Saturday in Wachs Arena.

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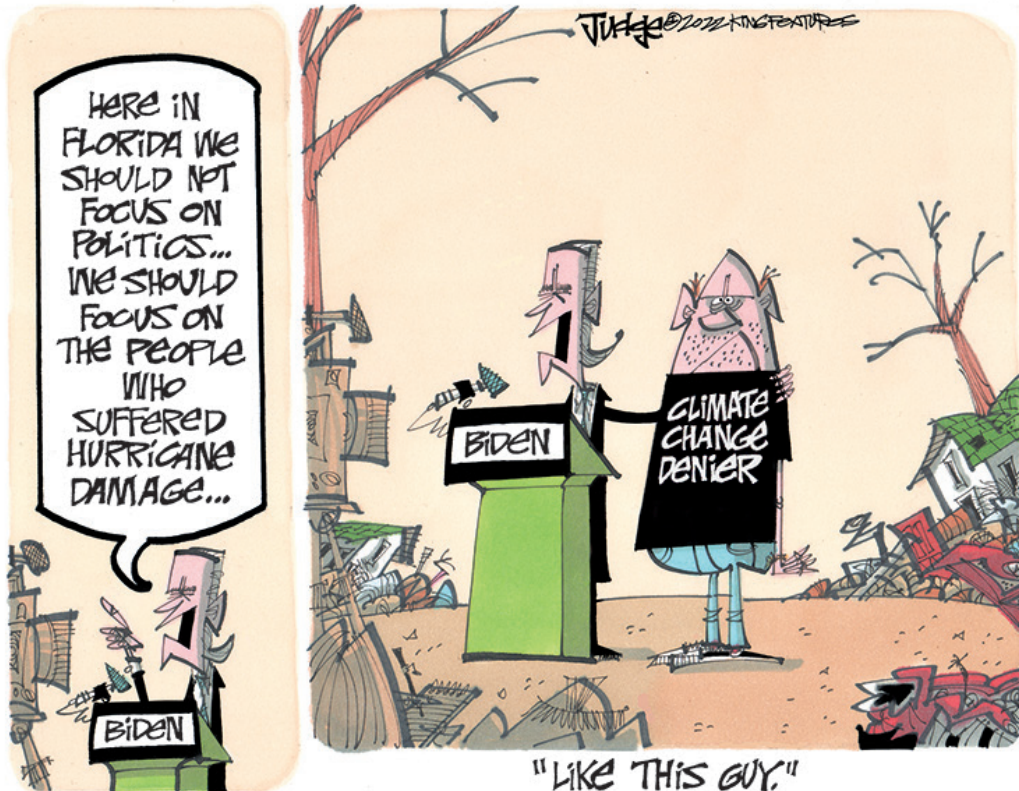
## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*Kings will be your foster fathers, and  
their queens your nursing mothers.  
They will bow down before you  
with their faces to the ground;  
they will lick the dust at your feet.  
Then you will know that  
I am the Lord; those who hope  
in me will not be disappointed.*

ISAIAH 49:23



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## BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Colossians in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. From Acts 20:3, how many months did Paul stay in Greece? 3, 5, 7, 9
3. What is the shortest book in the New Testament (KJV)? *Luke, Titus, 3 John, Jude*
4. Who was the only woman to rule over Judah? *Deborah, Dorcas, Eunice, Athaliah*
5. Which of these appeared earliest in the Bible (KJV)? *Jacob, Abraham, Samuel, Moses*
6. What does the biblical name of “Nabal” mean? *First, Fool, Power, Face*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) 3, 3) 3 John, 4) Athaliah, 5) Abraham, 6) Fool

*Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at [www.patreon.com/triviaguy](http://www.patreon.com/triviaguy).*

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**FLASH GORDON**

WITH THE FRAME TO THE MYSTICAL MIRROR SHATTERED, THE DARK VOID HAS NOTHING TO CONTAIN IT! AND THE CREATURE HELD WITHIN FOR EONS EMERGES...

...WITH A HUNGER UNFATHOMABLE!

I'M RIGHT IN ITS PATH!

GO FETCH!

BY TAO. NO!

AIEEEEE!!

KARA!

THE CREATURE'S ON A RAMPAGE!

MY ONLY MEANS OF ESCAPE BLOCKED!

THERE'S NO WAY OUT!

JIM KEEFE 10-9

**NEXT: TO FACE A DEMON!**

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## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS

**G**OOD MECHANICS PLUS A SMOOTH TEMPO ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR CHANGING DIRECTIONS EFFECTIVELY AT THE TOP OF THE SWING.

YOU'LL PRODUCE BOTH, REFLEXIVELY, BY PIVOTING YOUR UPPER BODY AGAINST THE RESISTANCE OF YOUR LOWER HALF AS YOU SWING BACK.

ADDITIONALLY, A GOOD THROUGH-SWING THOUGHT IS: "WAIT FOR THE LEGS TO WORK BEFORE THE HANDS START DOWN."

JM

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## Physician Revokes Driver's License Without Explanation

**DEAR DR. ROACH:** My wife's handicap parking placard expired, and she asked her primary care physician to fill out a renewal application. The new placard was received, followed by a letter from the DMV instructing my wife to return her license within 10 days because a medical professional had deemed it unsafe for her to drive. There was no discussion with my wife about driving.

My wife had a stroke about two years ago, but there are no obvious signs that she shouldn't be driving outside of that. She recently had a Watchman device placed, but no one ever said she shouldn't drive. My wife has had no symptoms since the surgery. She saw the cardiologist who performed the Watchman surgery, and he said she is doing well. She also saw her regular cardiologist, and he also said she is doing well. She saw both of these doctors after seeing the physician who notified the DMV that she should not drive.

I have seen the after-visit notes of all the doctors my wife has seen in the last three months. All say that she is doing well. The doctor involved said, in her notes, "She is doing well, no concerns." She has not had any device implanted to maintain rhythm. Was it unethical to not discuss revoking my wife's license with her before doing it?  
—Anon.

**ANSWER:** The Watchman device is placed to reduce the risk of stroke in

a rhythm disturbance of the heart. Its placement has no bearing on her driving, but AFib potentially does. AFib does predispose people to strokes and, occasionally, to a heart rate so fast that they can't think properly. Conceivably, a person could have a stroke or a very fast heart rate while driving, but this is a very rare cause of motor-vehicle accidents. The most common medical cause for impairment while driving is epilepsy, which is a whole separate discussion.

There are international guidelines to help clinicians decide whether a person with a history of arrhythmia is safe to drive. In the case of atrial fibrillation, the guidelines are consistent that only if a person is having symptoms or is incapacitated should they stop driving, and they may resume once the symptoms or incapacity is better. From what you tell me, she had no reason for her driving to be restricted. Unless her primary care physician knows something that you haven't told me, this decision was not supported by consensus guidelines.

Was the decision ethical? I don't think so. An ethical decision is one that minimizes harm, both to your wife and to the community. Your wife has been harmed, and I don't think the community is safer because she can't drive. I don't think she was treated fairly. Lack of truth-telling undermines trust, which is essential for ethical patient care.

It is possible that the decision to restrict her driving privileges was done in error, either by her physician or by the DMV. I do feel strongly that her physician should have told her that her driving privileges would be restricted: This would have allowed for some discussion, perhaps with her cardiologists, and would remove the question of whether there was an error.

*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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"The Curse of Bridge Hollow" (TV-14) -- Howard (Marlon Wayans) and Emily (Kelly Rowland) decide to move their family from Brooklyn to the Halloween-obsessed suburban town of Bridge Hollow, much to their teenage daughter Sydney's reluctance. Once in Bridge Hollow, Sydney (Priah Ferguson) learns about the town tale of Stingy Jack, who had died in the very house her family just moved into. While sleuthing around the house, Sydney gets tricked into lighting Stingy Jack's lantern, unknowingly unleashing a spirit that makes all the Halloween decorations around town come to life. It's up to Sydney, her family and the eccentric folks of Bridge Hollow to break the curse and save the town from getting taken over. Out now. (Netflix)



**Kaitlyn Dever and Kyle Allen star as Rosaline and Romeo in "Rosaline."** Courtesy of Hulu

"Torn Hearts" (NR) -- Country music duo Leigh (Alexxis Lemire) and Jordan (Abby Quinn) have been trying to break into the music industry but have grown frustrated playing for small crowds in Nashville. So, when Jordan meets a guy who once worked with one of their idols, Harper Dutch from the The Duchess Sisters, Jordan finesses Harper's address out of him, and the aspiring musicians decide to pay her a visit. Harper (Katey Sagal), the only living Duchess Sister, oddly welcomes the two ecstatic girls in and even agrees to make a song with them. With Leigh and Jordan blinded by excitement, they don't realize that Harper may have hidden motives of her own. From Blumhouse Productions, out on Oct. 20. (Prime Video)

"Rosaline" (PG-13) -- We all know William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," but does anyone recall the name Rosaline, the first girl who Romeo started raving about? If you've ever wondered what happened to her, Rosaline finally gets to tell her side of the story in this new romantic comedy out now. After accidentally catching Romeo giving his signature monologue to Juliet, Rosaline is willing to go to any lengths to break up the star-crossed lovers and win Romeo back. Kaitlyn Dever ("Booksmart") and Isabela Merced ("Dora and the Lost City of Gold") star in this fun spin on a classic play. (Hulu)

"Raymond and Ray" -- AppleTV+'s latest releases have been very introspective, character-driven films and series that highlight more human struggles, and "Raymond and Ray" releasing Oct. 21 is a film that fits perfectly into that same category. Produced by Alfonso Cuarón ("Roma"), Ewan McGregor and Ethan Hawke play two estranged half-brothers who reunite after their father's passing, his last wish being that the two brothers dig his grave. Neither brother had a good relationship with their father, but they work together to oblige his wishes. In turn, these two brothers have each other to walk down the rocky path of mourning a parent and hope that, eventually, it will all lead to forgiveness. (AppleTV+)

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1. Who wrote and released "Big Yellow Taxi"?
2. Which group released an album titled "Waiting for the Sun"?
3. Why was Carnaby Street popular in the 1960s?
4. Which group released "Lyn' Eyes"?
5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "Loneliness is the cloak you wear, A deep shade of blue is always there."

## Answers

1. Joni Mitchell, in 1970. She wrote the song in Hawaii after seeing the gorgeous landscape broken up by a massive

paved parking lot.

2. The Doors, in 1968. It was their only No. 1 album and included "Hello, I Love You," one of their only two chart topper singles, the other being "Light My Fire."

3. Carnaby Street, likely first built in 1685, became a hippie haven by the 1960s. It was dedicated to fashion and music, with underground clubs where groups like the Rolling Stones and The Who got a start.

4. The Eagles, in 1975. The song nabbed a Grammy for Pop Vocals.

5. "The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine Anymore," by Frankie Valli in 1965, and then a year later The Walker Brothers released their own cover. The Valli version only hit No. 128 on the charts, but the Walkers' version went to No. 13 and is the one everyone remembers.

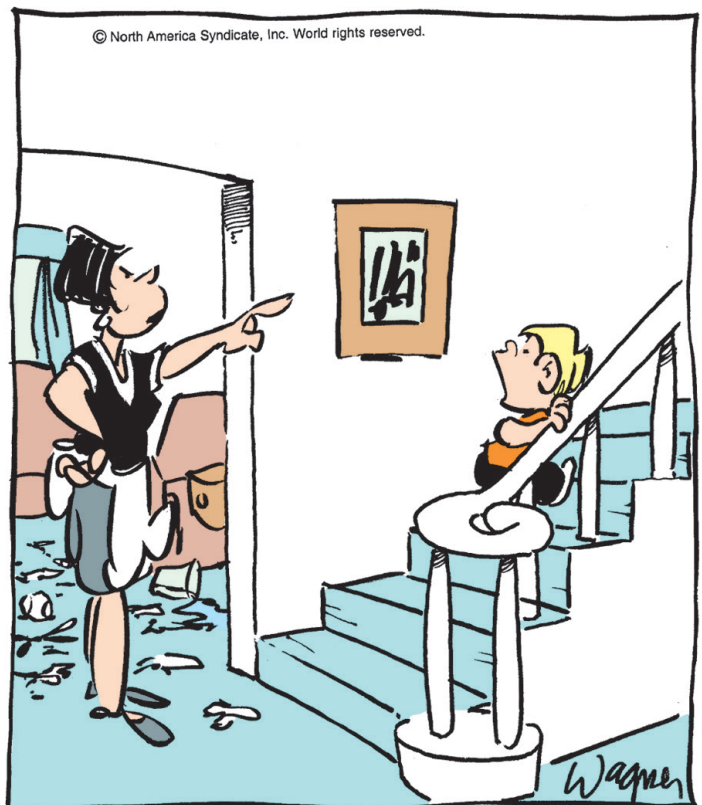
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## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



## GRIN and BEAR IT



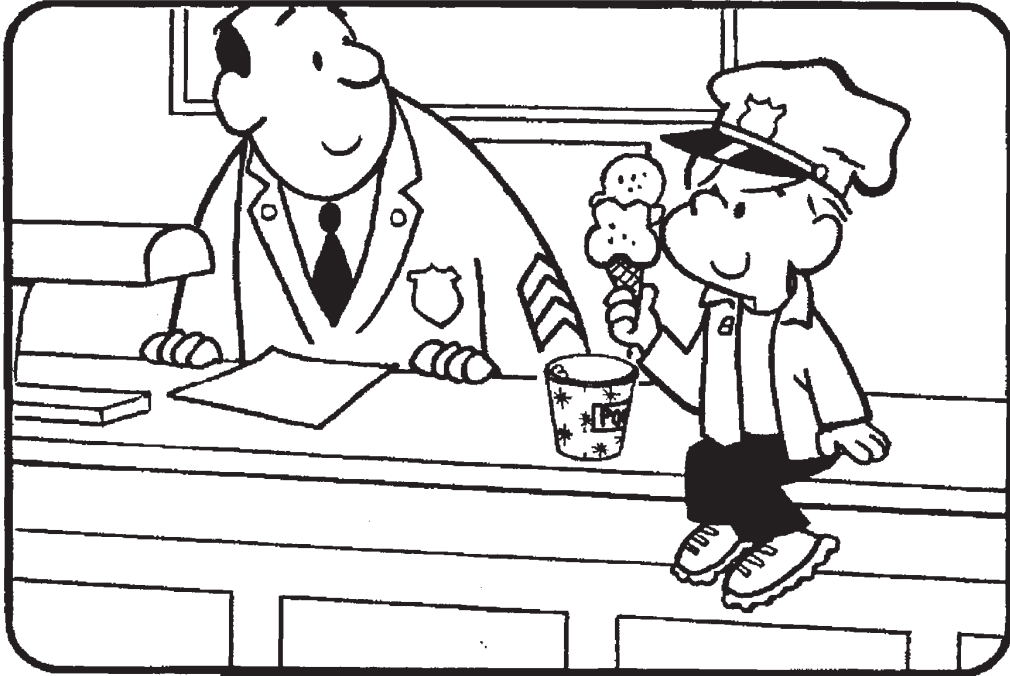
"I'm telling Grandma!"

# Groton Daily Independent

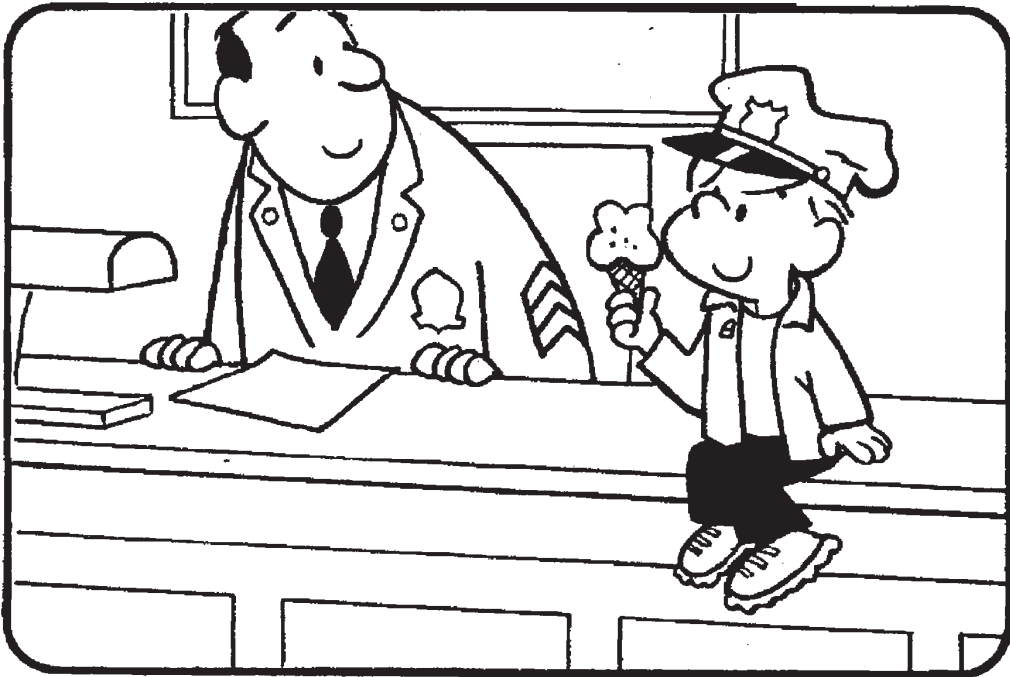
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## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Lamp is smaller. 2. Arm is moved. 3. Badge is upside down. 4. Container is missing. 5. Ice cream is missing. 6. Cap is different.

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\* Using your fireplace? Try adding citrus peels to the logs for a nice aroma. They can be a good starter material as well.

\* Those hide-a-key rocks can be a little obvious -- at least they are to me. I have a spare key hidden outside too, but I sealed mine in a plastic baggie and buried it in a spot known to our family members. Also, it's not right by the door. -- I.E. in Mississippi

\* When closing up our cabin for the season, we brought a box of mothballs and scattered them around the porch perimeter. This keeps the small animals like mice and skunks from setting up shop there while no one is around. -- S.F. in Pennsylvania

\* Now's a great time to start weatherstripping! Check and recaulk windows. Caulk along baseboards to deter drafts. Add insulation to electrical outlets and under sinks around plumbing. Seal it up to stay toasty this winter.

\* Remember to turn off bathroom fans after 10 minutes. In the winter, if your house is on the dry side, don't use the fan at all: Open the door so the humidity from the shower or bath reaches into the house.

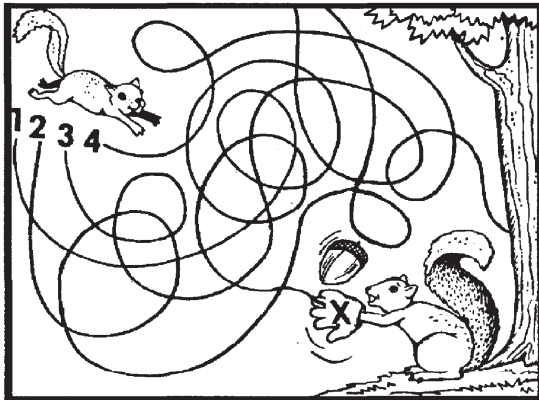
\* "To remove the skin from salmon, I freeze it and skin it while frozen. The skin comes off much easier, and I waste less of the fish. I buy a large piece and parcel it into several smaller pieces, since it's just me. I like salmon, and it's healthy for me!" -- L.A. in Florida

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

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**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.

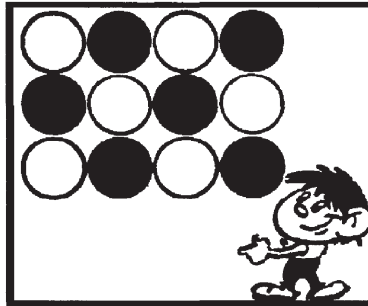
- Hints: 1. Delivers mail. 2. Handles copy.  
3. Serves food. 4. Plays in a band. 5. Uses a hammer. 6. Lends money.

What are the jobs?

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

## 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.

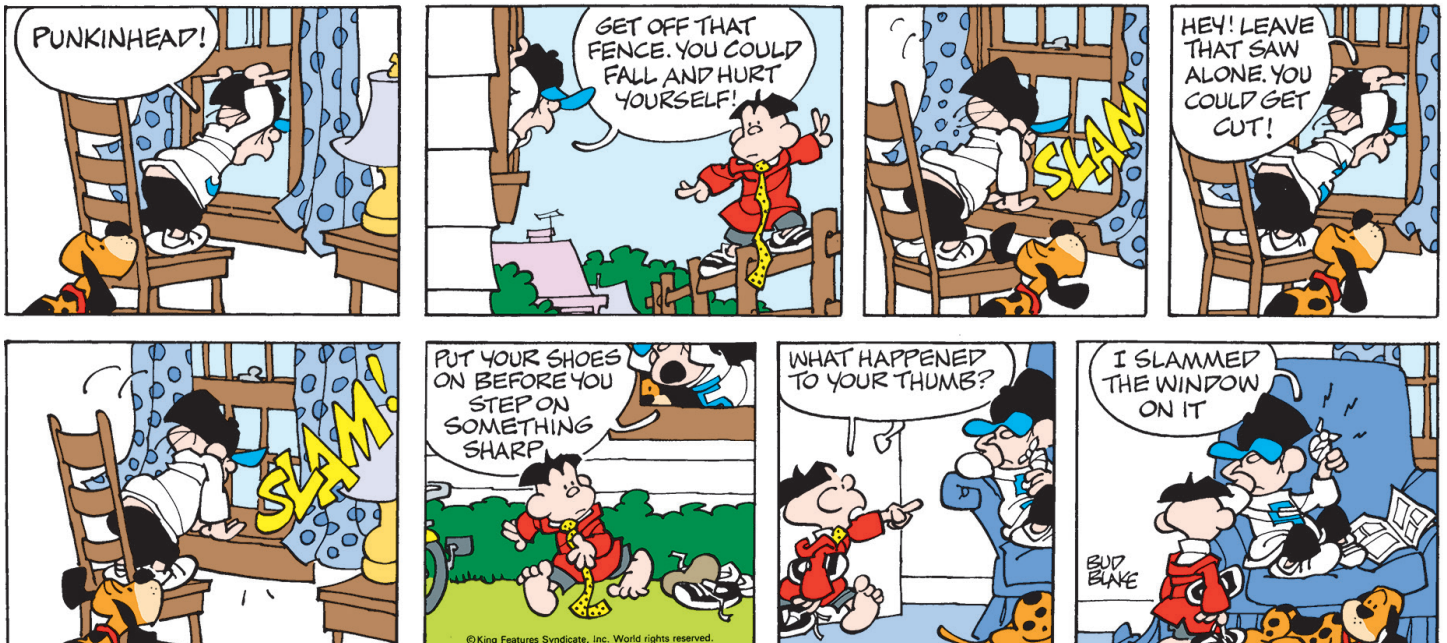
That is to say, rearrange the setup, for instance, so that the first and third rows are all heads, and the second and fourth row tails.

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.

## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Summary
- 6 Barrel parts
- 12 Without exception
- 13 Salsa brand
- 14 Sweetheart
- 15 Try to rip open
- 16 Regarding
- 17 Chore
- 19 QB's stats
- 20 Scrooge's cries
- 22 Droop
- 24 Embassy VIP
- 27 Proboscis
- 29 AAA jobs
- 32 South Dakota monument
- 35 Comic strip possum
- 36 Curved lines
- 37 Decorate Easter eggs
- 38 Dhabi predecessor
- 40 Comestibles
- 42 Flow out
- 44 Recipe meas.
- 46 Golden rule word
- 50 Ray of "Goodfellas"
- 52 Like some swimming pools
- 54 Attractive person
- 55 Veteran sailor

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50			51				52	53				
54							55					
56							57					

- 56 Order by classes
- 57 Doctrine
- 11 Pre-college exams
- 12 Rx overseer
- 18 Guarantees
- 21 Busy insect
- 23 \$ dispenser
- 24 Music booster
- 25 Cattle call
- 26 Objects of fear
- 28 Daydreamer
- 30 Like some humor
- 31 Observe
- 33 San Francisco's — Hill
- 34 FDR follower
- 39 Out-and-out neighbor
- 41 Egypt's Fitzgerald
- 42 Jazzy
- 43 Resumes
- 45 Homer's son
- 47 Protuberance
- 48 Horn sound
- 49 Assoc.
- 51 Ring decision
- 53 Born

### DOWN

- 1 Certain deer
- 2 Part of Q.E.D.
- 3 Ersatz chocolate
- 4 "The Greatest"
- 5 Overabundance
- 6 Lushes
- 7 Long journeys
- 8 — glance
- 9 "Impressive!"
- 10 "Zounds!"

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## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

## LAFF - A - DAY



"I'm taking you off that banana diet."

## Out on a Limb



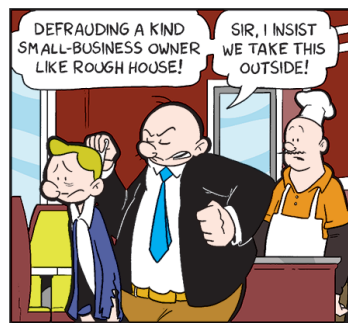
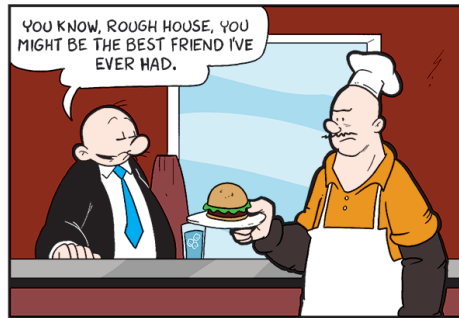
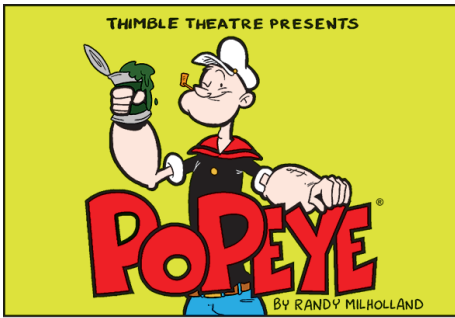
by Gary Kopervas





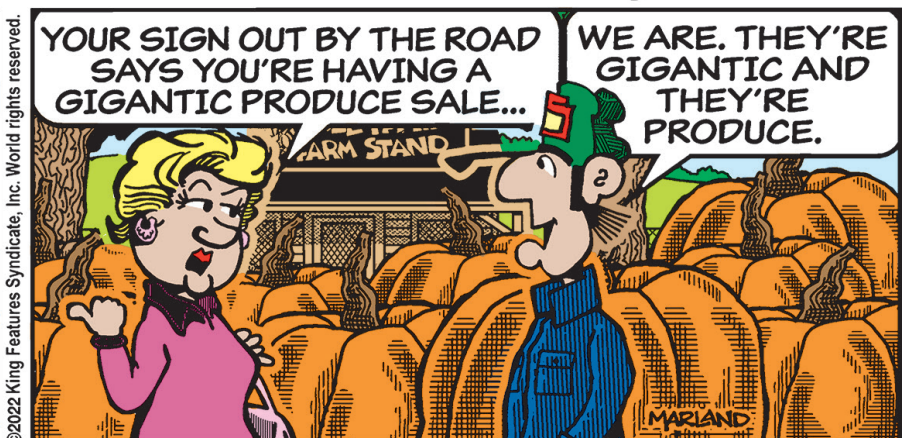
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## R.F.D.

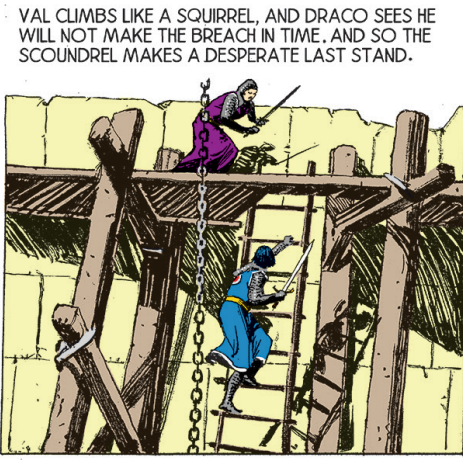
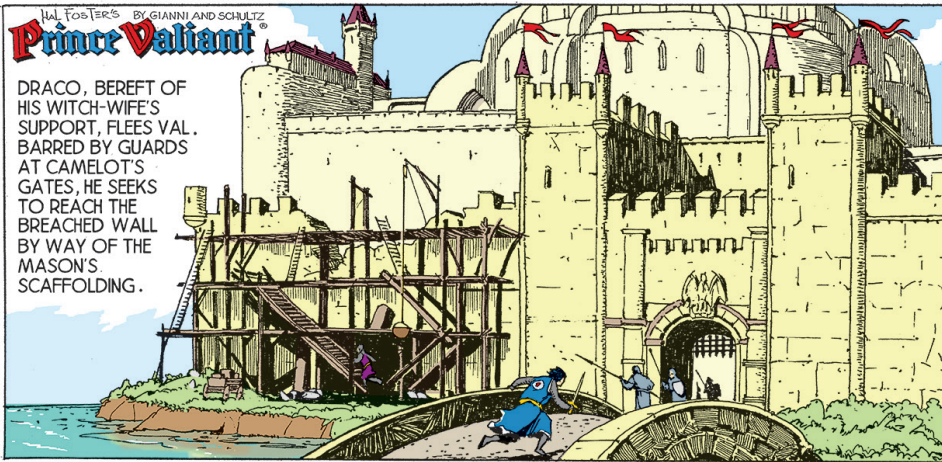
by Mike Marland



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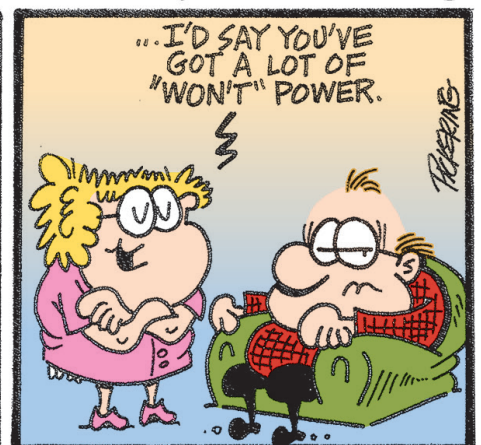
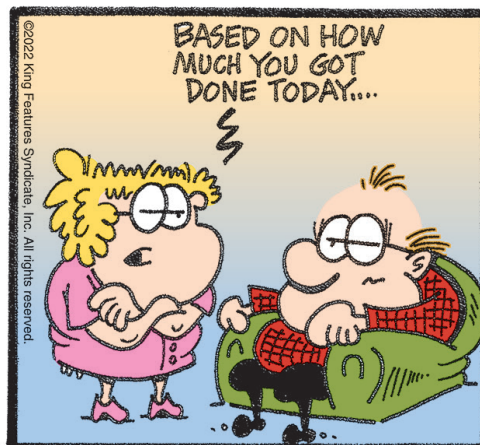
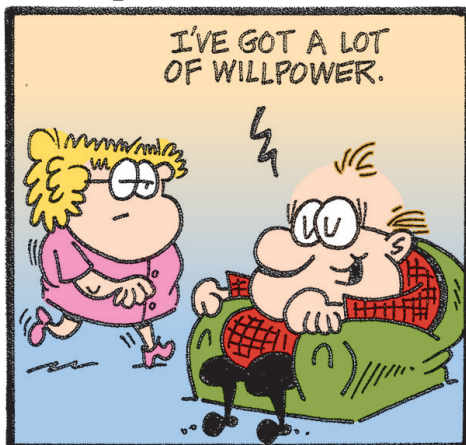
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## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Cutting Down on Scam Phone Calls

Welcome to the season of increased scam telemarketer phone calls, either political or holiday related.

The National Do Not Call Registry is a government program intended to block unwanted sales calls. It's a free service, and all you have to do is sign up either on your phone or on the internet.

Call 888-382-1222 from the phone you want to block and follow the steps. Or go online to [donotcall.gov](https://www.donotcall.gov) and read the info. A word of warning: If you register your number online, you are also required to enter an email address. They'll send you a note asking you to click a link in that email to finish the registration to stop unwanted calls -- if they stop.

Blocking scammers on the registry doesn't take care of the whole problem. The FAQ on the site says that certain types of calls are allowed: political, charitable, debt collection, informational and surveys. Think about the holes those leave.

I maintain that receiving a political call is still a sales call -- they're trying to sell us on the idea of voting a certain way, and therefore political calls also should be blocked in the Do Not Call Registry. Surveys can be just as bad if the questions they ask are clearly skewed in one direction or another.

I see charitable calls as scams if they take your personal banking or credit-card information. Additionally, if you've ever done business with a company, they're allowed to call you.

So, there are holes in the system. But you can take steps to stop at least some of the calls by registering with Do Not Call.

As an aside, I called the registry to verify that my phone is already listed. Yes, despite all the calls I get, it's been listed as a do-not-call number since 2006.

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1. Bob Richards was an ordained minister, the 1984 presidential candidate for the Populist Party and a two-time Olympic gold medalist in what sport?

2. Pittsburgh Pirates infielder Rodolfo Castro was suspended and fined after what fell out of his pocket when he slid into third base?

3. Name the competitive swimmer who joined Billy Rose's Aquacade show in 1940 and went on to star in such films as "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" (1949) and "Neptune's Daughter" (1949).

4. What defensive player, a member of the Super Bowl XLI champion Indianapolis Colts, had 16 sacks to lead the NFL in 2004?

5. What specialized golf club gained popularity after Gene Sarazen won tournaments with it in his golf bag in the 1930s?

6. In 1917, the Indiana University Hoosiers' Men's Gymnasium basketball arena became the first facility to install what?

7. Who was hired as head coach of the Notre Dame Fighting Irish football team in 2001 but resigned after five days, having admitted to falsifying parts of his academic and athletic resume?



by Ryan A. Berenz

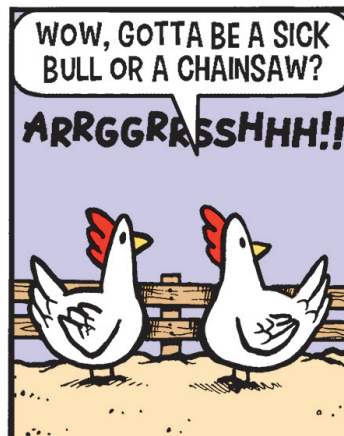
## Answers

1. Pole vault (1952, '56).
2. His cellphone.
3. Esther Williams.
4. Dwight Freeney.
5. The sand wedge.
6. Glass backboards.
7. George O'Leary.

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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



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## Are Dogs Growing More Anxious?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My small mixed-breed dog, Tara, has terrible anxiety, especially when I leave the house or during thunderstorms. I have to either put a cone on her or socks on her paws so she doesn't chew them bloody during these episodes. I hear from other friends that their dogs have anxiety issues as well. Is this problem on the rise? -- Sherri L., Kansas City, Mo.

DEAR SHERRI: Evidence isn't clear that anxiety in dogs is rising, but there is a rise in the understanding and diagnosis of anxiety in pets by veterinarians. This has led to an increase in diagnosis and treatment for pet anxiety.

While that is good for pets, there is no "magic bullet" to quickly cure a dog of an anxiety disorder. Tara's vet can diagnose the problem, and can help you determine different ways to treat her.

Medication can be a big help in easing anxiety symptoms, but you also want to look for causes of Tara's anxiety, and trigger points that set off her paw-chewing. Thunderstorms are one trigger; your leaving the house is another.

There are a number of different techniques, both training or interaction, to turn off those triggers. While there's not room in this column to list them, do some quick research and look for dog training manuals that stress positive reinforcement. Ask the vet and your friends about local dog trainers or specialists who treat pet anxiety issues.

In evaluating such professionals, ask what therapies they use or are open to, and make sure they emphasize your role in working with Tara (owners have to put in the time with their dogs). Be circumspect about pet therapists who insist they have a single, one-size-fits-all solution for anxiety.

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

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## Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

\* Those of us who have a little difficulty successfully sealing wraps, gyros or burritos are at last in luck, thanks to a group of female engineering students who came up with a solution called Taste Tape. It will hold your food nicely in place during cooking or consumption. And yes, it is an edible tape.

\* Only humans have chins.

\* Ladybugs are cute, but they're also cannibals. These tiny spotted creatures will, if need be, eat fertilized ladybug eggs, ladybug larvae and even other adult ladybugs.

\* Do you know someone who really loves to tell jokes? Here's hoping they aren't suffering from a rare syndrome known as Witzelsucht, or joke addiction, affecting certain folks with an injury to their brain's right hemisphere. One such patient couldn't stop waking his poor wife in the middle of the night to share his jokes with her.

\* The longest eyelash on record reached a length of 2.75 inches and belonged to one Stuart Muller, who attributed the record-setting strand to a "mutant follicle."

\* When the German football club FC Union Berlin faced bankruptcy in 2004, its loyal fans donated enough blood en masse that sufficient funds were raised to save it.

\* King Charles III will receive his crown while sitting on a throne containing the Stone of Destiny, a rock that was stolen from Scotland in 1296 and carried to Westminster Abbey by King Edward I, then returned to Scotland 700 years later. But why is it significant, other than its feature in a royal coronation? It is said to be the stone on which the biblical Jacob rested his head when he dreamed of a ladder ascending to heaven!

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot." -- Michael Altshuler

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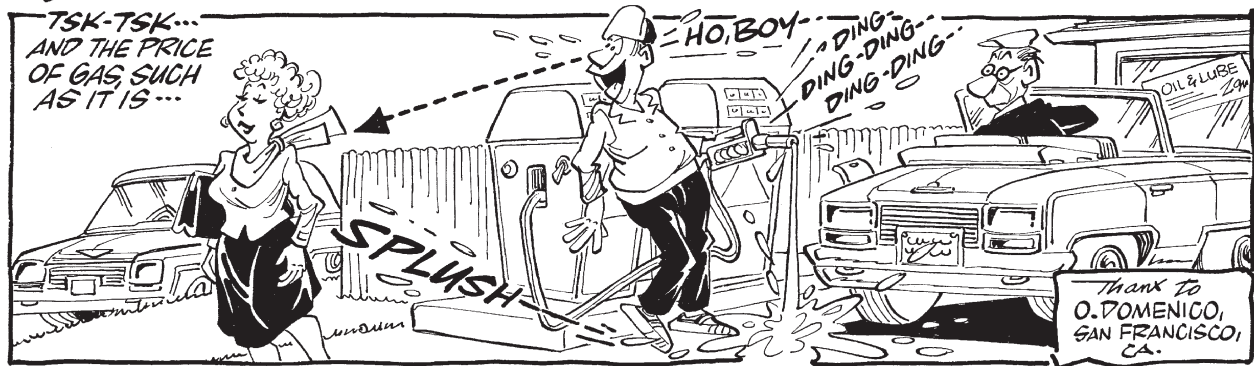
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## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

AS THE SAYING GOES...  
NEVER VOLUNTEER—



## BY AL SCADUTO



## Early Plant References

Christopher Merret was born in 1615 in Gloucestershire, England. He studied medicine and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1651. He liked collecting plants and maintained a herb garden. In 1666 he produced one of the first resources for British plants, animals and fossils known as the *Pinax Rerum Naturalium Britannicarum*. The book includes the first known lists of British butterflies and birds.



"Male Wild Williams"

— Brenda Weaver

Source: [www.wikiwand.com](http://www.wikiwand.com)



by Freddy Groves

## Suicide Rates Are Down

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently released its 2022 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report. Suicide numbers are down, they say, for the second year in a row.

At the same time, they announced the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grants, a program that gives money to community organizations to create suicide prevention programs, and authorized \$174 million to be handed out over the course of three years to provide those services.

The list of groups that received the grants is impressive, with most receiving the maximum amount of \$750,000. But it's the groups that received lesser amounts that arouse curiosity. War Horses for Veterans received one-third the maximum amount, yet they're very hands-on, matching horses with veterans and first responders under stress to help them recover from trauma. United States Veterans Initiative provides job assistance, rental assistance and much more, but they received only a small grant. Community Building Art Works received a similarly small grant to provide writing and art workshops for veterans and family members in all counties of three states. Legal Aid Society got half the largest amount to handle legal assistance for the whole state of Kentucky.

Declining suicide numbers are no guarantee that veterans are under less stress. In 2020, there were 6,146 veteran suicides. That year had the lowest number since 2006, but we need to look at overall rates to see what it really means. While veteran suicide numbers fell by 9.7% between 2018 and 2020, the civilian numbers fell by 5.5%.

And just so you know, Staff Sgt. Parker Gordon Fox, for whom the grant is named, was a sniper instructor at Fort Benning, Georgia, when he died in 2020 of suicide at age 25. Fox, a talented musician, left his parents and many relatives, as well as his dog, Willie Nelson Fox, and a 1962 Gibson guitar.

If you or someone you know is in trouble, call 988 and press 1. Or go online to [www.VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net), and chat or text to 838255. There's help 24/7. Don't wait.

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## Wishing Well®

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

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. GEOGRAPHY: What is the coldest ocean on Earth?
2. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of animal is represented by the scientific order Proboscidea?
3. LANGUAGE: What does the Greek prefix "pan-" mean in English?
4. MEDICAL: What is the common name for Hansen's disease?
5. LITERATURE: Which 1970s nonfiction book begins with the line, "We were somewhere around Barstow on the edge of the desert when the drugs began to take hold"?
6. THEATER: Who wrote the Tony Award-winning play "The Heidi Chronicles"?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: The Empire State Building in New York has how many stories?
8. ACRONYMS: In photography, what does the acronym SLR stand for?
9. FOOD & DRINK: Which country produces a cheese called Manchego?
10. HISTORY: Who was the first House Speaker in U.S. history?

### Answers

1. The Arctic Ocean.
2. Elephants.
3. "All" (panorama, etc.).
4. Leprosy.
5. "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" (Hunter S. Thompson).
6. Wendy Wasserstein.
7. 102.
8. Single lens reflex.
9. Spain.
10. Frederick Muhlenberg.

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South Dakota Governor

**Kristi Noem**



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

## **A Tradition for the Next Generation**

I was fortunate enough to grow up in a family full of sportsmen and women. While my dad fostered my love for hunting, it was my grandmother, Dorris, who made bird hunting such a big part of our family tradition.

Every pheasant season brings me back to those cherished memories of the hunting trips I had with my father and grandmother. As this year's pheasant season kicks off, I am reliving these memories and reflecting on our efforts to find ways to ensure that pheasant hunting continues to be a part of South Dakota's culture for generations to come.

This year looks like it'll be another strong pheasant season for the state. A mild winter means that lots of hens survived to lay eggs, and our pheasant habitat across the state is on the upswing thanks to my Administration's efforts. The Department of Game, Fish & Parks is forecasting "lush grasslands and plenty of birds."

When I took office, one of my first priorities was to establish the Second Century Initiative. This program restores habitat for our wildlife, provides access to that habitat, and raises money for other conservation efforts across the state.

This year also marked the fourth year of my nest predator bounty program. We had more than 2,000 participants through this program last year, many of whom were new or youth trappers. Not only has this program been successful in recruiting new sportsmen and women, it has also benefited our pheasant population through the targeted harvest of nest predators.

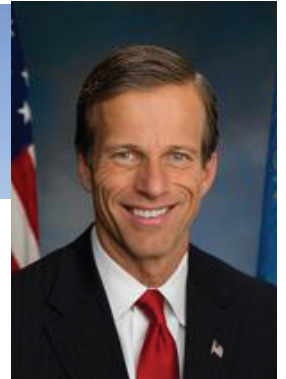
Our youth pheasant season, which I extended from five days to nine days in 2020, and our mentor hunting program also help get young people involved in hunting. New hunters of all ages learn more about hunting at our Outdoor Campuses and in fields across the state.

These investments in one of our state's most popular traditions have paid off. We have the highest percentage in the country of residents who get hunting licenses each year. We're also one of the most hunter-friendly states in the nation. Over 80,000 non-resident hunters flock to our state every year. Hunting alone generates over \$500 million to our state's economy each year – and that number grows to more than \$1 billion when you include fishing and other outdoor activities.

I continue to be committed to keeping our hunting traditions alive in South Dakota, and I encourage everyone to do the same. If you have the opportunity, make sure you're including your kids and other young people in your hunting adventures so we can pass these traditions on to the next generation. This is a great opportunity to teach them how to be safe and responsible – and train them to be good stewards of the land for the next century of pheasant hunting.

Don't miss your chance to make those memories this season. I hope to see you in the field!

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



## Democrats Set All the Wrong Records

Almost two years after Democrats took control of the White House and Congress, the results of their policy failures are becoming increasingly evident. Inflation has led to greater economic insecurity. Democrats' hostility toward American-made energy has worsened our energy security. And a failure to secure the border has led to a record number of illegal border crossings.

If there is one defining feature of Democrat governance, it's inflation, which began climbing after Democrats flooded the economy with a \$1.9 trillion spending spree that overheated the economy. We've now experienced seven straight months of inflation above 8 percent, a level not seen in 40 years. The prices for groceries, utilities, and other essentials are straining family budgets. Higher prices will cost households \$8,500 over the next year, leading many families to cut back, put more on their credit cards, and dip into their savings to make ends meet – more than they already have.

One major driver of inflation is high energy prices. Electricity prices increased 15 percent last month and utility gas prices surged 33 percent. Home heating is expected to cost households an average of \$1,202 this winter, a 17 percent increase over 2021 costs. Democrats' apparent opposition to conventional U.S. energy production is a key factor in this ongoing energy crisis.

From the Biden administration's earliest days, its policies have demonstrated its push for a Green New Deal future at the expense of energy independence and low energy costs. President Biden cancelled the Keystone XL pipeline, discouraged investment in domestic energy production, and limited leasing for oil and gas production on federal lands. And as Americans struggled with higher energy prices this summer, Democrats approved billions of dollars in tax hikes on oil and gas companies that will continue to drive Americans' energy bills higher.

While working families struggle with record-high price increases, Customs and Border Protection is overwhelmed with record-high illegal border crossings. In the last year, more than 2 million illegal immigrants were encountered at the southern border, including 78 individuals on the terrorist watch list. There were also nearly 1 million known "gotaways," immigrants who evaded apprehension while entering the country. This has been a direct result of the administration's policies undermining border security and its failure to enforce the laws on the books. In effect, the administration's policies have been encouraging more migrants to make the dangerous journey to an ostensibly open border. We also know that drugs like fentanyl are coming across the border and contributing to a rise in violent crime across the country.

South Dakotans typically judge a president by his record. And we can evaluate the Biden administration by the records it has set in less than two years: Inflation at its highest rate in 40 years, record-high increases in energy prices, the largest number of illegal immigrants crossing the border ever, and violent crime increasing around the country. Left unchecked, I am concerned – as I know many other South Dakotans are too – that Democrats will undoubtedly try to outdo themselves in the next two years with dismal results for the country.

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



## Supporting Your Favorite Local Business

We all have businesses we love and reasons why we love them—it may be good food, quality service, or great people. There are so many great places across our state, and I wanted to hear about them. Recently, I asked South Dakotans what their favorite local business is and why. Over 200 businesses were recommended from 76 cities.

The responses ranged from coffeeshops and food service businesses, to lawn care businesses and agricultural operations—even masonry companies. All of these businesses make South Dakota unique. I started visiting these businesses to meet the owners and employees, learn about their operations and struggles they encounter, and see for myself the positive impacts they make in our state.

Unsurprisingly, one of the toughest challenges these businesses have faced over the last year is inflation. With inflation rates reaching a historic four-decade high of 8.2%, there's no doubt these businesses have faced challenges; but their adaptability, resiliency, and the loyalty of South Dakotans to support local businesses have allowed many businesses to power through and continue operating.

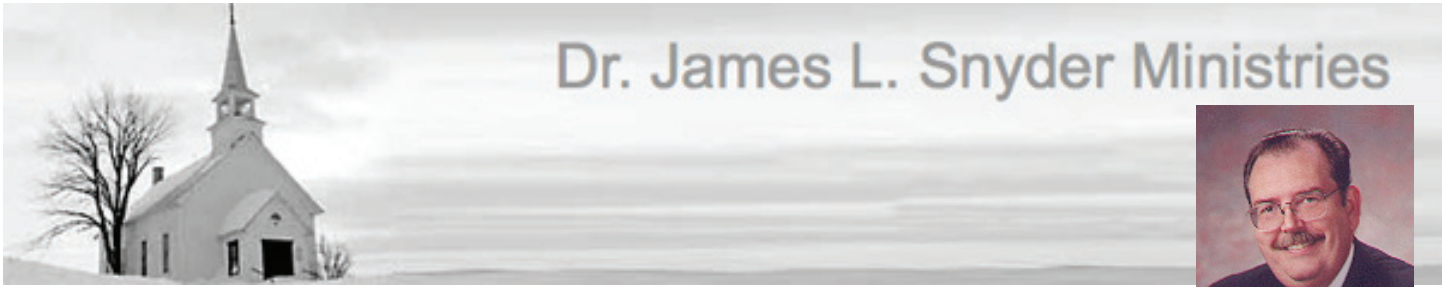
In Congress, I have been working to lower big government spending and ease this burden of inflation on our businesses and everyday Americans. I recently voted "no" on yet another massive spending package worth over \$485 billion dollars. Families and businesses are struggling, and these persistent high inflation rates don't seem to be letting up any time soon. Spending more taxpayer dollars, increasing the size of the government, and continuing to print money is the exact opposite of what the federal government should be doing.

Instead, Congress should focus on resolving supply chain issues, increasing our energy security, and aiding our small businesses to mitigate the impact of inflation on business owners and consumers. I have introduced and supported legislation to curb the effects on our supply chain that would ease pilot shortages, address high cargo shipping rates, improve the work life of truck drivers, and increase the number of truck drivers. Time and time again, I have encouraged the Biden Administration to prioritize homegrown biofuels, allow more oil drilling in America, and embrace an all-of-the-above energy approach to decrease our reliance on foreign energy.

Supporting South Dakotans and South Dakotan business is a team effort. These businesses count on people like you and me—a loyal customer to keep coming back and supporting them. Congress must also protect our Main Streets by passing legislation that will ease the burden of inflation. Solutions that focus on streamlining our supply chain, increasing energy production, filling worker shortages, and supporting American businesses. I look forward to working with my Republican colleagues in January to create an economy that is strong—fighting inflation and lowering the cost of living for people like you.

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## How Much Coffee Is Too Much Coffee

I will be the first to confess that I love my coffee, especially in the morning. When anybody asks how much coffee is enough, I usually say, "Just one more cup."

My day cannot get started until I've had a sufficient amount of coffee. If I don't have enough coffee when I meet somebody, they will look at me and say, "Have you had your coffee today?" I respond by saying, "Well, not enough."

I haven't always been a fan of coffee. If I am obsessed with coffee, I will have to blame The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage for this. She is the one that introduced me to coffee, and here I am.

When I was young, I hated the coffee my parents had. I tried tasting it a couple of times, and it really was awful, almost like mud. How they were able to drink that coffee is beyond me.

It was not until I married The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage that I understood what the problem was.

When I was young, my parents used "instant coffee." I'm not sure why they drank that, but I did not like it. I thought, at the time, coffee was for idiots. I never said it out loud because I feared who might hear me saying it. But I believe it and have a good reason for believing it.

After we were married, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage bought something I never saw before, which was a coffee pot. I thought my father was a coffee pot at the time. I did not know what it was for, but when you're first married, you don't create any ambiance of negativity.

It was then I understood what real coffee was all about. The coffee pot made real coffee. I had never had real coffee before and fell in love with coffee after one gentle sip.

So, you see, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage is responsible for my addiction to coffee.

Since then, I've enjoyed many a cup of coffee, particularly from her coffee pot in the kitchen. I began understanding the difference between "instant coffee" and "real coffee." I'm surprised my parents didn't know the difference.

After being married for over 50 years, I have never been tempted to get a cup of instant coffee, what a tragedy of taste that would be.

Since I've been drinking coffee, my days have never been better. But, of course, there are those few days when I don't have a chance to grab my coffee because of oversleeping or something. Those have been brought down to very few, I assure you.

My day starts perfectly after that first coffee in the morning.

Recently, in the afternoon, I was drinking some coffee; the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage entered the room and, looking at me, said, "Haven't you had enough coffee for the day?"

I looked at her, smiled, and cheerfully said, "That animal doesn't exist." Then I went back to sipping my heavenly cup of coffee.

My morning cup of coffee enables me to start the day rather cheerful. I know when I start each day, there's going to be something that's going to give me a problem. A day without problems is a day I haven't gotten out of bed. A great solution to these problems is a hot cup of coffee in the morning. Not just "a" cup of coffee but a series of cups of coffee. I'm a serial coffee drinker.

"Drinking too much coffee," The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage warned me, "is not very good for your health."

# Groton Daily Independent

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I looked at her with a mischievous smile and said, "Would you like to deal with me without my cup of coffee in the morning?"

Laughing, she looked back and said, "No, there probably isn't enough coffee for that."

One year, a report says coffee is not good for you. It's bad for your health, so they say. So the next year, there's another report that says drinking coffee is good for your health.

Who in the world am I going to believe?

Well, I tell you what, I'm not going to believe any reports I hear from the news media. I will take this subject up with my cup of Joe in the morning and get his opinion.

There is one thing that makes a cup of coffee magnificent in the morning. That one thing is an Apple Fritter. I believe these two were made for each other, and there is nothing more delicious than the combination of these two delicacies.

I can get away with my coffee with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, but it's hard for me to get away with the Apple Fritter. I try, but I am not very successful with that as yet.

I've been working for years on ways in which to trick her into believing that Apple Fritters are healthy for you. But to date, I've not been very successful, but I haven't stopped trying.

I will work on it, and in the meantime, I will indulge in my coffee.

Everybody has a taste for something. I was reminded of what the Bible said along this line. "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him" (Psalm 34:8).

When it comes to my spiritual taste, I need to focus on God. My experience with God makes my life the joy that it is.

## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: How do manufactured homes stack up against traditionally constructed houses in terms of energy efficiency and overall environmental footprint?

-- Jen Jackson, via email

As one might expect, manufactured homes run the gamut with regard to energy efficiency. In an analysis completed by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE), it was found that modern manufactured homes used 70.4 MM btu/year, a significant amount less than the 108.5 MM btu/year average seen in traditional, or "site-built" homes.

In addition, the actual manufacture of manufactured homes produces much less waste, as does the on-site setup. According to the Manufactured Housing Association of British Columbia, the construction and set-up of manufactured homes creates 50 to 70 percent less waste than traditional home-building.

Traditional home-building also requires that the materials, tools and workers all be sent to different sites throughout the year. This approach is far less organized and efficient than the streamlined factory process associated with manufactured homes. As a result, all kinds of emissions are produced. In an in-depth report commissioned by the Sturgeon Foundation of Alberta, Canada, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions of both modular and on-site building projects were compared. It was determined that the on-site construction process produced a whopping 43 percent more CO<sub>2</sub> emissions!

According to ACEEE, those who lived in a manufactured home before 1976 "spent more money on their energy bills than on home loans" and spent double on energy per square foot than those who occupied a traditional home. How is this possible? Before 1976, manufactured homes were built more quickly, for less money and with far less regard for energy efficiency. By June of that year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) devised and implemented the HUD Code, setting a higher standard in quality, safety and efficiency of product.

Today, manufactured homes must have sufficient levels of insulation (this includes around ductwork, electrical outlets, lighting, etc.), modern water heaters and energy-efficient appliances. If the manufactured home does not meet the minimum standards set out by HUD, then it is illegal for it to be sold, leased or rented to anybody.

That being said, if you happen to own a manufactured home that was purchased before 1976, there are still many ways that you can upgrade your pad-from-the-past to meet the energy demands of the modern age. Passive solar design is one such avenue, whereby manufactured home-owners orient and design their home space to maximize the amount of sun exposure. This will not only power any solar panels that may have been installed more efficiently, it will also provide both natural light and heat.

Using a solar water heater is another great way to reduce one's energy expenditures. Though roof-mounted options may be limited (as manufactured homes are less sturdy), the ground-based options are definitely a good choice for anyone with a manufactured home that isn't moved often.



**Manufactured homes can be greener than traditional houses if they are designed and built that way — but this may be the exception.** Credit: Wes Dickinson, FlickrCC

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## South Dakota COVID-19 Report

New Cases\*

624  
-218

Total Cases\*

262,837

Currently Hospitalized

62  
-4

New Hospitalizations

30

Total Hospitalized

11,834

[Click to Visit](#)

SD COVID-19 Vaccination  
Coverage

New Deaths

13

Total Deaths

3,046

[Click to Visit](#)

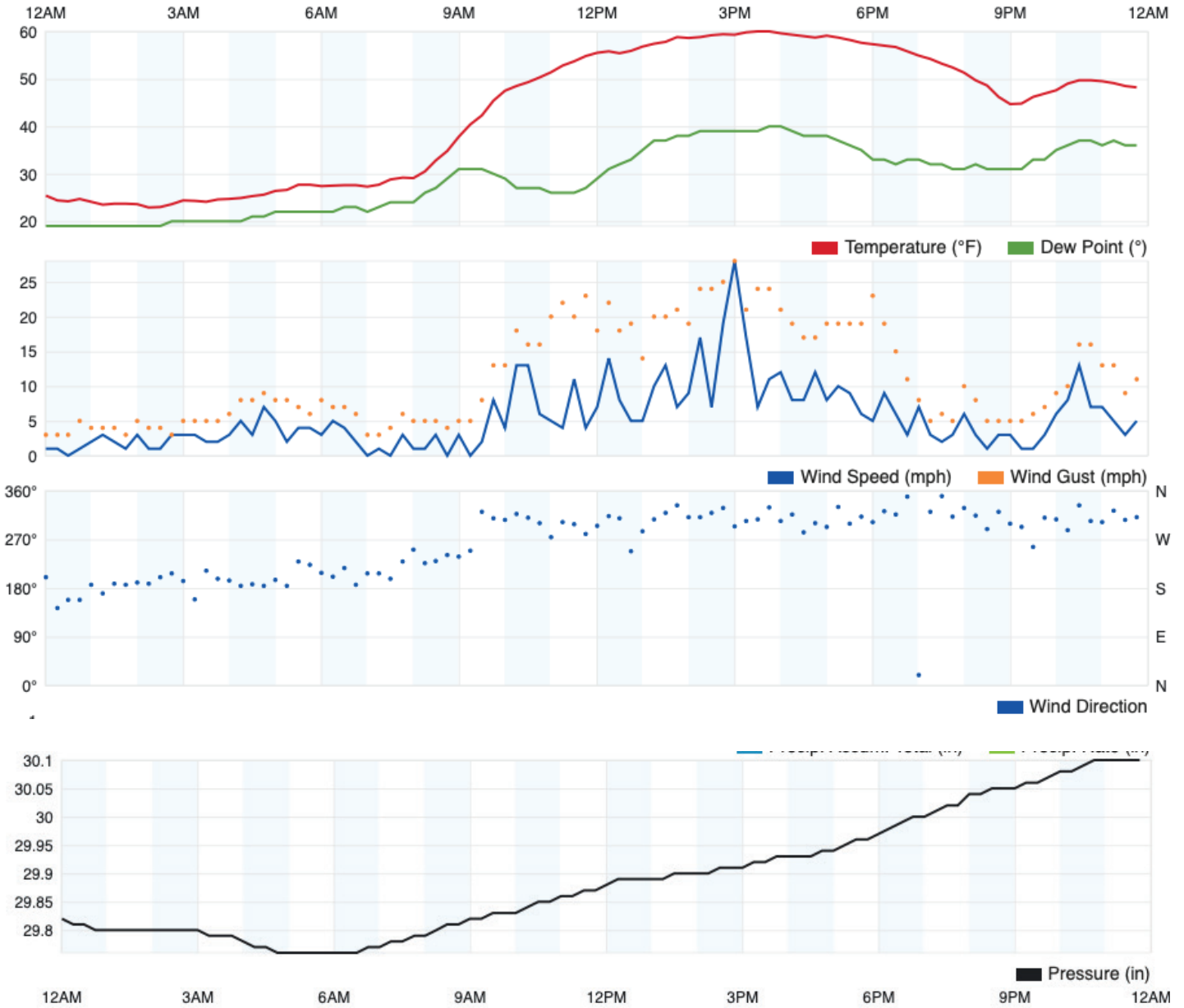
COVID-19 Community  
Levels



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Mostly Sunny

High: 48 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy

Low: 20 °F

Monday



Sunny

High: 40 °F

Monday  
Night



Clear

Low: 14 °F

Tuesday



Sunny


High: 41 °F

## Continued Dry

Today, Breezy... Highs 43-52°

Tonight, Lows in the 20s

Monday, Highs 37-47°



Updated: 10/16/2022 2:45 AM Central

We will continue to see dry conditions for today, as well as most of the work week. The mild temperatures we have early this morning will likely be the warmest part of the day with cooler air coming in from Canada on a stiff north breeze. This cool air will linger into mid week.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 60 °F at 3:32 PM**

**Low Temp: 23 °F at 2:13 AM**

**Wind: 28 mph at 3:00 PM**

**Precip: : 0.00**

Day length: 10 hours, 58 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 90 in 1991

Record Low: 19 in 1976

Average High: 59°F

Average Low: 33°F

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.21

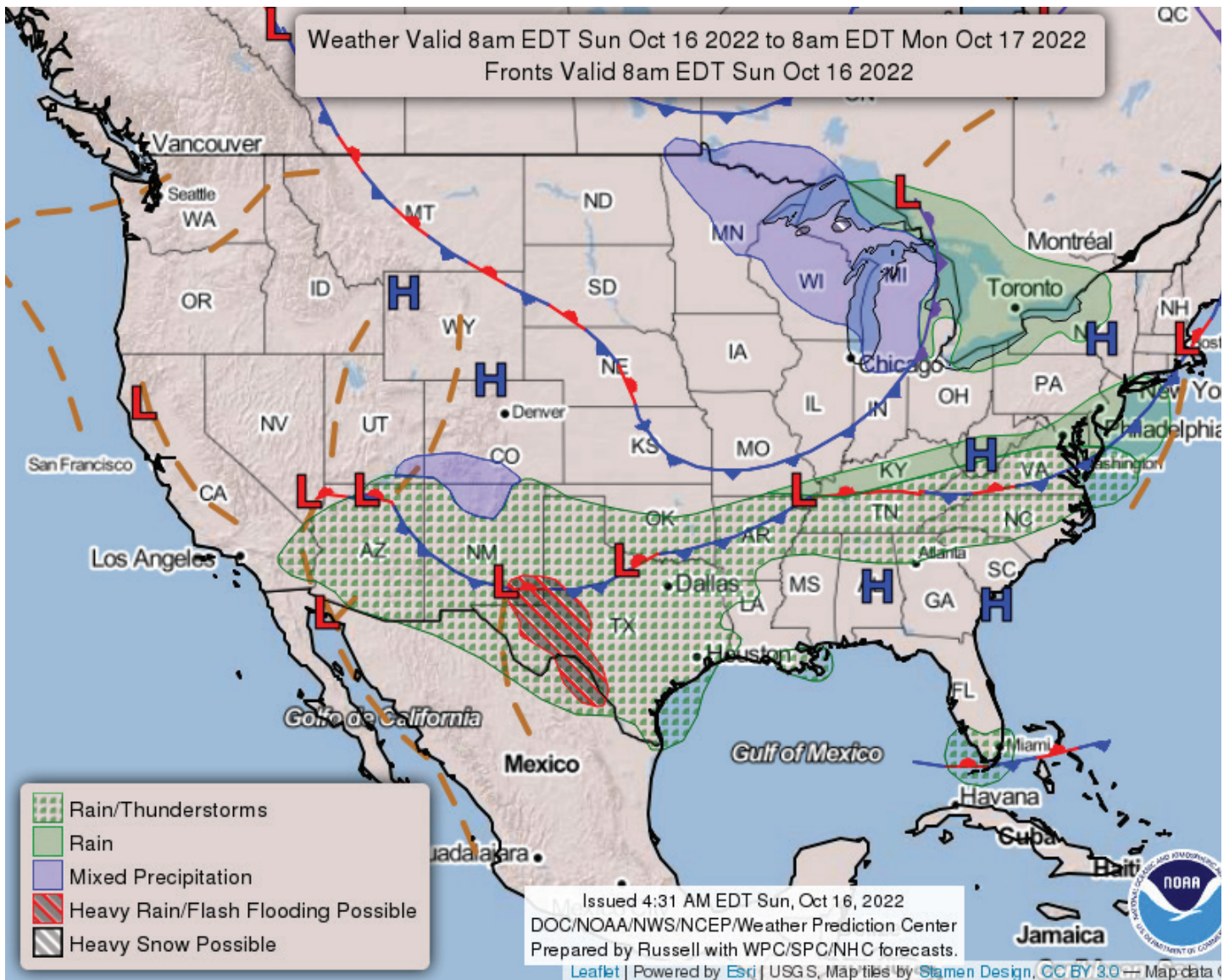
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.45

Average Precip to date: 19.54

Precip Year to Date: 16.50

Sunset Tonight: 6:46:56 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:50:10 AM



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## Today in Weather History

October 16, 1980: A squall line packing damaging winds developed across portions of central South Dakota and raced into Minnesota during the afternoon and evening. The line of thunderstorms developed around 2 pm CDT and moved east and northeast at over 50 miles an hour. A large portion of southeast South Dakota was belted with winds of 50 to 70 miles an hour. Yankton reported winds of 60 to 70 mph while Sioux Falls was hit with a 62 mile an hour gust. Considerable damage was done in southeast South Dakota to trees, farm structures, and small buildings. Damage estimates were 100 to 200 thousand dollars. By late afternoon the thunderstorms were roaring through southwest Minnesota. Numerous outbuildings and many trees were downed or damaged. In Redwood County, two combines and a 24-foot travel trailer were tipped over and damaged.

1913 - The temperature in Downtown San Francisco soared to 101 degrees to equal their record for October. (The Weather Channel)

1937 - An unlikely winter-like storm produced as much as ten inches of snow in Minnesota and Iowa.

1944: The 1944 Cuba – Florida hurricane, also known as the Pinar del Rio Hurricane, struck western Cuba on this day as a Category 4. This storm killed an estimated 300 people in Cuba and nine in Florida. This hurricane is currently the 7th costliest U.S. Atlantic hurricane, with an estimated \$46.9 billion (2015 USD) in damages.

1987 - Ten cities in the southeastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. The low of 34 degrees at Augusta GA marked their third straight morning of record cold. A cold front brought showers and thunderstorms to parts of the central U.S. Lightning struck a bull and six cows under a tree near Battiest OK. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Late afternoon thunderstorms produced severe weather in southwestern Lower Michigan and northern Indiana. One thunderstorm spawned a tornado north of Nappanee IN which caused half a million dollars damage. Six cities in California reported record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 100 degrees at Red Bluff CA was the latest such reading of record for so late in the autumn season. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988: An F2 tornado carved a 6 mile long, east-northeast path through a mostly rural area of north-central Indiana. The extremely slow-moving tornado touched down 1.5 miles north of Nappanee, just 300 yards north of a high school, and shortly after that moved through a subdivision where 11 homes sustained damage.

1989 - Heavy snow blanketed the foothills of Colorado. Up to three inches was reported around Denver. Echo Lake was buried under nineteen inches of snow. Temperatures again warmed into the 80s and lower 90s in the eastern and south central U.S. Thirteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Atlantic City NJ with a reading of 84 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1999: Hurricane Irene moved across the Florida Keys producing heavy rainfall, strong winds, and high waves. A gust 102 mph was reported in Big Pine Key.

2007: A blinding sandstorm in the high desert north of Los Angeles wreaks havoc with local traffic causing a highway pileup involving dozens of vehicles. Two people die, and 16 are injured as a result of the storm, which reportedly raised dust to 1000 foot high.

2015: A well-defined waterspout was visible from Marquette, Michigan.

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Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### FEAR – HUMILITY – WISDOM – HONOR

Everything has a beginning. Everything has an ending. But there are many “things” in between.

Let’s return to a familiar theme in Proverbs: “The fear of the Lord.” But in this verse, we are told that “The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom.” Initially, the fear of the Lord was the beginning - the foundation of wisdom. It was presented as the most fundamental part of life. Here, it takes on a new meaning.

“The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom. Humility precedes honor.” It may not seem as though there is a large difference in the two phrases, but there certainly is. In this passage, we are taught that if we fear God it can bring us into a relationship with Him where He is able to let us know what we need to change in our lives if we become humble! Then we can make changes - whatever they are - and will come to a greater understanding of His wisdom, of ourselves, and what we need to do to grow to become more like His Son.

The key word in this verse is the word “humility.” Not only will fearing God enable us to begin the process of learning His wisdom - but by becoming humble we will receive honor that comes from Him, not others, as we willingly accept His teachings.

Others may recognize us, even respect us, for the wisdom we possess. They may even honor us in one way or another. But to be honored by Him is the greatest gift in life.

We will only receive this honor by being in His presence, kneeling before Him in awe, worship and praise, which begins with and can only come from a sense of deep humility.

Prayer: Father, we cannot understand Your holiness until we admit our sinfulness and repent in deep humility. May we realize our need to honor You with humility. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Wisdom’s instruction is to fear the LORD, and humility comes before honor. Proverbs 15:33



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  
11/13/2022: Snow Queen Contest  
11/19/2022: 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  
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## The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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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

14-19-27-30-34

(fourteen, nineteen, twenty-seven, thirty, thirty-four)

Estimated jackpot: \$103,000

Lotto America

03-16-24-26-50, Star Ball: 1, ASB: 3

(three, sixteen, twenty-four, twenty-six, fifty; Star Ball: one; ASB: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$26,890,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: 20,000,000

Powerball

32-37-40-58-62, Powerball: 15, Power Play: 5

(thirty-two, thirty-seven, forty, fifty-eight, sixty-two; Powerball: fifteen; Power Play: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$480,000,000

### Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Aberdeen Central def. Yankton, 24-26, 25-18, 25-11, 25-15

Bison def. Todd County, 25-11, 25-4

Brandon Valley def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-19, 25-18, 25-8

Douglas def. Bennett County, 25-6, 25-11

Douglas def. Bison, 25-17, 19-25, 25-23

Sturgis Brown def. Red Cloud, 25-16, 23-25, 25-22, 25-11

AC/DC Thunder Nation Tourney=

Lakota Tech def. Menno, 25-15, 25-16

Menno def. Crow Creek, 25-19, 25-13

Viborg-Hurley def. Menno, 25-18, 25-17

Dakota Valley Conference Tournament=

Castlewood def. Arlington, 25-14, 25-22

Castlewood def. Deubrook, 25-16, 25-12

Castlewood def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 27-25, 23-25, 25-22

Colman-Egan def. Arlington, 25-20, 25-15

Colman-Egan def. Castlewood, 25-13, 19-25, 25-23

Colman-Egan def. Deubrook, 25-21, 25-17

Dell Rapids St. Mary def. DeSmet, 25-18, 25-23

Deubrook def. Arlington, 26-24, 25-22

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Arlington, 25-14, 25-15

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Colman-Egan, 25-18, 25-21

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Deubrook, 25-16, 25-15

Estelline/Hendricks def. DeSmet, 25-8, 25-21

Estelline/Hendricks def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 26-24, 24-26, 25-22

Estelline/Hendricks def. Iroquois/ Lake Preston Co-op, 25-14, 25-20



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Estelline/Hendricks def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 16-15, 25-9, 20-25  
Iroquois/ Lake Preston Co-op def. DeSmet, 25-18, 25-21  
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. DeSmet, 25-17, 25-19  
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. Dell Rapids St. Mary, 25-15, 25-12  
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. Iroquois/ Lake Preston Co-op, 15-25, 25-14, 25-11  
Dakota XII Conference Tournament=  
Dell Rapids def. Tea Area, 25-21, 27-25  
Dell Rapids def. Tri-Valley, 23-25, 25-14, 25-19  
Elk Point-Jefferson def. Dell Rapids, 27-25, 9-25, 28-26  
Douglas Invitational=  
Belle Fourche def. Jones County, 25-14, 25-20  
Bison def. Jones County, 16-25, 25-16, 27-25  
Douglas def. Jones County, 25-6, 25-11  
Douglas def. Kadoka Area, 25-23, 25-20  
Douglas def. Todd County, 25-7, 25-8  
Jones County def. Kadoka Area, 28-26, 27-25  
Jones County def. Lemmon, 25-16, 25-14  
Jones County def. New Underwood, 25-12, 25-6  
Kadoka Area def. New Underwood, 25-16, 25-21  
Douglass Invitational=  
Lemmon def. Wall, 27-25, 25-16  
Wall def. Harding County, 18-25, 25-23, 25-13  
Wall def. Pine Ridge, 25-16, 25-22  
Heelan Invite=  
Sioux Center, Iowa def. Sioux Falls Jefferson, 25-23, 21-15  
Sioux Falls Jefferson def. Bishop Heelan Catholic, Sioux City, Iowa, 21-15, 23-21  
Sioux Falls Jefferson def. Cherokee, Washington, Iowa, 21-14, 21-17  
Sioux Falls Jefferson def. LeMars, Iowa, 21-12, 21-15  
Lakeville North Tournament=  
Jackson County Central, Minn. def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 25-19, 25-23  
New Prague, Minn. def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 25-20, 25-16  
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Hill-Murray, Minn., 25-17, 25-23  
Milbank Tourney=  
Great Plains Lutheran def. Sisseton, 25-19, 25-15  
Groton Area def. Beresford, 25-19, 22-25, 25-18  
Mobridge-Pollock def. Hamlin, 28-26, 22-25, 25-23  
Sioux Valley def. Milbank, 25-18, 17-25, 25-14  
Gold Pool=  
Groton Area def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-20, 25-16  
Hamlin def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-7, 25-8  
Hamlin def. Groton Area, 25-7, 19-25, 25-22  
Hamlin def. Sioux Valley, 27-29, 27-25, 25-21  
Sioux Valley def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-18, 25-12  
Sioux Valley def. Groton Area, 25-16, 25-17  
Maroon=  
Mobridge-Pollock def. Beresford, 20-25, 26-24, 25-23  
Beresford def. Sisseton, 22-25, 25-11, 25-19  
Milbank def. Beresford, 25-11, 25-19  
Mobridge-Pollock def. Sisseton, 25-10, 25-19  
Milbank def. Sisseton, 26-24, 25-23

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Panhandle Conference Tournament=  
Edgemont def. Sioux County, Neb., 25-14, 23-25, 25-17  
Rustler Invite=  
Aberdeen Roncalli def. Dupree, 25-19, 25-9  
Aberdeen Roncalli def. Langford, 25-8, 25-17  
Aberdeen Roncalli def. Sioux Falls Lutheran, 25-20, 25-18  
Britton-Hecla def. Takini, 25-6, 25-23  
Langford def. Takini, 25-6, 25-13  
Miller def. Aberdeen Roncalli, 25-14, 25-14  
Miller def. Britton-Hecla, 25-13, 25-7  
Miller def. Sully Buttes, 25-19, 25-17  
Miller def. Takini, 25-1, 25-8  
Sioux Falls Lutheran def. Dupree, 21-25, 25-22, 25-22  
Sioux Falls Lutheran def. Langford, 25-17, 25-9  
Sioux Falls Lutheran def. Sully Buttes, 18-25, 25-15, 25-17  
Sully Buttes def. Takini, 25-6, 25-13

## PREP FOOTBALL=

Sioux Falls Roosevelt 47, Rapid City Stevens 3  
Tiospa Zina Tribal 58, McLaughlin 12

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

## South Dakota St. edges top-ranked North Dakota St. 23-21

FARGO, N.C. (AP) — Hunter Dustman's third field goal of the game, an 18-yarder with under four minutes remaining, lifted South Dakota State to a 23-21 victory over top-ranked and defending national champion North Dakota State on Saturday in the Dakota Marker rivalry game.

The Jackrabbits (6-1, 4-0 Missouri Valley Conference), ranked second in the Stats Perform and third in the coaches polls, won their sixth straight. They defeated the Bison (5-2, 3-1) for the third consecutive time, NDSU's only three regular-season losses the past two seasons. It was also SDSU's fourth win in the Fargodome, the most by any FCS team. NDSU leads the series 63-45-5.

The Bison rolled to a 21-7 lead and looked to increase it, having a first-and-10 from the SDSU 21. But Cole Payton was intercepted at the goal line by Colby Huerter with 3:22 left in the half.

The Jackrabbits were outgained 280-111 by halftime but turned it around in the second half by a 248-74 margin. A Dustman field goal and Amar Johnson's 16-yard run closed the gap to 21-17 heading in the fourth quarter when Dustman added his other two field goals.

NDSU's final possession came with 3:45 remaining but the Bison turned the ball over on downs with just over a minute left.

Isaiah Davis ran for 114 yards on 14 carries and a first-half touchdown for the Jackrabbits. Mark Gronowski passed for 152 yards.

Miller threw for 227 yards and touchdowns to DJ Hart and Hunter Luepke and ran for another for the Bison.

## Illinois State holds off South Dakota for 12-10 victory

NORMAL, Ill. (AP) — Zack Annexstad threw for 180 yards and his team's only touchdown, leading Illinois State to a 12-10 victory over South Dakota on Saturday.

Trailing 10-6 late in the third quarter, Annexstad threw to Jerome Buckner for 41 yards and a first down at the South Dakota 3-yard line. Three plays later Annexstad hit Tanner Taula with a 2-yard scoring pass and the Redbirds led 12-10 after the PAT was missed.

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South Dakota's Eddie Ogamba missed a 43-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter and neither team drove inside the opponent's 40-yard line the rest of the game.

Shomari Lawrence had 75 yards rushing for South Dakota (1-5, 0-3 MVFC), which had 132 yards on the ground and 117 yards passing for a total of 249.

Illinois State (4-2, 2-1) passed for 180 yards and ran for 84, a total of 264 yards total offense.

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Illinois State (4-2, 2-1) passed for 180 yards and ran for 84, a total of 264 yards total offense.

## South Dakota inmate's escape try foiled within 10 minutes

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a South Dakota inmate who tried to escape from a hospital where he was receiving treatment was caught within 10 minutes.

The 26-year-old man who was housed at the Yankton County Jail had been taken to Avera Sacred Heart Hospital for a medical issue Thursday evening when he ran away from a correctional officer, the Yankton Press and Dakotan reported.

The suspect was apprehended less than two blocks away, according to the Yankton County Sheriff's Office. He was charged with first-degree escape, which carries a maximum charge of two years in prison.

## 'Don't Look Back': Refugee, plant worker writes of survival

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — As Achut Deng lay in her apartment bedroom in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, sickened alongside hundreds of her co-workers at a South Dakota meatpacking plant, she worried she was going to die.

It wasn't the first time she felt the imminent threat of death.

Her childhood, shattered by war in South Sudan, had been filled with it. But as she focused on building a new life for her family — filled with long hours at the Smithfield Foods pork processing plant — she kept those traumatic memories to herself.

In the spring of 2020, however, she spoke out to tell of the fear gripping the Sioux Falls workforce, adding to pressure that prodded the plant to implement new safety protocols that helped protect Deng and her colleagues.

Now, Deng is telling her whole story — from fleeing massacres to the trauma she experienced as a refugee in the United States — through a memoir that she hopes will bring awareness of both the hardships, as well as the healing, for refugees.

Deng's book for young adults, co-authored with Keely Hutton, draws its name from the words Deng's grandmother uttered as they fled when their village came under attack: "Don't Look Back."

For decades, she followed that advice to survive. The book details her grandmother's sacrifice to literally shield Deng from bullets during a 1991 massacre, to a refugee journey where a deadly river, a snake bite and malaria all nearly killed her. And even after arriving in the U.S., Deng writes, she suffered sexual abuse from a male guardian as well as accompanying suicidal thoughts.

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"I'm tired of being strong. I'm done being embarrassed. I'm done being ashamed of what I've been through," Deng, now 37, told The Associated Press in an interview at her home in Sioux Falls.

For years, she quietly kept her story buried beneath her work at the plant, a side hustle of catering sambusa and caring for her three sons.

"There's a reason why I created this busy schedule — because I don't want to have time to myself so that I can think of the past," she said.

The hard work allowed Deng to achieve the life she dreamed of when she came to the U.S. as a teenager. She saved for a down payment on a home, paid for family vacations and even sponsored her parents' immigration to America.

When COVID-19 infections spread among Deng's colleagues, however, her dreams came under attack once again. Sickened by the virus, she worried her sons would find her body and be left with only the stories others told about her. Deng was still haunted by finding that her own grandmother had been struck and killed by the bullets that might have hit Deng during that 1991 massacre.

"I found myself at the very lowest point again," Deng recounted.

In the past, she had quietly focused on survival. This time, she spoke out. Deng appeared twice on the New York Times' "The Daily" podcast.

She described in compelling detail the suffering and fear among her colleagues — many of them immigrants — as the pork processing plant became one of the country's worst hotspots for infections in the spring of 2020. Four of her colleagues died after being infected.

Many workers at the time worried about the consequences of speaking with reporters, but Deng says she was only describing her own experience and that she does not blame Smithfield for the coronavirus. She says the plant requires hard work, but Smithfield also provides the wages, benefits and a schedule that allow a single mother to provide for her family.

When a publicist at Macmillan Publishing heard Deng on the podcast, it sparked talks that led to the memoir. Deng wrote the book with Hutton, her co-author, in between working 12-hour shifts at Smithfield and ferrying her sons to school. She often slept just four hours between her overnight job as a supervisor and video calls with Hutton.

Delving into the trauma of her past was difficult, Deng said, and required therapy sessions.

Then, every Sunday, when Deng had a day off, she would sit with her sons around their dining table and read the draft of the latest chapter.

"We cry together; we talk about it; then we put it behind; then we start the new week," Deng said.

She hopes that readers will come to understand refugees have their lives upended and are traumatized by forces beyond their control, but show incredible resilience by choosing to come to the U.S. She described the book's cover, illustrated with the face of a girl overlaid by a night sky, as capturing her feelings at publication.

"She's wounded but fearless," Deng said. "You can see the pain in her eye. But she's not afraid."

## Biden's pot pardons could boost states' legalization drives

By ANDREW DeMILLO Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — There are few surprises expected on Election Day in solidly Republican Arkansas, where Donald Trump's former press secretary is heavily favored in the race for governor and other GOP candidates are considered locks.

But one big exception is the campaign to make Arkansas the first state in the South to legalize recreational marijuana. A proposal to change the state's constitution is drawing millions of dollars from opponents and supporters of legalization, with ads crowding the airwaves.

President Joe Biden's recent announcement that he will pardon thousands of people for simple marijuana possession has shined a new spotlight on the legalization efforts in Arkansas and four other states. Voters in Maryland, Missouri, North Dakota and South Dakota are also taking up measures on recreational marijuana.

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Biden's step toward decriminalizing the drug could provide a boost for legalization in some of the most conservative parts of the country, experts say.

"The most powerful elected leader in the world has publicly declared it was a mistake to criminalize people for using cannabis and I think that will go a long way with regard to voters who may be on the fence," said Mason Tvert, partner at VS Strategies, a cannabis policy and public affairs firm.

Biden's announcement only covers people convicted under the federal law. But he has called on governors to issue similar pardons for those convicted of state marijuana offenses, which reflect the vast majority of marijuana possession cases. The president also directed his health secretary and attorney general to review how marijuana is scheduled under federal law.

The moves come as opposition to legalization has softened around the country, with recreational marijuana legal in 19 states, despite resistance at the federal level. Advocates say it shows that states are ahead of the federal government on the issue.

"I think it's an example of state level leadership and citizens pushing the federal government in the right direction," said Eddie Armstrong, a former state legislator who leads the Responsible Growth Arkansas group campaigning for legalization.

In 2016, Arkansas became the first Bible Belt state to approve medical marijuana, with voters approving a legalization measure. More than 91,000 people have cards to legally buy marijuana from state-licensed dispensaries, which opened in 2019. Patients have spent more than \$200 million so far this year, the state says.

An ad by Responsible Growth Arkansas points to benefits such as the thousands of jobs it says legalization would create. The main group opposing the measure is running an ad that urges voters to "protect Arkansas from big marijuana."

The proposal faces opposition from Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson, a former head of the federal Drug Enforcement Administration who criticized Biden's pardon announcement. Former White House press secretary Sarah Sanders, the Republican front-runner to succeed Hutchinson, has said she will vote against the measure. Her Democratic rival, Chris Jones, said he supports it.

In neighboring Missouri, a proposed constitutional amendment would legalize recreational marijuana for adults 21 and older and expunge records of past arrests and convictions for nonviolent marijuana offenses, except for selling to minors or driving under the influence.

Supporters said they do not expect Biden's pardon announcement for some federal marijuana offenses to have much of an impact on the Missouri measure, which could expunge several hundred thousand state marijuana offenses.

"There is some danger of confusion, but I think most people understand the distinction of the federal and state processes," said John Payne, campaign manager for Legal Missouri 2022.

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican and former sheriff, opposes the ballot measure but has not aggressively campaigned against it. He has no plans to emulate Biden's pardon announcement.

Parson has granted pardons "to individuals who demonstrate a changed life-style, commitment to rehabilitation, contrition and contribution to their communities — rather than as a blanket approach to undermine existing law," said Parson spokesperson Kelli Jones.

Similarly, North Dakota's legalization campaign does not expect to incorporate Biden's pardons into its messaging. Mark Friese, treasurer of the New Approach Initiative backing the legalization ballot proposal, said he doubts Biden's pardon will have much of an impact in North Dakota or sway the legalization effort.

"The number of North Dakotans convicted in federal court is small," said Friese, a prominent North Dakota lawyer and former police officer. "Small amounts of marijuana are typically and historically not prosecuted in North Dakota."

Matt Schwiech, who is running South Dakota's ballot initiative campaign to legalize recreational marijuana possession for adults, said the president's pardons may hand the campaign a boost with older Democrats. It also underscores the campaign's message that convictions for pot possession hurt people on job or rental applications, as well as that enforcing pot possession laws are a waste of time and resources for law enforcement, he said.

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South Dakotans, including a sizable number of Republicans, voted to legalize marijuana possession in 2020, but that law was struck down by the state Supreme Court in part because the proposal was coupled with medical marijuana and hemp. This year, recreational pot is standing by itself as it goes before voters.

It remains unclear whether Biden's pardon move will inject party politics into an issue that supporters say crosses partisan lines. For example, Arkansas voters in 2016 approved medical marijuana the same year they overwhelmingly backed Trump.

All of the states with recreational marijuana on the ballot next month, except for Maryland, voted for Trump in the 2020 presidential election. And the issue is going before voters as GOP candidates have been stepping up their anti-crime rhetoric.

"From our perspective the people of Arkansas, they didn't vote for Biden initially and so we don't anticipate this really having any sort of influence over anybody's decision," said Tyler Beaver, campaign manager for Safe and Secure Communities, the main group campaigning against the proposal.

## Native Americans recall torture, hatred at boarding schools

By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press

MISSION, S.D. (AP) — After her mother died when Rosalie Whirlwind Soldier was just four years old, she was put into a Native American boarding school in South Dakota and told her native Lakota language was "devil's speak."

She recalls being locked in a basement at St. Francis Indian Mission School for weeks as punishment for breaking the school's strict rules. Her long braids were shorn in a deliberate effort to stamp out her cultural identity. And when she broke her leg in an accident, Whirlwind Soldier said she received shoddy care leaving her with pain and a limp that still hobbles her decades later.

"I thought there was no God, just torture and hatred," Whirlwind Soldier testified during a Saturday event on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation led by U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, as the agency confronts the bitter legacy of a boarding school system that operated in the U.S. for more than a century.

Now 78 and still living on the reservation, Whirlwind Soldier said she was airing her horrific experiences in hopes of finally getting past them.

"The only thing they didn't do was put us in (an oven) and gas us," she said, comparing the treatment of Native Americans in the U.S. in the 19th and 20th centuries to the Jewish Holocaust during World War II.

"But I let it go," she later added. "I'm going to make it."

Saturday's event was the third in Haaland's yearlong "Road to Healing" initiative for victims of abuse at government-backed boarding schools, after previous stops in Oklahoma and Michigan.

Starting with the Indian Civilization Act of 1819, the U.S. enacted laws and policies to establish and support the schools. The stated goal was to "civilize" Native Americans, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians, but that was often carried out through abusive practices. Religious and private institutions that ran many of the schools received federal funding and were willing partners.

Most closed their doors long ago and none still exist to strip students of their identities. But some, including St. Francis, still function as schools — albeit with drastically different missions that celebrate the cultural backgrounds of their Native students.

Former St. Francis student Ruby Left Hand Bull Sanchez traveled hundreds of miles from Denver to attend Saturday's meeting. She cried as she recalled almost being killed as a child when a nun stuffed lye soap down her throat in response to Sanchez praying in her native language.

"I want the world to know," she said.

Accompanying Haaland was Wizipan Garriott, a Rosebud Sioux member and principal deputy assistant secretary for Indian affairs. Garriott described how boarding schools were part of a long history of injustices against his people that began with the widespread extermination of their main food source — bison, also known as buffalo.

"First they took our buffalo. Then our land was taken, then our children, and then our traditional form of religion, spiritual practices," he said. "It's important to remember that we Lakota and other Indigenous

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people are still here. We can go through anything.”

The first volume of an investigative report released by the Interior Department in May identified more than boarding 400 schools that the federal government supported beginning in the late 19th century and continuing well into the 1960s. It also found at least 500 children died at some of the schools, though that number is expected to increase dramatically as research continues.

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition says it’s tallied about 100 more schools not on the government list that were run by groups such as churches.

“They all had the same missions, the same goals: ‘Kill the Indian, save the man,’” said Lacey Kinnart, who works for the Minnesota-based coalition. For Native American children, Kinnart said the intention was “to assimilate them and steal everything Indian out of them except their blood, make them despise who they are, their culture, and forget their language.”

South Dakota had 31 of the schools including two on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation — St. Francis and the Rosebud Agency Boarding and Day School.

The Rosebud Agency school, in Mission, operated through at least 1951 on a site now home to Sinte Gleska University, where Saturday’s meeting happened.

All that remains of the boarding school is a gutted-out building that used to house the dining hall, according to tribal members. When the building caught fire about five years ago, former student Patti Romero, 73, said she and others were on hand to cheer its destruction.

“No more worms in the chili,” said Romero, who attended the school from ages 6 to 15 and said the food was sometimes infested.

A second report is pending in the investigation into the schools launched by Haaland, herself a Laguna Pueblo from New Mexico and the first Native American cabinet secretary. It will cover burial sites, the schools’ impact on Indigenous communities and also try to account for federal funds spent on the troubled program.

Congress is considering a bill to create a boarding school “truth and healing commission,” similar to one established in Canada in 2008. It would have a broader scope than the Interior Department’s investigation into federally run boarding schools and subpoena power, if passed.

## Ukraine: Rockets strike mayor’s office in separatist Donetsk

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Pro-Kremlin officials on Sunday blamed Ukraine for a rocket attack that struck the mayor’s office in a key Ukrainian city controlled by the separatists. Separately, Ukrainian officials said Russian rockets struck a city across from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, injuring six people.

The attacks on both sides came as Russia has lost ground in the nearly seven weeks since Ukraine’s armed forces opened their southern counteroffensive. Last week, in retaliation, the Kremlin launched what is believed to be its largest coordinated air and missile raids on Ukraine’s key infrastructure since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24.

The municipal building in separatist-controlled Donetsk was seriously damaged by the rocket attack. Plumes of smoke swirled around the building, which had rows of blown-out windows and a partially collapsed ceiling. Cars nearby were burned out.

There were no immediate reports of casualties. Kyiv didn’t immediately claim responsibility or comment on the attack.

Kremlin-backed separatist authorities have previously accused Ukraine of numerous strikes on infrastructure and residential targets in the occupied regions, often employing the U.S.-supplied long-range HIMARS rockets, without providing corroborating information.

Separately, Ukrainian authorities on Sunday reported that at least six people were wounded as a result of rocket attacks across from Zaporizhzhia, Europe’s largest nuclear power plant, where Russia has stationed its troops.

Kyrylo Tymoshenko, deputy head of the Ukrainian president’s office, said that two residents of Nikopol had been hospitalized following the strikes, which also damaged five power lines, gas pipelines, and a raft

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of civilian businesses and residential buildings.

Russia and Ukraine have repeatedly accused each other of firing at and around the plant, which continues to be run by its pre-occupation Ukrainian staff. Ukrainian officials have also regularly reported on attacks on civilian communities across the Dnieper river from the plant, including in Nikopol and nearby Marhanets.

The presidential office and regional authorities also reported that Russian rockets destroyed two schools, a park and private houses in the southern region of Zaporizhzhia, which has seen sustained Russian shelling since Moscow illegally annexed it along with three other Ukrainian provinces last month.

The annexation announcement came despite the fact that some 20 percent of Zaporizhzhia remains under Ukrainian military control, with some analysts painting the recent large-scale strikes as part of the Kremlin's strategy to subdue the region.

The presidential office also said that Moscow continued to shell civilian settlements along the front line in the eastern Kharkiv and Luhansk regions, where Kyiv has been pressing a counteroffensive. It added that "active hostilities" continued in the southern Kherson region, another key focus of the ongoing Ukrainian advance, with repeated Russian strikes on a series of villages recently retaken by Kyiv.

Russian officials, meanwhile, said their air defenses in the southern Belgorod region bordering Ukraine shot down "a minimum" of 16 Ukrainian missiles, Ria Novosti reported. The regional governor, Vyacheslav Gladkov, also wrote on Telegram that three members of the same family were wounded as a result of shelling.

Russian authorities in border regions have repeatedly accused Kyiv of firing at their territory, and claimed that civilians were being wounded in the attacks. Ukraine has not claimed responsibility for or commented on the alleged attacks.

On Saturday two men from a former Soviet republic who were training at a Russian military firing range in Belgorod fired at volunteer soldiers during target practice, killing 11 and wounding 15 before being slain themselves. The Russian Defense Ministry, which reported the killings, called the incident a terrorist attack.

This week's wide-ranging retaliatory attacks by Russia, which included the use of self-destructing explosive drones from Iran, killed dozens of people.

On Sunday, the French government confirmed it is pledging air defense missiles to protect Ukrainian cities against drone strikes and stepped-up training for Ukrainian soldiers as it seeks to puncture perceptions that France has lagged in supporting Ukraine.

Up to 2,000 Ukrainian soldiers will be embedded with military units in France, rotating through for several weeks of combat training, more specialized training in logistics and other needs, and training on equipment being supplied by France, the French defense minister, Sébastien Lecornu, said in an interview published Sunday in Le Parisien.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday that Moscow didn't see a need for additional widespread strikes but that his military would continue selective ones. He said that of 29 targets the Russian military planned to knock out in this week's attacks, seven weren't damaged and would be taken out gradually.

The Institute for the Study of War, a think tank based in Washington, interpreted Putin's remarks as intended to counter criticism from pro-war Russian bloggers who "largely praised the resumption of strikes against Ukrainian cities, but warned that a short campaign would be ineffective."

The Institute, in an online update late Saturday, accused Moscow of conducting "massive, forced deportations of Ukrainians" which it said likely amount to ethnic cleansing.

The update referenced statements made this week by Russian authorities, which claimed that "several thousand" children from a southern region occupied by Moscow had been placed in rest homes and children's camps in Russia amid an ongoing Ukrainian counteroffensive. The original remarks by Russia's deputy prime minister, Marat Khusnullin, were reported by RIA Novosti agency on Friday.

Russian authorities have previously openly admitted to placing children from Russian-held areas of Ukraine, who they said were orphans, for adoption with Russian families, in a potential breach of a key international treaty on genocide prevention.

Elsewhere, the Ukrainian military on Sunday morning accused pro-Kremlin fighters of evicting civilians in



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occupied territories in order to accommodate officers in their homes, an act it also described as a violation of international humanitarian law.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine said in its regular Facebook update that the evictions were happening in the Russian-held city of Rubizhne, in the eastern Luhansk region where Kyiv has been pressing a counteroffensive. It did not provide corroborating evidence for its claim.

## China's Xi calls for military growth as party congress opens

By JOE McDONALD Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Sunday called for faster military development and announced no change in policies that have strained relations with Washington and tightened the ruling Communist Party's control over society and the economy.

China's most influential figure in decades spoke as the party opened a congress that was closely watched by companies, governments and the public for signs of official direction. It comes amid a painful slump in the world's second-largest economy and tension with Washington and Asian neighbors over trade, technology and security.

Party plans calls for creating a prosperous society by mid-century and restoring China to its historic role as a political, economic and cultural leader. Beijing has expanded its presence abroad including a multibillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative to build ports and other infrastructure across Asia and Africa, but economists warn reversing market-style reform could hamper growth.

"The next five years will be crucial," Xi said in a televised speech of one hour and 45 minutes to some 2,000 delegates in the cavernous Great Hall of the People. He repeatedly invoked his slogan of the "rejuvenation of the Chinese nation," which includes reviving the party's role as economic and social leader in a throwback to what Xi regards as a golden age after it took power in 1949.

The congress will install leaders for the next five years. Xi, 69, is expected to break with tradition and award himself a third five-year term as general secretary and promote allies who share his enthusiasm for party dominance.

The party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, needs to "safeguard China's dignity and core interests," Xi said, referring to a list of territorial claims and other issues over which Beijing says it is ready to go to war.

China, with the world's second-largest military budget after the United States, is trying to extend its reach by developing ballistic missiles, aircraft carriers and overseas outposts.

"We will work faster to modernize military theory, personnel and weapons," Xi said. "We will enhance the military's strategic capabilities."

Xi cited his government's severe "zero-COVID" strategy, which has shut down major cities and disrupted travel and business, as a success. He gave no indication of a possible change despite public frustration with its rising cost.

The congress will name a Standing Committee, the ruling inner circle of power. The lineup will indicate who is likely to succeed Premier Li Keqiang as the top economic official and take other posts when China's ceremonial legislature meets next year.

Analysts are watching whether a slump that saw economic growth fall to below half of the official 5.5% annual target might force Xi to compromise and include supporters of market-style reform and entrepreneurs who generate wealth and jobs.

Xi gave no indication when he might step down.

During his decade in power, Xi's government has pursued an increasingly assertive foreign policy while tightening control at home on information and dissent.

Beijing is feuding with Japan, India and Southeast Asian governments over conflicting claims to the South China and East China Seas and a section of the Himalayas. The United States, Japan, Australia and India have formed a strategic group dubbed the Quad in response.

The party has increased the dominance of state-owned industry and poured money into strategic initia-

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tives aimed at nurturing Chinese creators of renewable energy, electric car, computer chip, aerospace and other technologies.

Its tactics have prompted complaints that Beijing improperly protects and subsidizes its fledgling creators and led then-President Donald Trump to hike tariffs on Chinese imports in 2019, setting off a trade war that jolted the global economy. Trump's successor, Joe Biden, has kept those penalties in place and this month increased restrictions on Chinese access to U.S. chip technology.

The party has tightened control over private sector leaders including e-commerce giant Alibaba Group by launching anti-monopoly, data security and other crackdowns. Under political pressure, they are diverting billions of dollars into chip development and other party initiatives. Their share prices on foreign exchanges have plunged due to uncertainty about their future.

The party has stepped up censorship of media and the internet, increased public surveillance and tightened control over private life through its "social credit" initiative that tracks individuals and punishes infractions ranging from fraud to littering.

Last week, banners criticizing Xi and "zero COVID" were hung from an elevated roadway over a major Beijing thoroughfare in a rare protest. Photos of the event were deleted from social media, and the popular WeChat messaging app shut down accounts that forwarded them.

Xi said the party would build "self-reliance and strength" in technology by improving China's education system and attracting foreign experts.

The president appeared to double down on technology self-reliance and "zero COVID" at a time when other countries are easing travel restrictions and rely on more free-flowing supply chains, said Willy Lam, a politics specialist at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Xi was joined on stage by party leaders including his predecessor as party leader, Hu Jintao, former Premier Wen Jiabao and Song Ping, a 105-year-old party veteran who sponsored Xi's early career. There was no sign of 96-year-old former President Jiang Zemin, who was party leader until 2002.

The presence of previous leaders shows Xi faces no serious opposition, said Lam.

"Xi is making it very clear he intends to hold onto power for as long as his health allows him to," he said.

Xi made no mention of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which Beijing refuses to criticize. He defended a crackdown on a pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong, saying the party helped the former British colony "enter a new stage in which it has restored order and is set to thrive."

Xi's government also faces criticism over mass detentions and other abuses against mostly Muslim ethnic groups and the jailing of government critics.

Amnesty International warned that extending Xi's time in power will be a "disaster for human rights." In addition to conditions within China, it pointed to Beijing's efforts to "redefine the very meaning of human rights" at the United Nations.

Xi said Beijing refuses to renounce the possible use of force against Taiwan, the self-ruled island democracy the Communist Party claims as its territory. The two sides split in 1949 after a civil war.

Beijing has stepped up efforts to intimidate Taiwanese by flying fighter jets and bombers toward the island. That campaign intensified further after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in August became the highest-ranked U.S. official to visit Taiwan in a quarter-century.

"We will continue to strive for peaceful reunification," Xi said. "But we will never promise to renounce the use of force. And we reserve the option of taking all measures necessary."

Taiwan's government responded that its 23 million people had the right to determine their own future and would not accept Beijing's demands. A government statement called on China to "abandon the imposition of a political framework and the use of military force and coercion."

The Communist Party leadership agreed in the 1990s to limit the general secretary to two five-year terms in an effort to prevent a repeat of power struggles from earlier decades. That leader also becomes chairman of the commission that controls the military and holds the ceremonial title of national president.

Xi made his intentions clear in 2018 when he had a two-term limit on the presidency removed from China's Constitution. Officials said that allowed Xi to stay if needed to carry out reforms.

The party is expected to amend its charter this week to raise Xi's status as leader after adding his personal ideology, Xi Jinping Thought, at the previous congress in 2017.

The spokesperson for the congress, Sun Yeli, said Saturday the changes would "meet new requirements for advancing the party's development" but gave no details.

## Iranian officials say Tehran prison blaze killed 4 inmates

CAIRO (AP) — A towering blaze at a notorious prison housing political prisoners and anti-government activists in Iran's capital killed four inmates, the country's judiciary said Sunday.

Flames and smoke rising from Tehran's Evin Prison had been widely visible Saturday evening, as nationwide anti-government protests triggered by the death of a young woman in police custody entered a fifth week. In online videos, gunshots and explosions could be heard in the area of the prison.

The blaze was extinguished after several hours and no detainees escaped, state media said.

They said the fire broke out after a fight between prisoners, in an apparent attempt to distance the events there from the ongoing protests. Hundreds are being held at Evin, where human rights groups have reported repeated abuses of prisoners.

State media originally reported nine people were injured but the Judiciary website Mizan.news on Sunday said four inmates died of smoke inhalation and 61 others were injured. It said all four who died were in prison on robbery convictions.

Ten inmates were hospitalized, with four of them in serious condition, Mizan reported. It said some prisoners had tried to escape but failed.

State TV on Sunday aired video of the fire's aftermath, showing scorched walls and ceilings in a room it said was the upper floor of a sewing workshop at the prison.

"This fire was caused by a fight between some prisoners in a sewing workshop," said Tehran Gov. Mohsen Mansouri. "The workshop was set up to create jobs" for prisoners, he said.

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported Saturday that there were clashes between prisoners in one ward and prison personnel, citing a senior security official. The official said prisoners set fire to a warehouse full of prison uniforms, which caused the blaze. He said the "rioters" were separated from the other prisoners to de-escalate the conflict.

The official said the "situation is completely under control" and that firefighters were extinguishing the flames. Later, Tehran prosecutor Ali Salehi said that calm had returned to the prison and that the unrest was not related to the protests which have swept the country for four weeks.

IRNA later reported nine people had been injured, without elaborating. It published video showing burnt debris scattered around a building, with firefighters spraying down the blaze's embers.

Families of inmates gathered Sunday near the prison hoping for news of their loved ones inside.

Masoumeh, 49, who only gave her first name, said his 19-year-old son was taken to the prison two weeks ago after taking part in the street protests. "I cannot trust news about his health, I need to see him closely," she said.

Another man, Reza, who also gave only his first name, said his brother has been in Evin Prison since last year after he was involved in a violent quarrel. "He did not call us in recent days and following last night's fire I am here to learn what happened to him," he said.

The U.S.-based Center for Human Rights in Iran reported that an "armed conflict" broke out within the prison walls. It said shots were first heard in Ward 7 of the prison. This account could not immediately be corroborated.

Footage of the fire circulated online. Videos showed shots ringing out as plumes of smoke rose into the sky amid the sound of an alarm. A protest broke out on the street soon after, with many chanting "Death to the Dictator!" — a reference to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei — and burning tires, the videos showed.

The semiofficial Fars news agency, believed to be close to the elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard, said Sunday that some prisoners who tried to escape entered a minefield situated in the northern part of the

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prison. "It is said the sound of explosions was related to the case," the report said, offering no additional details. A later Fars report said no mines were ignited by prisoners.

Online video of the prison fire appeared to show rounds being launched into the area by security forces, followed by the sound of an explosion. It wasn't immediately clear what kind of rounds Iranian security forces used in the incident.

Witnesses said that police blocked roads and highways to Evin and that at least three strong explosions were heard coming from the area. Traffic was heavy along major freeways near the prison, which is in the north of the capital, and many people honked to show their solidarity with protests.

Riot police were seen riding on motorbikes toward the facility, as were ambulances and firetrucks. Witnesses reported that the internet was blocked in the area.

The prison fire occurred as protesters intensified anti-government demonstrations along main streets and at universities in some cities across Iran on Saturday. Human rights monitors reported hundreds dead, including children, as the movement concluded its fourth week.

The protests erupted after public outrage over the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in police custody. She was arrested by Iran's morality police in Tehran for violating the Islamic Republic's strict dress code. Iran's government insists Amini was not mistreated in police custody, but her family says her body showed bruises and other signs of beating after she was detained.

On Sunday, Iran's parliament published a statement claiming that Amini did not die from any physical blow but that she fell and police waited too long to get treatment for her. It urged police to offer an apology and provide more training to its staff. It suggested police wear cameras on their uniforms and install them in cars used to transfer detainees.

President Joe Biden, on a trip to Oregon, said the Iranian "government is so oppressive" and that he had an "enormous amount of respect for people marching in the streets."

Evin Prison, which holds detainees facing security-related charges and includes dual citizens, has been charged by rights groups with abusing inmates. The facility has long been known for holding political prisoners as well as those with ties to the West who have been used by Iran as bargaining chips in international negotiations.

## Teens tackle 21st-century challenges at robotics contest

By JAMEY KEATEN Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — For their first trip to a celebrated robotics contest for high school students from scores of countries, a team of Ukrainian teens had a problem.

With shipments of goods to Ukraine uncertain, and Ukrainian customs officers careful about incoming merchandise, the group only received a base kit of gadgetry on the day they were set to leave for the event in Geneva.

That set off a mad scramble to assemble their robot for the latest edition of the "First Global" contest, a three-day affair that opened Friday, in-person for the first time since the pandemic. Nearly all the 180-odd teams, from countries across the world, had had months to prepare their robots.

"We couldn't back down because we were really determined to compete here and to give our country a good result — because it really needs it right now," said Danylo Gladkyi, a member of Ukraine's team. He and his teammates are too young to be eligible for Ukraine's national call-up of all men over 18 to take part in the war effort.

Gladkyi said an international package delivery company wasn't delivering into Ukraine, and reliance on a smaller private company to ship the kit from Poland into Ukraine got tangled up with customs officials. That logjam got cleared last Sunday, forcing the team to dash to get their robot ready with adaptations they had planned — only days before the contest began.

The event, launched in 2017 with backing from American innovator Dean Kamen, encourages young people from all corners of the globe to put their technical smarts and mechanical knowhow to challenges that represent symbolic solutions to global problems.

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This year's theme is carbon capture, a nascent technology in which excess heat-trapping CO2 in the atmosphere is sucked out of the skies and sequestered, often underground, to help fight global warming.

Teams use game controllers like those attached to consoles in millions of households worldwide to direct their self-designed robots to zip around pits, or "fields," to scoop up hollow plastic balls with holes in them that symbolically represent carbon. Each round starts by emptying a clear rectangular box filled with the balls into the field, prompting a whirring, hissing scramble to pick them up.

The initial goal is to fill a tower topped by a funnel in the center of the field with as many balls as possible. Teams can do that in one of two ways: either by directing the robots to feed the balls into corner pockets, where team members can pluck them out and toss them by hand into the funnel or by having the robots catapult the balls up into the funnels themselves.

Every team has an interest in filling the funnel: the more collected, the more everyone benefits.

But in the final 30 seconds of each session, after the frenetic quest to collect the balls, a second, cut-throat challenge awaits: Along the stem of each tower are short branches, or bars, at varying levels that the teams — choosing the mechanism of their choice such as hooks, winches or extendable arms — try to direct their robots to ascend.

The higher the level reached, the greater the "multiplier" of the total point value of the balls they will receive. Success is getting as high as possible, and with six teams on the field, it's a dash for the highest perch.

By meshing competition with common interest, the "First Global" initiative aims to offer a tonic to a troubled world, where kids look past politics to help solve problems that face everybody.

The opening-day ceremony had an Olympic vibe, with teams parading in behind their national flags, and short bars of national anthems playing, but the young people made it clear this was about a new kind of global high school sport, in an industrial domain that promises to leave a large footprint in the 21st century.

The competition takes many minds off troubles in the world, from Russia's invasion of Ukraine to the fallout from Syria's lingering war, to famine in the Horn of Africa, and recent upheaval in Iran.

While most of the world's countries were taking part, some were not: Russia, in particular, has been left out.

Past winners of such robotics competitions include "Team Hope" — refugees and stateless others — and a team of Afghan girls.

## Cronenworth, Padres rally to stun Dodgers 5-3 to reach NLCS

By BERNIE WILSON AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Baseball fans in San Diego have been waiting a long time to party like this and the Padres were more than happy to finally oblige.

What made it so much sweeter was that they toppled the mighty Los Angeles Dodgers, the best team in the majors this year and one that had beaten up on the Padres regularly for the better part of two seasons.

Jake Cronenworth hit a tiebreaking, two-run single with two outs in the seventh inning and San Diego rallied past the Dodgers 5-3 Saturday night to advance to the NL Championship Series for the first time since 1998.

Petco Park shook and the sellout crowd of 45,139 roared when Josh Hader struck out Mookie Betts, Trea Turner and Freddie Freeman in succession to end the Padres' third straight win against the Dodgers.

Hader and third baseman Manny Machado jumped into each other's arms and the rest of the team joined them in a wild celebration on the infield grass as fireworks went off above the downtown ballpark. Machado and Juan Soto exhorted the fans for more as they all reveled in the middle of a rare San Diego rainstorm.

"Our fans have been waiting for so long and I used to be that fan that was waiting," said Joe Musgrove, the hometown kid who started the clincher. "It feels good to be on this side of the ball, I'll tell you that, but these fans deserve to celebrate tonight.

"I know the job's not done, we've got a lot of baseball ahead of us still, but this is something that needs to be celebrated," Musgrove said. "Those guys handed it to us all year long and when it came down to it

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and we needed to win ballgames we found ways to do it.”

Before a sign-carrying crowd chanting “Beat LA! Beat LA!” the Padres stunned the 111-win Dodgers with a five-run seventh to win their best-of-five NL Division Series 3-1.

“It’s about to be a party out here tonight,” said Musgrove, who grew up a Padres fan in the San Diego suburbs.

“I mean, since I was a little kid we’ve been getting beat up by the Dodgers. But when it comes down to it and the games matter, this team stepped up, from top to bottom.”

The Padres had lost nine straight series to the Dodgers before winning the one that mattered the most.

San Diego will host the Philadelphia Phillies in Games 1 and 2 of an all-wild card NLCS on Tuesday and Wednesday. The Phillies beat the defending World Series champion Atlanta Braves 8-3 earlier in the day to win their NLDS in four games.

“This is what the city’s been waiting for for a long time,” said Machado, the Padres’ \$300 million third baseman and unquestioned leader.

The Padres last reached the NLCS 24 years ago when they beat Atlanta in six games and were then swept by the New York Yankees in the World Series. A handful of players from that team watched from a luxury suite, including Hall of Fame closer Trevor Hoffman and center fielder Steve Finley.

It was a soul-crushing ending for the Dodgers after the best regular-season record in club history and manager Dave Roberts’ prediction during spring training that they’d win the World Series.

“Shock factor, very high. Disappointment, very high. It’s crushing,” Roberts said. “Each guy gave everything they had all year long, and a tremendous season. The great thing about baseball is the unpredictability, and the tough thing about it is the same thing.

“Nothing I can say is going to make it feel any better. Obviously we didn’t expect to be in this position,” he added.

The game was delayed 31 minutes at the start by showers, which returned in the eighth inning and prompted a short delay while the grounds crew worked on the mound.

After left-hander Tyler Anderson stymied the Padres through five scoreless innings, San Diego broke through against the Dodgers’ bullpen in the seventh.

Jurickson Profar drew a leadoff walk against Tommy Kahnle, took third on Trent Grisham’s single and scored when Austin Nola’s infield single glanced off Freeman’s glove at first base. Yency Almonte, who took the loss, came on and was greeted by Kim Ha-seong’s RBI double inside the third base line, followed by Soto’s tying single to right.

With two outs and the crowd on its feet, Cronenworth singled to center off local product Alex Vesia to give the Padres the lead, raising his arms in celebration as he rounded first and then punching the air with his right fist as he pulled into second base on the throw home. Soto, acquired from Washington in a blockbuster trade Aug. 2, slid home headfirst and jumped up and cheered.

“We talked about it all day — we’re winning tonight no matter what the situation is,” Cronenworth said.

“It took a team effort to beat a really good team and we did that,” Machado said.

After the first rain delay, fans were amped up in anticipation of Musgrove pitching his hometown Padres into the NL Championship Series. The big right-hander from suburban El Cajon, a first-time All-Star in 2022, was the first Padres pitcher from San Diego to make a postseason start in his hometown.

But Anderson outpitched Musgrove, holding the Padres to two hits through five innings.

The Dodgers took a 2-0 lead in the third. Betts walked with one out and Turner scorched a grounder past third baseman Machado, who has carried the Padres much of the season, to move Betts to third. Freeman, who helped the Braves win the World Series last year before signing with the Dodgers as a free agent, doubled down the right field line to bring them both in.

Will Smith hit a sacrifice fly against Steven Wilson with the bases loaded in the seventh for a 3-0 lead, but winning pitcher Tim Hill prevented further damage.

The Dodgers will be left with an empty feeling. They won the NL West for the ninth time in 10 seasons and finished 22 games ahead of San Diego. The Dodgers went 14-5 against the Padres in the regular season.

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Musgrove was trying for his second straight playoff series-clinching win. On Sunday night, he dominated the New York Mets at Citi Field, allowing just one hit and one walk in seven innings in a 6-0 win that sent the Padres to the NLDS.

He gave up two runs and six hits in six innings against the Dodgers, struck out eight and walked three.  
FIRST PITCH

Jake Peavy, the 2007 NL Cy Young Award winner who was Musgrove's boyhood idol, threw out the ceremonial first pitch to former teammate Mark Loretta. Musgrove switched to Peavy's No. 44 after he was obtained by the Padres prior to the 2021 season.

UP NEXT

Dodgers: Play their spring training opener Feb. 25 against Milwaukee.

Padres: RHP Yu Darvish likely will get the start Tuesday in Game 1 of the NLCS.

## Mozambique jihadi violence spreads despite military effort

By TOM GOULD Associated Press

NANJUA, Mozambique (AP) — Fleeing beheadings, shootings, rapes and kidnappings, nearly 1 million people are displaced by the Islamic extremist insurgency in northern Mozambique.

The 5-year wave of jihadi violence in Cabo Delgado province has killed more than 4,000 people and scuppered international investments worth billions of dollars.

In a sprawl of dilapidated tents and thatched huts around Nanjua, a small town in the southern part of Cabo Delgado province, several hundred families are seeking safety from the violence. They say their conditions are bleak and food assistance is meager but they're afraid to return home because of continuing violence by the rebels who are now going by the name Islamic State Mozambique Province.

More than 1,000 miles south, however, government officials in the capital Maputo are saying the insurgency is under control and are encouraging the displaced to return to their homes and energy companies to resume their projects.

"The terrorists are on the run permanently," Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi assured investors at the Mozambique Energy and Gas Summit in Maputo in September. He urged the gathering of international energy executives to resume work on their stalled liquefied natural gas projects.

Mozambique's army and police forces, backed up by troops from Rwanda and support from a regional force from the Southern African Development Community, have succeeded in containing the extremist rebellion, officials say.

"These places have now normalized and civilians are coming back," Rwandan Brig. Gen. Ronald Rwivanga, told the Rwandan newspaper The New Times this month, saying normal life is returning to the Palma district.

Energy companies say they want to see displaced people return to the area. The \$60 billion liquefied natural gas projects led by the France-based TotalEnergies and ExxonMobil were suspended last year after insurgents briefly captured the adjacent town of Palma in March.

Speaking at the summit in Maputo, Stéphane Le Galles, the head of TotalEnergies' Mozambique gas project, said "the direction is very good" but the company still wants to see "a sustainable economic situation, not just in Palma but ... all over Cabo Delgado."

Despite the heavy presence of Mozambican and Rwandan soldiers, the extremists' attacks continue. Earlier this month the rebels spread their violence for the first time to neighboring Nampula province, where a Catholic mission was among the targets and an elderly Italian nun was among those killed.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees said it "considers security conditions to be too volatile in Cabo Delgado to facilitate or promote returns to the province," in a statement released earlier this month.

"People who have lost everything are returning to areas where services and humanitarian assistance are largely unavailable," said the UNHCR.

Those who return are met with a mixed situation. Economic life is beginning to return but basic infrastructure and public services are still lacking. Few schools are open and health services are sparse.

In the provincial capital, Pemba, where more than 100,000 displaced people have sought refuge, an

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elderly woman sat outside a hut where her family of 15 took up residence two years ago after fleeing an insurgent attack. They subsist on a meager diet of corn flour and plain rice. Unable to find work, they have no money for clothes or other essentials, she said.

"Definitely, we want to go back. This is not a home," said the grandmother, who spoke on condition of anonymity for her safety.

With their villages further north now destroyed, she says resuming normal life will be even more difficult.

Weighing up the risks and costs of returning, many have decided to stay put, despite the deprivations they face in the displacement camps.

"Over there, there is war and hunger," said another displaced person in the Nanjua camp. "We would not be going to a better place."

A mother cradling a small child while sitting on a grass mat said the threat of extremist violence remains a concern. She said many remain haunted by their experiences at the hands of the insurgents: "It's difficult to sleep in a place where you have seen a snake."

## Iran's celebrities face reprisals for supporting protests

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Singers, actors, sports stars — the list goes on. Iranian celebrities have been startlingly public in their support for the massive anti-government protests shaking their country. And the ruling establishment is lashing back.

Celebrities have found themselves targeted for arrest, have had passports confiscated and faced other harassment.

Among the most notable cases is that of singer Shervin Hajipour, whose song "For ..." has become an anthem for the protest movement, which erupted Sept. 17 over the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in police custody after she was arrested for not abiding by the Islamic Republic's strict dress code.

The song begins with a soft melody, then Hajipour's resonant voice starts, "For dancing in the streets," "for the fear we feel when we kiss ..." — listing reasons young Iranians have posted on Twitter for why they are taking to the streets against the ruling theocracy.

It ends with the widely chanted slogan that has become synonymous with the protests: "For women, life, freedom."

Released on his Instagram page, the song quickly went viral. Hajipour paid the price: The 25-year-old was arrested and held for several days before being released on bail on Oct. 4.

Since the protests took off — and expanded from anger at Amini's death to a complete challenge to the 43-year-old rule by conservative Islamic clerics — a string of celebrities have faced reprisals, from singers and soccer players to news anchors.

At least seven public figures have been detained inside the country, most of whom were released on bail and could face charges, according to Iranian news outlets. Others were questioned and released.

But their popularity has also made it difficult to crack down too hard on them — in contrast to protest activists whom security forces have arrested in large numbers. Iran has a vibrant scene of singers and actors, as well as sports stars, who are closely followed by the public.

Holly Dagues, an Iranian-American non-resident fellow at the Atlantic Council, said the attempts to intimidate public figures were no surprise.

"Celebrities — be it athletes, actors, singers or artists — have a large following inside Iran, particularly on social media, and their support gives life to these protests," she said.

Their support has helped invigorate protesters struggling with widespread internet outages that limit their ability to have their voices heard and facing a brutal government crackdown. There have been widespread arrests, dozens have died and many more wounded. Still, protests have spread to dozens of cities, drawing broad segments of Iranian society, from schoolgirls to oil workers.

One of Iran's most beloved singers of classical Persian music, Homayoun Shajarian, projected a large photo of Amini behind him on stage as he sang a traditional song, "Dawn Bird," during a tour in Australia



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in September.

The audience joined him in singing one of the song's most iconic lines: "The tyrant's oppression like a hunter has blown away my nest. God, Sky, Nature, bring dawn to our dark night."

When Shajarian returned to Iran, his passport and that of actress Sahar Dolatshahi, who was traveling with him, were seized at the airport. He later said on his Instagram account that they had been barred from travel.

Similarly, a soccer legend in Iran, Ali Daei, had his passport confiscated at the airport when he returned from abroad. He had urged the government on social media to "solve the problems of the Iranian people rather than using repression, violence and arrests."

A few days later, the passport was returned to him, he told the press.

Two well known former soccer players, Hossein Mahini and Hamidreza Aliasgari, were arrested and released on bail. Mona Borzoui, a female songwriter and Mahmoud Shahriari, a former state TV showman, have also been arrested and face charges.

Iranian leaders blame foreign governments for fanning the protests. Iranian Deputy Interior Minister Majid Mirahmadi said celebrities in particular have had a "steering role" in the unrest.

Mirahmadi said celebrities who have backed the protests will be allowed to atone for their "mistaken actions."

He denied any athletes had been arrested but said some had received "guidance." He said Mahini, for example, had been released and given "the chance to make good on his mistakes," according to the Mehr News Agency.

Public figures have not been deterred.

Amirhossein Efsandiar, a national volleyball player, reposted a video of violent confrontations between security forces and protesters, writing, "You have no sense of humanity, why do you beat and kill innocent people?"

Qasim Haddadifar, a veteran sportsman and former soccer captain, published photos of girls protesting and wrote he was proud of them in an Instagram story.

Some players on the soccer team Persepolis F.C. reportedly wore black armbands during a Wednesday match in solidarity with the protest movement and were later summoned by security, reported British-based Iran International.

Actress Hediye Tehrani said Iranian security had warned her about her posts to her nearly 1 million Instagram followers. Still, she continues to share images in support of the protests. "Millions of girls are now Mahsa Amini," she wrote in a recent post.

Celebrities outside of Iran have also raised their voices, from Dua Lipa and Shakira to the fashion house Balenciaga. On Instagram, Angelina Jolie posted a photo of a protester holding up an image of Amini and wrote, "To the women of Iran, we see you."

The ruling establishment clearly sees danger in celebrities' wide reach. Ali Saaedi Shahroudi, a former representative of the Supreme Leader of Revolutionary Guards, called for an organization to oversee the behavior of musicians, actors and sports stars, similar to institutions regulating professional groups.

But the damage may have already been done.

Although Hajipour was forced to remove his song from Instagram, it continues to reverberate, sung by everyone from Iranian school girls to protesters in European capitals.

A campaign is under way to nominate the song for a Grammy, in the best song for social change category.

"While using #MahsaAmini might seem like keyboard activism, Iranians see the world's attention is on them and they appreciate it," said Dages. "The solidarity invigorates protesters to keep braving batons and bullets to make a change in their country. It gives them hope."

## Peña's 18th-inning HR sends Astros past Mariners for sweep

By TIM BOOTH AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — Jeremy Peña and the Houston Astros just kept going. Scoreless inning after scoreless

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inning, as day turned into night in front of a frenzied crowd in Seattle.

They eventually found a way. That's how the Astros reached the AL Championship Series for the sixth straight year.

It's just what they do.

Peña homered in the 18th inning, and the Astros beat the Mariners 1-0 on Saturday for a three-game sweep of their AL Division Series.

"These guys, they know not to panic," Houston manager Dusty Baker said. "They don't get too excited. They don't get too down. It means a lot."

Peña drove a slider from Penn Murfee deep to left-center for the rookie's first playoff homer, providing the only run in an afternoon full of dominant pitching and empty trips to the plate.

The 18 innings matched the longest game in playoff history and the 6 hours, 22 minutes was the third-longest in time.

Exhausting for everyone? Absolutely. But exhilarating for the Astros.

"Man, that was a long game. But you still got to lock in, try to put together good at-bats," Peña said. "I was just trying to stay inside the baseball, drove it in the gap."

Spoiling Seattle's first home playoff appearance since 2001, Houston continued its ALCS streak that began with its 2017 World Series title. Next up is the New York Yankees or Cleveland Guardians in Game 1 of the ALCS on Wednesday.

While Yordan Alvarez got the big hits in the first two games in Houston, it was Peña that set the table for Alvarez's opportunities. As Game 3 made its way into its sixth hour, Peña delivered another painful blow to the Mariners that ended their short return to the postseason.

"We all know that we belong here now and we all know what it takes to get here and get beyond this point," Seattle shortstop J.P. Crawford said.

After 21 years, Seattle fans welcomed playoff baseball back inside T-Mobile Park. They got their money's worth, and then some.

Three previous playoff games reached the 18th inning, one involving Houston. The Astros beat the Atlanta Braves 7-6 in 18 innings in Game 4 of the 2005 NLDS on Chris Burke's game-ending homer.

Game 2 of the 2014 NLDS between San Francisco and Washington and Game 3 of the 2018 World Series between Los Angeles and Boston also went 18 innings.

But those games had runs. This one failed to produce anything until Peña's swing on a 3-2 pitch.

"I feel like in the playoffs you can't try and do too much, especially the later the game goes," Peña said.

Seattle's best scoring chance was Julio Rodríguez's line drive that thudded off the wall in the eighth. The Mariners had runners in scoring position in the 13th and 17th, but couldn't get a key two-out hit against Houston's superb bullpen.

Unlike baseball's regular season, there is no automatic runner when playoff games go to extra innings.

"They pitched great. They played a great series. They beat us," Seattle manager Scott Servais said. "In my mind, and I think our players' mind, is a break here or there goes our way in this series, it could have been a lot different. But end of the day, they got the big hits in each of the games and they end up winning them."

Luis Garcia worked five innings for the win. The Astros bullpen allowed five hits and struck out 15 following six innings from starter Lance McCullers Jr.

"Watching the whole thing the guys are doing a really good job and I'm really proud of them. ... I was just trying to help," Garcia said.

Seattle's bullpen was nearly just as good. After rookie George Kirby threw seven innings, nine Mariners relievers combined for 11 innings of five-hit ball.

The teams combined to strike out 42 times, topping the postseason record of 39 set by the Guardians and Rays last week in their AL wild-card matchup that was scoreless for 15 innings before Oscar Gonzalez's home run sent Cleveland to the ALDS.

"Their pitching was phenomenal today as well. We kept putting the zero up there and kept putting the

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zero up there and you think we're going to be able to break through because we have so many times," Servais said. "It's kind of what we're accustomed to playing — those tight games and finding a way but there were no errors made in that game today."

Houston advanced despite a rough performance for Jose Altuve, who went 0 for 8 in Game 3 for the first time in his career and was hitless in 16 at-bats in the series.

Altuve joined Xander Bogaerts in Game 3 of 2018 World Series versus the Dodgers as only players to go 0 for 8 or worse in a postseason game. But Houston's other pieces came through, none bigger than its young shortstop who took on a prominent role after Carlos Correa departed in free agency.

Peña's homer was his only hit in eight at-bats. But it was his contributions in the first two games that helped Houston travel to Seattle with a 2-0 lead in the series.

"In a team like this, with the pitching we have, with the defense we have, we never give up," Altuve said. "We went out and played every single inning like it was the last inning. Putting everything we have, until Jeremy came and hit the big homer."

## KING RETURNS

Felix Hernandez threw out a ceremonial first pitch to a deafening ovation. Hernandez spent 15 seasons with the Mariners but never had the opportunity of pitching in the postseason. He won 169 games and had a career 3.42 ERA, last pitching for Seattle in 2019.

## HE SAID IT

"We're not going to forget this and coming into next year it will fuel us even more," Seattle outfielder Jarred Kelenic said.

## SMOKEY AIR

Seattle's return to the postseason was played with a smoky haze and terrible air quality engulfing the Puget Sound region. A shift in winds and wildfire still smoldering in the Cascade Mountains created a dingy haze above T-Mobile Park. The air quality index in Seattle at first pitch registered at 161.

## Blaze, shots heard from prison in Iran capital amid protests

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — A huge fire blazed Saturday at a notorious prison where political prisoners and anti-government activists are kept in the Iranian capital, injuring at least nine people, according to state media. Online videos and local media reported gunshots, as nationwide protests entered a fifth week.

Iran's state-run IRNA reported there were clashes between prisoners in one ward and prison personnel, citing a senior security official. The official said prisoners set fire to a warehouse full of prison uniforms, which caused the blaze. He said the "rioters" were separated from the other prisoners to de-escalate the conflict.

The official said that the "situation is completely under control" and that firefighters were extinguishing the flames. Later, Tehran prosecutor Ali Salehi said that "peace" had returned to the prison and that the unrest was not related to the protests which have swept the country for four weeks.

IRNA later reported nine people had been injured, without elaborating. It published video showing burnt debris scattered around a building, with firefighters spraying down the blaze's embers.

Footage of the fire circulated online. Videos showed shots ringing out as plumes of smoke rose into the sky amid the sound of an alarm. A protest broke out on the street soon after, with many chanting "Death to the Dictator!" — a reference to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei — and burning tires, circulating videos showed.

Witnesses said that police blocked roads and highways to Evin prison and that at least three strong explosions were heard coming from the area. Traffic was heavy along major motorways near the prison, which is in the north of the capital, and many people honked to show their solidarity with protests.

Riot police were seen riding on motorbikes toward the facility, as were ambulances and firetrucks. Witnesses reported that the internet was blocked in the area.

The U.S.-based Center for Human Rights in Iran reported that an "armed conflict" broke out within the

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prison walls. It said shots were first heard in Ward 7 of the prison. This account could not immediately be corroborated.

The prison fire occurred as protesters intensified anti-government demonstrations along main streets and at universities in some cities across Iran on Saturday. Human rights monitors reported hundreds dead, including children, as the movement concluded its fourth week.

Demonstrators also chanted "Down with the Dictator" on the streets of Ardabil in the country's northwest. Outside of universities in Kermanshah, Rasht and Tehran, students rallied, according to videos on social media. In the city of Sanandaj, a hotspot for demonstrations in the northern Kurdish region, school girls chanted, "Woman, life, freedom," down a central street.

The protests erupted after public outrage over the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in police custody. She was arrested by Iran's morality police in Tehran for violating the Islamic Republic's strict dress code. Iran's government insists Amini was not mistreated in police custody, but her family says her body showed bruises and other signs of beating after she was detained.

At least 233 protesters have been killed since demonstrations swept Iran on Sept. 17, according to U.S.-based rights monitor HRANA. The group said 32 among the dead were below the age of 18. Earlier, Oslo-based Iran Human Rights estimated 201 people have been killed. Iranian authorities have provided no death toll for weeks.

Iranian authorities have alleged without providing evidence that the unrest is a Western plot, trying to downplay the demonstrations.

Public anger in Iran has coalesced around Amini's death, prompting girls and women to remove their mandatory headscarves on the street in a show of solidarity. Other segments of society, including oil workers, have also joined the movement, becoming one of the greatest challenges to Iran's theocracy since the country's 2009 Green Movement.

Riots have also broken out in prisons, with clashes reported between inmates and guards in Lakan prison in the northern province of Gilan recently.

Evin Prison, which holds detainees facing security-related charges and include dual citizens, has been charged by rights groups with abusing inmates. The facility has long been known for holding political prisoners as well as those with ties to the West who have been used by Iran as bargaining chips in international negotiations.

Siamak Namazi, an Iranian-American who had been furloughed from prison while serving a 10-year sentence on internationally criticized spying charges, was recently sent back into Evin. His 85-year-old father, Baquer Namazi, was freed and allowed to leave the country.

A lawyer for Namazi, Jared Genser, wrote on Twitter early Sunday that Siamak Namazi "is safe and has been moved to a secure area of Evin Prison." He did not elaborate.

In 2018, the prison was slapped with U.S. sanctions. "Prisoners held at Evin Prison are subject to brutal tactics inflicted by prison authorities, including sexual assaults, physical assaults and electric shock," the U.S. Treasury Department wrote in a statement after announcing the sanctions in 2018.

The U.S. State Department was following the reports "with urgency" and was in contact with the Swiss as the protecting power for the U.S., spokesman Ned Price said in a tweet Saturday. "Iran is fully responsible for the safety of our wrongfully detained citizens, who should be released immediately," he said.

President Joe Biden, on a trip to Oregon, said the Iranian "government is so oppressive" and that he had an "enormous amount of respect for people marching in the streets."

Commercial strikes resumed Saturday in key cities across the Kurdish region, including Saqqez, Amini's hometown and the birthplace of the protests, Bukan and Sanandaj.

The government has responded with a brutal crackdown, arresting activists and protest organizers, reprimanding Iranian celebrities for voicing support, even confiscating their passports, and using live ammunition, tear gas and sound bombs to disperse crowds, leading to deaths.

In a video widely distributed Saturday, plainclothes Basij, a paramilitary volunteer group, are seen forcing a woman into a car and firing bullets into the air amid a protest in Gohardasht, in northern Iran.

Widespread internet outages have also made it difficult for protesters to communicate with the outside

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world, while Iranian authorities have detained at least 40 journalists since the unrest began, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

## No. 6 Tennessee beats No. 3 Alabama 52-49 on late FG

By AL LESAR Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — After 15 years of being a rival to Alabama in name only, Tennessee snapped a humbling losing streak, stamped itself a championship contender and celebrated in spectacular fashion.

Chase McGrath made a 40-yard field goal as time expired to give No. 6 Tennessee a 52-49 victory over No. 3 Alabama on Saturday.

As soon as the kick knuckle-balled through the uprights, some of the more than 100,000 fans stormed the field to join the party as the Volunteers (6-0, 3-0 Southeastern Conference) ended a 15-game drought to the Crimson Tide (6-1, 3-1).

Fireworks went off over Neyland Stadium and it glowed orange as the song "Dixieland Delight" by the band Alabama — a Crimson Tide favorite — blared over the stadium speakers.

And it didn't take long for the goal posts to go down.

"This is college football at its absolute best," Vols coach Josh Heupel said. "We were the best team on the field tonight. That's all we can control."

"We didn't answer the bell today," Alabama coach Nick Saban said. "We did too many things to help (Tennessee)."

Hendon Hooker drove the Vols 45 yards in 13 seconds to set up the winner. An 18-yard pass to Ramel Keyton and 27-yard hookup with Bru McCoy set the stage for the winner.

"It wasn't my cleanest hit," said McGrath, who missed a PAT earlier. "I didn't have the best contact on the ball."

Jalin Hyatt caught six passes for 207 yards, setting a Tennessee record with five touchdowns and earning a postgame cigar — a long-held tradition in the third Saturday of October rivalry — with former Vols great Peyton Manning.

Bryce Young, a game-time decision because of a sprained right shoulder two weeks ago, completed 35 passes for 455 yards and two TDs for the Tide.

"It was great to be out there with my teammates," the Heisman Trophy winner said. "Shoulder is fine."

Hyatt's fifth TD catch tied it at 49 with 3:26 left in the fourth.

"(This game) just happened," Hyatt said. "It's not just me. It was just the looks we got."

Young drove the Tide into the Tennessee territory in the final minute, but Alabama stalled at the 33 with three straight incomplete passes. Will Reichard's 50-yard field goal attempt for the lead was wide way right.

With only 15 seconds left, overtime seemed likely, but Hooker wasn't done and did the Heisman winner one better.

Hooker finished 21 for 30 for 385 yards and five TDs.

"He played at an unbelievable level," Heupel said. "He's the key to our ignition."

Tennessee had not beaten a Top 10 teams since 2006 against Georgia. That was also the last year the Vols beat Alabama.

A season later, Saban became Alabama's coach. While the Tide has become college football's greatest dynasty with six national titles, Tennessee has burned through coaches and been mired in mediocrity.

In his second season in Knoxville, Heupel has pulled the Vols from the muck.

Tennessee looks like a legitimate national title contender behind a transfer quarterback from Virginia Tech who should now be right near the top of those Heisman leaderboards.

"We approach every game the same," Hooker said. "Play 100% for our brothers."

A week after Alabama held Texas A&M out of the end zone on the last play of the game to dodge an upset, the Tide went down. The Vols scored the most points against an Alabama team since Sewanee put 54 on the Tide in 1907.

The Tide also had 17 penalties for 130 yards, the most during the Saban era, according to ESPN.

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Tennessee's up-tempo offense jumped out to a 21-7 first-quarter lead and led 28-20 at halftime. All four touchdown drives took over two minutes.

Young threw for 205 yards and a touchdown in the first half, while Hooker had 166 yards and two scores. Young wasn't sacked, but was knocked down five times in the half.

Alabama fumbled Tennessee's only punt. The Vols recovered and scored four plays later.

## THE TAKEAWAY

Alabama: The Tide will lament the final time it had the ball and not being able to just get a few more yards for Reichard, who missed three field goals last week against A&M.

Jahmyr Gibbs dropped a short pass over the middle with room to run on second down and then the Tide threw again incomplete on third. A running play or two could have also forced Tennessee to burn a timeout, which ended up coming in handy when the Vols got the ball back.

Tennessee: Four of Tennessee's six victories have come against teams that were ranked at the time of the game — though none of Pitt, LSU and Florida were ranked coming into this weekend. Still, the Vols resume is as good as any in the country.

## NOT AVAILABLE

Two key Tennessee players weren't available. WR Cedric Tillman, who sustained a high ankle sprain against Akron, didn't play despite having surgery to speed up the recovery process three weeks ago. This was his third missed game ... S Jaylen McCollough, a four-year starter, was arrested for aggravated assault last weekend. He had played in all 41 games since his freshman year with 32 starts.

## BY THE NUMBERS

Hooker has thrown a touchdown pass in 18 consecutive games, tying Heath Shuler's school record (1992-94). His third-quarter interception was his first in 260 passes.

## OLD SCHOOL

Tennessee had the ball on the Alabama 2. Breaking from the norm, Hooker went under center rather than the shotgun as the Vols were lined up in the I-formation. Fullback Princeton Fant, a tight end who was recruited as a running back, had his first carry since 2018 and scored.

## UP NEXT

Alabama: Hosts Mississippi State next Saturday.

Tennessee: Hosts Tennessee-Martin next Saturday.

## US, Canada send armored vehicles to bolster Haiti's police

By DÁNICA COTO Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — The U.S. and Canada sent armored vehicles and other supplies to Haiti on Saturday to help police fight a powerful gang amid a pending request from the Haitian government for the immediate deployment of foreign troops.

A U.S. State Department statement said the equipment was bought by Haiti's government, but it did not provide further details on the supplies flown on military aircraft to the capital of Port-au-Prince.

A spokesman for the U.S. military's Southern Command said he could not provide further details on the supplies sent, though he added it was a joint operation involving the U.S. Air Force and Royal Canadian Air Force.

"This equipment will assist (Haiti's National Police) in their fight against criminal actors who are fomenting violence and disrupting the flow of critically-needed humanitarian assistance, hindering efforts to halt the spread of cholera," the State Department said.

The Pan American Health Organization said there are more than 560 suspected cases of cholera, some 300 hospitalizations and at least 35 deaths, with experts warning the numbers are likely much higher than what it's being reported.

The equipment arrived more than a month after one of Haiti's most powerful gangs surrounded a fuel terminal and demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry. Demonstrators also have blocked roads in major cities to protest a sharp rise in fuel prices after Henry announced in early September that

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his administration could no longer afford to subsidize fuel.

Since then, gas stations have closed, hospitals have cut back on services and banks and grocery stores open on a limited basis as fuel, water and other supplies dwindle across Haiti.

The owners of the fuel terminal announced Saturday that armed men had attacked their installations for a second time and fled with more than 28,000 gallons of petroleum products after overpowering surveillance and emergency personnel at the facility.

It was the second time this week that armed men broke into the terminal, which stores more than 10 million gallons of gasoline and diesel and more than 800,000 gallons of kerosene.

## Stockton, Calif., police arrest suspect in serial killings

STOCKTON, Calif. (AP) — A man suspected of killing six men and wounding a woman in a series of shootings in Northern California was arrested before dawn Saturday as he drove through the streets of Stockton, armed with a handgun and possibly searching for another victim, police said.

Investigators began watching the suspect after receiving tips and stopped him in a car at about 2 a.m. in the Central Valley city, where five of the shootings took place, Police Chief Stanley McFadden said at a news conference.

Wesley Brownlee, 43, of Stockton, was dressed in black, had a mask around his neck, had a gun and "was out hunting," McFadden alleged.

"We are sure we stopped another killing," he added.

It wasn't immediately clear whether Brownlee had an attorney to speak on his behalf. He was expected to be arraigned Tuesday on murder charges.

A police photo showed the black-and-gray weapon allegedly carried by the suspect. It appeared to be a semi-automatic handgun containing some nonmetallic materials.

Police had been searching for a man clad in black who was caught on video at several of the crime scenes in Stockton, where five men were ambushed and shot to death between July 8 and Sept. 27. Four were walking, and one was in a parked car.

Police believe the same person was responsible for killing a man 70 miles away in Oakland in April 2021 and wounding a homeless woman in Stockton a week later.

Investigators have said ballistics tests and video evidence linked the crimes.

At the news conference, a moment of silence was held for the victims.

Juan Vasquez Serrano, 39, was killed in Oakland on April 10, 2021, and Natasha LaTour, 46, was shot in Stockton on April 16 of that year but survived. The five men killed in Stockton this year were Paul Yaw, 35, who died July 8; Salvador Debudey Jr., 43, who died Aug. 11; Jonathan Hernandez Rodriguez, 21, who died Aug. 30; Juan Cruz, 52, who died Sept. 21; and Lawrence Lopez Sr., 54, who died Sept. 27.

Police said Brownlee has a criminal history and is believed to have also lived in several cities near Stockton, but they did not give further details.

Authorities said they received hundreds of tips after announcing the manhunt, and investigators located and watched the place where Brownlee was living.

"Based on tips coming into the department and Stockton Crime Stoppers, we were able to zero in on a possible suspect," McFadden said. "Our surveillance team followed this person while he was driving. We watched his patterns and determined early this morning, he was on a mission to kill."

McFadden added that Brownlee was detained after engaging in what appeared to be threatening behavior, including going to parks and dark places, stopping and looking around before driving on.

Investigators were trying to identify a motive for the attacks. Police said some victims were homeless, but not all. None were beaten or robbed, and the woman who survived said her attacker didn't say anything.

The police chief thanked various local, state and federal agencies that took part in the investigation, including the FBI, U.S. Marshals and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Local investigators had also worked with police in Chicago to determine whether the killings might be linked to two 2018 murders in that city's Rogers Park neighborhood. Authorities said videos of suspects showed a man in black with a distinctive walk.

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However, Chicago police said Friday that there didn't appear to be any link.

## **Biden: Truss plan a 'mistake' amid 'worldwide inflation'**

By COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — President Joe Biden on Saturday called embattled British Prime Minister Liz Truss' abandoned tax cut plan a "mistake," and said he is worried that other nations' fiscal policies may hurt the U.S. amid "worldwide inflation."

Biden said it was "predictable" that the new prime minister on Friday was forced to walk back plans to aggressively cut taxes without identifying cost savings, after Truss' proposal caused turmoil in global financial markets. It marked an unusual criticism by a U.S. president of the domestic policy decisions of one of its closest allies.

"I wasn't the only one that thought it was a mistake," Biden said. "I disagree with the policy, but that's up to Great Britain."

Biden's comments came after weeks of White House officials declining to criticize Truss' plans, though they emphasized they were monitoring the economic fallout closely. He was speaking to reporters at an Oregon ice cream shop where he made an unannounced stop to promote the candidacy of Democratic gubernatorial candidate Tina Kotek, as Democrats across the country face a tough political environment amid GOP criticism of their handling of the economy.

Biden said he was not concerned about the strength of the dollar — it set a new record against the British Pound in recent weeks — which benefits U.S. imports but makes the country's exports more expensive to the rest of the world.

The president said the U.S. economy "is strong as hell."

"I'm concerned about the rest of the world," he added. "The problem is the lack of economic growth and sound policy in other countries."

Said Biden: "It's worldwide inflation, that's consequential."

## **Raleigh shooting rampage shatters quiet neighborhood's peace**

By ALLEN G. BREED and HANNAH SCHOENBAUM Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — For Hedingham resident Marvin Judd, Nicole Connors and her beloved wire-haired dog, Sami, were as much a fixture of his routine as his daily drive to get an egg-and-cheese biscuit for breakfast.

"I'd see her walking that dog," said Judd, 76, who's lived in the densely developed neighborhood in Raleigh's eastern outskirts for 20 years. "And I'd stop and talk to her on my way out and on my way back in."

Judd would talk to the human resources specialist "about the Lord." When she had microsurgery on her left shoulder, he offered the 52-year-old former Catholic schoolgirl spiritual comfort.

"I would tell her that God is going to heal her," he said.

Connors recently told Judd she was almost finished with rehabilitation. And, then, she was gone — and the peace of Hedingham was shattered.

Police say a 15-year-old boy — dressed in camouflage and armed with a shotgun, according to 911 callers — turned the gently curving streets of Hedingham and the riverside greenway beyond into a killing zone. When the shooting was over Thursday, five people, including Connors, were dead.

Sami, short for Samantha, was found dead at Connors' feet.

Although police have not identified the shooter, who was captured hours after the attacks and was hospitalized in critical condition for unknown reasons, neighbors say they believe he lived in Hedingham.

"It's close to home," said Joshua Phillips, who would often join Connors on walks with his pit bull, Buddy.

Hedingham is much like most American neighborhoods. You may not know the name of every person on your block, but people greet each other across driveways and can always find something to chat about.

But Phillips said Thursday's slaughter was a "wake-up call."

"Letting you know how real it is, where everything's at right now. And, I mean, you can't let your guard



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down, that's for sure," Phillips said Friday, as police finished processing two crime scenes just around the corner. "I mean, now you walk with a bit of caution. You don't know what's going on, who's into what."

The sprawling 18-hole course at Hedingham Golf Club serves as a grand gateway to the community along its southwest border. Now, the brick ledges lining its entrance — each read HEDINGHAM in gilded block letters — are piled high with flower bouquets and candles, the state flag flying at half-staff beside the makeshift memorial.

Volunteers passed out free meals across the street from the golf club entrance Friday evening while counselors and a golden retriever in a blue therapy dog vest greeted the grieving community.

With its golf course, lake and community swimming pool, the sprawling neighborhood of single-family and townhomes is a relatively affordable oasis in a booming real estate market. Banana trees, azaleas and rhododendron bushes adorn neat lawns, many dotted with pumpkins, ghosts and other Halloween decorations.

The community had planned a fall festival, but gathered late Saturday afternoon instead for a vigil to remember those lost. A memorial adorned with flowers displayed photos of the five who were killed. Their names and the names of two others who were wounded were read aloud. The crowd prayed for healing, lit candles and a group from a nearby church sang "Amazing Grace."

Allison and Braden Greenawalt moved to Hedingham in 2019 shortly before the pandemic started. Even as COVID-19 forced people to stay closer to home, she found support from her new friends. It was that network of support she clung to on Thursday night.

The couple's townhouse is just a few doors down from the home of Raleigh police Officer Gabriel Torres, one of those killed. As officers gathered evidence from Torres' bullet-riddled car, Allison Greenawalt checked a community Facebook group for updates.

"It's been a very warm community for people who support each other," she said, tears rolling down her cheeks as blue and white police flashers lit the night. "We are a group of people who care about each other and stick together."

One of the neighborhood's treasures is the Neuse River Greenway, a bicycle and walking trail that snakes along behind the Greenawalts' home. At least two of the victims were found there, according to 911 calls.

As she walked the greenway Friday afternoon, Sara Cutter, 31, said she sensed "a lingering sadness over Raleigh."

Nature walks are a regular component of her self-care routine, she said.

"It's one of the better places to feel like you're in nature in the city," Cutter, a salesperson, said as she walked the path with a friend. "It's tucked away with trees in a lot of spots. Kind of makes you forget you're in the city for a moment."

That atmosphere of quietude was all the more important as she processes this tragedy in her hometown.

"I've seen some somber faces while I've been out walking today," she said. "But it's also been good to see people out. The community — that's what will get us through."

Despite the tragedy, Cutter said she intends to keep using the trail. But, she added, "I'll probably never go alone again."

Tracey Howard said he and Connors, his wife of five years, had always felt safe in Hedingham.

The couple, who met on Facebook, have been renting their two-story home for about four years. But they were planning on looking for a new home after the New Year.

"Something on the outskirts of Raleigh," the truck driver said. "Something with more of a yard."

After what happened, he knows he can't stay in Hedingham.

"How can I?" he said.

Judd said Connors' death leaves a gaping hole in the community, and his heart.

"She was a sweet person," he said. "She had a good heart. And she was always kind and gentle to everybody she met. She didn't meet strangers. Everybody was a friend."

But Allison Greenawalt still finds beauty in the place.

"The calmness is a little broken," she said. "And I know that while we might be a little shaken right now,

we'll grow back stronger than ever."

## **Musk: SpaceX might keep funding satellite service in Ukraine**

The Associated Press undefined

NEW YORK (AP) — Billionaire Elon Musk suggested in a Saturday tweet that his rocket company SpaceX may continue to fund its satellite-based Starlink internet service in Ukraine. But Musk's tone and wording also raised the possibility that the irascible Tesla CEO was just being sarcastic.

Musk frequently tweets jokes and insults and sometimes goes on unusual tangents, such as a recent series of tweets suggesting that one of his companies has begun selling its own line of fragrances. It is not clear if SpaceX has actually established future plans for service in Ukraine.

On Friday, senior U.S. officials confirmed that Musk had officially asked the Defense Department to take over funding for the service Starlink provides in Ukraine. Starlink, which provides broadband internet service using more than 2,200 low-orbiting satellites, has provided crucial battlefield communications for Ukrainian military forces since early in the nation's defense against Russia's February invasion.

"The hell with it ... even though Starlink is still losing money & other companies are getting billions of taxpayer \$, we'll just keep funding Ukraine govt for free," Musk tweeted Saturday.

Early Friday, Musk tweeted that it was costing SpaceX \$20 million a month to support Ukraine's communications needs. Tesla didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

The senior U.S. officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive matter not yet made public, said the issue of Starlink funding has been discussed in meetings and that senior leaders are weighing the matter. There have been no decisions.

## **Biden's late push across West aims to deliver votes for Dems**

By COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — President Joe Biden strode into the telephone bank at a crowded union hall and eagerly began making calls and eating doughnuts — one frosted, one glazed — as he tries every page in the political playbook to deliver votes for Democrats.

"What a governor does matters," Biden said in a pep talk to volunteers who were making Friday night calls for Oregon gubernatorial hopeful Tina Kotek and other candidates. "It matters! It matters, it matters, it matters!"

Before leaving Portland on Saturday, the president attended a union hall reception for Kotek as he tried to boost her chances in a three-way race that could cost Democrats a reliably blue governor's seat. He also gave a speech at a community center, warning that his administration's progress "goes away, gone" if Republicans take control of Congress in the midterm elections.

Portland was the final stop on a four-day swing through Oregon, California and Colorado that has encapsulated Biden's strategy for turning out voters on Election Day, Nov. 8: flex the levers of government to help boost candidates, promote an agenda aimed at strengthening an uncertain economy and haul in campaign cash.

And this: show up for candidates when Biden can be helpful, steer clear of places where a visit from a president with approval ratings under 50% isn't necessarily a good thing.

Throughout the trip, Biden had to compete for the spotlight and contend with a troubling new inflation report and rising gas prices.

"Folks are still struggling. We can't kid ourselves about that," Biden said Saturday.

He touted Democratic legislation that he says will fight climate change with clean energy incentives and limit the cost of prescription drugs, saying that "we're fighting for folks who need our help."

In Oregon, Democratic officials hope that Biden can help consolidate the party's support behind Kotek. The party is in danger of losing the governor's race in the traditional Democratic stronghold as Betsy Johnson — who has quit both the Democratic and Republican parties — has run a well-financed race against Kotek and the GOP nominee Christine Drazan.

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Biden said Kotek has the "heart of a lion," and he described her as "an articulate, tough, committed woman."

The settings throughout the president's trip were tailor-made for him.

In Los Angeles on Thursday, at a construction site for an extension on the city's subway line, he spoke about his massive infrastructure law. Giant cranes rose up behind him as he stood before bulldozers and excavators. Many on hand were hard-hat workers in construction orange.

The stop neatly combined many of Biden's agenda's successes: investments in infrastructure, job creation, fighting climate change by promoting mass transit.

"When you see these projects in your neighborhood -- cranes going up, shovels in the ground, lives being changed -- I want you to feel the way I do: pride," Biden said. "Pride in what we can do when we do it together. This is what I mean when I say we're building a better America."

But his remarks came as the government reported that consumer prices, excluding volatile food and energy costs, jumped 6.6% in September from a year ago — the fastest such pace in four decades. Biden acknowledged that people were being "squeezed by the cost of living. It's been true for years, and folks don't need a report to tell them they're being squeezed."

Democratic candidates have been far more likely to appear with Biden at official White House events underscoring their achievements than at overt campaign events. In California, Biden was joined by state lawmakers and the city's mayor, and he called them out individually. Rep. Karen Bass, who is running for mayor of Los Angeles, made a takeout run with Biden to a taco shop.

Biden raised \$5 million at a fundraiser in the Brentwood backyard of TV producer Marcy Carsey. Guests included fashion designer Tom Ford and actor-filmmaker Rob Reiner.

In Colorado, the president designated the first national monument of his administration at Camp Hale, a World War II-era training site, with a group of Democrats by his side. His audience in a canyon of stunning views, tall pines and bright yellow aspens included Sen. Michael Bennet, who is facing a tough reelection campaign and had worked for the new monument. Democrats hope the designation, popular in the state, will boost Bennet's numbers.

Early voting is underway in California and begins next week in Oregon and Colorado. The president notably stayed away from states where his presence could hurt Democrats, so far skipping Nevada and Arizona, where Democratic senators are tough races.

Democrats are trying to retain power in the face of widespread economic uncertainty and the traditional midterm headwinds against the party in power. Republicans, aiming to regain the House and Senate, think they can capitalize on gas prices, inflation and the economy.

During his taco stop, Biden's chicken quesadilla order ran to \$16.45, but he handed the clerk \$60 and asked him to use the change to pay the next patron's bill.

It was the kind of personal connection Biden loves. But while the moment was unfolding, the headlines in Los Angeles focused on a bitter City Council clash over racist remarks, while in Washington, it was all about how the House voted to subpoena former President Donald Trump on his role in the Jan. 6 insurrection.

## Russia military range shooting leaves 11 dead, 15 wounded

MOSCOW (AP) — Two men fired at soldiers on a Russian military firing range near Ukraine on Saturday, killing 11 and wounding 15 before being slain themselves, the Russian Defense Ministry said.

The ministry said in a statement that the shooting took place in the Belgorod region in southwestern Russia that borders Ukraine. It said two men from an unnamed former Soviet republic fired on volunteer soldiers during target practice and were killed by return fire.

The ministry called the incident a terrorist attack.

The shooting comes amid a hasty mobilization ordered by President Vladimir Putin to beef up Russian forces in Ukraine — a move that triggered protests and caused hundreds of thousands to flee Russia.

Putin said Friday that over 220,000 reservists already had been called up as part of an effort to recruit 300,000. He promised the mobilization would be wrapped up in two weeks.

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The mobilization was troubled from the start, with authorities issuing confusing signals about who should be called up for service in a country where almost all men under age 65 are listed as reservists.

Even though the Russian leader declared that only people who had recently served in the military would be subject to the call-up, activists and rights groups reported military conscription offices rounding up people without any army experience — some of whom were also unfit for service for medical reasons.

Some of the freshly called-up reservists posted videos of themselves being forced to sleep on the floor or even outside and given rusty weapons before being sent to the front lines.

Russian media reports said some of those who were mobilized were sent to combat without receiving proper training and were quickly killed.

Authorities have acknowledged the mobilization was often poorly organized and promised to improve the situation.

## 11 Russian troops slain at shooting range as fighting rages

By YESICA FISCH and LEO CORREA Associated Press

ZAPORIZHZHIA, Ukraine (AP) — At least 11 Russian soldiers were killed Saturday in a shooting incident that underlined the challenges posed by Russian President Vladimir Putin's hasty mobilization, just as Ukrainian troops pressed an offensive to reclaim the areas in the country's south that were illegally annexed by Moscow.

The Russian Defense Ministry said two men opened fire at volunteer soldiers during a target practice session in western Russia, killing 11 of them and wounding 15 others before being killed themselves. The ministry called it a terror attack.

Russia has lost ground in the nearly seven weeks since Ukraine's armed forces opened their southern counteroffensive. This week, the Kremlin launched what is believed to be its largest coordinated air and missile raids on Ukraine's key infrastructure since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24.

In the continuation of those attacks, a missile strike Saturday seriously damaged a key energy facility in Ukraine's capital region, the country's grid operator said. Following mounting setbacks, the Russian military has worked to cut off power and water in far-flung populated areas while also fending off Ukrainian counterattacks in occupied areas.

In the Zaporizhzhia region, Gov. Oleksandr Starukh said the Russian military carried out strikes with suicide drones from Iran and long-range S-300 missiles. Some experts said the Russian military's use of the surface-to-air missiles may reflect shortages of dedicated precision weapons for hitting ground targets.

Dmytro Pocishchuk, a hospital medic in the Zaporizhzhia region's capital who has treated dozens of people wounded during Russian attacks in recent weeks, said people sought safety outdoors or in his building's basement when the familiar blasts started at 5:15 a.m. Saturday.

"If Ukraine stops, these bombings and killings will continue. We can't give up to the Russian Federation," Pocishchuk said several hours later. He put a small Ukrainian flag on the broken windshield of his heavily damaged car.

Kyiv region Gov. Oleksiy Kuleba said the missile that hit a power facility Saturday morning didn't kill or wound anyone. Citing security, Ukrainian officials didn't identify the site, one of many infrastructure targets the Russian military tried to destroy after an Oct. 8 truck bomb explosion damaged the bridge that links Russia to the annexed Crimean Peninsula.

Ukrainian electricity transmission company Ukrenergo said repair crews were working to restore electricity service, but warned residents about further possible outages. Kyrylo Tymoshenko, the deputy head of the Ukrainian president's office, urged residents of the capital and three neighboring regions to conserve energy.

"Putin may hope that by increasing the misery of the Ukrainian people, President (Volodymyr) Zelenskyy may be more inclined to negotiate a settlement that allows Russia to retain some stolen territory in the east or Crimea," said Ian Williams, a fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a policy organization based in Washington. "A quick look at history shows that the strategic bombing of civilians

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is an ineffective way to achieve a political aim. "

This week's wide-ranging retaliatory attacks, which included the use of self-destructing explosive drones from Iran, killed dozens of people. The strikes hit residential buildings as well as infrastructure such as power stations in Kyiv, Lviv in western Ukraine, and other cities that had seen comparatively few strikes in recent months.

Putin said Friday that Moscow didn't see a need for additional massive strikes but his military would continue selective ones. He said that of 29 targets the Russian military planned to knock out in this week's attacks, seven weren't damaged and would be taken out gradually.

The Institute for the Study of War, a think tank based in Washington, interpreted Putin's remarks as intended to counter criticism from pro-war Russian bloggers who "largely praised the resumption of strikes against Ukrainian cities, but warned that a short campaign would be ineffective."

In the southern Kherson region, one of the first areas of Ukraine to fall to Russia after the invasion and which Putin also illegally designated as Russian territory last month, Ukrainian forces pressed their counteroffensive Saturday.

Kyiv's army has reported recapturing 75 villages and towns there in the last month, but said the momentum had slowed, with the fighting settling into the sort of grueling back-and-forth that characterized Russia's months-long offensive to conquer Ukraine's eastern Donbas region.

On Saturday, Ukrainian troops attempted to advance south along the banks of the Dnieper River toward the regional capital, also named Kherson, but didn't gain any ground, according to Kirill Stremousov, a deputy head of the occupied region's Moscow-installed administration.

"The defense lines worked, and the situation has remained under the full control of the Russian army," he wrote on his messaging app channel.

The Kremlin-backed local leaders asked civilians Thursday to leave the region to ensure their safety and to give Russian troops more maneuverability. Stremousov reminded them they could evacuate to Crimea and cities in southwestern Russia, where Moscow offered free accommodations to residents who agreed to leave.

Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov, the Russian Defense Ministry's spokesman, said the military destroyed five crossings on the Inhulets River, another route Ukraine's fighters could take to progress toward the Kherson region.

Konashenkov claimed Russian troops also blocked Ukrainian attempts to make inroads in breaching Russian defenses near Lyman, a city in the annexed Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine that the Ukrainians retook two weeks ago in a significant defeat for the Kremlin.

Amid the fighting, two men from an unnamed former Soviet nation fired on volunteer soldiers during target practice at a firing range in the Belgorod region that borders Ukraine and were killed by return fire, the Russian Defense Ministry said.

The shooting comes amid a mobilization ordered by Putin to beef up Russian forces in Ukraine — a hasty and poorly executed move that triggered protests and caused hundreds of thousands to flee Russia. Some of the mobilized reservists were sent to the front lines without receiving proper training and equipment, according to activists and media reports.

Putin said on Friday that more than 220,000 reservists already had been called up as part of an effort to recruit 300,000.

To the north and east of Kherson, Russian shelling killed two civilians in the Dnipropetrovsk region, Gov. Valentyn Resnichenko said. He said the shelling of the city of Nikopol, which is located across the Dnieper from the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, damaged a dozen residential buildings, several stores and a transportation facility.

Fighting near the nuclear plant, Europe's largest, has been an ongoing concern during the nearly eight-month war. The power station temporarily lost its last remaining outside electricity source twice in the past week, fueling fears the reactors could eventually overheat and cause a catastrophic radiation leak.

International Atomic Energy Agency Director-General Rafael Grossi reported that such fears were some-

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what eased late Friday, because Ukrainian engineers had managed after several weeks to restore backup power lines that can serve as a “buffer” in case of further war-related outages.

“Working in very challenging conditions, operating staff at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant are doing everything they can to bolster its fragile offsite power situation,” Grossi said. “Restoring the backup power connection is a positive step in this regard, even though the overall nuclear safety and security situation remains precarious.”

## Violent week a grim sign as targeted killings of police rise

By GENE JOHNSON Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — The shooting deaths of two Connecticut officers and wounding of a third punctuated an especially violent week for police across the U.S. and fit into a grim pattern: Even as more officers left their jobs in the past two years, the number targeted and killed rose.

According to organizations that track violence against police, 56 officers have been killed by gunfire this year — 14% more than this time last year and about 45% ahead of 2020’s pace. The country is on track for the deadliest year since 67 officers were killed in 2016.

While the figures include a few officers killed by accidental gunfire, the number of ambushes in which police were injured or killed in surprise attacks with little chance to defend themselves has soared since 2020 and accounts for nearly half the officers killed this year.

Such an attack apparently struck Wednesday in Bristol, Connecticut, where the state police said Bristol Police Sgt. Dustin Demonte and Officer Alex Hamzy were killed and Officer Alec Iurato was wounded when they responded to a 911 call that appears to have been “a deliberate act to lure law enforcement to the scene.”

At least 11 police officers were shot around the country this week, including one fatally in Greenville, Mississippi, and another in Las Vegas.

“Those are really scary numbers for law enforcement, not just for individual officers, but for the organizations they work for, which have to be taking this into account as they’re hiring, retaining and training officers,” said Bill Alexander, executive director of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, which tracks officer deaths in the line of duty.

“It’s not lost on the officers that the job they signed up for has become more dangerous,” he said. “That has to be taking a significant mental toll on the agencies at large and the individual officers doing the work.”

An off-duty officer was among five people killed in a shooting rampage by a 15-year-old boy in Raleigh, North Carolina, on Thursday evening, but it wasn’t clear if the officer was targeted. In late June, a man in the Appalachian foothills of eastern Kentucky opened fire on officers serving a warrant in a domestic violence case, killing three and wounding five others — a scene that deputies called “pure hell.”

The Fraternal Order of Police reported that through Sept. 30 of this year, there had been 63 ambush-style attacks in which officers were wounded, with 93 officers shot, 24 fatally. That’s a lower number of such attacks than the first nine months of 2021, when there were 75 ambushes of officers, with 93 shot and 21 killed. The total number of ambushes in which police were hurt last year more than doubled from 2020.

The increase in ambushes and killings of police comes at a time when many departments around the country face staffing shortages, with some agencies down hundreds of officers and struggling to fill vacancies.

COVID-19 has been the biggest killer of police officers in the past few years, with 280 deaths in 2020, 467 in 2021 and 64 so far this year, the Officer Down Memorial Page reports. But many officers have retired early or resigned out of frustration with what they see as sagging public support amid “defund police” efforts prompted by the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis officer and the deaths of other Black people at the hands of law enforcement.

The number of officers nationally fell from roughly 719,000 in 2020 to 688,000 in 2021, according to data reported to the FBI. Hiring of officers has rebounded some this year, but resignations and retirements continue to prove a challenge for departments around the country, the Washington, D.C.-based Police

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Executive Research Forum found in a survey early this year.

Mike Zaro is the police chief in Lakewood, Washington, a city of about 60,000 people where four officers were assassinated at a coffee shop in 2009. He was the assistant chief at the time, and he said the department continues to see officers retiring early due to anxiety and stress that can be traced back to the attack.

"I started back in the early '90s, and back then and for a long time you just sucked it up and moved on whenever you dealt with any trauma related to the job, whether it was someone else's or your own," Zaro said. "After 2009, something of that magnitude, we recognized we had to try and do something different. We worked on the fly to develop methods of encouraging people to seek help. ... Eventually it became ingrained in what we do. Today it's called officer wellness."

Zaro recalls how crucial the support of the community was in helping the department get through the aftermath of the killings. Such support, he said, is instrumental in helping officers accept the risks they face.

Many law enforcement supporters worry about whether departments still have such backing, given the tenor of the national discourse around policing. They stress that questionable or illegal uses of force by officers are the rare exception, not the rule, but police have lost trust from many people outraged at repeatedly seeing cellphone or body-camera videos online of officers abusing their power.

"It would be infinitely harder to accept those risks and deal with the loss if the community is either suggesting the officers deserved it or making excuses for the person who committed the crime or just not supporting them," Zaro said. "It's more imperative now to make that part of the conversation, given the lashing out at police we've seen nationwide over the last couple of years."

## California baker creates life-sized Han Solo out of bread

BENICIA, Calif. (AP) — Han Solo may be a hunk. But "Pan Solo" is a hunk of bread.

That's what a bakery in the San Francisco Bay Area has dubbed its 6-foot (1.8 meter) bread sculpture of the "Star Wars" character as he appeared after being frozen in carbonite in "The Empire Strikes Back."

Hanalee Pervan and her mother, Catherine Pervan, co-owners of One House Bakery in Benicia, California, spent weeks molding, baking and assembling the life-sized sculpture using wood and two types of dough, including a type of yeastless dough with a higher sugar content that will last longer.

The two worked at night, after the day's business was done. The lovingly crafted details show Han Solo's anguished face and his hands straining to reach out.

Hanalee said she might have gotten a bit obsessed.

"Mom made me leave it because I was obsessing over the lips," Hanalee Pervan told the New York Times. "She was like, 'You need to walk away.'"

Creating Pan Solo was particularly meaningful, she told the paper, because she contracted COVID-19 in January 2021 and lost much of her senses of smell and taste.

"So just to find joy in a different part of food is really important," she said.

The sculpture is now on display outside of the bakery, located about a half-hour's drive north of San Francisco.

Pan Solo is the bakery's entry in the annual Downtown Benicia Main Street Scarecrow Contest. The public will get to vote on their favorites from among more than two dozen creations entered by local businesses.

The Pervans, who are big science-fiction and fantasy fans, entered another "Star Wars"-themed creation in 2020 featuring the Mandalorian and Baby Yoda.

Unfortunately, Pan Solo won't last forever. The dough eventually will be composted, not eaten.

So as a wise Jedi might warn: Don't use the forks, Luke.

## Musk has a 'super app' plan for Twitter. It's super vague

By BARBARA ORTUTAY AP Technology Writer

Elon Musk has a penchant for the letter "X." He calls his son with the singer Grimes, whose actual name is a collection of letters and symbols, "X." He named the company he created to buy Twitter "X Holdings."

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His rocket company is, naturally, SpaceX.

Now he also apparently intends to morph Twitter into an "everything app" he calls X.

For months, the Tesla and SpaceX CEO has expressed interest in creating his own version of China's WeChat — a "super app" that does video chats, messaging, streaming and payments — for the rest of the world. At least, that is, once he's done buying Twitter after months of legal infighting over the \$44 billion purchase agreement he signed in April.

There are just a few obstacles. First is that a Musk-owned Twitter wouldn't be the only global company in pursuit of this goal, and in fact would probably be playing catch-up with its rivals. Next is the question of whether anyone really wants a Twitter-based everything app— or any other super app — to begin with.

Start with the competition and consumer demand. Facebook parent Meta has spent years trying to make its flagship platform a destination for everything online, adding payments, games, shopping and even dating features to its social network. So far, it's had little success; nearly all of its revenue still comes from advertising.

Google, Snap, TikTok, Uber and others have also tried to jump on the super app bandwagon, expanding their offerings in an effort to become indispensable to people as they go about their day. None have set the world on fire so far, not least because people already have a number of apps at their disposal to handle shopping, communicating and payments.

"Old habits are hard to break, and people in the U.S. are used to using different apps for different activities," said Jasmine Enberg, principal analyst at Insider Intelligence. Enberg also notes that super apps would likely suck up more personal data at a time when trust in social platforms has deteriorated significantly.

Musk kicked off the latest round of speculation on Oct. 4, the day he reversed his attempts to get out of the deal and announced that he wanted to acquire Twitter after all. "Buying Twitter is an accelerant to creating X, the everything app," he tweeted without further explanation.

But he's provided at least a little more detail in the past. During Tesla's annual shareholder meeting in August, Musk told the crowd at a factory near Austin, Texas, that he thinks he's "got a good sense of where to point the engineering team with Twitter to make it radically better."

And he's dropped some strong hints that handling payments for goods and services would be a key part of the app. Musk said he has a "grand vision" for what X.com, an online bank he started early in his career that eventually became part of PayPal, could have been.

"Obviously that could be started from scratch, but I think Twitter would help accelerate that by three to five years," Musk said in August. "So it's kind of something that I thought would be quite useful for a long time. I know what to do."

But it's not clear that WeChat's success in China means the same idea would translate for a U.S. or global audience. WeChat usage is almost universal in China, where most people never had a computer at home and skipped straight to going online by mobile phone.

Operated by tech giant Tencent Holding Ltd., the platform has made itself a one-stop shop for payments and other services and is starting to compete in entertainment. It is also a platform for health code apps the public is required to use prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

China has 1 billion internet users, and nearly all of them go online by mobile phone, according to the government-sanctioned China Internet Network Information Center. Only 33% use desktop computers at all — and mostly in addition to mobile phones. Tencent says WeChat had 1.3 billion users worldwide as of the end of June.

Tencent and its main Chinese competitor, e-commerce giant Alibaba Group, aim to make apps that offer so many services that users can't easily switch to another app. They're not the only ones.

WeChat has added video calls and other message features as well as shopping, entertainment and other features. Government agencies use it to send out health, traffic and other announcements. WeChat's payment function, meanwhile, is so widely used that coffee shops, museums and some other businesses refuse cash and will take payment only through WeChat or the rival Ant app.

There is no comparable app in the U.S., despite tech companies' efforts.



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It's worth remembering that Musk's grand visions don't always work out the way he appears to expect. Humans are nowhere near colonizing Mars and his promised fleet of robotaxis remains about as far from reality as the metaverse.

Twitter's user base is also tiny relative to those at its social-platform competitors. While Facebook, Instagram and TikTok all passed the 1 billion mark long ago, Twitter has about 240 million daily users.

"Musk would not only have to overcome the hurdle of convincing consumers to change how they behave online, but also that Twitter is the place to do it," Enberg said.

## Apple workers in Oklahoma vote to unionize in 2nd labor win

The Associated Press undefined

NEW YORK (AP) — Workers at an Apple store in Oklahoma City voted to unionize, marking the second unionized Apple store in the U.S. in a matter of months, according to the federal labor board.

The vote on Friday signaled another win for the labor movement, which has been gaining momentum since the pandemic.

Fifty-six workers at the store, located at Oklahoma City's Penn Square Mall, voted to be represented by The Communications Workers of America, while 32 voted against it, according to a preliminary tally by National Labor Relations Board. The approximate number of eligible voters was 95, the board said.

The labor board said Friday that both parties have five business days to file objections to the election. If no objections are filed, the results will be certified, and the employer must begin bargaining in good faith with the union.

The union victory follows a vote to unionize an Apple store in Towson, Maryland, in June. That effort was spearheaded by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers in Maryland, which is preparing to begin formal negotiations.

In a statement emailed to The Associated Press on Saturday, Apple said, "We believe the open, direct and collaborative relationship we have with our valued team members is the best way to provide an excellent experience for our customers, and for our teams."

Apple also cited "strong compensation and exceptional benefits," and noted that since 2018, it has increased starting rates in the U.S. by 45% and made significant improvements in other benefits, including new educational and family support programs.

The Communications Workers of America could not be immediately reached for comment.

Worker discontent has invigorated the labor movements at several major companies in the U.S. in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, which triggered tensions over sick leave policies, scheduling, and other issues.

In a surprise victory, Amazon workers at a Staten Island warehouse voted in favor of unionizing in April, though similar efforts at other warehouses so far have been unsuccessful. Voting for an Amazon facility near Albany, New York, began on Wednesday and is expected go through Monday. Well over 200 U.S. Starbucks stores have voted to unionize over the past year, according to the NLRB.

## In France, fuel crisis frays nerves and workers' resilience

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

VERSAILLES, France (AP) — Even close to midnight on a school night, the tipoff was too important to ignore: A nearby gas station had just been resupplied.

So Aicha Far scooped up her 6-year-old and set off into the night. The home carer needed to refuel her car so she could continue looking after the vulnerable people on the outskirts of Paris who rely on her to keep them fed, clean and safe. The prospect of a full tank was worth dragging the kid out of bed for.

"I wrapped him in a blanket and put him in the back," Far recalled on Saturday, as she gently coaxed an older woman she looks after to drink her breakfast hot chocolate.

Chronic fuel shortages in France sparked by strikes and panic buying are fraying nerves and testing both the resilience and ingenuity of millions of French workers who depend on their vehicles to do their jobs.

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More than a quarter of gas stations nationwide were still without one type of fuel or more on Saturday, the French energy minister said. In the Paris region, the number was above a third.

Motorists have sometimes lined up for hours to refuel — not always successfully — and tempers have flared.

In the town of Versailles, southwest of Paris, 41-year-old nurse Aurelie Martin is trying to eke out the precious fuel left in her tank — and bracing for the next time she'll have to visit the pumps.

She is up well before dawn to give jabs, change dressings and dispense other essential medical care to dozens of patients each morning.

Rather than doing little hops in her Mini from one patient to the next, she's increasingly scurrying on foot between them when she can, racking up 10 kilometers (six miles) of walking each morning to save fuel.

"I'm doing the bare minimum by car," she said as she made her rounds on Saturday. "I had hoped up to now that the situation would improve, but unfortunately it doesn't seem to be getting better."

The strikes have hit French refineries and fuel depots. Strikers have demanded higher wages from what they feel should be their share of windfall profits generated by high oil and gas prices amid the global energy crisis aggravated by Russia's war in Ukraine.

After runs on toilet paper, pasta and other essentials at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, fuel and where to find it are the latest obsessions in France. The government has urged motorists not to panic-buy. Some gas stations have banned jerrycans.

When Martin bumped into other nurses also making their early morning rounds on Saturday, gasoline was the first thing they talked about.

One nurse who'd run out of fuel told Martin that one of her patients was offering to lend her his car. On messaging groups, nurses share tips about gas stations that have been resupplied or that have priority pumps for them and other essential workers.

Martin said some of her fellow nurses have been yelled at by other motorists for trying to cut to the front of lines.

With 30 to 40 patients to home-visit per day, Martin knows she'll need to refuel early next week.

"My day off is on Tuesday and I think the full tank that I had will last until then," she said. "So on Tuesday, I'll see if I need to spend the day lining up and that is what I will do if a gas station hasn't been set aside for us."

"Truth be told," she added, "I have been pushing back the inevitable moment."

## Why Meloni's win in Italy not sitting well with Berlusconi

By FRANCES D'EMILIO Associated Press

ROME (AP) — The honeymoon is finished even before any marriage of political convenience in Italy could be formalized.

The resounding victory by far-right leader Giorgia Meloni in the Sept. 25 general election isn't sitting well with 86-year-old Silvio Berlusconi, the former three-time conservative premier who, four decades her senior, fancies himself the elder statesman of Italy's political right.

Meloni is expected to be asked next week by Italy's president to try to create a governing coalition with campaign allies Berlusconi and right-wing leader Matteo Salvini and become premier. Behind-the-scenes divvying up of ministries in what would be Italy's first far-right-led government since the end of World War II started after her Brothers of Italy party took 26% of the ballots cast, more than those won by the forces of Salvini and Berlusconi combined.

The knives carving out those Cabinet posts are proving particularly sharp.

Salvini on Saturday issued a sort of call for a truce between Meloni and Berlusconi so that three allies' bid to rule Italy isn't derailed.

"I am sure that even between Giorgia and Silvio that harmony, which will be fundamental to government, well and together, for the next five years, will return," Salvini said in a statement released by his anti-migrant League party about the escalating post-election tensions.

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A spat between Berlusconi and Meloni turned ugly when the former premier and a media mogul scrawled a list of derogatory adjectives about her on stationery emblazoned with the name of his villa near Milan. He positioned it in the Senate in plain view for photographers covering the election on Thursday of the upper parliamentary chamber's president.

"Giorgia Meloni," wrote Berlusconi, jotting down that her ways are "presumptuous, bossy, arrogant, offensive." A fifth adjective, "ridiculous," appeared to have been scribbled over, said Italian media, who magnified the image.

As much as political differences — Berlusconi bills himself a staunch champion of the European Union, while Meloni has said national interests should prevail over any conflicting EU priorities — their spat seemed patriarchal.

"In Berlusconi's etiquette, the woman is courted and maybe even venerated, but a true male cannot take orders from her, let alone accept that she says 'no,'" wrote Massimo Gramellini in the daily *Corriere della Serra*, in his front-page fixture that takes aim at political foibles.

By all accounts, Meloni had vetoed a ministry for a close political aide of Berlusconi who is one of his several female political proteges.

With his self-described weakness for young women, Berlusconi has launched the political careers of female lawmakers from Forza Italia, the center-right party he created three decades ago.

Reflecting Berlusconi's pique, nearly all of his senators refused to vote for Meloni's pick for Senate president, Ignazio La Russa, a long-time fascist nostalgist who helped Meloni, now 45, establish Brothers of Italy in 2012 as she forged her far-right political ascent.

The Forza Italia boycott delivered a stiff rebuke to her. Meloni, known for her spunk and sharp tongue, wasn't blinking.

"It seems like a point was missing among those listed by Berlusconi — that I can't be blackmailed," Meloni told private Italian TV La7.

Meloni already stood her ground during the election campaign. When opinion surveys indicated that she was by far the front-runner over Berlusconi and Salvini, those two unsuccessfully tried to wiggle out of long-standing pact that the top-getter in campaign coalitions would become premier should their forces prove victorious.

Together, the leaders' three parties command a comfortable majority in the newly seated Parliament.

Still, Meloni needs the forces of Berlusconi and Salvini for any viable coalition.

Salvini chafed for days when it appeared Meloni wouldn't let him become interior minister, a post he held in 2018-2019 and used to crack down on migrants arriving by the tens of thousands on smugglers boats or rescue ships. On Friday, Meloni's forces backed the election to the presidency of the lower Chamber of Deputies of a League lawmaker, Lorenzo Fontana, an ultraconservative who, like Salvini, has openly admired Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Late Friday, the five-pointed star symbol of the Red Brigades, the extreme left group which terrorized Italy in the 1970s while extreme-right militants were also launching attacks, was scrawled along with La Russa's name on a Brothers of Italy neighborhood office. It is the very office where Meloni cut her political teeth as a teenager in the youth wing of a neo-fascist predecessor of her own party.

Meloni on Saturday retweeted her party's description of the vandalism as "clear reference to the dramatic years that we don't want to live through again and vowed in a tweet to "unite the Nation, not divide it as someone is trying to do."

## 'Don't Look Back': Refugee, plant worker writes of survival

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — As Achut Deng lay in her apartment bedroom in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, sickened alongside hundreds of her co-workers at a South Dakota meatpacking plant, she worried she was going to die.

It wasn't the first time she felt the imminent threat of death.

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Her childhood, shattered by war in South Sudan, had been filled with it. But as she focused on building a new life for her family — filled with long hours at the Smithfield Foods pork processing plant — she kept those traumatic memories to herself.

In the spring of 2020, however, she spoke out to tell of the fear gripping the Sioux Falls workforce, adding to pressure that prodded the plant to implement new safety protocols that helped protect Deng and her colleagues.

Now, Deng is telling her whole story — from fleeing massacres to the trauma she experienced as a refugee in the United States — through a memoir that she hopes will bring awareness of both the hardships, as well as the healing, for refugees.

Deng's book for young adults, co-authored with Keely Hutton, draws its name from the words Deng's grandmother uttered as they fled when their village came under attack: "Don't Look Back."

For decades, she followed that advice to survive. The book details her grandmother's sacrifice to literally shield Deng from bullets during a 1991 massacre, to a refugee journey where a deadly river, a snake bite and malaria all nearly killed her. And even after arriving in the U.S., Deng writes, she suffered sexual abuse from a male guardian as well as accompanying suicidal thoughts.

"I'm tired of being strong. I'm done being embarrassed. I'm done being ashamed of what I've been through," Deng, now 37, told The Associated Press in an interview at her home in Sioux Falls.

For years, she quietly kept her story buried beneath her work at the plant, a side hustle of catering sambusa and caring for her three sons.

"There's a reason why I created this busy schedule — because I don't want to have time to myself so that I can think of the past," she said.

The hard work allowed Deng to achieve the life she dreamed of when she came to the U.S. as a teenager. She saved for a down payment on a home, paid for family vacations and even sponsored her parents' immigration to America.

When COVID-19 infections spread among Deng's colleagues, however, her dreams came under attack once again. Sickened by the virus, she worried her sons would find her body and be left with only the stories others told about her. Deng was still haunted by finding that her own grandmother had been struck and killed by the bullets that might have hit Deng during that 1991 massacre.

"I found myself at the very lowest point again," Deng recounted.

In the past, she had quietly focused on survival. This time, she spoke out. Deng appeared twice on the New York Times' "The Daily" podcast.

She described in compelling detail the suffering and fear among her colleagues — many of them immigrants — as the pork processing plant became one of the country's worst hotspots for infections in the spring of 2020. Four of her colleagues died after being infected.

Many workers at the time worried about the consequences of speaking with reporters, but Deng says she was only describing her own experience and that she does not blame Smithfield for the coronavirus. She says the plant requires hard work, but Smithfield also provides the wages, benefits and a schedule that allow a single mother to provide for her family.

When a publicist at Macmillan Publishing heard Deng on the podcast, it sparked talks that led to the memoir. Deng wrote the book with Hutton, her co-author, in between working 12-hour shifts at Smithfield and ferrying her sons to school. She often slept just four hours between her overnight job as a supervisor and video calls with Hutton.

Delving into the trauma of her past was difficult, Deng said, and required therapy sessions.

Then, every Sunday, when Deng had a day off, she would sit with her sons around their dining table and read the draft of the latest chapter.

"We cry together; we talk about it; then we put it behind; then we start the new week," Deng said.

She hopes that readers will come to understand refugees have their lives upended and are traumatized by forces beyond their control, but show incredible resilience by choosing to come to the U.S. She described the book's cover, illustrated with the face of a girl overlaid by a night sky, as capturing her feelings at publication.

"She's wounded but fearless," Deng said. "You can see the pain in her eye. But she's not afraid."

## Wounded officer shot, killed suspect who killed 2 colleagues

BRISTOL, Conn. (AP) — A Connecticut police officer who was wounded in an apparent ambush that killed two of his fellow officers fired the shot that killed the attacker, police said.

In a Facebook post Saturday, police in Bristol said Alec Iurato was hit by gunfire and returned fire on Wednesday, killing Nicholas Brutcher. The state medical examiner's office said Brutcher, 35, died from a gunshot wound to the neck with spinal cord injuries.

Sgt. Dustin Demonte and Officer Alex Hamzy were gunned down outside a home where they had responded to a 911 call about possible domestic violence that authorities said appeared to be a deliberate act to lure police there.

Witnesses said they heard about 30 gunshots during the confrontation.

Iurato was released from the hospital on Thursday. Brutcher's brother, Nathan Brutcher, was wounded in the shootout. Nathan Brutcher hasn't been accused of playing any role in the attack.

The bodies of both officers were brought to funeral homes in separate processions Friday, as hundreds of people gathered for a candlelight vigil outside the Bristol police station. In New York, the New York Yankees held a moment of silence in the officers' honor before Game 2 of their American League Division Series game against Cleveland at Yankee Stadium.

Police officials said all three officers were respected and had received commendations.

Demonte, 35, was a 10-year veteran officer and co-recipient of his department's 2019 Officer of the Year award. His wife is expecting their third child.

Hamzy, 34, worked eight years for his hometown police force. Like Demonte, he was an adviser to a police cadet program.

Iurato, 26, joined the Bristol department in 2018 and has a bachelor's degree in government, law and national security.

Nicholas Brutcher was a divorced father of two and a gun, hunting and fishing enthusiast, according to his social media pages.

In a photo posted on both brothers' Facebook pages in 2016, Nicholas Brutcher is pointing a handgun at the camera while others, including Nathan Brutcher, are holding rifles.

Other photos show Nicholas Brutcher with a 10-point deer he shot and with fish he caught.

## US shift on Venezuelan migrants fuels anxiety in Mexico

By ELLIOT SPAGAT and MARIA VERZA Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — Jose Maria Garcia Lara got a call asking if his shelter had room for a dozen Venezuelan migrants who were among the first expelled to Mexico under an expanded U.S. policy that denies rights to seek asylum.

"We can't take anyone, no one will fit," he answered, standing amid rows of tents in what looks like a small warehouse. He had 260 migrants on the floor, about 80 over capacity and the most since opening the shelter in 2012.

The phone call Thursday illustrates how the Biden administration's expansion of asylum restrictions to Venezuelans poses a potentially enormous challenge to already overstretched Mexican shelters.

The U.S. agreed to let up to 24,000 Venezuelans apply online to fly directly to the U.S. for temporary stays but said it will also start returning to Mexico any who cross illegally — a number that reached 33,000 in September alone.

The U.S. expelled Venezuelans to Tijuana and four other Mexican border cities since Wednesday, said Jeremy MacGillivray, deputy director of the United Nations' International Organization for Migration in Mexico. The others are Nogales, Ciudad Juarez, Piedras Negras and Matamoros.

Casa del Migrante in Matamoros admitted at least 120 Venezuelans from Brownsville on Thursday, said the Rev. Francisco Gallardo, the shelter director. On Friday, the Mexican government was offering free bus

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rides to Mexico City.

Venezuelans have suddenly become the second-largest nationality at the U.S. border after Mexicans, a tough challenge for President Joe Biden. Nearly four out of five who were stopped by U.S. authorities in August entered in or near Eagle Pass, Texas, across from Piedras Negras, a Mexican city of about 150,000 people with scarce shelter space.

"We are on the verge of collapse," said Edgar Rodriguez Izquierdo, a lawyer at Casa del Migrante in Piedras Negras, which feeds 500 people daily and is converting a school to a shelter for 150 people.

Tijuana, where Garcia Lara runs the Juventud 2000 shelter, is the largest city on Mexico's border and likely has the most space. The city says 26 shelters, which are running near or at capacity, can accommodate about 4,500 migrants combined.

Tijuana's largest shelter, Embajadores de Jesus, is hosting 1,400 migrants on bunk beds and floor mats, while a group affiliated with University of California, San Diego, is building a towering annex for thousands more.

Embajadores de Jesus is growing at a blistering pace at the bottom of a canyon where roosters roam freely and shanties made of plywood and aluminum sheets line dirt roads and cracked pavement that easily flood when it rains. A cinderblock building with a kitchen and dining area is nearing completion, while migrants shovel dirt for a soccer field.

Gustavo Banda, like other shelter directors in Tijuana, doesn't know what to expect from the U.S. shift on Venezuela, reflecting an air of uncertainty along the Mexican border. Tijuana was blindsided by a surge in Haitian arrivals in 2016, a giant caravan from Central America in 2018 and the implementation in 2019 of a now-defunct policy to make asylum-seekers wait in Mexico for hearings in U.S. immigration court.

"Nobody really knows what's going to happen until they start sending people back," Banda said Thursday as families with young children prepared for sleep.

Mexico's Foreign Affairs Ministry said it would temporarily admit "some" Venezuelans who are expelled from the U.S. under a public health order known as Title 42, without indicating a numerical cap. The U.S. has expelled migrants more than 2.3 million times since Title 42 took effect in March 2020, denying them a chance at asylum on grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

A Mexican official said Mexico's capacity to take back Venezuelans hinges on shelter space and success of the U.S. offer of temporary stays for up to 24,000 Venezuelans. The official was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke condition of anonymity.

Until now, Mexico has only accepted returns from Guatemala, Honduras or El Salvador, in addition to Mexico. As a result, Mexican shelters have been filled with migrants from those countries, along with Haitians.

Venezuelans, like those of other nationalities including Cuba and Nicaragua, have generally been released in the United States to pursue immigration cases. Strained diplomatic relations have made it nearly impossible for the Biden administration to return them to Venezuela.

Blas Nuñez-Neto, a top U.S. Homeland Security Department official, didn't answer directly when asked by reporters Thursday how many Venezuelans are likely to be expelled to Mexico, saying only that he expects fewer will try to cross the border.

Homeland Security said Venezuelans who cross the border by land after Wednesday's announcement will be expelled. Edward Pimentel was among the migrants who said they were returned despite being in U.S. custody before the policy was announced.

"The truth is that our dream is the American dream, we wanted to go to the United States," Pimentel said outside a Tijuana convenience store.

In Matamoros, hundreds of Venezuelans protested, saying they entered the U.S. before the policy took effect. Gregori Josue Segovia, 22, said he was processed by U.S. authorities Monday in El Paso, Texas, and was moved around before ending up in Matamoros.

"We were on three buses and they told us nothing, but we thought everything was normal when we realized we were on the (international) bridge" to be returned to Mexico, he said Friday.

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About 7 million Venezuelans have fled their homeland in recent years but had largely avoided the U.S. The U.S. offers a relatively strong economy and slim chances of being returned to Venezuela, suddenly making it more attractive.

For Venezuelans in Mexico, their best hope may be a U.S. exemption from Title 42 for people deemed particularly vulnerable.

In Tijuana, it appears more migrants are getting such exemptions from the U.S. Homeland Security Department. The U.S. has been allowing about 150 migrants a day at a border crossing to San Diego, said Enrique Lucero, Tijuana's director of migration affairs.

Many are chosen by advocacy groups from Tijuana shelters — causing some migrants to move there not for a place to stay but for a better shot at being selected to enter the U.S., said Lucero.

Embajadores de Jesus keeps a notebook with names of migrants hoping to qualify for a Title 42 exemption. Banda, a pastor and shelter director, said they wait about three months to enter the U.S.

Venezuelans who were in Mexico before Wednesday may also apply for one of the 24,000 temporary slots that the U.S. is making available, similar to an effort launched in April for up to 100,000 Ukrainians fleeing Russia's invasion. They must have a financial sponsor in the U.S. and pay for their flights.

Mexico welcomed statements from U.S. officials that the temporarily relief offered to Ukrainians and now Venezuelans may expand to other nationalities.

Orlando Sanchez slept in a bus station in Mexico City with hundreds of other Venezuelans waiting to receive money from family. He said he didn't have enough for a flight.

Naile Luna, a Venezuelan who was on her way to Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, said she hoped being eight months pregnant would spare her being expelled to Mexico. She said she knew nothing about the new policy.

## Frantic 911 callers describe bodies during Raleigh shooting

By JONATHAN DREW Associated Press

Callers who dialed 911 during a fatal North Carolina shooting rampage described encountering bodies on the streets or front yards of their neighborhood and along a trail popular with runners and bikers, according to newly released recordings.

The 911 calls released late Friday by the Raleigh Police Department illustrate the chaos of the scene on Thursday in which authorities said a 15-year-old boy began firing in a residential neighborhood and then on the walking trail, killing five and wounding two others. The recordings also provide new details about the teen, with multiple callers saying he was wearing camouflage and one caller saying he was carrying a shotgun.

In one of the first calls, around 5:12 p.m. Thursday, a man describes seeing the shooter kill off-duty police officer Gabriel Torres in the Hedingham neighborhood northeast of downtown. The caller frantically asks for help.

"He just walked right through and shot him. He walked by and shot him for no reason," the caller says, adding, in reference to Torres: "It looks like he's bleeding from his chest."

The caller says the shooter was wearing camouflage and was moving toward the Neuse River Greenway Trail that runs behind the neighborhood.

In a separate call around the same time, a neighbor reports hearing multiple shots and people screaming, then looking out her window and seeing two gunshot victims.

"There's somebody that's laying by the bush and somebody that's laying on the porch," she says.

Minutes later, another caller says the suspect was carrying what appeared to be a shotgun.

"There's a white kid running out here with a shotgun, he shot somebody. ... He ran back into the woods," the caller said.

A few minutes later, a man tells the dispatcher he was on the trail when he encountered a woman unconscious. Illustrating the confusion over what was happening, the dispatcher tells the man there are reports of an active shooter, and he screams: "What?!"

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As he gets closer to the woman and tries to relay details about the location, he interjects: "Oh my god!" "Sir, what's going on there?" the dispatcher asks.

"Um, um, um. She's bleeding," he says. He then realizes there's another shooting victim on the trail.

"Oh my god, there's another person," the caller says. He can then be heard telling other people at the scene, "Guys, we got to get out of the area. She said there might be an active shooter around here."

The shooting drew officers from numerous agencies to the neighborhood as the suspect eluded capture for several hours. The victims were different races and ranged in age from 16 to their late 50s and were felled going about their daily routines, police and loved ones said.

Torres, the off-duty police officer, was killed while on his way to work, while one of the women who died was on her porch talking to a neighbor, and another woman who died was out walking her dog. Another was out exercising.

The suspect was hospitalized in critical condition following his arrest, but authorities have not said how he was injured. His identity has not been released, nor has a motive for the attack been disclosed.

Prosecutors will seek to charge the suspect as an adult, Wake County District Attorney Lorrin Freeman said Friday. She declined to say what charges he will face.

## Social Security boost seen as unlikely to help Dems at polls

By AMANDA SEITZ Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The news that 70 million people will see an 8.7% boost in their Social Security checks next year came just weeks before Election Day, but it is unlikely to give Democrats the edge they are desperately seeking at the polls.

In fact, the promise of bigger payments could call even more attention to the surging prices that have been inflicting pain on households — and the reason behind Thursday's announcement of the the program's largest cost-of-living increase in four decades.

"It's going to bring more money to people's pockets, but it primes people to think about high inflation," said Marty Cohen, a James Madison University political science professor.

"This is being done because inflation is bad, and that's the reason for the large adjustment. It's not an issue that Democrats want on the front burner for voters."

Voters have ranked the economy as a higher priority than Social Security, with 71% of U.S. adults telling Pew Research Center in January that strengthening the economy was a top priority for the president and Congress versus 57% saying the same about ensuring the Social Security system is financially sound.

The 8.7% boost in benefits brought a one-word response from 76-year-old retiree and genealogy hobbyist Paul Phelps: "Ouch."

In Phelps' mind, the increase is so large because inflation is so bad.

Rising costs will not have any bearing on how he votes in the Nov. 8 election. Neither will the boost he will see in his monthly checks beginning next year.

"No, it's a good example of the government running as the government should," said Phelps, of Alexandria, Virginia.

Mary Browning, a 69-year-old Social Security recipient in Minneapolis, said she credits Democrats and the Biden administration entirely for the revved up checks she will get starting in January. But that did not change how the self-described "die-hard progressive" she plans to vote.

"I don't think that people understand how difficult it is to get these changes through. And Biden is getting them through," Browning said.

Yet Biden and his administration played no role in the calculation of the cost-of-living adjustment. It is arrived at by a formula based on inflation.

The White House messaging on Social Security highlights how older people will save hundreds of dollars next year thanks to the 8.7% Social Security increase, a roughly \$5 monthly decrease in Medicare premiums and a new law -- which Republicans unanimously opposed -- that that will cut some prescription drug prices for Medicare recipients.



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"Seniors are gonna get ahead of inflation next year," President Joe Biden said Thursday. "For the first time in 10 years, their Social Security checks will go up while their Medicare premiums go down."

A new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows that only 36% of people in the United States approve of Biden's handling of the economy. But they are not putting all the blame for inflation on him, with 55% saying higher than usual prices are mostly because of factors outside Biden's control and 44% saying that's happening mostly because of Biden's policies.

Republicans have been quick to point out other ways costs are up for older people, highlighting private retirement plan losses over the last year, high gas prices and rising costs at the grocery store.

"Seniors are having to delay their retirement, retirees on fixed incomes are struggling, retirement funds are plummeting and Biden and Democrats have only themselves to blame," said Republican National Committee spokeswoman Emma Vaughn.

Some Democratic candidates have put Social Security at the center of campaign ads attacking their opponents. In some cases, the ads have made misleading suggestions about Republican plans for Social Security, echoing recent claims from Biden that Social Security will be "on the chopping block" under a Republican-controlled Senate.

Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., proposed plan earlier this year that would require Congress to come up with a proposal to adequately fund Social Security and Medicare or consider phasing them out.

That idea has won little public support from Republican lawmakers. It will "not be part of our agenda," said Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

To Jaime Harrison, the Democratic National Committee chair, Republicans "want to cut Social Security and they're openly plotting to raise prescription drug prices on millions of seniors."

Nowhere has Social Security become more of a campaign issue than the Senate race in Wisconsin, where Democrat Mandela Barnes, the lieutenant governor, is challenging Republican incumbent Ron Johnson.

Johnson, one of a few politicians who expressed support for Scott's plan, has repeatedly criticized Social Security over the years, calling it a "Ponzi scheme." He has proposed moving Social Security from mandatory spending into the discretionary fund, which would mean the money spent on the program would not be automatic and require Congress to approve the funds every year.

During their debate Thursday, Johnson defended his comments on Social Security.

"I never said I wanted to cut or put Social Security on the chopping block," Johnson said.

Barnes pushed back.

"He's coming for your retirement," he said.

It is unlikely that with such meager support to overhaul Social Security that anything will be done in the coming years, said Cohen, the James Madison political scientist. The program is also extremely popular, with 74% of U.S. adults saying in 2019 that the program's benefits should not be reduced in any way.

"Saying is one thing, and getting things done is another," Cohen said. "It's a program that's broadly popular, for the reason that it benefits people. It's somewhat untouchable."

## Accused of flirting, juror dismissed from Whitmer plot trial

JACKSON, Mich. (AP) — A judge has dismissed a young woman from the jury hearing the trial of three men in connection with a 2020 plot to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer after attorneys accused her of flirting with one of the defendants.

Judge Thomas Wilson announced Friday that the woman has been removed from the jury, two days after attorneys raised concerns the juror was having too much non-verbal communication with defendant Paul Bellar, the Jackson Citizen Patriot reported.

"It didn't just happen on one day — it happened over multiple days," Wilson said of the juror's behavior. "I decided it's safer to err on the side of caution."

Wilson said he has never seen such behavior in nearly 35 years of practicing law. The juror took the decision well, he said.

Bellar, 24, was a member of a paramilitary group, the Wolverine Watchmen. He is standing trial with co-

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defendants Joseph Morrison and Pete Musico. The three are charged in state court in Jackson, Michigan, with providing material support for a terrorist act. The men have pleaded not guilty, claiming they were entrapped by an FBI informant and his handlers.

The defendants' attorneys objected to the juror's dismissal.

"There was no verbal communication between the two, and the descriptions of the communication are speculative," said Kareem Johnson, who represents Musico.

William Rollstin, who is prosecuting the case for the Michigan attorney general, raised concerns about the juror before Wilson during a meeting in chambers Wednesday.

"Since the start of the trial ... there's been non-verbal communication between one of the jurors — a female — and Mr. Bellar," Rollstin said. "The communication has been in the form of eye contact (and) smiling at each other."

Several others in the courtroom, including Wilson and Bellar's attorney, Andrew Kirkpatrick, also said they had seen interactions between the two since the trial began.

Authorities have said disgust over COVID-19 restrictions imposed by Whitmer inspired the defendants to form an alliance with others who were conspiring to kidnap the Democratic governor and trigger a national revolt shortly before the 2020 presidential election.

Two other men, Adam Fox and Barry Croft Jr., were convicted in August of federal crimes in connection with the plot.

## Obama headed to Georgia, Michigan, Wisconsin as vote nears

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Barack Obama is headed to Georgia, Michigan and Wisconsin in the closing days of the 2022 campaign to give a boost to Democrats running for governor, senator and on down the ballot.

He goes first to Atlanta, where Stacey Abrams is taking on Republican Gov. Brian Kemp on Nov. 8. She lost a close race to him in 2018.

As in 2020, Georgia also may once again decide which party controls the Senate. Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock is facing a challenge from Republican Herschel Walker, a football star making his first bid for public office.

After campaigning in Atlanta on Oct. 28, Obama plans stops the following day in Detroit and Milwaukee for events to help get out the vote.

In Michigan, Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is running against Tudor Dixon, a onetime commentator for a conservative online program who was endorsed by former President Donald Trump.

Michigan voters also are deciding whether to enshrine abortion rights in the state constitution.

In Wisconsin, Democratic Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes is trying to unseat Republican Sen. Ron Johnson and become the state's first Black senator.

Barnes, who is from Milwaukee, the state's largest city and home to the largest group of African American voters, has been trying to energize Black voters in a race that a Marquette University Law School poll this past week showed Johnson with an apparent lead.

Obama also hopes to give a boost to Democratic Gov. Tony Evers, who is being challenged by Tim Michels, a construction company co-owner who is endorsed by Trump. Marquette polls for months have shown that race to be about even.

## AP source: Tagovailoa, Bridgewater out of protocols

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Sports Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Miami quarterbacks Tua Tagovailoa and Teddy Bridgewater have completed all of the return-to-play steps required by the NFL and are no longer in the league's recently revised concussion protocols, a person with knowledge of the decisions said Saturday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the moves were not announced publicly by the Dolphins.

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Skylar Thompson will be the starter for Sunday's game against Minnesota. But Tagovailoa getting cleared puts him on track to return for Miami's Oct. 22 game against the Pittsburgh Steelers — the game where the Dolphins will pay tribute to the 50th anniversary of their 1972 perfect season.

Tagovailoa returned to practice on a limited basis earlier this week. He had been in the protocols since getting hurt and needing to be taken off the field on a stretcher against the Cincinnati Bengals on Sept. 29.

That was four days after he was allowed to return to a game against the Buffalo Bills after hitting the back of his head on the turf, getting back on his feet, then wobbling. The Dolphins later said the wobble was caused by a back injury.

An unaffiliated neurotrauma consultant tasked with working the Bills game, who has since been terminated from that position following a brief investigation, found no head injury and allowed Tagovailoa to resume playing.

That decision, combined with the scene of Tagovailoa on the ground in Cincinnati days later, sparked quick and significant changes to the concussion protocols by the NFL and the NFL Players Association. The most notable addition was that an abnormality of balance and/or stability would be a symptom prohibiting a player from returning to a game.

Those amended policies kicked in last weekend — and Bridgewater got wrapped up in them almost immediately. He lasted only one play in Sunday's loss at the New York Jets. While he did not show concussion symptoms, he was placed into the protocols.

The Dolphins said Bridgewater showed no concussion symptoms and passed tests, but a spotter reported seeing him stumble after the play. That determination — video does not seem to show a stumble — made Bridgewater ineligible to return.

Both Tagovailoa and Bridgewater had to complete a five-step return-to-play program as mandated by the league to get cleared. Tagovailoa also saw a number of independent experts in recent days.

"That's one of the reasons you get multiple opinions and you see the most skilled, highly prepared, schooled and knowledgeable professionals that that you can get your hands on, so that you can have the most information possible from experts and not laymen," Miami coach Mike McDaniel said this week.

## Death toll rises to 41 in Turkey coal mine explosion

By MEHMET GUZEL and ZEYNEP BILGINSOY Associated Press

AMASRA, Turkey (AP) — Funerals for miners killed in a coal mine explosion in northern Turkey began Saturday as officials raised the death toll to at least 41 people.

Desperate relatives had waited all night in the cold outside the state-owned Turkish Hard Coal Enterprise's (TTK) mine in the town of Amasra, in the Black Sea coastal province of Bartın, hoping for news. There were 110 miners working several hundred meters below ground at the time of the explosion on Friday evening.

Their wait turned to devastation by Saturday noon. Women cried at the funeral of miner Selcuk Ayvaz, whose coffin was wrapped in the red and white Turkish flag. Another miner, 28-year-old Aziz Kose, held his newborn baby just days ago. They mostly came from working-class families and went underground to the coal mines to make a living.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrived at the scene and said the body of one missing miner had finally been reached, confirming 41 were dead. Erdogan was flanked by officials, miners and rescuers, as he vowed to bring an end to mining disasters, while saying he believes in "fate."

"We don't want to see deficiencies or unnecessary risks," Erdogan said, and added that an investigation would reveal if anyone is responsible for the blast. He then joined funeral prayers for Rahman Ozcelik, 22, at a village where Turkish media said three other miners were also being mourned.

Eleven were injured and hospitalized, with five in serious condition, while 58 others managed to get out of the mine on their own or were rescued unharmed.

Energy Minister Fatih Donmez said rescue efforts were complete. Earlier, he had said that a fire was burning in an area where more than a dozen miners had been trapped.

Preliminary assessments indicated that the explosion was likely caused by firedamp, which is a reference

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to flammable gases found in coal mines, Donmez said overnight. Three prosecutors were investigating the blast.

A miner who works the day shift said he saw the news and hurried to the site to help with the rescue. "We saw a frightful scene, it cannot be described, it's very sad," said Celal Kara, 40. "They're all my friends ... they all had dreams," Kara, who has been a miner for 14 years, told The Associated Press after exiting the mine, his face covered in soot.

Ambulances were on standby at the site. Rescue teams were dispatched to the area, including from neighboring provinces, Turkey's disaster management agency, AFAD, said. Dark smoke rose from the entrance of the mine, which is surrounded by forests.

A mining technician from TTK told broadcaster NTV that his team of rescue and occupational safety personnel arrived at the site Friday night. Ismail Cetin said they went down into the mine and walked about 2½ kilometers (1½ miles) with their kit and stretchers. They recovered nine bodies, whom he called "mine martyrs."

Countries across the world offered their condolences to Turkey. Greece's prime minister offered rescue assistance even though relations between the two neighbors have recently been particularly tense.

Separately, Turkish police said in a statement that legal action would be taken against 12 people who allegedly shared provocative content about the mine explosion to incite hate on social media.

Turkey's worst mine disaster was in 2014, when 301 miners died after a fire erupted inside a coal mine in the town of Soma, in the west of the country. Five months later, 18 miners were killed in central Karaman province after a flood in a coal mine.

The head of DISK, a left-wing trade union, said in a statement they were "sad and angry" because deaths were preventable and the union's safety suggestions were overlooked. Even though more inspections were mandated after the Soma tragedy, DISK's leader Arzu Cerkezoglu claimed some precautions were ignored for profitability, calling Friday's explosion a "massacre."

## Mamie Till depiction seen as tribute to Black female leaders

By AARON MORRISON Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Gwen Carr sat up straight in her seat as she heard lines of dialogue delivered by the actor portraying Mamie Till-Mobley, the mother of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old Black boy whose lynching in Mississippi in 1955 catalyzed the U.S. civil rights movement.

"As I watched that film, I became Mamie Till," Carr said last month at a private advance screening of "Till," the Orion Pictures and United Artists biopic that debuted Friday as the first ever feature length retelling of the historic atrocity and Till-Mobley's pursuit of justice for Emmett.

Carr is the mother of Eric Garner, a Black man held in a fatal chokehold by a New York City police officer in 2014, during an encounter that began as an arrest for alleged unauthorized sale of cigarettes. His videotaped final gasps for air, viewed millions of times around the world, was an early flashpoint of the Black Lives Matter movement. She demanded that her fellow countrymen not look away or dismiss Garner as another casualty of an unjust policing system, but to instead see him as a reason to reform that system, similar to Till-Mobley's message.

"I'll tell anybody, 'A mother can tell a child's story better than anybody else,'" Carr said. "And that's what she said in that movie."

As "Till" debuts, the studio and production companies behind the film have partnered in a campaign to recognize Black women and Black mothers who are continuing Till-Mobley's legacy and fight for justice, equality and equity. From civil rights and politics to business and performance art, the campaign includes events and screenings in select cities across the U.S. that honor the courageous works of Black women whose contributions have historically been overlooked, deemphasized or made a footnote.

Codie Elaine Oliver, a filmmaker and co-creator of the Oprah Winfrey Network docuseries "Black Love," was a featured speaker at a screening event on Tuesday in Los Angeles, along with TV personality and writer Natalie Manual Lee, who hosts the YouTube series "Now with Natalie." Both women are mothers to young Black children and said Till-Mobley's story guides the work they do in their respective fields.

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"I try to live every day, recognizing the pain of my ancestors, parents and grandparents, by being a storyteller who consciously showcases (Black people) as loving husbands and fathers and mothers and wives," Oliver said. "I have not experienced what (Till-Mobley) experienced, but I recognize that any of us could, especially as Black mothers."

In the late summer of 1955, Till-Mobley put Emmett on a train from Chicago to visit with his uncle and cousins in her native Mississippi. Much like Black women and men today give their children "the talk" about navigating traffic stops and other encounters with police officers, Till-Mobley warned Emmett that he was visiting a place where his safety depended on his ability to mute his outgoing, uncompromising nature around white people.

"Self-assured, confident about a future without limitations, he must have gazed out at the wide-open spaces of the Mississippi Delta in amazement," Till-Mobley wrote of her son in a 2003 memoir co-authored with Christopher Benson. Emmett was "completely unaware of the boundaries that had begun to close in on him as soon as he got off that train."

In the overnight hours of Aug. 28, 1955, Emmett was taken from his uncle's Mississippi home at gunpoint by two vengeful white men. Emmett's alleged crime? Flirting with the wife of one of his kidnappers.

Three days later, a fisherman on the Tallahatchie River discovered the teenager's bloated corpse — one of his eyes was detached, an ear was missing, his head was shot and bashed in. Till-Mobley demanded that Emmett's remains be taken back to Chicago for a public, open casket funeral that was attended by tens of thousands. And at the trial of his killers in Mississippi, which ended in their acquittals, Till-Mobley bravely took the witness stand to counter the perverse image of her son that had been painted for jurors and trial watchers.

Throughout the film, Till-Mobley is portrayed as a woman full of a sense of foreboding about sending her only child away to a place plagued by racial hatred. But her immense love for Emmett overpowers her pain and grief, at least enough to find a sense of purpose and meaning. In a 1995 interview with The Associated Press, 40 years after her son's lynching, Till-Mobley, a woman of faith, said God had sent Emmett to Earth for the special assignment of waking up the nation and the world.

"The humanity and the brilliance of her, and how selfless of her as a Black woman to have stepped into this role as a figure of mourning and possibility," said Danielle Deadwyler, who portrays Till-Mobley in the film. "If she did not have the courage to do that, then we would not have known, and the world probably would not have known, the ramifications of racism. She made us all aware."

The mission to spread Emmett's story, as only a mother could, had immediate impacts. The civil rights movement gained momentum. Rosa Parks, the civil rights figure arrested for refusing to give up her seat for a white passenger on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, in December 1955, said she was motivated that day by the injustice in Emmett's case. And a decade after Emmett's death, Till-Mobley's involvement in the movement helped spur passage of landmark federal civil rights and voting rights legislation.

Till-Mobley died of heart failure in Chicago in 2003, ahead of the release of her memoir. All told, the impact of her civil and human rights advocacy has spanned over six decades. In March, after numerous failed attempts in Congress over a 120-year span to make lynching a federal crime, President Joe Biden signed the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act.

The example of Till-Mobley's sacrifice and persistence continues to fuel Black women like Lee, the YouTube host.

"I think that there was a bridge between fear and faith for her and, in that in-between, she grabbed on to courage, strength, grace and mercy," Lee said. "That convicted me. She wasn't waiting on anybody else. She used what was in her hands to fulfill the call on her life."

Nse Ufot, CEO of the New Georgia Project, a nonpartisan civic engagement organization working to increase voter participation among historically marginalized Georgians, said "Till" is a long overdue "thank you" to Black women who have been inspired by Till-Mobley's story.

"It's a love letter to Black mothers and a love letter to Black women — an acknowledgment of the ways in which we show up in community, at work, in defense of Black lives," Ufot said. "I hope that Black

women see themselves in the story, and that their love cups get a little bit poured into it, as we go out and face the world.”

## **Biden’s pot pardons could boost states’ legalization drives**

By ANDREW DeMILLO Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — There are few surprises expected on Election Day in solidly Republican Arkansas, where Donald Trump’s former press secretary is heavily favored in the race for governor and other GOP candidates are considered locks.

But one big exception is the campaign to make Arkansas the first state in the South to legalize recreational marijuana. A proposal to change the state’s constitution is drawing millions of dollars from opponents and supporters of legalization, with ads crowding the airwaves.

President Joe Biden’s recent announcement that he will pardon thousands of people for simple marijuana possession has shined a new spotlight on the legalization efforts in Arkansas and four other states. Voters in Maryland, Missouri, North Dakota and South Dakota are also taking up measures on recreational marijuana.

Biden’s step toward decriminalizing the drug could provide a boost for legalization in some of the most conservative parts of the country, experts say.

“The most powerful elected leader in the world has publicly declared it was a mistake to criminalize people for using cannabis and I think that will go a long way with regard to voters who may be on the fence,” said Mason Tvert, partner at VS Strategies, a cannabis policy and public affairs firm.

Biden’s announcement only covers people convicted under the federal law. But he has called on governors to issue similar pardons for those convicted of state marijuana offenses, which reflect the vast majority of marijuana possession cases. The president also directed his health secretary and attorney general to review how marijuana is scheduled under federal law.

The moves come as opposition to legalization has softened around the country, with recreational marijuana legal in 19 states, despite resistance at the federal level. Advocates say it shows that states are ahead of the federal government on the issue.

“I think it’s an example of state level leadership and citizens pushing the federal government in the right direction,” said Eddie Armstrong, a former state legislator who leads the Responsible Growth Arkansas group campaigning for legalization.

In 2016, Arkansas became the first Bible Belt state to approve medical marijuana, with voters approving a legalization measure. More than 91,000 people have cards to legally buy marijuana from state-licensed dispensaries, which opened in 2019. Patients have spent more than \$200 million so far this year, the state says.

An ad by Responsible Growth Arkansas points to benefits such as the thousands of jobs it says legalization would create. The main group opposing the measure is running an ad that urges voters to “protect Arkansas from big marijuana.”

The proposal faces opposition from Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson, a former head of the federal Drug Enforcement Administration who criticized Biden’s pardon announcement. Former White House press secretary Sarah Sanders, the Republican front-runner to succeed Hutchinson, has said she will vote against the measure. Her Democratic rival, Chris Jones, said he supports it.

In neighboring Missouri, a proposed constitutional amendment would legalize recreational marijuana for adults 21 and older and expunge records of past arrests and convictions for nonviolent marijuana offenses, except for selling to minors or driving under the influence.

Supporters said they do not expect Biden’s pardon announcement for some federal marijuana offenses to have much of an impact on the Missouri measure, which could expunge several hundred thousand state marijuana offenses.

“There is some danger of confusion, but I think most people understand the distinction of the federal and state processes,” said John Payne, campaign manager for Legal Missouri 2022.

Missouri Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican and former sheriff, opposes the ballot measure but has not ag-

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gressively campaigned against it. He has no plans to emulate Biden's pardon announcement.

Parson has granted pardons "to individuals who demonstrate a changed life-style, commitment to rehabilitation, contrition and contribution to their communities — rather than as a blanket approach to undermine existing law," said Parson spokesperson Kelli Jones.

Similarly, North Dakota's legalization campaign does not expect to incorporate Biden's pardons into its messaging. Mark Friese, treasurer of the New Approach Initiative backing the legalization ballot proposal, said he doubts Biden's pardon will have much of an impact in North Dakota or sway the legalization effort.

"The number of North Dakotans convicted in federal court is small," said Friese, a prominent North Dakota lawyer and former police officer. "Small amounts of marijuana are typically and historically not prosecuted in North Dakota."

Matt Schwiech, who is running South Dakota's ballot initiative campaign to legalize recreational marijuana possession for adults, said the president's pardons may hand the campaign a boost with older Democrats. It also underscores the campaign's message that convictions for pot possession hurt people on job or rental applications, as well as that enforcing pot possession laws are a waste of time and resources for law enforcement, he said.

South Dakotans, including a sizable number of Republicans, voted to legalize marijuana possession in 2020, but that law was struck down by the state Supreme Court in part because the proposal was coupled with medical marijuana and hemp. This year, recreational pot is standing by itself as it goes before voters.

It remains unclear whether Biden's pardon move will inject party politics into an issue that supporters say crosses partisan lines. For example, Arkansas voters in 2016 approved medical marijuana the same year they overwhelmingly backed Trump.

All of the states with recreational marijuana on the ballot next month, except for Maryland, voted for Trump in the 2020 presidential election. And the issue is going before voters as GOP candidates have been stepping up their anti-crime rhetoric.

"From our perspective the people of Arkansas, they didn't vote for Biden initially and so we don't anticipate this really having any sort of influence over anybody's decision," said Tyler Beaver, campaign manager for Safe and Secure Communities, the main group campaigning against the proposal.

## **New UK Treasury chief: Mistakes were made, tax rises coming**

By SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's new Treasury chief on Saturday acknowledged mistakes made by his predecessor and suggested that he may reverse much of Conservative Prime Minister Liz Truss' tax-cutting plans in order to bring stability to the country after weeks of economic and political turbulence.

Jeremy Hunt, who was brought in Friday to replace Kwasi Kwarteng as Treasury chief and restore order in Truss' administration, warned of "difficult decisions" to come. He said taxes could rise and public spending budgets would likely be squeezed further in the coming months.

Truss on Friday fired Kwarteng and ditched her pledge to scrap a planned increase in corporation tax as she sought to hang on to her job — after just six weeks in office.

Truss, a free-market libertarian, had previously insisted that her tax-cutting plans were what Britain needs to boost economic growth. But a "mini-budget" that she and Kwarteng unveiled three weeks ago, which promised 45 billion pounds (\$50 billion) in tax cuts without explaining how the government would pay for them, sent the markets and the British pound tumbling and left her credibility in tatters.

The policies, which included cutting income tax for those on the highest incomes, were also widely criticized for being tone-deaf in the face of Britain's cost-of-living crisis.

Hunt said Truss recognizes her mistakes and he is going to put them right. Hunt is expected to meet with Treasury officials later and with Truss on Sunday.

"It was wrong to cut the top rate of tax for the very highest earners at a time where we're going to have to be asking for sacrifices from everyone to get through a very difficult period," Hunt told the BBC Saturday.

"And it was wrong to fly blind and to announce those plans without reassuring people with the discipline

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of the Office for Budget Responsibility that we actually can afford to pay for them," he added. "We have to show the world we have a plan that adds up financially."

Hunt also indicated that taxes could rise and warned "it's going to be difficult," though he declined to give details about how he plans to balance the books ahead of a full fiscal statement expected on Oct. 31.

"Spending will not rise by as much as people would like and all government departments are going to have to find more efficiencies than they were planning to. And some taxes will not be cut as quickly as people want," he said.

Hunt, who twice ran in the Conservative Party's leadership contests, is an experienced lawmaker who previously served in top government posts including as foreign secretary.

His comments Saturday suggested he may dismantle much of the economic pledges that Truss campaigned for and tried to implement during her first weeks in office.

Truss' U-turn on her pledge to stop a planned rise in corporation tax came after an earlier climbdown on her plans to cut the top rate of income tax for the highest earners.

Her position remains fragile. She has faced heavy pressure from across the political spectrum, including reports that senior members of her Conservative Party were plotting to force her from office.

On Friday she avoided repeated questions about why she should remain in office when she and Kwarteng were equally responsible for the government's economic plan and the fallout it triggered.

"I am absolutely determined to see through what I have promised," she said.

Asked Saturday how long Truss would remain as leader, Hunt said that "what the country wants now is stability" and she would be judged by what she delivers until the next general election in 2024.

"She has been prime minister for less than five weeks and I would just say this – I think that she will be judged at an election," he said.

## Today in History: October 16, Cuban missile crisis begins

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Oct. 16, the 289th day of 2022. There are 76 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 16, 1962, the Cuban missile crisis began as President John F. Kennedy was informed that reconnaissance photographs had revealed the presence of missile bases in Cuba.

On this date:

In 1758, American lexicographer Noah Webster was born in Hartford, Connecticut.

In 1793, during the French Revolution, Marie Antoinette, the queen of France, was beheaded.

In 1859, radical abolitionist John Brown led a raid on the U.S. arsenal at Harpers Ferry in what was then a part of western Virginia. (Ten of Brown's men were killed and five escaped. Brown and six followers were captured; all were executed.)

In 1934, Chinese Communists, under siege by the Nationalists, began their "long march" lasting a year from southeastern to northwestern China.

In 1964, China set off its first atomic bomb, codenamed "596," on the Lop Nur Test Ground.

In 1968, American athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos sparked controversy at the Mexico City Olympics by giving "Black power" salutes during a victory ceremony after they'd won gold and bronze medals in the 200-meter race.

In 1978, the College of Cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church chose Cardinal Karol Wojtyla (voy-TEE'-wah) to be the new pope; he took the name John Paul II.

In 1984, Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu was named winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for his decades of non-violent struggle for racial equality in South Africa.

In 1991, a deadly shooting rampage took place in Killeen, Texas, as a gunman opened fire at a Luby's Cafeteria, killing 23 people before taking his own life.

In 1997, in the first known case in the United States, a Georgia woman gave birth after being implanted



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with previously frozen eggs.

In 2002, President George W. Bush signed a congressional resolution authorizing war against Iraq. The White House announced that North Korea had disclosed it had a nuclear weapons program.

In 2009, agricultural officials said pigs in Minnesota had tested positive for the H1N1 virus, or swine flu, the first such cases in the U.S.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama and Republican nominee Mitt Romney met for their second debate; during the town-hall-style encounter in suburban Hempstead, New York, Obama accused Romney of favoring a "one-point plan" to help the rich at the expense of the middle class while Romney countered by saying "the middle class has been crushed over the last four years."

Five years ago: Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who had been captured and held by the Taliban for five years after walking away from his post in Afghanistan, pleaded guilty to desertion and endangering his comrades. (A military judge later decided not to send him to prison.) A New Jersey man, Ahmad Khan Rahimi, was convicted of planting two pressure-cooker bombs on New York City streets, including one that injured 30 people; prosecutors said Rahimi considered himself "a soldier in a holy war against Americans." (Rahimi was sentenced to life in prison.)

One year ago: Seventeen missionaries from a U.S.-based organization were kidnapped in Haiti; five children were among them. (Two of the hostages were released in November for medical reasons; the remaining 15 went free in December.) An 11th-hour deal was reached, averting a strike of film and television crews that would have frozen productions in Hollywood and across the U.S. Betty Lynn, the film and television actor who was best known for her role as Barney Fife's sweetheart Thelma Lou on "The Andy Griffith Show," died at the age of 95.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-producer Tony Anthony is 85. Actor Barry Corbin is 82. Sportscaster Tim McCarver is 81. Rock musician C.F. Turner (Bachman-Turner Overdrive) is 79. Actor Suzanne Somers is 76. Rock singer-musician Bob Weir is 75. Producer-director David Zucker is 75. Record company executive Jim Ed Norman is 74. Actor Daniel Gerroll is 71. Actor Martha Smith is 70. Comedian-actor Andy Kindler is 66. Actor-director Tim Robbins is 64. Actor-musician Gary Kemp is 63. Singer-musician Bob Mould is 62. Actor Randy Vasquez is 61. Rock musician Flea (Red Hot Chili Peppers) is 60. Movie director Kenneth Lonergan is 60. Actor Christian Stolte is 60. Actor Todd Stashwick is 54. Actor Terri J. Vaughn is 53. Singer Wendy Wilson (Wilson Phillips) is 53. Rock singer Chad Gray (Mudvayne) is 51. Actor Paul Sparks is 51. Actor Kellie Martin is 47. Singer John Mayer is 45. Actor Jeremy Jackson is 42. Actor Caterina Scorsone is 42. Actor Brea Grant is 41. U.S. Olympic and retired WNBA basketball star Sue Bird is 41. Actor Kyler Pettis is 30. Philadelphia Phillies outfielder Bryce Harper is 30. Tennis star Naomi Osaka is 25.